

Spokane Transit Authority
1230 West Boone Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99201-2686
(509) 325-6000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Draft Minutes of the May 15, 2008, Meeting
City Council Chambers
808 West Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Washington

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Munson, City of Spokane Valley
Dick Denenny, City of Spokane Valley
Bonnie Mager, Spokane County
Richard Rush, City of Spokane
Nancy McLaughlin, City of Spokane
Patrick Rushing, City of Airway Heights

STAFF PRESENT

E. Susan Meyer, Chief Executive Officer
Jim Plaster, Director of Finance & Administration
Steve Blaska, Director of Operations
Mike Volz, Assistant Director of Finance & Administration
Susan Millbank, Ombudsman & Accessibility Officer

PROVIDING LEGAL COUNSEL

Laura McAloon, K & L Gates LLP

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Richard, Spokane County, Chairman
Al French, City of Spokane
Allan Gainer, City of Cheney

GUESTS

None

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

In the absence of Chairman Richard, Chairman Pro Tempore Denenny called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and conducted roll call.

2. **RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Frank Stoltz – Retirement**

Mr. Plaster said that Mr. Stoltz's career with Spokane Transit spanned 39 years and he held several positions during that time.

B. **Raymond Pogue – Retirement**

Mr. Blaska said Mr. Pogue has been employed by STA for over 25 years in the maintenance department. He found a specialized field in the transmission rebuild department and managed it for many years.

Both employees were wished well in their retirement and recognized for their years of service.

3. **PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS**

Barb Beddor of Star USA announced that Spokane will host the 2010 U.S. Figure Skating Championship. She said no city has been awarded this honor twice in the same cycle. This will be an Olympic year and it usually is held in major markets nationwide. The other finalists were Portland, Oregon; San Jose, California; and, Providence, Rhode Island. Ms. Beddor added that one of the reasons Spokane was chosen was due to the excellent public transportation provided at the 2007 championship. She urged voters to support the ballot measure without a sunset clause to continue financial support for public transportation and to allow for long-term planning.

Kylene Ford spoke about allowing children's strollers on buses. Currently Spokane Transit requires that strollers be collapsed before bringing them on a bus and the children sit on the seats. Ms. Ford showed a video presentation of herself at a bus stop with her three children collapsing a stroller while monitoring the safety of the children. It was shown to be difficult and time-consuming. She provided a petition of signatures to the Board with a packet of information that included policies from Intercity Transit, Chicago Transit Authority, and Coast Mountain Bus Company in Vancouver, BC. All three agencies allow strollers with children in them on buses and drivers will deploy the lift to accommodate them. Ms. Ford said it is understood by her group that passengers in wheelchairs will take precedence over children in strollers. Mr. Denenny thanked Ms. Ford for her thorough research on the issue and said staff would discuss it through the Operations Committee, of which Mayor Munson is Chairman.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:50 p.m., Ms. McAloon announced that the Board would adjourn for an Executive Session for the following purpose:

Discussion with legal counsel representing STA in litigation or potential litigation to which STA, the STA Board of Directors, or STA employees are, or are likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to STA.

The STA Board of Directors will reconvene in open session at approximately 6:10 p.m. If it becomes necessary to extend the executive session, a member of the staff will return to announce the time at which the STA Board will reconvene. If any action is to be taken as a result of discussions in the executive session, that action will occur at the open public session.

At 6:10 p.m. the Board of Directors reconvened and Chairman Pro Tempore Denenny declared the meeting back in open public session.

5. BOARD ACTION: CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Motion to Approve Minutes of the April 17, 2008 Board Meeting.
- B. Motion to Approve Accounts Payable Voucher and Warrant nos. 550817 through 551243, and Worker's Compensation Warrant nos. 200236 through 200409 totaling \$2,290,909.32 for the period April 1 through April 30, 2008.
- C. Motion to approve and authorize the CEO to 1.) Execute a one-year contract to Signs for Success, Spokane, WA, for the manufacturing and installation of decals on seventy-one (71) vanpool vehicles in 2008, the purchase of two spare decal sets for each of the two van types, and the removal of decals on approximately 45 vehicles for \$47,024.65 plus sales tax, plus up to 16 hours of training for 2 maintenance personnel at \$45 per hour for a total amount of \$47,745; and 2.) Authorize the CEO to execute years 2009 – 2012 of this contract if staff recommends continuing the re-branding efforts at the contract pricing in accordance with STA's procurement resolution.

Ms. McLaughlin moved to approve consent agenda items 5. A – C. Ms. Mager seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. BOARD ACTION: OTHER ITEMS – None.

Mr. Denenny said that he would move up action item 10.A since two Board members had to leave early.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rails-to-Trails Conservancy 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation – Resolution

Mr. Rush brought a draft resolution before the Board supporting and endorsing the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Campaign for Active Transportation. This organization invited Spokane County to participate in their campaign, the goal of which is to double the funding for active transportation from \$4.5 billion to \$9 billion in the next reauthorization of the federal transportation budget. The campaign will advocate that \$2 billion of the additional funds support 40 communities with \$50 million over six years to increase bicycling and walking as a mode of transportation. Spokane County has the potential to be a recipient of funding and the Commissioners have already adopted a similar resolution of support. **Ms. Mager moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Ms. McLaughlin seconded.** Mr. Munson said this appears to be a good project but he would not support it. He explained that there are more urgent transportation projects that need funding; projects that have been on the funding list for years. Ms. Mager said she supports this resolution because it is part of a larger strategy to promote a healthy lifestyle, reduce pollution, and be in keeping with the Governor's Climate Control Plan. Mr. Denenny said he supports the resolution since if Spokane County does not apply, the money will go elsewhere. **The motion passed four to one, with Mr. Munson opposing.**

7. BOARD INFORMATION

- A. Committee Minutes
- B. Miscellaneous Correspondence
- C. March 2008 Operating Indicators
- D. First Quarter 2008 Operating Indicators
- E. First Quarter 2008 Performance Measures
- F. March 2008 Financial Results Summary
- G. First Quarter 2008 Capital Budget Status Report
- H. First Quarter 2008 Statement of Net Assets and Federal Grants Reports
- I. Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and 5309 Program of Projects and Grant Application

Ms. McLaughlin left at 6:24 p.m.

Mr. Rush left at 6:25 p.m.

8. CEO REPORT

As part of the public outreach process for the sales tax reauthorization, Ms. Meyer said she had encountered some misperceptions of Spokane Transit and the ballot issue, as follows:

- The fact that a sunset clause was not included in the ballot wording was somehow misleading. Legal counsel had advised that it was not appropriate to refer to a sunset clause if none was to be included and the ballot wording had been approved by the Spokane County Elections Office attorney.
- If the ballot fails, there will be service cuts immediately OR if the ballot fails STA will not need to reduce service. The tax collection would continue through June, 2009. However loss of funding would result in service reductions ultimately.
- Passengers should pay more for the service. Transit agencies nationwide are taxpayer-funded since it would be impossible to charge enough to cover the costs and make a profit. In a similar manner taxpayers fund police, fire, education, and street repairs.

- STA already gets too much money. The sales tax breakdown shows that out of a total tax of 8.6%, local control is only 2.10%. The State of Washington gets 6.5%. Spokane Transit gets 0.6% of the local 2.10%.
- The sales tax is only a small portion of STA's funding. It is 74% of STA's funding.
- It is an increase in the sales tax. It is a continuation of the same tax approved by voters in 2004.

Ms. Meyer has been educating the public and press in interviews and making correct information available to the public through these media outlets prior to the election.

9. STAFF REPORTS:

A. April 2008 Ridership Highlights

Mr. Blaska said there was a 22.3% increase in fixed route ridership for the month of April, resulting in a 15.3% increase year-to-date. It should be noted that there was one additional weekday in April 2008. Paratransit had a 7.5% increase in April with a 1.3% increase year-to-date. There were 975,000 rides given during the month of April which could be a record. Mr. Denenny congratulated staff on this achievement. Mr. Blaska corrected a letter to the editor of the Spokesman-Review that stated STA's ridership was approximately 37,000 a week. This figure is actually per day. He also reported that ticket sales for Bloomsday almost doubled over last year and regular fixed route service increased by over 50%. Ms. Meyer expressed her appreciation for all the employees who had volunteered their time to load buses and work at the trade show. Mr. Munson said this was a testament to great public service. Spokane Transit is a great partner and should be proud of this accomplishment.

B. March 2008 Financial Highlights

Mr. Plaster reported a combined year-to-date, as of March 2008, favorable total revenue and total expenditures budget variance of \$368,333. The financial update for March 2008 shows a favorable budget variance for total operating revenues of \$2.0 million which is a variance of 9.4% with a growth over 2007 of 6.7%. The total revenue of \$16.3 million shows a budget variance of -0.8% and a 2.7% growth over 2007. Operating expenses of \$13.7 million show a favorable variance of 3.3% and a growth of 16.8% over 2007. Capital expenditures year-to-date were \$1.0 million out of a \$24.3 million annual budget. Sales tax receipts for March 2008 are 6.6% lower than budgeted and 3.4% lower than March 2007.

11. BOARD MEMBERS' EXPRESSIONS

Mr. Denenny welcomed Mr. Rushing, small cities representative from Airway Heights, back to the STA Board. Mr. Rushing said he was pleased to be back and previously served on the Board from 2000 to 2003. He added that he understood how difficult it must be for STA to deal with the increased gas prices since he now works for the Post Office and it's made an impact there. He also commented that the agency has made great strides in accountability. Mr. Denenny said it is a different organization now.

12. Cable 5 Broadcast Dates and Times of the May 15, 2008 Board Meeting:

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|------------------------|------------|
| Saturday, May 17, 2008 | 4:00 p.m. |
| Monday, May 19, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| Tuesday, May 20, 2008 | 8:00 p.m. |

13. Next Committee Meetings (1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane, Washington):

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Operations & Customer Service | June 4, 2008, 1:30 p.m. (Southside Conference Room) |
| Citizen Advisory Committee | June 11, 2008, 5:00 p.m. (Northside Conference Room) |

14. Next Board Meeting, Thursday, **June 12**, 2008, 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 808 West Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, Washington. (Note date change from June 19)

15. Next Public Hearing, Thursday June 12, 2008, 5:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, 808 West Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, Washington to discuss:

FTA Section 5307 and 5309 Grant Applications

Note: Since the Board meeting, this public hearing has been cancelled.

16. ADJOURNED
With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Pro Tempore Denenny adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Watson
Executive Assistant to the CEO
& Clerk of the Authority