



Summary Minutes

**Board Meeting
December 15, 2023**

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Chair Dow Constantine in a Virtual Meeting via telephone and video conference.

The meeting was recorded and can be found at <https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/board-directors/livestream-video>.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chairs
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive (P) Kent Keel, City of University Place Councilmember

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor	(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember
(P) David Baker, City of Kenmore Councilmember	(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(A) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Council Chair
(P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Deputy Mayor
(A) Debora Juarez, City of Seattle Council President	

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Julie Timm’s departure – Chair Constantine began his report by acknowledging the recent news of CEO Julie Timm’s decision to step down from her role, effective January 12, 2024. He thanked her for her service to the region and noted her work in preparing the Agency for a busy 2024.

Items requiring a supermajority and Revised Agenda – Chair Constantine noted that Resolution No. R2023-40, pertaining to the Annual Budget Adoption, requires a supermajority vote of the Board for final adoption. He also noted that the Board would be working from a Revised Agenda for the meeting.

Recognizing departing Board members – Chair Constantine recognized Board members Baker, Juarez, McDermott, and Keel as today is their final meeting as Sound Transit Board members. He thanked them for their service to Sound Transit and greater region.

Vice Chair Election – In addition, Chair Constantine noted that, with the departure of Vice Chair Keel, an election for the position of Board Vice Chair from Pierce County would be held in early 2024.

CEO Report

CEO Timm provided the report.

Moody's Rating update – Last month, Moody's Investor Services affirmed Sound Transit's Aaa rating on first lien Prior Bonds, as well as the Aa1 rating on second lien Parity Bonds. These ratings reflect the strong and robust debt service coverage, as well as the size and strength of the service area's economy. This rating is a solid indication of ongoing confidence in the Agency's fiscal management.

Goodmaps is a "Go" – CEO Timm announced that Sound Transit has contracted with Goodmaps to provide real-time turn-by-turn directions and accessible way-finding for all passengers, including those with additional needs. Starting on December 15, 2023, the service will be available at the Westlake and International District/Chinatown stations. If the pilot program is successful, it will expand to all Link stations.

Activation Update – Staff continues to advance preparations to open two pedestrian and bike overpasses to further enhance connectivity to the East Link Starter Line stations. The openings of the Overlake Village station bridge and the Redmond Technology Station Connector Bridge are expected in early 2024. Additionally, Agency and King County Metro staff continue to advance pre-revenue service activities, including safety outreach to schools. In partnership with King County Metro, staff have identified a window of opportunity to implement necessary tile repairs at relevant stations along the 2 Line this winter, prior to revenue service.

On the Lynnwood Link Extension, Staff continue to advance Systems Integrated Testing, which helps to identify operational and safety issues that require adjustments before the start of pre-revenue service activities. As the work progresses, Sound Transit is engaging with Community Transit and King County Metro on opportunities to improve transit service in the corridor with the opening of the extended 1 Line.

Angle Lake TOD groundbreaking – CEO Timm reported that Mercy Housing Northwest broke ground on the Mercy Angle Lake Family Housing TOD project. The project will provide 130 units of affordable housing adjacent to Agnel Lake Station and will serve as the headquarters for the Arc of King County, a nonprofit serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The project is the first to benefit from Sound Transit's MOU with Amazon and the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, as well as the first project in the nation to benefit from a new legislative provision from WA congressman Adam Smith that allows FTA interest to be extinguished from properties transferred to nonprofits for affordable housing development.

Farewell and Happy Holidays message

CEO Timm concluded her report by thanking Sound Transit staff for their dedication and commitment to the Agency's mission and wished all a happy holiday season and happy new year.

Public Comment

Chair Constantine announced that the Board was accepting public comment via email and verbally through the virtual meeting platform.

The following people provided written public comment to the Board:

Patrick D'Amelio for Fare Start, Dan McGrady for PEMCO, Jon Kiehnau for the South Lake Union Chamber of Commerce, Julia Bell, Khushbu Vyas, Nisha Nariya, Sophia Miyazaki, Christine Martin, Bill Friedman, Kelli Maguire, Chris Griffin, Zhara Megji, Kim Callahan, Tiffany Clark, Samir Daftary, Zahoor Ahmed, Xuemin, Micky Singh, Narita Ghumman, Padma Venkatachalam, Neha Nariya, Phil Bouie, Avani, Matt Wittman, Iris Cruz, Kyran Hynes, Juergen Oswald, Carey Christie, Sandeep Reddy, Sugu Venkatachalam, Avneet, Rahul Vasisht, Narita Ghumman, Hamraj Ghumman, Megan Miyazaki, Aji, and unnamed commenters

Uptown Alliance

James Vegas, for the Museum of Pop Culture, Stephen Fesler

Bill Hirt
Chio Saeteurn
Kathleen Barry Johnson for Historic South Downtown
Jared Johnson for SCIDPDA
Brien Chow
Betty Lau
Joe Kunzler

The following people provided in-person verbal public comment to the Board:

Sarah Clark
Ada Healey
Rob Brandenburg
Paul Evasick
Julie Holland
Marc Chatalas
Kathleen Barry Johnson
Howard Anderson
Kylie Rolf
Jared Axelrod

The following people provided virtual verbal public comment to the Board:

Michele Smith
Hester Serebin
Stephen Fesler
Joe Kunzler

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: November 2023

Minutes: Minutes for the November 16, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: Minutes for the November 22, 2023, Board of Directors Special Meeting

Motion No. M2023-105: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a three-year labor agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46, covering Facilities Specialists, Senior Facilities Specialists and Electricians in the Operations Department beginning January 1, 2024 and expiring on December 31, 2026.

Motion No. M2023-107: (1) Approving the key business terms of a real estate purchase and sale agreement with Mercy Housing Northwest for the sale of surplus property adjacent to Kent Des Moines Station for the creation of a mixed-use project comprised primarily of affordable housing; and (2) delegating to the chief executive officer the authority to execute and subsequently amend as necessary the real estate purchase and sale agreement and related covenants, conditions, and easements for the TOD project, all subject to the Board-approved key business terms.

Motion No. M2023-110: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with HNTB Corporation to prepare a feasibility assessment under the contract for project development services for the West Seattle-Ballard Link Extensions, in the amount of \$776,247, with a 10% contingency of \$74,801 totaling \$851,048, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$319,693,752, contingent upon approval of Motion No. M2023-109 and Resolution No. R2023-40.

The consent agenda was moved by Board member Keel and seconded by Board member Walker.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Business items

Resolution No. R2023-40: Adopting an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2024, and adopting the 2024 Transit Improvement Plan.

John Henry, Chief Financial Officer, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Dammeier highlighted the financial stability of the Agency and thanked CFO John Henry and the finance staff for their work.

Resolution No. R2023-40 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Somers.

Board member Backus reported that the Finance and Audit Committee reviewed the action and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Board member Dammeier noted that the Board had, through various presentations at the full Board and Committees, already seen much of the budget presentation, so a lack of questions today is not unusual.

Chair Constantine also noted his support for the Resolution.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2023-40.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Bruce Dammeier
Christine Frizzell
Bruce Harrell
Kent Keel
Joe McDermott

Nays

Roger Millar
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Resolution No. R2023-40 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2023-37: (1) Adopting new rates of fare and fare structure for Link light rail service effective with the opening of 1 Line extension to Lynnwood City Center Station; and (2) superseding the rates of fare established in Resolution No. R2023-05 with the rates of fare established by this action as shown in Attachment A.

Alex Krieg, Director of Access, Integration and Station Area Planning, gave the staff presentation.

Resolution No. R2023-37 was moved by Board member Walker and seconded by Board member Baker.

Board member Walker reported that the Rider Experience and Operations Committee reviewed the action and forwarded the Resolution with the \$3.00 flat fare to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. She noted that the committee's vote was not unanimous.

Board member Roscoe thanked fellow Board members and staff for their availability to answer question on this complex topic and the analysis performed.

Board member Dammeier asked Board member Walker on the Committee's discussion and the nature of the "no" vote. Board member Walker responded that the no vote on the \$3.00 recommendation was in favor of the \$3.25 option, not against the shift to a flat fare. She also noted that the main conversation

was between the \$3 and \$3.25 fare, with the Committee ultimately deciding that \$3.25 would be too great a jump at this time.

Board member Frizzell noted that she was the no vote and believes the \$3.25 fare option is better for the Agency's finances. She remarked that she is aware of the potential impact to low-income riders, but also noted that low income ORCA lift program as a potential option. Board member Frizzell also expressed her support for a more regional view of fares.

Board member Balducci expressed her support for the Resolution and thanked the Committee for their work in recommending a flat fare option for the Board to consider. She also echoed the support for further discussion on fare-capping.

Vice Chair Keel stated his support for the Resolution. He added his support to addressing fares as a regional discussion.

Board member Harrell stated his support for the flat fare but noted his disapproval for the \$3.25 option. He thanked the Rider Experience and Operations Committee for their recommendation for the \$3.00 flat fare.

Vice Chair Somers stated that he would support the Resolution today but mentioned he is also in the same camp as Board member Frizzell regarding the financial stability offered by the \$3.25.

Board member Walker asked staff to clarify if the Resolution today makes any changes to low-income fare program. Mr. Krieg responded that it does not.

Board member Frizzell noted that she would support the Resolution today, as she supports the flat fare option but would prefer the \$3.25.

Board member Dammeier signaled similar sentiment to Board members Frizzell and Somers.

Chair Constantine added his support to the Resolution and highlighted the importance of driving up ridership, given the post-pandemic world.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2023-37.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Bruce Dammeier
Christine Frizzell
Bruce Harrell
Kent Keel
Joe McDermott

Nays

Roger Millar
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Resolution No. R2023-37 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2023-109: Directing staff to assess the feasibility of an additional alternative in the South Lake Union area for potential inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ballard Link Extension project.

Board member Balducci briefly summarized the action and reported that the System Expansion Committee unanimously forwarded the motion to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Board member Harrell stated his support for the feasibility study as the potential station locations could maintain two stations in the Denny/South Lake Union area while also cutting back on traffic impacts in downtown Seattle.

Motion No. M2023-109 was moved by Board member Balducci and seconded by Board member Roscoe.

Vice Chair Keel stated his support for the Motion and thanked all those who have been part of the engagement process thus far.

Vice Chair Somers also signaled his support for the Motion.

Board member Dammeier also noted his support for today's Motion and highlighted his heightened scrutiny when the results are delivered back to the Board.

Board member Millar added his support to the Motion.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Motion No. M2023-109.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Bruce Dammeier
Christine Frizzell
Bruce Harrell
Kent Keel
Joe McDermott

Nays

Roger Millar
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Motion No. M2023-109 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2023-113: (1) Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute temporary service reductions on ST Express to respond to staffing shortages based on the criteria established by this motion, to go into effect with the March 2024 service change, and (2) directing the CEO to report the details of the service reduction at the January Rider Experience & Operations Committee.

Brian de Place, Director of System and Service Planning, and Robin Braziel, Executive Operations Director for Commuter Rail, Bus, and Paratransit, gave the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Keel thanked staff for their awareness for maintaining key regional routes while they analyze the service reductions.

Motion No. M2023-113 was moved by Board member Walker and seconded by Board member Keel.

Board member Walker thanked the staff from both Pierce Transit and Sound Transit for their difficult work to come to the decisions authorized in the Motion. She also asked when the service reduction would go into effect. Mr. de Place stated that the reductions would go into effect in March with more specifics provided for any final adjustments at a presentation at the January Rider Experience and Operations Committee meeting.

Board member Dammeier expressed frustration with the operator shortage but stated his appreciation that the two agencies were able to reach consensus.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Motion No. M2023-113.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Bruce Dammeier
Christine Frizzell
Bruce Harrell
Kent Keel
Joe McDermott

Nays

Roger Millar
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Somers
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Motion No. M2023-113 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2023-114: (1) Ending Ms. Julie Timm’s employment agreement early and authorizing severance pay and a release and transition services agreement, and (2) confirming and continuing delegations in Resolution No. R2023-30, the Board’s Procurement, Agreements, and Delegated Authority Policy, to Sound Transit employees until rescinded by the Board or next chief executive officer.

Chair Constantine noted that Desmond Brown, General Counsel, is available for questions from Board members.

Motion No. M2023-114 was moved by Board member Constantine and seconded by Board member Dammeier.

Vice Chair Somers and Keel, along with Board members Balducci, Backus, McDermott, Dammeier, Roscoe, and Frizzell expressed their sincere thanks for CEO Timm’s service to the Agency and region.

Chair Constantine called for a voice vote on Motion No. M2023-114.

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Motion No. M2023-114 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on January 25, 2024, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via WebEx.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, AJM.