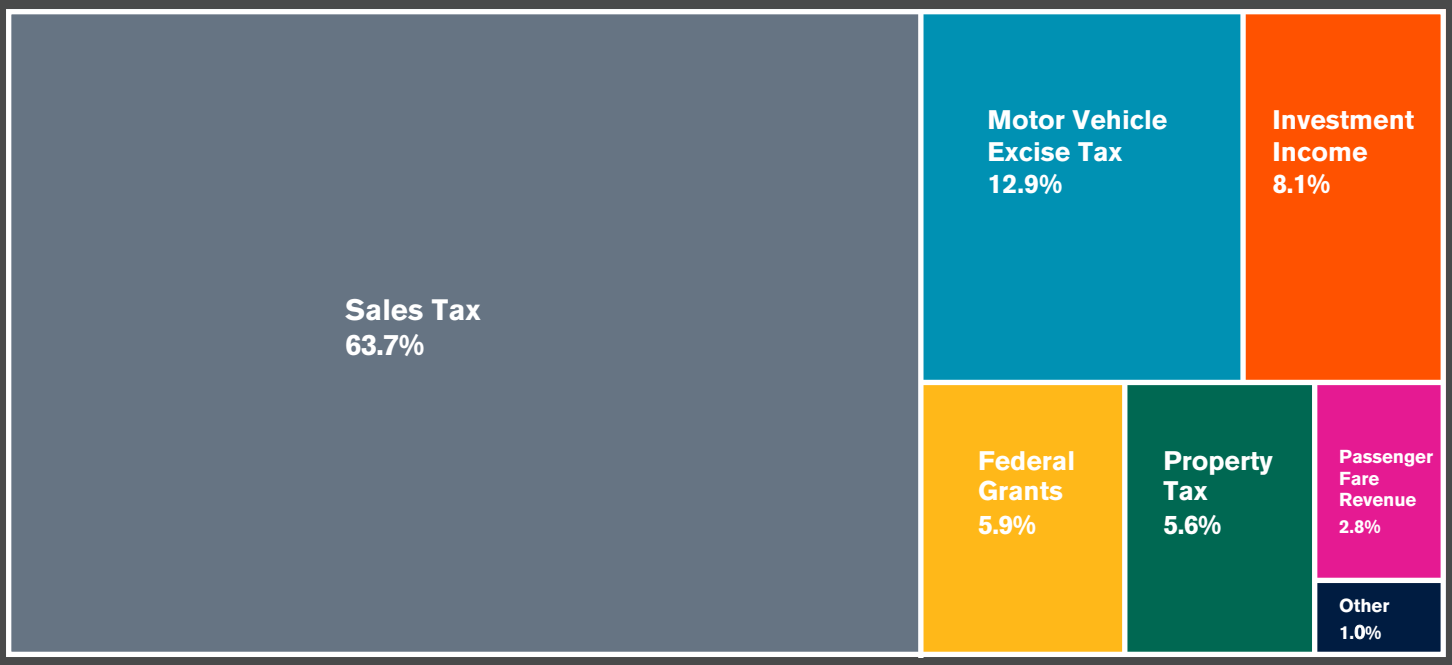
2027 Budget at a glance

Sound Transit's 2027 budget is affordable, fully funded, and follows direction from the May 2026 System Plan Update. The ST3 expansion program moves forward, with the West Seattle Link Extension and OMF South expansion projects advancing through final design. Revenue vehicle miles are projected to increase by 6% over 2026 levels with recent Link openings normalizing service. Investments supporting a safe, clean, and welcoming rider experience continue along with continuous improvement opportunities funded.

Total sources: $3.3 billion

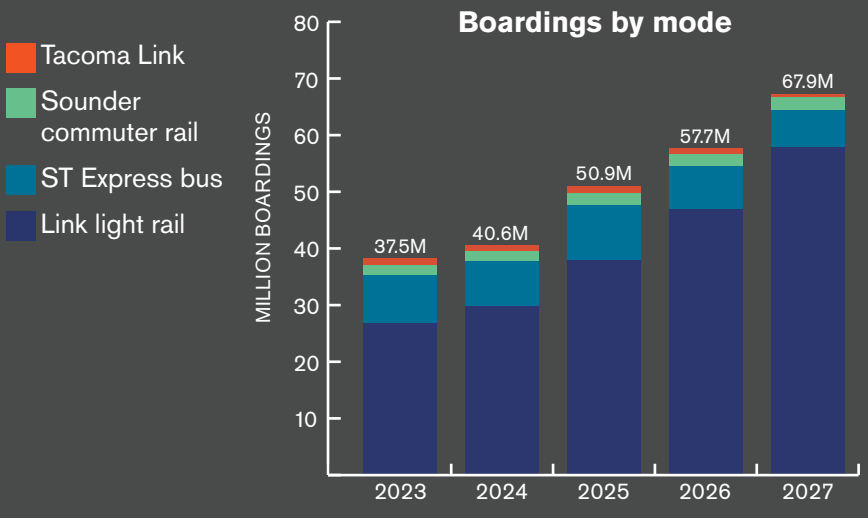
Sales Tax and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax are the largest revenue sources in 2027, representing 76.5% of the total revenue sources.

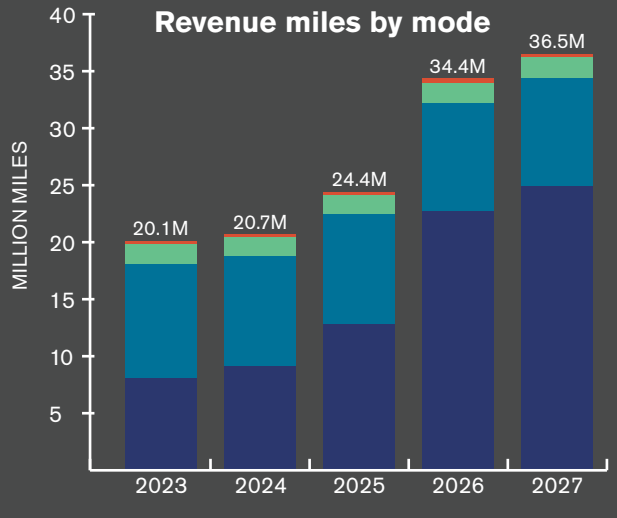
- Sales tax revenue is expected to increase in 2027 with moderate growth in the regional economy.
- Passenger fare revenue is expected to increase slightly due to a full year of service from extensions that opened in 2026.
- Grant revenue will decrease from 2026 as final drawdowns are completed on ST2 projects.
- Existing cash balance as of end of 2026 to balance budget in 2027, as expected.



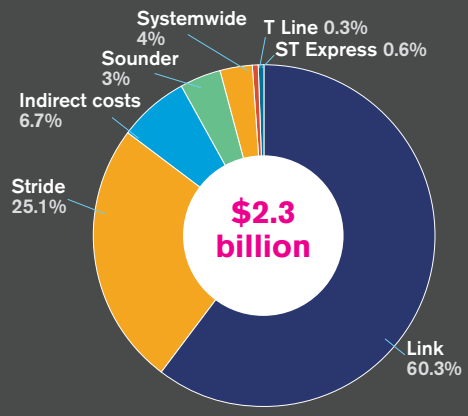
From 2023 to 2027

254.6 million boardings
136.0 million revenue miles



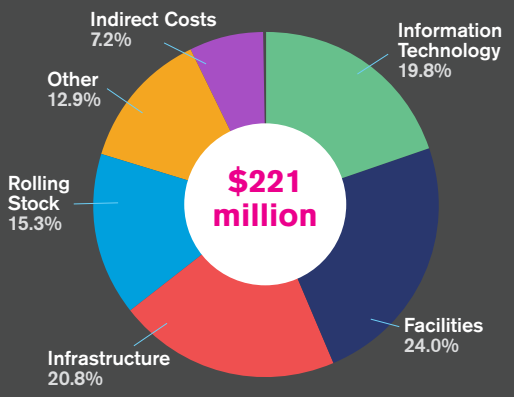


Total uses: $3.9 billion



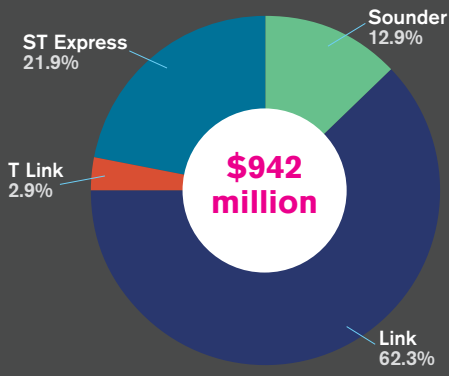
System expansion projects

- Link and Stride projects continue to comprise the largest shares of the expansion budget.
- West Seattle Link Extension and the OMF South projects make up the largest components of the Link system expansion budget, with spending in ROW & Final Design phases ramping up.
- Stride projects SR 522 and Bus OMF continue to ramp up in 2027, with expected construction completion in 2028. Construction for I-405 BRT expected to wind down in late 2027.



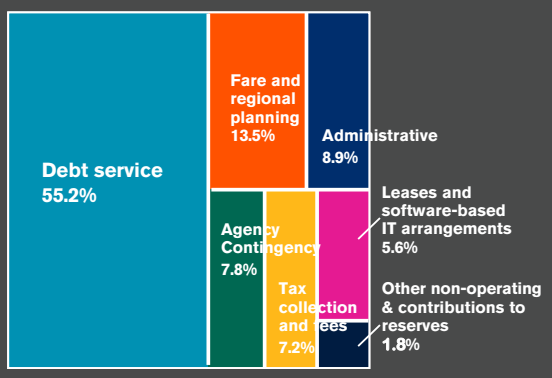
Service delivery projects

- Facilities spending includes vertical transportation modernization design at multiple locations, Union Station standby generator, and multiple DSTT modernization projects.
- Infrastructure work includes at-grade crossing safety improvements, OMF Central switch machine modernization, and traction power electrification modernization.
- Major Information Technology spending in 2027 is expected for the ERP/EAMS transformation, as well as work on the Project Management Information System and Passenger Information Management Systems.
- The fare gates pilot will begin work on the request for proposal for the fare gate vendor procurement.



Modal operating expenses

- Continued investments in Safe, Clean, and Welcoming Ride, building upon the high standards established in 2026.
- Westlake Customer Information Booth re-opened on Link station mezzanine.
- Additional resources to improve Link system reliability, rapid response, and maintenance coverage.
- Dedicated Amtrak vehicle maintenance personnel for Sounder.
- Modest revenue vehicle miles increase planned for 2027 with no major extension openings.



Debt service, contingency, and other expenses: $425 million

- Debt service is budgeted to increase slightly from TIFIA drawdowns fully completed in 2026 to support continued expansion
- Contingency is consistent with prior year approach; based on 3.5% of total modal operating budget.
- Other non-operating & contributions to reserves includes $7.7 million contribution to operating reserve.

SOURCES: 2027 Proposed Budget.