

2026 System Expansion Committee Work Program – Drafted 1/6/26

In 2026, the System Expansion Committee will focus on three areas: 1) transactional matters to advance the capital system expansion programs that are in construction or approved for project development, 2) capital program review, and 3) topics of special interest to the committee.

Matters to advance the capital system expansion, for committee approval or referral to the Board

This work includes committee actions required for continued progress on the work of Sound Transit's system expansion capital program for working within the current project phase. As in previous years, items will include committee consideration and votes to approve or recommend actions to the Board, including:

- Contracts and contract modifications
- Interlocal and other agreements
- Project alternatives, budgets, and milestones
- Property acquisitions
- Regular project briefings to keep the committee informed and prepared for upcoming action items
- Other actions as needed for the capital expansion program

Sound Transit staff have compiled a projected list of specific actions they anticipate bringing before the committee for action by quarter, which is attached.

Capital Program Review

The System Expansion Committee will receive ad-hoc cost savings reports, biannual reports on the status of current and anticipated cost drivers, and will receive information on scope, schedule or budget challenges that are anticipated or may arise during the year, especially with regard to major components of the capital program or those that will require Board action.

In 2026, the System Expansion Committee will consider projects to be built, preferred alternatives, and/or EIS alternatives for the following projects:

- Ballard Link Extension project
- Everett Link Extension project
- Tacoma Dome Station Access Improvements project

In 2026, the Committee will also consider baseline budgets and/or budget amendments for the following projects:

- Amend East Link Extension baseline budget
- Amend Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension baseline budget
- Amend Ballard Link Extension annual budget and project allocation
- Amend Everett Link Extension annual budget and project allocation

Topics of Special Interest to the Committee

The System Expansion Committee will also explore additional areas that are topics of interest to members, responsive to changing circumstances or the public, or emerging issues.

Topics proposed for 2025:

- Update on Long Range System Planning (**Presented as part of the Enterprise Initiative, carryover to 2026**)
- Project Management Information System (PMIS) implementation (**Not presented in 2025, planned for January 2026**)
- Discussion on proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Capital Program (**Not presented in 2025, carryover to 2026**)
- Presentation on the At-Grade Crossing 5-year master plan (In conjunction with Rider Experience & Operations Committee) (**Presented at May Board meeting**)
- Program and project cost work plan updates (per Resolution No. R2024-22 and Motion No. M2025-36), including presentation on standardized station designs and West Seattle Link Extension (**Presented Quarterly**)
- Presentation on designing for safety (**Not presented in 2025**)
- Presentation on designing for state of good repair and resiliency (**Not presented in 2025**)
- Review format for documents provided to the Committee and Board (**Not presented in 2025**)
- Other Topics suggested by System Expansion Committee members

Topics proposed for 2026:

- Enterprise Initiative
 - Program and project cost work plan updates (per Resolution No. R2024-22 and Motion No. M2025-36) (**Presented Quarterly**)
 - Update on Long Range System Planning (TBD)
 - Contracting Methods briefing (TBD)
- Betterment Policy Update (**Planned for Q1 2026**)
- Project Management Information System (PMIS) implementation (**planned for January 2026 and Q4 2026**)
- Presentation on standardized station designs (**Planned for Q1 2026**)
- Discussion on proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Capital Program (**Planned for Q3 2026**)
- Update on Projects in Construction (**Planned for Q4 2026**)
- Update on Projects in Planning and Design (**Planned for Q1 and Q4 2026**)
- Other Topics suggested by System Expansion Committee members

Reports Provided to the Committee

The System Expansion Committee will receive monthly presentations on the capital program and project key performance indicators (KPIs) and will continue to receive updates as the program and projects advance and reach key milestones. KPIs will present metrics on performance across the program, including quality, cost, and schedule, that are gathered and tracked through the Project Management Information System.

The Committee will continue to receive the [System Expansion Monthly Status Report](#).

Representative schedule of actions and discussions, subject to change.

First Quarter

- Consider a contract modification for Preliminary Engineering for the Graham Street Infill Station and Boeing Access Road Infill Station projects
- Consider authorizing the CEO to allocate additional contingency and modify existing contracts and agreements for the East Link Extension project
- Consider a Budget Amendment for the East Link Extension project
- Project Management Information System (PMIS) update
- Consider a Project Administration Agreement with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project
- Betterments Policy update
- Projects in planning and design update
- Presentation on standardized station designs
- Consider Stride BRT Burien Transit Center Construction contract award
- Consider selecting Tacoma Dome Access Improvements
- Consider a Budget Amendment for the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension
- Consider OMF South Progressive Design-Build Phase 1 contract award
- Consider a contract modification for Sounder Consultant services
- Consider a contract modification for Ballard Link Extension Preliminary Engineering services
- Report on Ballard Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Report on Everett Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Report from former TAG members

Second Quarter

- Consider confirming/modifying the preferred alternative and alternatives for study in Ballard Link Extension Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Status update on implementing external reviews and improvements to the Quality Management Programmatic Function
- Consider an amendment to the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension D-to-M Streets Track & Signal agreement
- Consider confirming/modifying/identifying the Preferred Alternative and other alternatives for study in the Everett Link Extension Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Third Quarter

- Consider a contract modification for Everett Link Extension Preliminary Engineering Services
- Discussion on proposed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Capital Program

Fourth Quarter

- Consider forwarding the System Expansion portion of the proposed 2027 Budget to the Finance and Audit Committee
- Project Management Information System (PMIS) update
- Projects in construction update
- Projects in planning and design update