Community Oversight Panel

November 13, 2026

Sound Transit Finance and Audit Committee
The Honorable Thomas McLeod, Chair
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA, 98104

Re: Community Oversight Panel Comments on 2027 Performance Audit Topic

Dear Chair McLeod:

The Community Oversight Panel (COP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) regarding the 2027 Audit Work Plan. As you know, the COP is charged with monitoring seven major areas of Sound Transit's performance, many of which coincide with the FAC's responsibilities for oversight and review:

- Community engagement activities
- Project planning and alignment decisions
- Budget and financial plan
- Project schedule and budget adherence
- Agency performance audits
- Social justice and equity
- Passenger experience

The COP was briefed on the Audit Division's work plan at its October 14, 2026 meeting. Following that meeting, the COP was provided with three audit topics to consider: Earthquake Response, Vertical Transport and Asset Management, and Traction Power Training and Documentation Controls.

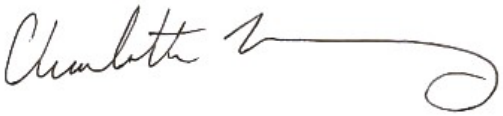
The COP was also invited to suggest alternative topics. The panel considered: Agency Recruitment and Retention, Agency Relationship between Sound Transit and Parters delivering Sound Transit Branded Services, Capital and Operations Requirements and Process Integration, and Regulatory Permitting Review.

Of the topics that the panel considered, the following received the most votes:

- **Workforce recruitment, retention, and succession planning** - Assess Sound Transit's workforce strategies to attract, retain, and develop talent necessary to support the agency's mission.
- **Oversight of third-party service delivery for Sound Transit-branded services** - Assess Sound Transit's third-party partnerships in the delivery of major ST-branded operations supporting regional mobility goals.

After discussing the topics, the COP agreed to adopt **Oversight of third-party service delivery for Sound Transit-branded services** as its recommended topic for the 2027 performance audit topic. This audit would provide an opportunity to understand best what has worked, lessons learned and where there are challenges and opportunities in Sound Transit's key partnerships. We look forward to reviewing the results of the audit when it is complete.

Sincerely,



Community Oversight Panel
Charlotte Murry
Community Oversight Panel Chair

Cc: Dow Constantine, CEO
Community Oversight Panel