

## Summary Minutes

**Board Meeting**  
**March 27, 2025**

### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Dave Somers and was available for viewing in person and online.

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

### Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chairs
(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive	(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Council President
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) De'Sean Quinn, King County Councilmember
(A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(A) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Vice Chair
(P) Julie Meredith, Secretary of Transportation	

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

### Report of the Chair

Monthly Contract Report - The meeting packet included the monthly CEO contract report for January 2024.

Meeting with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians – Members of Sound Transit leadership, along with Federal Transit Administration officials, met with the Tribal Council of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians (PTOI) to introduce new Board members and Tacoma Dome Link Extension project (TDLE) leaders. The meeting covered updates for the TDLE project, and agency leadership listened to the Tribal Council's preferences as the project moves forward with mitigation discussions. Coordination with the Puyallup Tribe is essential to the project's success as Sound Transit's aims to build the first light rail on an Indian reservation in the United States.

### CEO Report

Interim CEO Sparrman provided the report.

#### Lightning Strike and Service Disruption

At about 7:30pm last night, a 1 Line train was stranded between SeaTac/Airport and Angle Lake stations due to a direct lightning strike on the overhead power system. While the safety mechanisms successfully

protected passengers and staff, the voltage inflicted significant damage to the power system and transition power substation. The train was stranded, but a rescue train was able to safely retrieve the passengers.

Angle Lake station is currently closed, with 1 Line service terminating at SeaTac station. Security staff and fare ambassadors are onsite to provide information to riders. Work is underway to repair the damage, but there is not yet an estimated time for resumption.

#### Lynnwood Link Extension Contingency Use Memo

Last year, the Board authorized Lynnwood Link Extension staff to utilize up to \$15 million to address work needed to open the project for revenue service and prepare the project for closeout. In line with the Board's motion, a memo was included in today's packet that covers the top-line information of which contract and agreements were augmented, by how much, and for what purpose. Of the \$15 million, staff have utilized about \$9 million to date. We welcomed any feedback on the memo, as other ST2 projects have similar requirements.

#### Acting Deputy CEO-Service Delivery

Noting that recruitment efforts are ongoing for the agency's next Deputy CEO for Service Delivery, Mr. Sparrman informed the Board that Acting Deputy CEO Russ Arnold has recently fully stepped into his new role as Chief Innovation Officer in the Strategy department. Marie Olson has agreed to step into the acting Deputy CEO role while recruitment is ongoing.

#### Washington, D.C. Trip Report-out

Two weeks ago, Sound Transit leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal agency officials and the congressional delegation to assure the continuity of their relationships with Sound Transit during the CEO transition and to provide updates on projects and initiatives. Federal support for the capital program remains a crucial component of the financial plan.

#### Closing Remarks

Mr. Sparrman noted that while he intends to assist the agency's next CEO through May 2, today would be his last Board meeting as Interim CEO. Regardless of the Board's decision later in the meeting, his agreement will conclude in a little over a month. He expressed his gratitude to the Sound Transit Board and staff for their trust during a critical juncture in the agency's growth. He stated his support for the talent and dedication of staff working to deliver a work-class transit system for the region.

Chair Somers thanked Mr. Sparrman for his leadership and work guiding the agency over the last year.

Before moving to Public Comment, Chair Somers allowed Board member Franklin to provide a few remarks as she will need to depart early for her State of the City address.

Board member Franklin thanked Mr. Sparrman for his leadership. She stated the process and work undertaken by each Board member to reach this point in the CEO selection process has been thorough. She thanked the public for their extensive feedback throughout the process and noted that for key stakeholder groups, Dow Constantine was the top pick for Sound Transit CEO. She noted the benefit of Mr. Constantine being able to hit the ground running with particular knowledge of the region, as well as the challenges ahead facing the System Expansion program. Board member Franklin re-iterated her commitment to completing the spine and delivering light rail to Everett and Tacoma. She concluded by stating her support for Motion No. M2025-15.

## Public Comment

Chair Somers 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:

Larry Macmillan	Stacey Valenzuela
Llyod Scot Bastian	Kirsten Whittemore
Kristi DuPuy	Jan Roberts
Terry Scidmore	Candace Shattuck
Kelly Finn	John Niles
Cathy Henkel	Daniel Cavazos
Marilyn Kennell	Rachel Smith on behalf of the Seattle
Candace Shattuck	Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce,
Jan Roberts	Downtown Seattle Associate, Commute Seattle,
Donna Popich	and Transportation Choices Coalition
Matthew Crane	Joe Kunzler
Elizabeth Reynolds	Emily Gipson
Lash Akinmulero	Brien Chow
F. Spence	Betty Lau
Alan Puckett	Amy Chen Lozano

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

Betty Lau  
Brien Chow  
Amy Chen  
Mr. Wu  
Dr. Connie So  
Joe Kunzler  
Marykate Ryan  
Paul Swen  
Jan Johnson  
Alex Hudson  
Barb Wilson  
Kirk Hovenkotter

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

Ray Stephanson  
Kirsten Whittemore  
Will Knedlik  
Mayor Thomas Mcleod  
David Scott  
Day-Z Gould-Wong

## Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: February 2025

Minutes of the February 27, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2025-12: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a three-year labor agreement with PROTEC17 covering Passenger Information Coordinators.

**The consent agenda was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Vice Chair Mello.**

**It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.**

## **Business items**

### Briefing on S. Graham Street Infill Station project

Brian Macik, Senior Project Manager, gave the staff presentation. He was joined by Brad Owen, Executive Director over the projects. He noted that much of work on both the Graham Street and Boeing Access Road Infill Stations was being completed by the same team and are being evaluated in a wholistic manner due to the construction impacts to the current operating 1 Line.

For the S. Graham Street Infill Station project, staff are updating the Board on the intent to advance one design option into environmental review. Mr. Macik noted that no Board action is needed to advance the project as the representative site for the project is not changing.

The project would add a new at-grade station along Martin Luther King, Jr. Way between South Graham Street and South Morgan Street, bridging the gap between Columbia City and Othello station and increasing access in the Rainier Valley. The project will also include roadway access, safety, and utility improvements, and the project team is working closely with the agency's at-grade crossing safety team to incorporate best practices. The planning phase of the project is expected to conclude in 2026, design is scheduled from 2026-2028, with construction lasting from 2028-2031. Mr. Macik briefly touched on the recent and future steps to complete the planning phase of the project and recapped the design refinement process. The process included feedback from the local community and key stakeholders which saw three design option refined down to one.

Mr. Macik summarized the engagement performed in 2024 and early 2025, which includes stakeholder interviews with community organizations, community events, door-to-door outreach, and open houses and surveys. The team reported that the agency heard about the importance of safety enhancements, minimized disruption and impacts to local businesses, increased access and connections, and service as soon as possible while collecting feedback.

The three design options presented during the February 2025 open house included 1) side platforms, 2) center platform – middle, and 3) center platform – offset. The project team is recommending moving forward with the center platform – offset design as it best reflects the community priorities of safety, access, minimizing construction effects and displacement concerns, and delivering the station quickly. The platform will be located just south of Graham Street, providing access to a more complete street grid to the east. A center platform also means that riders only have to cross one track to access the platform, and trains headed both north and south are serviced by the same platform which is convenient for expected and unexpected disruptions. The project also intends to include automatic pedestrian crossing gates. Mr. Macik also highlighted the need to avoid a sewer line in the southbound lanes so that the project can be delivered as soon as possible. Additional work with the City of Seattle and local property owners is expected during environmental review.

Mr. Macik summarized staff's recommendation to move forward with the center platform – offset option and laid out next steps for the project.

Vice Chair Balducci shared that the System Expansion Committee also heard this report and discussed staff's recommended option for environmental review. She highlighted several of the potential safety, accessibility, and operability improvements that could be realized as a part of the project.

Motion No. M2025-14: Identifying the East Marginal Way location as the proposed location of the South Boeing Access Road Infill Station for environmental review.

Brian Macik, Senior Project Manager, and Brad Owen, Executive Director, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Birney thanked staff for their clarity and diligence in presenting the project work to date and the potential options before the Board.

Vice Chair Balducci reported that the System Expansion Committee considered this action at its meeting earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Motion with a do-pass recommendation. She noted key discussion points on the decision to shift the location away from the original Boeing Access Road location due to challenging construction constraints and better access to local amenities and development is achieved with the East Marginal Way site.

Board member Roscoe thanked staff for their follow-up to her question regarding ridership numbers for the station at opening and when the full ST3 system is operational.

**It was moved by Vice Chair Balducci, seconded by Board member Roscoe, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-14 be approved as presented.**

Resolution No. R2025-05: Amending section 2.12 of Resolution No. R2023-30 to delegate authority to the chief executive officer to execute real property agreements that do not exceed \$1,000,000 in payment to Sound Transit or the other party, subject to certain limitations.

Joanna Valeri, Managing Legal counsel, gave the staff presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Prince, seconded by Vice Chair Mello, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-05 be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2025-15: Approving an agreement to employ Dow Constantine as Sound Transit's chief executive officer from April 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026, with two one-year renewal options at the Board's discretion.

Gregg Moser, Recruitment Consultant, provided the Board a recap of the process undertaken over the last few months.

Chair Somers thanked Mr. Moser for his help through the process and expressed gratitude to all the Board member who took active roles in the recruitment and interview process.

Board member Zahilay asked if there was ranking prepared of the 15 candidates who made it through the screening process when they were presented to the CEO Selection group for additional refinement. Mr. Moser responded that they were presented in alphabetical order and included notes related to the Board-discussed selection criteria.

Board member Zahilay asked how external stakeholders were selected to provide input. Mr. Moser responded that recommendations came from Sound Transit staff and Board members.

Board member Zahilay asked if the process taken by the Board is in line with industry best practice. Mr. Moser responded that Sound Transit's process abided by state law, which is a major factor for recruitment processes at different agencies. He added that he believed the applicant pool would have been affected had their names been disclosed by default.

Board member George asked if the other two finalist would've applied without the confidentiality. Mr. Moser responded that he firmly believes they would not have applied without the expectation of confidentiality.

Board member Zahilay asked if there would be an opportunity to pose questions to the nominee. Chair Somers responded that Mr. Constantine is not present at the moment, but has requested time to address the Board, should the agreement be approved.

Board member Strauss asked if additional statements would be entertained. Chair Somers noted that a motion to approve should be made before general statements are given.

Chair Somers briefly noted that as the candidate list was refined, the Board tended to converge on which candidates to advance to the next step.

**Motion No. M2025-15 was moved by Vice Chair Mello and seconded by Board member Backus.**

Board member Roscoe stated her concurrence with the comments from Board member Franklin earlier in the meeting. She intends to support the Motion.

Vice Chair Mello thanked both Board members and the supporting staff for their efforts throughout the CEO selection process, as well as the stakeholders who devoted a full day to supporting the Board in its consideration of the candidates. He noted that additional meetings were called to allow for Board members to ponder the candidates and reconvene for further deliberations. He stressed the importance of getting the decision right and the need for a CEO that is familiar with the agency and the region. He concluded by stating his support for the Motion.

Vice Chair Balducci agreed with the points made by Vice Chair Mello. She added her confidence in the decision is re-enforced by the broad engagement by all Board members. She noted the challenges ahead for the agency spanning multiple fronts and stated her belief that Mr. Constantine is best equipped to lead the agency at this time. She requested that the next Board meeting include time to more formally recognized Interim CEO Sparrman.

Board member Frizzell stated that she joined the process when the applicants were narrowed down to five and found the process to be robust. She shared that she had initially entered the process believing that finding a new CEO from outside the region with fresh perspective would be best. Through discussions with fellow Board members and regional stakeholders, she believes that Mr. Constantine's institutional knowledge of the agency and region will be key in delivering the agency's mission.

Board member Birney shared that she also joined at the five-candidate mark and found active participation in the process essential to her decision. She thanked shareholders and community members for their thoughts and input. She stated her support the Motion and highlighted Mr. Constantine's local knowledge and insight as critical.

Board member Backus stated that she joined the CEO Selection team in late 2024 and noted the numerous hours devoted by herself and other Board members to this decision. She noted that no Board member is indebted to Mr. Constantine for their position on the Board as the role is quite active and requires additional responsibility from all Board members. She added that the occurrence of uncomfortable conversations during the process acknowledged the weight of the decision for the Board. Board member Backus stated that she supports the effort to complete the regional spine, and that Mr. Constantine committed himself to delivering it. She intends to support the Motion.

Board member Walker echoed the sentiments from fellow Board members and stated her support for the Motion. As a Board member from Pierce County, she was satisfied with commitments made by Mr. Constantine around delivering the spine and completing the Tacoma Dome Link Extension.

Board member Strauss thanked the Board for its robust process and multi-county cooperation over the last few months. He noted that while Mr. Constantine does not have direct transit experience, there have been previous successful Sound Transit leaders who led the agency with strong regional knowledge. If today's contract is approved, the proof will be in the actions taken in the coming months and years. He opined that Sound Transit is at a make-or-break moment in the upcoming years, and that he hopes that

a permanent CEO can help to stabilize the agency so that the Board can be prepared for major decisions. He spoke to a submitted Resolution that will define and clarify the Board’s regional vision for the agency and CEO that Chair Somers has directed to the Executive Committee. He concluded by thanking Sound Transit staff for their continued work and dedication over the last several years with the transitions in executive leadership.

Board member George remarked that he found the process to be thoughtful, deliberate, and thorough. He mentioned that he was hoping to find a candidate that was from a large non-local transit agency and oversaw billions of dollars in expansion initiatives but noted that the Board can only pick from those who applied. He stressed that while the veil of confidentiality is unfortunate from a public perspective, it did help to attract competitive applicants. He, like Board member Franklin, spent hours reviewing the information between meetings and came to the decision to support Mr. Constantine’s nomination. He added that unlike an out-of-state applicant, Mr. Constantine doesn’t have a honeymoon and is expected to hit the ground running.

Chair Somers noted that the agency is facing strong headwinds from multiple directions spanning cost pressures on the capital program to system resiliency issues impacting operations. The next CEO will have to face these decisions, alongside the Board, and Mr. Constantine, with his deep knowledge and relationships in the region, rose to the top of the applicant pool. Chair Somers highlighted Mr. Constantine’s oversight role at King County Metro and key support for the ST3 Initiative.

**Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Motion No. M2025-15.**

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Nancy Backus	Ed Prince
Claudia Balducci	De’Sean Quinn
Angela Birney	Kim Roscoe
Christine Frizzell	Dan Strauss
Hunter George	Peter von Reichbauer
Ryan Mello	Kristina Walker
Julie Meredith	Girmay Zahiray
	Dave Somers

**It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-15 be approved as presented.**

Mr. Constantine expressed his thanks to the Board for their approval of the Motion and shared his excitement to be present in the Board room in a new role, incoming Sound Transit CEO. He stated that the Board truly took ownership of the selection process and commended Chair Somers for that effort. He looks forward to this next chapter in engaging with staff and the Board to discern their priorities for their respective projects and subareas, while remaining grounded in regionalism.

He acknowledged the challenges ahead and committed to transparently working with the Board for the best interests of the region. He re-iterated his deep commitment to Sound Transit and the voter-approved plans. He thanked Mr. Sparrman for his service as Interim CEO.

**Reports to the Board**

There were no reports.

**Other business**

None.

**Next meeting**

The next regular Board meeting would be held on April 24, 2025, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Dave Somers  
Board Chair

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Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on \_\_\_\_\_, AJM.