



## Summary Minutes

### Executive Committee Special Meeting May 13, 2025

#### Call to order

The special meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Committee Chair 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 Chair
(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive	(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor (P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor (P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor	(P) Ron Pate, Washington State Secretary of Transportation Alternate (P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember

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

#### Report of the Chair - None

#### CEO Report - None

#### Public comment

Chair Somers announced that public comment would be accepted via email to [meetingcomments@soundtransit.org](mailto:meetingcomments@soundtransit.org) and would also be accepted in-person and virtually.

No written, in-person, or virtual comments were received.

#### Reports to the Committee – None

#### Executive Session

Chair Somers advised that the Committee was going into executive session to discuss litigation the agency is or likely to become party to. He introduced Desmond Brown, Agency General Counsel, who explained that the committee was allowed to enter into executive session to discuss potential litigation to which the agency will become a party where public discussion would likely lead to an adverse financial or legal consequence under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i).

Chair Somers noted that the Committee would be in executive session for 20 minutes.

The executive session began at 9:04 a.m., with the Committee scheduled to return at 9:24 a.m.

The executive session was extended by 20 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 9:44 a.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 9:44 a.m.

**Business items**

**For Committee Final Action**

Motion No. M2025-25: Related to authorizing the agency to join as a plaintiff in the litigation Martin Luther King, Jr. County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, City of Boston et. al v. U.S. Departments of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, et. al., No. 2:25-cv-814 (W.D. Wash. filed May 2, 2025)

**It was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Vice Chair Mello.**

General Counsel Desmond Brown noted that the action would allow the agency to join litigation against the federal government to seek an injunction to protect the agency from being required to comply with new grant requirements related to the cooperation with federal immigration officials as well as new restrictions on agency diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

Chair Somers noted that he felt the agency must take this measure to protect itself, although it is not an action that is gladly taken.

**It was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2025-25 be adopted.**

**Other business** – None

**Next meeting**

Thursday, June 5, 2025  
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Somers  
Executive Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on \_\_\_\_\_, HRR