

Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
September 25, 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 (A) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor (P) Shannon Braddock, King County Executive (P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor (P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor (P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember (P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor (P) Ron Pate, Secretary of Transportation Alternate	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember (P) De'Sean Quinn, King County Councilmember (P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor (A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember (P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember (P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember (P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Chair

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

Report of the Chair

Items requiring a supermajority – Chair Somers noted that agenda items 7A-E require affirmative supermajority votes of the Board to adopt.

Monthly Contract Report - The meeting packet included the monthly CEO contract report for August 2025.

Enterprise Initiative – Chair Somers noted that while there is no standalone Enterprise Initiative briefing on today's agenda, each of the Board's Committee engaged with various components including about updating the agency's long-range plan, system resiliency and light rail vehicles, updated cost data and cost-savings opportunities for ST3 projects, and revenue and financial enhancement opportunities. He noted that all board members can expect continued committee engagement over the coming months.

He said that another Board retreat is still being planned to synthesize the challenges the agency faces and what tools are available.

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

Recent Link Power Issues – CEO Constantine acknowledged that over the last week, Link service was suspended several times due to tunnel ventilation systems and network issues. While one event remains under investigation, the agency knows that a failed switch connecting the Link Control Center to a station and the fire/life safety systems accounted for the most recent disruption. The switch in question, along with two others, are the last in a series of 15 to be upgraded and replaced over two planned maintenance closures in late October and early November.

CEO Constantine noted that a regular report on the continuous work to improve Link reliability is scheduled for next month's Rider Experience and Operations Committee.

APTA Awards – CEO Constantine celebrated the agency's staff for receiving two awards at the American Public Transportation Association's TRANSform conference. The Marketing division won APTA's AdWheel Grad Award for the Best Marketing and Communications campaign. The Agency also won the 2025 Innovation Award for the I-90 Floating Bridge project.

APTA reserves these awards for, "outstanding role models of excellence, leadership, and innovation whose accomplishments greatly advance public transportation."

East Link Testing Update – CEO Constantine noted that the East Link team has begun running test trains over the I-90 floating bridge segment of the project. Late in the evening on September 8, a single-car train crossed the bridge under its own power. The next phase will last several weeks and feature a single train, of up to four cars, crossing the bridge intermittently. The project remains on track for an early 2026 opening.

Federal Way Pre-Revenue Operations – CEO Constantine added that the simulated service on the Federal Way Link Extension is expected to begin later this fall and that the agency is well underway with pre-revenue operations.

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:

Joe Kunzler
Candace Shattuck, Bill Huenefeld, and Lucy Barefoot
Bill Hirt
Unnamed Commenter
Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Jan Roberts
Marilyn Kennell
Emily Stein on behalf of Leah Ephrem with HEWITT Architects
Maggie Fimia

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

Alex Tsimerman - Chair Somers called Alex Tsimerman out of order because Alex Tsimerman violated the Board's public comment rules by engaging in behavior that disrupts, disturbs or impedes the meeting, including derogatory remarks, profanity or personal attacks not germane to the Board's Agenda or work. Chair Somers announced that based on the violation, Alex Tsimerman is excluded from providing verbal public comment for a period of 90 days, from September 25, 2024 to December 23, 2025. Chair Somers also noted previous public comment rule violations at the Finance & Audit and

System Expansion Committee meetings on September 11, 2025. Chair Somers stated that the Board rules allow the decision to be overruled by a majority vote of the Board members in attendance.

Chair Somers asked if any Board members had an objection to the exclusion. There were no objections.

Kyle Holmes
Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Marilyn Kennel
Jeff Snedden
Paula Goode
Bill Hueneteld
Bill Popp
David Scott
Maggie Fimia
Vic Bishop
Ratah
Yin
Zella Urganhart

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

Joe Kunzler

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: August 2025

Minutes of the August 28, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2025-42: Approving the Federal Way Link Extension Service and Fare Equity Report.

Motion No. M2025-43: Approving the Title VI service monitoring results prior to the submittal of Sound Transit's 2025 Title VI Program to the Federal Transit Administration.

Motion No. M2025-44: Approving the submittal of Sound Transit's 2025 Title VI Program to the Federal Transit Administration.

Motion No. M2025-47: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Guy F. Atkinson Construction LLC for construction services for the Stride Kenmore/Bothell SR 522 Roadwork and Stations, components of the Stride Bus Rapid Transit SR522/NE 145th Street project, in the amount of \$44,579,472 with a 15 percent contingency of \$6,686,921 for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$51,266,393.

Motion No. M2025-48: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for additional Everett Link Extension and Operations and Maintenance Facility North Phase 2 work for project development services including advancement of Conceptual Engineering and preparation of the Draft EIS and partial exercise a contract option to advance specific geotechnical scopes from Phase 3 of the contract in the amount of \$73,000,000 with a 10 percent contingency of \$7,300,000 totaling \$80,300,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$173,512,897, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-27.

The consent agenda was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Braddock.

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

Business items

Resolution No. R2025-23: Amending the adopted 2025 budget to align with the internal reorganization by 1) decreasing the 2025 annual budget for the Administrative Project – Agency Admin Support by \$66,621,831 from \$147,117,488 to \$80,495,657 and decreasing the authorized project allocation by \$1,323,359,296 from \$1,941,536,791 to \$618,177,495; 2) increasing the Transit Modes 2025 annual operating budget by \$12,807,599 from \$756,311,771 to \$769,119,370; 3) creating a new project for System Expansion Indirect Costs with a 2025 annual budget of \$53,814,232 and an authorized project allocation of \$1,323,359,296, all of which have a net neutral impact to the 2025 annual budget.

Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer, and Ryan Fisher, Finance Executive Director, provided the staff presentation.

Resolution No. R2025-23 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Vice Chair Mello.

Board member Backus reported that the Finance and Audit Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. She noted that the committee was supportive of the amendment to align the budget with the new agency organizational structure and aid in additional transparency.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-23.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Shannon Braddock
Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Nays

Ed Prince
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-23 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-24: Amending the adopted 2025 budget to increase the 2025 annual Bonds and TIFIA loans proceeds budget by \$629,472,431, from \$1,514,197,742 to \$2,143,670,173.

Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer, and Jeff Clark, Controller Executive Director, provided the staff presentation for this and the following item.

Resolution No. R2025-24 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Braddock.

Board member Backus reported that the Finance and Audit Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-24.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Shannon Braddock

Nays

Ed Prince
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe

Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-24 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-25: Authorizing the redemption prior to maturity of Sound Transit's outstanding \$75 million of Series 2015S 2A Bonds using available funds; delegates authority to affect the redemption; and provides for other matters properly relating thereto.

Information on this action was included in the previous presentation.

Resolution No. R2025-25 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Frizzell.

Board member Backus reported that the Finance and Audit Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-25.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Shannon Braddock
Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Nays

Ed Prince
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-25 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-26: Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget to adjust the I-405 Bus Rapid Transit project baseline budget for accounting treatment of King County Metro Funding Agreements at Renton Transit Center and Bellevue Transit Center by increasing the authorized project allocation by \$52,000,000 from \$1,269,000,000 to \$1,321,000,000.

Manan Garg, Executive Director in the Capital Delivery Department, and Rick Capka, Stride BRT Executive Project Director, provided the staff presentation.

Board member Frizzell asked for clarity on how the impact of the Amendment will be net neutral while adding funds to the project. Mr. Fisher responded that the agreements offer \$52 million dollars in revenue to the agency to offset the \$52 million being incorporated into the project budget.

Resolution No. R2025-26 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Braddock.

Board member Backus, who chaired the September System Expansion Committee meeting, reported that the System Expansion Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. The Committee was excited to see progress for the Stride Program, both in this action and a construction contract included on the Consent Agenda.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-26.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Nancy Backus	Ryan Mello
Claudia Balducci	Ed Prince
Shannon Braddock	De'Sean Quinn
Christine Frizzell	Peter von Reichbauer
Hunter George	Kristina Walker
Bruce Harrell	Girmay Zahilay
	Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 13 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-26 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-27: Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget for the Everett Link Extension and Operations and Maintenance Facility North project Phase 2 work for additional project development services, including advancement of Conceptual Engineering, preparation of the Draft EIS, and staff augmentation utilizing MATOC project management services by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$120,300,000 from \$196,942,000 to \$317,242,000; and b) increasing the adopted 2025 annual project budget by \$8,000,000 from \$44,115,000 to \$52,115,000.

Manan Garg, Executive Director in the Capital Delivery Department, and Josh Pategas, Everett Link Extension Executive Project Director, provided the staff presentation.

Resolution No. R2025-27 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Board member Braddock.

Board member Backus, who chaired the September System Expansion Committee meeting, reported that the System Expansion Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. She noted that a contract included on the Consent Agenda is contingent upon adoption of this action. She summarized the committee’s discussion, which pertained to the amount of funds included under Construction Services and whether the amount was consistent with staff expectations. Staff shared that the intent of moving up the use of Construction Services dollars is to support work needing to get the project shovel-ready as it moves through Environmental Review.

Vice Chair Balducci thanked Board member Backus for filling in as Chair Pro Tem at the System Expansion Committee meeting. She also expressed excitement for projects preparing the Multiple Award Task Order Contracts that the Board has considered and will consider later in the meeting.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-27.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Nancy Backus	Ryan Mello
Claudia Balducci	Ed Prince
Shannon Braddock	De'Sean Quinn
Christine Frizzell	Peter von Reichbauer
Hunter George	Kristina Walker
Bruce Harrell	Girmay Zahilay
	Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 13 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-27 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-22: Adopting an updated Budget Policy superseding Resolution No. R2020-24.

Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer, and Ryan Fisher, Finance Executive Director, provided the staff presentation.

Board member Frizzell inquired into how provisions under 3.4.2 of the Resolution are different than previous policies. Mr. Fisher answered that the new provisions clarify the authority of the CEO to exceed the annual budget in terms of accepting revenues, whether those be through taxes collected or grants received. Staff have done so administratively in the past when eligible costs exceeded assumptions but didn't come to the Board unless additional funds for spending were required.

Chair Somers reported that the Executive Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

It was moved by Vice Chair Mello, seconded by Board member Quinn, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-22 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-46: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute 18 individual Multiple Award Task Order Contracts for five years, each with two one-year options to extend, with AECOM; Chudgar Engineering, CO; David Evans & Associates Inc; D'Leon Consulting; DOWL; Gall Zeidler Consultant; HEWITT; Huitt-Zollar Inc; M Arthur Gensler, Jr & Associates; O'Bunco Engineering Co.; Pacific Railway Enterprises; PacRim Engineering; Parametrix; Parsons; RailPros; Signal Architecture + Research; Toltz King Duvall Anderson & Assoc; and WSP USA Inc. to provide Sound Transit with design and engineering services such that the aggregate total amount of the 18 contracts does not exceed \$1,000,000,000 over the potential seven-year period, and that task orders exceeding \$10,000,000 or are restricted by Resolution No. R2021-05 are subject to Committee or Board approval.

Terri Mestas, Capital Delivery Deputy CEO, Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer, and Amanda Lanier, Design and Construction Procurement Director, provided the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Balducci asked for specific details on how the task orders would be reported. Ms. Lanier responded that staff intend to incorporate the information into the current Monthly Contract report. Ms. Mestas also noted that task orders above \$10 million will require at least Committee approval.

Vice Chair Mello asked how once a project is ready to utilize services under a MATOC, what is the process for identifying the specific firm for each task order. Ms. Mestas responded that each firm has informed Sound Transit of its unique skills and specializations. In addition to reviewing past performance and capacity, Sound Transit asks for firms to complete an initial survey for the task order to start to pare down the potential awardees.

Motion No. M2025-46 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Vice Chair Balducci.

Board member Backus, who chaired the September System Expansion Committee meeting, reported that the System Expansion Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. She noted that the Committee had questions about how task orders would be overseen and heard that in addition to future reporting, there would be a dashboard to assist with transparency. Board member Backus also summarized that the structure of the contracts today are similar to the Environmental Services Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOC) approved earlier this year, meaning that Committees and the Board would need to approve task orders above \$10 million and \$50 million, respectively.

Following additional review since the System Expansion Committee meeting, it was determined that an additional firm met the threshold for the contract award and the numbers of small, medium, and large firms should be corrected.

Amendment 1 to Motion No. M2025-46 was moved by Board member Backus and seconded by Vice Chair Balducci.

Amendment 1 – offered by Board member Backus

On page 1-5 of the Staff Report and Page 1-3 of the Motion, Amend the Staff report and Motion for Motion No. M2025-46 to add Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. to the list of qualified firms the CEO is authorized to execute an individual Multiple Award Task Order Contract with for design and engineering services and under the same contract terms, aggregate total not to exceed amount, and task order restrictions applicable to all firms, and increasing the number of firms qualified for award of MATOC from 18 to 19.

AND,

Amend the second paragraph of the background section of the Staff Report and Motion for Motion No. M2025-46 as follows:

In response to the RFQ, statements of qualifications were submitted by 27 firms with the following notable metrics:

- ~~19 18~~ prime firms qualified for award of MATOC, comprised of ~~6 4~~ small, ~~7 4~~ medium and ~~6 10~~ large firms
- 248 subconsultant firms were included in Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) submitted
- 3 prime and 74 subconsultant firms that are new to Sound Transit were included in SOQs submitted
- 149 firms included in SOQs submitted are local to Puget Sound
- 3 firms that were previously subconsultants with Sound Transit submitted proposals to be awarded prime MATOC contracts
- ~~118 116~~ firms included in SOQs are SBE/DBEs

Board member Backus thanked staff for their additional review of the materials to ensure that the agency has the greatest capacity possible to meet the needs to the System Expansion program.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-46 be amended by Amendment 1.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-46 be approved as amended.

Motion No. M2025-41: Approving Sound Transit's annual 2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan submittal to the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight Office.

Moises Gutierrez, Agency Oversight Deputy CEO, Andrea Trepadean, acting Chief Safety Officer, and Melissa Durrel, Safety Management System Manager, provided the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Balducci asked if there could be more regular reporting so that the Board maintains awareness of the Agency's safety systems. Ms. Trepadean responded that the Rider Experience and Operations Committee does receive a report that includes high-level safety information and that periodic additional reports could be scheduled.

Board member Walker reported that the Rider Experience and Operations Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. Staff responded to questions from the Committee on the number of safety incidents, how the safety plan interfaces with other groups and ongoing safety efforts, and clarification of the safety plan's scope. She thanked staff for incorporating the additional information requested by the Committee.

It was moved by Board member Walker, seconded by Board member Frizzell, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-41 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Light Rail Efficiency work plan and Series 3 LRV information

Shankar Rajaram, acting Core Infrastructure and Asset Management Executive Director, provided the report which included details on the Series 3 Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) initial design requirements, early procurement information, and cost pressures. Mr. Rajaram noted that the Series 3 LRV will be twice the length of the current Series 1 and 2 LRVs, with the intention of having new trainsets only be two vehicles to increase internal volume and passenger capacity. Series 3 LRVs will share the same floor architecture, with similar door placement. Improvements to the design include new integrated signage systems, reduced capital cost due to fewer cab units, and decreased maintenance costs.

Mr. Rajaram noted that the procurement strategy is focused on creating an environment of innovation and partnership through distinguishing essential and desirable requirements, while also ensuring the best value selection for the coach builder. Additional prototyping and design work will be conducted to optimize LRV reliability, maintainability, and cost of ownership. Series 3 LRVs will also be futureproofed for new train control technologies.

Mr. Rajaram explained that the goal is to post a Request for Proposals in Q4 2025, which would support having the initial Series 3 LRVs entering revenue services in 2033.

Mr. Rajaram reported that in coordination with the enterprise initiative, Series 3 LRV procurement plans to include a base order of 70 vehicles, with options for up to 80 additional vehicles, providing maximum flexibility and competitiveness for vehicle cost escalations and other pressures.

Vice Chair Balducci asked if there are planned interior arrangement changes in the Series 3 vehicles and, if so, what process is used to ensure that the changes are beneficial to riders. Mr. Rajaram responded that it is expected that the agency will work longer with the car builder on designing the interior, which will include stakeholder feedback. He also noted the use of digital tools to do initial prototyping prior to completing full physical models.

Vice Chair Balducci, noting the known cost increases for LRVs and the potential need for more LRVs than originally anticipated, asked what processes will be used to decide on those metrics and whether Board engagement will be necessary. Mr. Rajaram explained that much of the substantive discussion will take place during the Enterprise Initiative and hopefully support a baselining decision in early 2027 that reflects the Board's priorities.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on October 23, 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 3:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Somers
Board Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, AJM.