

Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting November 6, 2025

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 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	(A) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Shannon Braddock, King County Executive	(A) Julie Meredith, Washington State Secretary of Transportation
(A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember

Katie Flores, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the Committee was not present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Somers reminded the committee and members of the public that a Board Retreat will be held on Thursday, November 13 starting at 2:00 p.m. in the Chinook Building in Seattle. He noted that due to limitations of the venue, virtual participation in the meeting via Zoom will be unavailable for the retreat. Chair Somers also noted that staff was reviewing potential changes to the Equitable Transit Oriented Development policy, which would be discussed at the December Executive Committee meeting.

Board member Braddock joined the meeting at this time.

CEO Report

Chief executive officer Dow Constantine provided updates on the progress of pre-revenue service testing for the Federal Way and Coss Lake Connection. He also gave his thanks to Pierce Transit CEO Mike Griffus for allowing CEO Constantine to join and participate in Pierce Transit's all staff meeting.

Public comment

Chair Somers announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted in-person and virtually.

Committee Vice Chair Mello joined the meeting at this time.

The following people provided written public comment:

Kathryn Compton
Joe Kunzler
Karen Estevenin

The following people provided in-person public comment:

Jaclyn Gault
Gunnar Bjerk
Brian Vierela
Lisando Vena
Matt Davies
Jesse Scott-Kandoll

The following person provided virtual public comment:

Joe Kunzler

Business items

Final Committee Action

September 4, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes

It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Walker, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the September 4, 2025, Executive Committee meetings be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-53: Recommending that the portions of the Proposed 2026 Budget and Transit Improvement Plan reviewed by the Executive Committee be forwarded by the Finance and Audit Committee to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Ryan Fisher, Finance Executive Director, and Emily Walton-Percival, Financial Planning, Analysis, and Budget Director, provided a presentation on the action.

Board member Walker asked how the agency is tracking increased expenses as the regional transit network expands, and how any potential cost savings from the Enterprise Initiative interacts with the proposed budget. Mr. Fisher responded noting that the budget is an annual slice of the larger long-range plan that goes through 2046, and that staff have been closely analyzing the projected costs of operating service as new extensions open, which all show affordable trends. He further noted that cost savings and other measures identified through the Enterprise Initiative would be reflected outside the 2026 Budget and Transit Improvement Plan period.

Board member Walker asked where investments in the 2026 World Cup would be reflected in the budget. Mr. Fisher responded that additional detail on this topic would be provided in the 2026 Budget presentation to the Rider Experience and Operations committee, but that many of those investments would be seen in funding for additional “surge” services, such as bus bridges, additional event personnel, and security enhancements.

It was moved by Board member Walker, seconded by Board member Backus, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2025-53 be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2025-54: Adopting the Sound Transit 2026 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a regional high-capacity transit system.

Alex Soldano, Senior State and Federal Relations Corridor Director, provided a presentation on the action.

It was moved by Board member Walker, seconded by Board member Braddock, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2025-54 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Enterprise Initiative: Status Update and Board Retreat Preview

Alex Krieg, Enterprise Planning Director, provided the report, giving a preview of the topics to be discussed at the November 13 Board Retreat.

Mr. Krieg gave a brief review of the Enterprise Initiative, showcasing key deliverables including an updated ST 3 system plan by the end of Q2 2026, a new Regional Transit Long-Range Plan in Q3 2026, and an updated Long-Range Financial Plan in Q4 2026.

Mr. Krieg reiterated the current cost pressures facing the agency. He noted that \$34.5 billion in savings is needed to fully fund the current ST3 program per the Fall 2025 Long-Range Financial Plan update. He noted that this shortfall has been incorporated into the update, that the agency's State-of-Good-Repair program is still fully funded, and that \$4 billion in new financial capacity has been incorporated since information was presented at the August Board of Directors meeting.

Mr. Krieg outlined the two phases of the Enterprise Initiative. Phase 1 through 2025 has been setting the baseline for the Initiative, analyzing how the region has changed since ST3 was passed in 2016. Phase 2, which will chart a path forward in 2026, will see the identification of approaches for an updated ST3 System Plan and the adoption of a new Long-Range Plan. 2026 will also see further public engagement to inform Board decision-making, and final action on the new System and Long-Range Plans. Mr. Krieg then provided a timeline of key work that has been completed through 2025.

Mr. Krieg then highlighted the primary purpose of the November 13 Board Retreat and desired outcomes, which include: the continued building of a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the agency, review and engagement on the comprehensive framework to deliver the Enterprise Initiative, and further refining of subarea and systemwide priorities to set the direction for a revised ST3 System Plan.

Board member Walker asked for clarification on the comprehensive framework for the Enterprise Initiative. Mr. Krieg responded that it was included as a portion of Motion No. M2025-36, in which the Board adopted principles to guide the Enterprise Initiative to address cost pressures across the ST3 program. He noted that the framework would be discussed in greater detail during the Board Retreat and would involve staff showing how to operationalize the principles identified through Motion No. M2025-36 to provide data and insight as the Board moves through the process.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025 **NOTE DATE**
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Somers
Executive Committee Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, HRR