



Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting January 8, 2026

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Committee Chair Balducci 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) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive
(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
	(P) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember

Alejandro Monzon, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Crosslake Connection update

Chair Balducci shared that Crosslake Connection, the portion of the 2 Line along the I-90 floating bridge, has started Pre-Revenue operations. Observers will see test trains operating across the bridge more frequently throughout the day.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report.

2026 Preview – CEO Constantine highlighted key work that will take place throughout the year, mentioning the opening of the Crosslake Connection and Pinehurst Station, aggressive continuation of the agency's maintenance and state of good repair work, and supporting visitors to the region through the 2026 World Cup matches.

Crosslake Connection – Beginning next month, simulated service will begin along the Crosslake segment of the East Link Extension project, during which trains will prepare to operate at 4-minute peak headways through the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. Work is still underway to determine an Opening Date.

Revive I-5 Coordination – CEO Constantine reported that Sound Transit, Seattle Department of Transportation, and King County Metro have coordinated with the Washington State Department of Transportation to mitigate the disruption spurred by Revive I-5 work. During last summer's work, the agency saw an 11 percent ridership increase, which jumped to a 26 percent increase on weekends.

Public comment

Chair Balducci announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted verbally.

Written public comments:

Jordan Igoe
Betty Lau
Sean Albert
Bill Hirt
Linda Seltzer

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Betty Lau
Brien Chow

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Joe Kunzler

System Expansion Monthly Status Report update

Capital Delivery Deputy CEO Terri Mestas began the report by noting that the information covered is from November 2025. The presentation will cover Program-level updates, as well as updates on Projects in Planning & Design and Projects in Construction.

Ms. Mestas reported that the capital delivery department has continued its effort to issue prompt payment, with an average of 26 days to pay applicable invoices. The metric is once again showing a favorable trend and meeting the 30-day benchmark. There were two OSHA recordable injury incidents in November; one on the Kent Parking and Access Improvement project and one on the Stride Bus Base North project.

Moving to Projects in Planning and Design, Ms. Mestas noted that there are no major developments aside from general project progress. She noted that staff would be providing a brief update on the Infill Station projects during the action later in the meeting.

Shifting to Projects in Construction, Ms. Mestas noted that the current Link projects are cumulatively at 91% complete. She also reiterated the impact of the recordable injury incidents on the safety metric for the Sounder and Stride programs.

Chair Balducci asked if there are ways of tracking near-misses in regard to the safety incidents. Ms. Mestas responded that the information is tracked and it can be an early indicator that additional safety focus is needed in a particular area to potentially thwart a future injury.

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: December 11, 2025 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Mello, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the December 11, 2025 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2026-01: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. to exercise a contract option for Phase 3 project development services

for the South Graham Street Infill Station and South Boeing Access Road Infill Station projects in the amount of \$11,677,861, with a 10 percent contingency of \$1,167,786 totaling \$12,845,647, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$19,587,693.

Brian Macik, Senior Project Manager, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Strauss thanked staff for keeping him up to date on the projects' progress. He noted that he has no questions at this time.

Chair Balducci noted that when the agency had previously experienced cost pressures, these projects would have been put on hold. She expressed excitement that work is continuing while the agency works to grapple with the Enterprise Initiative.

It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Vice Chair Roscoe, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-01 be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2026-02: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the cumulative contingency amount authorized to increase certain East Link Extension contract and/or agreement amounts as necessary, by an amount of \$60,000,000 for a new total authorized cumulative contingency expenditure not to exceed \$110,000,000, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2026-01.

Terri Mestas, Capital Delivery Deputy CEO, began the staff presentation. She was joined by Tony Raben, East Link Executive Project Director, and Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer.

Chair Balducci asked whether the additional budget needed to complete the East Link Extension has an impact on the agency's financial gap being addressed through the Enterprise Initiative. Mr. Newsome answered that the additional \$60 million in funding is largely negligible when compared to the \$34.5 billion gap for ST3 expansion and service.

Board member Strauss inquired into the source of the funds, specifically which subarea is being drawn from. Mr. Newsome responded that the funding is coming from East King County, which is currently projected to have a small surplus at the end of the Long-Range Financial Plan.

Chair Balducci added that as projects advance and approach the transition toward operations, the remaining risks become very well-known.

It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Vice Chair Roscoe, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-02 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2026-01: Amending the East Link Extension project baseline budget and adopted 2026 budget to provide funding to complete the East Link Extension project by the forecast revenue service date by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$60,000,000 from \$3,757,150,000 to \$3,817,150,000 and b) increasing the 2026 annual project budget by \$60,000,000 from \$50,617,534 to \$110,617,534.

Information on this action was included in the previous presentation.

Chair Balducci asked staff about their confidence that this would be the last request for additional funding for the project. Mr. Raben responded that the money being requested today is expected to carry the project through close-out but does not include funding for yet-to-be-resolved claims.

It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Vice Chair Roscoe, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2026-01 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Project Management Information System update

Katie Drake, Capital Delivery Transformation Deputy Executive Director, began the presentation and introduced Keith Kyle, Project Management Information System (PMIS) Director, to provide the presentation.

Mr. Kyle began by noting this is an informational briefing and no action is being requested. He explained that a PMIS is an industry standard system that represents a best practice for delivering large and complex capital programs. He added that the PMIS is not a single tool but rather a cloud-based platform that integrates multiple systems to streamline processes, move information rapidly, and support decision-making.

The work to develop and implement a PMIS was spurred by findings from the Technical Advisory Group recommendations and is intended to support the agency through the ST3 expansion program. Mr. Kyle explained that the implementation of the PMIS is anticipated to support up to \$80 million in costs savings in the first five years of the program. Seventy different iterative processes in system expansion-related work are expected to be updated and streamlined for benefits throughout the lifetime of the program.

Stage 1 of implementation is complete and the PMIS is accessible to all agency staff in a limited capacity. The work covered portfolio management for all agency projects (including Service Delivery), integration with financial systems, replacement of ad-hoc systems and processes with automation, and generation of the System Expansion Monthly Status Reports.

In 2026, the PMIS is entering Stage 2 work to migrate ST3 projects into the new system and begin managing them through the newly established processes, including contract management, progress payments, document management, risk management, schedule integration, and Enterprise Resource Planning integration. Mr. Kyle added that the PMIS team will continuously pursue improvements and refinements.

Chair Balducci expressed excitement to see the agency make a larger leap forward in developing more robust systems to deliver the increased scope of expansion work. She asked if Stage 2 is the last formal stage. Mr. Kyle responded that once Stage 2 is complete, the system should be functional to receive additional updates as the agency upgrades other systems that could integrate with the PMIS.

Board member Mello asked how the PMIS will work between internal staff and contractors who support the work of the agency. Mr. Kyle explained that the system allows contractors to be given access to the PMIS to ensure those who are doing the work have access to information and can enter in appropriate data, subject to staff approval. Deputy CEO Mestas added that it will be required for contractors to utilize the PMIS to ensure a single source of project data.

Board member Strauss thanked the staff and noted the support provided to the Committee through the generation of the Monthly Status Reports.

Discussion on the Draft 2026 System Expansion Committee Workplan

Chair Balducci briefly walked through the process that goes into the Work Plan and highlighted the Special Topics of Interest to the Committee portion. She noted that the topics currently included were carried over from last year's workplan or suggested by staff. She asked fellow committee members to provide feedback.

Board member Birney asked if the Committee could have another briefing similar to the Economic Outlook and National Market Trends presentation that the Associated General Contractors of America provided last year, which focused on the potential impacts of tariffs on construction. Chair Balducci noted that it could be very helpful and will work with staff to see if something could be scheduled.

Executive session

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

Angela Birrney
System Expansion Committee Chair

APPROVED on _____, AJM.

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator