



Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
April 23, 2026

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 in the Sound Transit Board Room of Union Station, 401 South Jackson, Seattle, Washington 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	(A) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board members	
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Steffanie Fain, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Thomas McLeod, City of Tukwila Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Julie Meredith, WSDOT Secretary	(P) Katie Wilson, City of Seattle Mayor
(P) Teresa Mosqueda, King County Councilmember	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive
(P) David Parshall, City of Lynnwood Councilmember	

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 March 2026, as well as the monthly Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) report.

Enterprise Initiative – Chair Somers provided a recap of Enterprise Initiative work to date and thanked his fellow Board members, Sound Transit leaders, and the general public for their input and comments over the last 11 months. He noted that he plans to bring forward an affordable System Plan proposal to the May Executive Committee meeting, with the hope of taking final action at the May Board meeting. He added that the Board’s Enterprise Initiative principles would allow for a vote to occur in June, should more time be needed.

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

Enterprise Initiative – CEO Constantine added that Sound Transit staff has participated in several town halls recently with additional events planned from the coming weeks. To date, 14 thousand responses to the agency’s Enterprise Initiative Survey have been received. He affirmed the May timeline that staff are working to support and thanked the Board for its leadership.

Revised Crosslake Connection Opening Day Ridership – After additional refinement and analysis, CEO Constantine shared that there were 214,000 boardings on the Link system on March 28th, which has only been beaten by 225,000 boarding on the Seahawks Super Bowl parade day.

Recent Unexpected Disruptions – CEO Constantine thanked riders for their patience and operations staff for their efforts in responding to an unanticipated service disruption on Tuesday in the Rainier Valley, caused by a gas leak from an adjacent construction site.

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:

Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties	Graham Golbuff
Audrey Carlin	Matt Werkhoven
Greater Everett Chamber of Commerce	Robert Beiser
Patrick Bertiaux	Andrew Johnson
Bryan Glasel	Donald F Padelford
Heidi Haslip	Tacoma Community College Board of Trustees
Gauhar Serikbayeya	Brien Chow
Kevin L. Ballard	Dorothy Gesick
Ben Breeden	Sean Albert
Lex Howard	Hanna Hedrick
Angela DuBois	Trace Johnson
Jeff Ryan	Rachel Shapiro
Fallon Boyle	Seth Thomas
Kit Burns	Zhixu Su
John Balph	Erik Baldwin
Betty Lau	Todd Rosin
Abigail Wallace	Ben Capshew
Joe Kunzler	Elizabeth Cook-Stuntz
Randy Bolerjack	Jimmy Jaffin
Dwayne Burbridge	Gary Johnson
City of Mill Creek	Kenny Austin
Sierra Houk	William Langevin
	Krishna Adettiwar

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

Day-Z Gould-Wong	Aleksey Gergalo
Casey Treat	Kevin Smith
Dr. Ivan Harrell	Aaron Hadzess
Laura Svancarek	Jason Weill
Sherman McRae	Jonatan Gonzalez
Teresa Vanderburg	Dorothy Gesick
Brian Vierela	Gary Johnson
Brandon der Blatter	Joshua Valle
Tim Jokl	Victor Ochoa
Brien Chow	Lisa Krober
Luis Aroche	Armen Papyan
Mike Brown NCS	Mary Fertakis
Matt Davies NCS	Kit Burns

Noah Williams
David Scott
Jay Arnold
Mark Mullet
Slayman Appald
Sonja Bodge
Andrew Davis
Cesar Plascencia
Aubrey Tingler
Maria Santa Cruz
Sergio Jimenez
Kirk Hovenkotter
Tyler Vasquez
Kelli Refer
Anthony Lavaysse
Branden Sheron
Michel Ochoa
Lynne Robinson

Pearl Leung
Joshua Douglass
Anders Black
Rebecca Saldana
Gary Morales
Moana Hao-Wohleund
Jessie Cervantes
Pauline Van Senus
Roy Pollock
KP Peralta
Zerina Peralta
Carl Aslund
Martha Schumann
Joel Studuart
Wes Stewart
Cameron Fraser
Travis Wichterdahl

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

David Hill
Kick Kiest
Joe Kunzler
Suleiny
Kerri

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: March 2026

Minutes of the March 18, 2026, Board of Directors Retreat

Minutes of the March 26, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2026-16: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with HNTB Corporation to provide project development services for the Ballard Link Extension project in the amount of \$16,277,000, with a 20% contingency of \$3,255,400 totaling \$19,532,400, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$345,638,236

Motion No. M2026-17: Approving the revised key business terms of multifamily and office transactions for mixed use transit-oriented development by Touchstone, LLC (a URG Company) at the Operations and Maintenance Facility East TOD site in Bellevue, Washington.

Resolution No. R2026-08: (1) Approving the Chief Executive Officer's declaration that three Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) sites known as Mount Baker Site A, Mount Baker Site B, and Roosevelt Site C are surplus; (2) declaring the three TOD Sites to be suitable for development as housing; (3) authorizing staff to negotiate an agreement to transfer Mount Baker A and Roosevelt C at a discount to the City of Seattle for affordable housing development; and (4) authorizing staff to offer Mount Baker B for sale at fair market value to all interested parties.

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

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

Business items

Resolution No. R2026-06: Selecting the non-motorized and transit improvements to be built to improve access to the Tacoma Dome Station as part of the Tacoma Dome Station Parking and Access Improvements Project, amending the ST2 Plan.

Manan Garg, Capital Delivery Executive Director, and Diane Wiatr, High-Capacity Transit Development Manager, provided the staff presentation.

Resolution No. R2026-06 was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Board member Walker.

Board member Birney reported that the System Expansion Committee considered this action at its meeting earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. The Committee expressed its gratitude for collaboration with the City of Tacoma in evaluating access improvements that allow the project to pivot away from additional parking. She also thanked Board member Kristina Walker for her leadership and advocacy for this project.

Board member Walker echoed gratitude for the partnership between Sound Transit and City of Tacoma staff in evaluating alternative improvements. Board member Fain also thanked the City of Tacoma for its partnership in developing and maintaining the project.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2026-06.

Ayes

Angela Birney
Steffanie Fain
Cassie Franklin
Hunter George
Thomas McLeod
Ryan Mello
Julie Meredith
Teresa Mosqueda

David Parshall
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Katie Wilson
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

Nays

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Resolution No. R2026-06 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2026-07: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire certain real property interests, contingent upon receipt of any necessary federal approvals, including acquisition by condemnation to the extent authorized by law, and to reimburse eligible relocation and reestablishment expenses incurred by affected owners and tenants as necessary for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project.

Board member Birney introduced the item and reported that the System Expansion considered this action and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2026-07 was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Board member Roscoe. Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2026-07.

Ayes

Angela Birney
Steffanie Fain
Cassie Franklin
Hunter George
Thomas McLeod
Ryan Mello
Julie Meredith
Teresa Mosqueda

David Parshall
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Katie Wilson
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

Nays

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Resolution No. R2026-07 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2026-10: Authorizing Sound Transit to participate in the City of Bellevue’s Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for its Grand Connection Crossing project.

Marshall Foster, Chief Planning and Development Officer, provided the staff presentation. He was joined by Kristin Maitt, Revenue and Financing Strategies Manager.

Board member Birney inquired into the estimated future impact to sales tax revenues. Ms. Maitt responded that the City of Bellevue had conducted an analysis and Sound Transit’s portion of the tax is estimated at \$18 million over the life of the TIF area.

Vice Chair Mello stated his support for the action and asked if the revenues being affected are attributed to the East King County subarea. Mr. Foster confirmed that the taxing district would be tracked to East King County’s subarea financing. Vice Chair Mello recommended that a policy be drafted to guide the agency in responding to future TIF requests. CEO Constantine noted that the Finance and Audit Committee may be the best venue for that discussion and committed to continuing work with staff that has already begun.

Board member Meredith asked if any of the other affected jurisdictions have taken action to participate. Genesse Adkins with the City of Bellevue answered that all of the other jurisdictions have taken their first steps and final approvals are expected to take place at meeting throughout the next week.

Board member George asked for confirmation that Sound Transit will forfeit \$6-9 million in property taxes but stands to gain \$18 million in sales taxes. Ms. Maitt confirmed that the analysis performed supports that.

Resolution No. R2026-10 was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Board member George.

Board member Briney stated her support for the action and noted the greater integration with Sound Transit’s services that will result from the City of Bellevue’s project.

Board member Fain noted that she and several King County colleagues have seen variations of the presentation at different meetings and stated her support for the action. She noted the potential for improved ADA accessibility in the area.

Board member Meredith stated her support for the action and noted the necessity for safe access across I-405.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2026-10.

Ayes

Angela Birney
Steffanie Fain
Cassie Franklin
Hunter George
Thomas McLeod
Ryan Mello
Julie Meredith
Teresa Mosqueda

Nays

David Parshall
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Katie Wilson
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Resolution No. R2026-10 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Presentation from the Diversity Oversight Committee

Daphne Cross, Chief Economic Development and Civil Rights Officer, introduced Lisa Bogardus, Diversity Oversight Committee (DOC) Chair. Ms. Bogardus explained that this briefing is to reintroduce the DOC to the Board and share adopted strategic goals for 2026-2027.

The DOC is composed of community, business, and labor representatives from across the district and several were in attendance. The Board established the DOC to monitor compliance with equity-focused employment and contracting principles, review Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation, assess workforce diversity efforts, and recommend action to remove barriers. The DOC is supported by the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion.

In 2025, the Committee sought to re-engage with its work and recruited seven new members, reestablished a regular meeting schedule, adopted a structured workplan and charter, and clarified reporting expectations. Ms. Bogardus thanked Ms. Cross and her team for their support in the efforts.

The Committee adopted four strategic goals for 2026-2027: maximize participation of local, small, minority, women, and disadvantaged businesses on public works, maximize apprenticeship utilization on Sound Transit projects, promote workforce diversity (especially in senior management roles), and strengthen the Committee's governance, visibility, and effectiveness. The DOC will measure progress on these goals and report updates to the CEO and Board.

Board member Roscoe offered assistance from Pierce County Board members should future recruitment need support in Pierce County.

Board member Birney thanked the Committee for their work.

Board member Mosqueda expressed excitement to work with the DOC, particularly on contracting policies and opportunities. She suggested the DOC look into Local Sourcing policies.

Chair Somers asked that the Board's appreciation be conveyed to all the DOC members.

2026 World Cup update

Magdalyn Horvath, Director of Special Projects, began the presentation and introduced Marie Olson, Strategic Performance and Operations Executive Director, and Grant Lahmann, Transit Operations Chief of Staff. Today's presentation will focus on the "Know Before You Go" campaign and touch on World Cup planned operations including accessing the stadium, accessibility information, safety and security, and fares and payment. The campaign is currently in its preparation stage as it gears up to implement in June and July.

Ms. Olson reported that the agency will be utilizing bespoke announcements in trains during the tournament, including a pro-bono message from Megan Rapinoe, US Olympic Gold Medalist and former Seattle Reign FC soccer player. Ms. Olson reminded the Board of the preferred station approach for attendees to arrive and depart from matches at Seattle Stadium – those coming from the north use Pioneer Square station, those from the south use Stadium station, and those coming from the East or with ADA concerns use International District/Chinatown station – and shared a new announcement that will play signaling that the three stations are access points for the match. Riders with accessibility needs will be supported by new floor decals and staff ambassadors along a preferred path.

Ms. Olson also reported that the agency is stressing the simplicity brought by the successful roll-out of Tap to Pay by ORCA, especially for guests to the region. An \$18 three-day regional transit pass will also be rolled out in June, and Ms. Olson reiterated that riders 18 and under ride free. The Transit-Go ticket app is recommended for groups traveling together as it can handle multiple active tickets.

Mr. Lahmann noted the biggest emphasis related to safety is to reinforce staying behind the yellow line at stations. He also explained that metering and in-station queueing are planned as operational tactics to help with crowding at key stations, when necessary. Staff Ambassadors and security staff are also being trained to encourage use of official crosswalks and avoid shortcuts. He added that key agency staff participated in an exercise with the Department of Homeland Security, and ST staff are being asked to participate in anti-human trafficking trainings.

During the tournament, all ST staff have been asked to take part in the Ambassador program in order to answer questions and offer help to riders. Ambassadors will be deployed at the key stations – SeaTac Airport, Westlake – as well as termini and other high-boarding stations, in addition to the three preferred stations for match attendees. Additionally, the Westlake Customer Service booth and Union Station Reception desk will be open and staffed during the tournament. All staff will complete Staff Ambassador Training and be reminded of the operations around the World Cup during an upcoming All Staff meeting. Mr. Lahmann also provided an update of regional engagement and external briefings Sound Transit has conducted to share and refine the plans.

He also shared that, of the \$8.4 million dollars secured for Washington State's regional transportation needs for the World Cup, Sound Transit was recently awarded \$3.6 million. Additional funding sources are still being evaluated.

Vice Chair Mello thanked staff for their work in ensuring the region is ready to move the many visitors coming for the tournament matches. He highlighted the importance of the agency taking proactive steps to educate staff on human trafficking and preparing individuals to potentially identify cases. He suggested having tailored communications on the trains for general awareness and noted that the Puyallup Tribe of Indians could be a key partner on this work.

Board member Fain asked what plans are in place regarding announcements in multiple languages and how ridership can be tracked if free youth riders don't need ORCA cards. Ms. Olson responded that the newest update to the Passenger Information Management System includes a translator function but recognized that there is not enough time for the announcement to play in multiple languages. She added that, assuming travelers have phones (as a lesson from organizers of the Paris Olympics), there will be QR codes for information that will hopefully be automatically translated according to their phone settings. She also noted that FIFA branding will be consistent across venues and cities to hopefully guide repeat supporters. Ms. Horvath added that another key takeaway from past large events is to rely heavily on icons, such as the soccer ball added that the preferred stations when on the overhead screen on Link trains. Regarding the second question, Ms. Olson responded that while youth do not need ORCA cards, the agency still encourages early use. She noted that there are passenger counters above the doors of trains that help to refine the data from fare media.

Board member Mosqueda reiterated the importance of human trafficking awareness and stressed the importance of making sure that those who might be in such scenarios are connected with resources. Ms. Olson responded that additional visual resources are coming as a follow-up from the Department of Homeland Security training completed this morning, and the facilitator suggested several local organizations with which to partner. Board member Mosqueda also suggested partnering with the University of Washington Women's Center.

Board member Roscoe recommended continued engagement, even at the mentioned reception areas, around fare media. She emphasized the importance of getting ORCA cards to youth and educating people on how to transfer their physical ORCA cards to digital wallets.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

The next Board meeting would be held on May 28, 2026, from 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 4:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Somers
Board Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, AJM.