SOUNDTRANSIT

Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting
July 9, 2026

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Committee Chair Birney 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) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Steffanie Fain, King County Councilmember	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember
(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive	(P) Katie Wilson, Seattle Mayor
	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive

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

Report of the Chair

FIFA World Cup Success

Chair Birney spoke about Sound Transit's successful operations during the World Cup and reflected on the agency's growth over the last decades, noting that actions on today's agenda reach back to projects completed 15 years ago. She celebrated the recent ridership records and thanked staff for their efforts to ensure smooth operations.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report.

Service Disruption – CEO Constantine echoed Chair Birney's thanks to everyone who supported the agency's operations during the FIFA World Cup, noting that the agency intends to share the final numbers as they are compiled. He added that today, the agency is dealing with a Link service disruption caused by damage to a portion of the overhead power system between Capitol Hill and University of Washington stations. Localized damage was found and the portion of the system was de-energized for further investigation. Staff have isolated the cause and believe it to be localized, not a system-wide concern. Work is underway to both repair the damage and serve passengers via a bus bridge between Northgate and Capitol Hill stations.

Public comment

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

Written public comments:

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Gordon Bluechel

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Betty Lau
Brien Chow

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

MaryKate Ryan
Gordon Bluechel

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: June 11, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Board member Wilson, seconded by Board member Mello, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the June 11, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2026-23: (1) Authorizing the chief executive officer to a) amend the Project Administration Agreement with the City of Seattle to add Sound Transit's Graham Street Infill Station and Boeing Access Road Infill Station projects, b) execute Amendment 1 to Task Order 5 to continue reimbursing City staff for coordination on the Graham Street and Boeing Access Road infill stations from January 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027, in the amount of $81,850, with a 10 percent contingency of $8,150, for Graham Street, and $50,040, with an approximate 10 percent contingency of $4,960 for Boeing Access Road, for a new not-to-exceed total for Task Order 5 of $274,000, c) execute Task Order 7 for City staffing services supporting the Ballard Link Extension from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2027, in the amount of $4,185,445, with a 10 percent contingency of $418,545, totaling $4,603,990; and (2) ratifying work completed in 2025 associated with the scope of work identified in Task Order 4 for the West Seattle Link Extension and Ballard Link Extension projects in the amount of $1,075,000 to be paid under Task Order 7; all for a new authorized Project Administration Agreement amount not to exceed $19,161,811.

Diana Holloway, Ballard Link Extension Design Director, began the staff presentation. She was joined by Michael Morgan, Capital Delivery Executive Director, and Dan Turner, Acting Ballard Link Extension Executive Project Director.

Board member Fain stated her support for continued collaboration with the City. She asked if the Community Liaison services under Task Order 5 are only planned for the Graham Street Infill Station project for now, given that the Boeing Access Road infill station is only planned to go through the Design phase. Ms. Holloway noted that the communities served by the two station footprints are very similar in demographics and language needs, so Sound Transit has asked the City to support language access and outreach in both areas. Board member Fain asked if this Task Order represents the only authorized payments for these services. Mr. Morgan responded in the affirmative and noted that staff expect to return with future task orders as the projects progress. Board member Fain concurred and noted a desire to ensure all partners for the Boeing Access Road Infill Station projects are included when more expansive engagement work takes place.

Board member Wilson, noting a public comment, asked for a summary of the Ballard Link Extension's recent activities. Mr. Turner responded that the project team was supporting cost-savings measures evaluation during the Enterprise Initiative, helping to identify roughly $3 billion in cost savings for the project. He added that while the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been pushed out again, staff continue to advance design work on the project and aim to stay ahead of potential issues through coordination with local partners.

Board member Strauss asked if the work identified for the Ballard Link Extension is for the full alignment to Market Street or just the construction-funded portion to Seattle Center. Mr. Turner confirmed the work under the Task Orders being requested is for the full alignment. Board member Strauss, referencing slide 9 of the presentation, asked if the agency has already spent roughly $19 million under the agreement or if the $19 million is the projected spend when accounting for the motion currently before the Committee. Mr. Turner confirmed the $19 million figure includes the value of today's action. Board member Strauss shared that the City of Seattle has spent around $15 million on staff to assist Sound Transit's expansion program and the Seattle Transit Measure, currently before the City Council, would include additional funds, directly paid for by Seattleites. The City of Seattle is ready to continue as a partner to Sound Transit in the hopes of fully delivering the ST3 program.

Board member Wilson echoed Board member Strauss's comments that the City of Seattle is committed to partnering with Sound Transit to deliver the ST3 program. She noted that over the next few years, the City expects a 2:1 split on non-reimbursable vs. reimbursable work with Sound Transit.

Chair Birney thanked the City for its partnership, especially given the work needed to fully build ST3.

It was moved by Board member Wilson, seconded by Vice Chair Roscoe, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-23 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

<u>Motion No. M2026-24: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with the City of Tacoma resolving open items and issues associated with the D-to-M Street Track and Signal project and the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension project for a total authorized agreement amount not to exceed $16,469,027, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2026-17.</u>

John Baker, Construction Service Director, gave the staff presentation for this and the following actions. He was joined by Ryan Fisher, Finance Executive Director, and Jim Niemer, Senior Legal Counsel.

Vice Chair Roscoe extended her appreciation to staff and the agency for the complexity of executing the accounting move and for the commitment to wrapping-up and closing-out legacy projects, especially those in Pierce County.

It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Franklin, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-24 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

<u>Resolution No. R2026-17: Amending the Adopted 2026 Budget to support closeout activities necessary for the D-to-M Street Track and Signal and Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension projects by (1) increasing the D-to-M Street Track and Signal project's authorized project allocation by $5,490,000 from $158,261,747 to $163,751,747 (2) increasing the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension project's authorized project allocation by $23,975,000 from $282,746,000 to $306,721,000, (3) decreasing the University Link Extension project's authorized project allocation by $13,795,000 from $1,539,007,000 to $1,525,212,000, and (4) decreasing the Operations and Maintenance Facility East project's authorized project allocation by $15,670,000 from $418,800,000 to $403,130,000.</u>

Chair Birney noted that information on this action was included in the previous presentation.

It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2026-17 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

System Expansion Monthly Status Report update

Chair Birney briefly noted that it is her intent for the Committee to be more active in preventing the need for another System Plan update in the future. Noting the work from previous Committee Chair Balducci, the Committee already has a comprehensive report that covers monthly updates on active System Expansion project. She will continue to work with agency staff on how to best use the monthly report to get a clear look at where projects are going and how they will remain on schedule and on budget. She added that this report may interact with some of the reporting frameworks codified in Resolution No. R2026-11.

Michael Morgan, Capital Delivery Executive Director, began the report by noting that the information covered is from May 2026. The presentation will cover Program-level updates, as well as updates on Projects in Planning & Design and Projects in Construction. Mr. Morgan echoed Chair Birney's comments regarding updating the Report to reflect the Enterprise Initiative and for its better use by the Committee. He noted those changes will be rolled out incrementally over time.

Mr. Morgan reported that the capital delivery department has continued its effort to issue prompt payment, with an average of 29 days to pay applicable invoices, exceeding the 30-day benchmark. There was one OSHA recordable injury on the Sumner Sounder Parking and Access Improvement project. The worker sustained a minor laceration on their left finger with initial treatment completed onsite. Follow-up activities included retraining staff on proper procedures for reporting injuries.

Moving to Projects in Planning and Design, Mr. Morgan noted that notice to proceed has been issued on the Progressive Design-Build contract for the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project and the contractors have mobilized to co-locate staff at Union Station. He flagged that Sounder Signal Improvement projects in Dupont reached 30% PE design in early June, and that the remaining Stride Projects in Planning are finishing procurements; staff hope to shift all Stride projects into construction soon.

Shifting to Projects in Construction, Mr. Morgan noted that the Pinehurst Infill Station is anticipated to be complete in Q3 2026. He also noted that the Sumner Sounder Garage is projected to open in Q1 2027. Stride staff issued a limited notice to proceed in June for work around the Burien Transit Center, while also preparing submittals in the Seattle/Shoreline segment to utility and permitting agencies, initiating site work at several stations in Kenmore/Bothell, and continue procurement activities for the Lake Forest Park segment.

Executive session - None.

Other business - None.

Next meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Angela Birrney	Kathryn Flores
System Expansion Committee Chair	Board Administrator

APPROVED on ___________, AJM.