SOUNDTRANSIT

Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
July 23, 2026

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 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	(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board members	
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(A) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Steffanie Fain, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(A) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(A) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Thomas McLeod, City of Tukwila Mayor	(A) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Cordelia Crockett, WSDOT Secretary Alternate	(A) 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

World Cup Congratulations – Chair Somers extended his congratulations to Spain for winning the 2026 FIFA World Cup and thanked the agency and all its partners for their preparations over the past years to welcome visitors and sports fans from around the world to the region.

Monthly Contract Report - The meeting packet included the monthly CEO contract report for June 2026, as well as the monthly Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) report.

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

World Cup Recap – CEO Constantine reflected on the agency's and region's success in hosting the World Cup this summer. Across the six match days, Link light rail carried roughly 1.54 million passengers, including the agency's first 300,000+ ridership day on July 6, the final Seattle-hosted match.

In June, the agency carried 5.4 million passengers, which is a full one million more than the previous month. He thanked all the staff who supported the system and fans throughout the World Cup.

Upcoming Maintenance Windows – Noting that monthly maintenance work will pick back up, CEO Constantine shared that three windows are planned over the next two weeks for the 2 Line. On July 26, shuttle buses will replace trains all-day between South Bellevue and International District/Chinatown stations, with 2 Line trains operating between Downtown Redmond and South Bellevue stations and an enhance 1 Line schedule. On July 28-30, shuttle buses will replace trains between International District/Chinatown and South Bellevue stations from 9:30pm to the end of service. On August 4-6 beginning at 10:30pm each night, shuttle buses will replace trains between BelRed and Downtown Redmond stations to improve electrical reliability.

2027 Service Plan survey – CEO Constantine shared that the agency recently launched the 2027 Service Plan survey. Riders are encouraged to participate, and the results will aid in the development of a Service Plan proposal that balances passenger needs and the agency's need to plan maintenance work and prepare to Stride BRT service replacing some ST Express routes in coming years. The proposal and summary of the survey information is planned to come to the Board in October.

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:

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Martin Westerman

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

Mike Brown
Eitel Braunschweig
Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Jason Weill
Stefan Moritz
Draven Doyle
Ra-tah
Carl Aslund

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

Thomas Powers

Board member Strauss arrived during the public comment period.

Board member Mosqueda thanked the labor community representatives for their comments.

Community Oversight Pannel Annual Report

Charlotte Murry, Community Oversight Panel (COP) Chair, provided the report. She summarized some key accomplishments and areas of concern with the report. She acknowledged the period of growth and change for Sound Transit in 2025 and early 2026, noting major accomplishments in expanding service by extending the 1 Line to Federal Way and the 2 Line to Downtown Redmond and over the I-90 bridge, which has resulted in Sound Transit becoming the nation's highest-ridership light rail system.

She also highlighted challenges that the agency is facing, particularly those addressed through the Enterprise Initiative. While the report is focused on the agency's work in 2025, the report makes reference to continued work in 2026, and the COP will continue to monitor and report on these efforts.

The COP monitors seven major areas: Budget and financial plan, project planning and alignment decisions, project schedule and budget adherence, community engagement activities, agency performance and audits, social justice and equity, and passenger experience.

First looking at COP Governance, the panel recommended expedited recruitment and onboarding within 90 days of any vacancy, requested quarterly engagement with executive leadership and external presentations.

Under Budget and Financial plan, the panel both commended the agency for working to address the financial gap in the long-range financial plan and noted concerns on aiming to control cost escalation.

Under Project planning and alignment decisions, the panel was encouraged by the reorganization of the Capital Delivery Department and expressed cautious optimism about the agency's approach. It also recommended periodic public reporting of physical asset conditions and supports continued implementation of an Enterprise Risk Management program.

Under Project schedule and budget adherence, the panel recognized the successful delivery of the Federal Way Link Extension.

Under Community engagement activities, the panel encouraged the implementation of fare gates, in addition to fare ambassadors, to help manage fare envision and suggested a revisit of the farebox recovery targets. It also encouraged additional regular public project updates.

Under Agency performance audits, the panel noted several requested audits had been postponed or deferred. The panel also endorsed the increased use of peer review and other external evaluations during the Enterprise Initiative and encouraged this continued approach.

Under Social justice and equity, the panel appreciates the agency's tracking of vertical conveyance outages and increased work to ensure performance and service. It also lauded the agency's innovation in supporting participation of under-represented groups in the construction industry.

Under Passenger experience, the panel recognized the agency's preparations for the World Cup and was impressed by the effectiveness of the strategies.

Chair Somers thanked Ms. Murry and the Panel for completing the 2025 Annual Report and their continued volunteer service to the agency and region. He also noted that the Board is cognizant of the request to fill vacant positions and is pleased to be considering an action to do so later in the meeting.

Consent Agenda

<u>Voucher Certification: June 2026</u>

<u>Minutes of the June 25, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting</u>

<u>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</u>

(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.

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.

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

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

Vice Chair Balducci asked how agency staff intend to respond to the COP's report. Brooke Belman, Agency Deputy CEO, responded that staff are reviewing the report and will draft a response over the next couple weeks, which will be shared with the Board. Further conversation with the COP is also planned.

CEO Constantine asked Chair Somers if, in addition to the written communication with the Board, whether a presentation at the appropriate Committee, would be appropriate.

Vice Chair Balducci asked that the response be brought to the full Board.

Business items

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.

John Baker, Construction Services Director, provided the staff presentation He was joined by Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer, and Jim Niemer, Managing Legal Counsel.

Vice Chair Balducci noted her excitement in seeing projects reach close out, noting that open but complete projects hold-up funding. Noting the action includes projects that have been open for quite a few years, she asked what the current time from completion to full close out is and what agency staff are doing to improve that time. Mr. Baker clarified that some of the funds that are tied-up in completed projects are transferred out in regular budget cycles, as the risk profile allows. He added that staff are actively developing agency-wide standard operating procedures that will put policies and procedures in place to solidify consistent timelines and forecasts for that incremental defunding. Vice Chair Balducci was happy to hear the agency had moved to the incremental defunding and asked that a future presentation be given on the status of closeout procedures. Mr. Baker noted that he expects to be back before the System Expansion Committee in early 2027 to provide an update.

Resolution No. R2026-14 was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Vice Chair Mello.

Board member Birney reported that the System Expansion Committee considered this action at it's meeting earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2026-17.

Ayes		Nays
Claudia Balducci	David Parshall	
Angela Birney	Kim Roscoe	
Steffanie Fain	Dan Strauss	
Thomas McLeod	Peter von Reichbauer	
Ryan Mello	Girmay Zahilay	
Teresa Mosqueda	Dave Somers	

It was carried by the unanimous vote of 16 Board members present that Resolution No. R2026-17 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2026-25: Ratifying the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency to expedite the procurement of repair services for a Sounder Locomotive, in order for it to be placed back into daily revenue service as soon as possible.

Ben Marx, Rail Executive Director, and Dante Tandoc, Commuter Rail Mechanical Manager, provided the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Mello, noting that operations are more at-risk with fewer locomotives, asked if the disruption is currently impacting Sounder South operations. Mr. Marx responded that there is currently no impact to Sounder South service, outside of fleet flexibility.

It was moved by Board member Birney, seconded by Vice Chair Mello, and carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Motion No. M2026-25 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2026-26: Appointing Donna Moodie to the Community Oversight Panel to serve a term of three years beginning August 1, 2026 and expiring on July 31, 2029.

Board member Zahilay spoke in support of appointing Donna Moodie to the Community Oversight Panel, noting her success as an entrepreneur in the region and her commitment to and participation in community organizations, such as the Urban League and EcoDistrict.

It was moved by Board member Zahilay, seconded by Board member Strauss, and carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Motion No. M2026-26 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board – None

Executive Session to discuss a proposed course of action when public discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency as authorized under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)(iii).

Chair Somers advised that the Board was going into executive session to discuss litigation in which the agency is, or is likely, to become a party. He introduced Desmond Brown, Sound Transit General Counsel, who explained that the Board was allowed to enter into executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii) to discuss the risks of a proposed action in which a public discussion would have adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Chair Somers explained that the Board would be in executive session for 15 minutes. The executive session began at 2:41 p.m. and was scheduled to end at 2:56 p.m.

At 2:56 p.m., the executive session was extended by 10 minutes to end at 3:06 p.m.

At 3:06 p.m., the executive session was extended by 10 minutes to end at 3:16 p.m.

At 3:06 p.m., the executive session was extended by 10 minutes to end at 3:26 p.m.

The executive session ended at 3:26 p.m. At 3:26 p.m. the meeting was called back to order.

Other business – None

Next meeting

The next Board meeting would be held on August 27, 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 3:27 p.m.

ATTEST:

______________________________	______________________________
Ryan Mello Board Vice Chair	Kathryn Flores Board Administrator

APPROVED on ___________, AJM.