



Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting August 6, 2026

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 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	(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive (P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive

Board Members	
(A) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor (A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor (P) Thomas McLeod, Tukwila Mayor	(P) Julie Meredith, Washington State Secretary of Transportation (P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember (A) Katie Wilson, Seattle Mayor

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Chair Somers provided the report, thanking everyone who joined in the tour of the Everett Link Extension, discussed the recent announcement of a new projected opening date for the full Ballard Link Extension and noted a conversation he had with members of the Save Ballard Group, and called attention to other Committee members that the Q2 Transit Oriented Development Report was in their packets for consideration.

CEO Report

Chief executive officer Dow Constantine provided the report, detailing a recent derailment that occurred at International District/Chinatown Station, as well as highlighting the new project completion date of 2042 for the full Ballard Link Extension.

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.

The following person provided in-person public comment:

Draven Doyle

No written or virtual public comments were received.

Business items

Final Committee Action

May 14, 2026, Executive Committee Special meeting minutes

It was moved by Board member McLeod, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Mello, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the May 14, 2026, Executive Committee Special meeting be approved as presented.

Reports to the Committee

Annual Sustainability Progress Report

Amy Shatzkin, Sustainability Director, and Jamie Brinkley, Sustainability Deputy Director, provided the report, providing information on the agency's progress on implementing its sustainability goals and objectives for 2025.

Ms. Brinkley reiterated how the agency defines sustainability, which is grounded in three areas: Planet, through creating a resilient and healthy environment; People, through creating healthy and equitable communities; and Prosperity, through creating a vibrant and connected economy.

Ms. Brinkley noted that the agency has completed 84 percent of the goals within the agency's 2019-2025 Sustainability Plan, with the agency adopting a new Plan in February covering 2026-2030. She summarized the agency's progress on 2025-specific goals, with 86 percent of the 14 goals complete, and that all non-achieved goals are on-track for completion in 2026.

Ms. Brinkley highlighted key agency accomplishments in 2025, including significant ridership improvements and expansions, the opening of various transit-oriented development projects, and continued progress in offsetting its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with 2025 resulting in 314 thousand tons of GHG emissions from riders taking transit compared to personal vehicles, the equivalent of 35 million gallons of gas burned.

Ms. Brinkley summarized work the agency achieved in preserving environmental quality, which included developing a practical transition and implementation plan for a carbon-neutral non-revenue vehicle fleet, as well as installing educational signs at agency mitigation sites to inform the public of ecosystem benefits, wildlife, and cultural significance.

Ms. Brinkley reported on agency savings as a result of sustainability efforts. She noted that resources conservation projects saved the agency \$876 thousand in 2025, between fleet upgrades, irrigation projects, facilities upgrades, solar installations, and LED lighting upgrades. Ms. Brinkley also noted that the agency has generated \$2.3 million over three years for its participation in the Washington State Clean Fuel Standard program, with \$911 thousand being generated in 2025 alone and a further \$1 million generated in the first quarter of 2026.

Ms. Brinkley explained that Sound Transit's Efficiency and Sustainability program, created through the voter-approved ST3 plan, invests in projects that advance the agency's sustainability priorities, with new projects being approved each year. In 2025, two projects were completed, with a further two being added to the program. 17 projects have been completed to-date. Ms. Brinkley also acknowledged the agency's continued achievements in the program's recognition from various national and international bodies.

Ms. Brinkley discussed future plans for sustainability at the agency, such as finalizing sustainability design standards, continuing leadership education about sustainability and the Environmental and Sustainability Management System, and ensuring alignment between the Enterprise Initiative's Network Plan and the Sustainability Plan.

Ms. Brinkley highlighted key goals from the updated Sustainability Plan. By 2050, the agency will achieve a zero-emissions fleet, with an action item of sunsetting fossil-fuel powered revenue vehicles by 2030. By 2050, the agency will achieve a zero-emissions facility footprint, with an action item of developing a plan to eliminate natural gas usage at agency-owned facilities by 2030. The agency will continue to reduce embodied emissions of capital projects, with an action item of assessing and incorporating embodied emissions limits for select materials in design criteria by 2030. The agency will build resilience to climate change and other natural hazards, with an updated Climate Resilience Plan being completed by 2030.

Vice Chair Mello asked how funds generated from the Clean Fuel Standard program are utilized by the agency and whether there were limitations on its usage. Ms. Shatzkin responded that while there is no specific requirement that funds from the program be used to reinvest in sustainable technologies, that is the spirit of the legislation. She further noted that the agency currently puts revenues generated from the program into the general fund, and track its usage closely to justify its clean energy transition.

Vice Chair Mello noted that 14 percent of goals from the 2019-2025 Sustainability Plan were not completed within the Plan's timeframe, but were on track to be completed in 2026. He asked whether content in the latter portion of the presentation was summarizing that work. Ms. Brinkley responded that the future-looking content in the presentation was noting items from the 2026-2030 Sustainability Plan, but the incomplete work from the previous Sustainability Plan can be found on Page 11 of the 2025 Sustainability Progress Report.

Board member Zahilay asked whether the incomplete goals from the previous Sustainability Plan are incorporated into the new Plan or if the agency is moving away from those goals. Ms. Brinkley responded that the 2026-2030 Sustainability Plan does not move away from previous goals, but continues forward and builds on previous goals.

Board member Zahilay asked for additional information on the financial benefits garnered from the Sustainability Program. Ms. Brinkley responded that detailed information on cost savings and revenues can be found on page B1 of Appendix B of the Sustainability Progress Report. Ms. Shatzkin added that the sustainability team has worked closely with Transit Operations to help monitor and manage Sound Transit's utility relationships and identify resource conservation opportunities.

Board member McLeod asked if the Racial Equity Toolkit has been used as part of the Sustainability Plan. Ms. Shatzkin responded that the RET has been used most closely in connection with capital projects, and that the agency also looks to third-party rating systems such as LEED and Envision as ways of providing additional guidance to the agency. She also noted that there are ongoing conversations between the Office Planning and Development and the Office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion to advance alignment between the sustainability team's work and the agency's overall equity goals.

Executive Session

Chair Somers advised that the Committee was going into executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee and potential litigation to which the agency may become a party. He introduced Desmond Brown, General Counsel, who explained that the committee was allowed to enter into executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) and to discuss litigation to which the agency may become a party under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i).

Chair Somers noted that the Committee would be in executive session for 20 minutes.

The executive session began at 11:02 a.m., with the Committee scheduled to return at 11:22 a.m.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 11:37 a.m.

Chair Somers called the committee back into regular session at 11:37 a.m.

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2026
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Somers
Executive Committee Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, 2026, HRR