# Summary Minutes

**System Expansion Committee Meeting**
**August 13, 2026**

## Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 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 | |
|---|---|
| (A) 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

There was no Report of the Chair.

## CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report.

Everett Link Extension tour – CEO Constantine thanked Board members, legislators, and staff who joined the agency for a tour of the potential stations and alignments for the Everett Link Extension project.

West Seattle progress – CEO Constantine noted that two actions on the agenda continue momentum on the West Seattle Link Extension project. He noted that as the Committee hears about the next stage of property needs, they will also hear about exciting progress in reducing impacts in the SODO neighborhood thanks to collaboration with Seattle City Light and the City of Seattle. Staff will also share an update on the projected passenger service date for the project, which takes into account the cost-savings analyses and incorporates the complexity of constructing the Duwamish River crossing.

## 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:

Joe Kunzler
Reid Smith
Betty Lau
Paula Goode

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Betty Lau
Draven Doyle
Alex Tsimerman

Committee Chair Birney announced that Mr. Alex Tsimerman was in violation of the rules for public comment, and based on the violation and past violations would be excluded from providing verbal public comment to the Sound Transit Board of Directors and Committees for a period of 365 days. The exclusion was based on Mr. Tsimerman's violation of the Board Rules and Operating Procedures. Under the rules, the Board may overturn the verbal public comment exclusion at the next Board meeting.

Bob Gillespie

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Joe Kunzler

## Business items

**For Committee Final Action**

Minutes: July 9, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting

**It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Mello, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the July 9, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

Motion No. M2026-33: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Tube Art Displays, Inc. for permanent signage fabrication and installation services for the East Link Extension project in the amount of $1,226,735 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed $15,609,023.

Candace Toth, Wayfinding and Signage Deputy Director, gave the staff presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-33 be approved.**

**For Recommendation to the Board**

Resolution No. R2026-18: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire certain real property interests, 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 West Seattle Link Extension, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2026-19.

Brad Owen, Acting Chief Capital Delivery Officer, offered opening remarks and important updates on the project before the staff presentation on the actions. Mr. Owen shared a revised revenue service date of 2035 for the West Seattle Link Extension. During the effort to update the ST3 System Plan, the West Seattle Link Extension project was unable to fully advance Final Design and Right-of-Way work, but did work to identify cost-savings on the project in the range of $2.1-2.6 billion. He also flagged key reductions in community impacts in the Alaska Junction, Avalon, Delridge, and, especially, SODO neighborhoods. He explained that Sound Transit, City of Seattle, Seattle City Light have agreed on a solution that relocates the 230KV transmission lights in the light rail corridor, avoiding construction impacts on 6th Ave. South. He thanked Board members Strauss, Mosqueda, Zahilay, and Wilson for their support.

Michael Morgan, Capital Delivery Executive Director, Wells Lawson, Real Estate Deputy Executive Director, and Jason Hampton, West Seattle Lunk Extension Commercial Director, gave the presentation on this and the following action.

Vice Chair Roscoe thanked Real Property staff for their responsiveness to address concerns about acquisition processes/procedures as well as planning to return with more information on how Sound Transit will better handle vacant properties in its possession. She also asked if the vacant property strategy is meant to cover properties included in Early Acquisitions. Mr. Lawson confirmed that is the plan.

Board member Mello asked how the agency is balancing the need to move forward with the project, in respect to project timing and property value escalation, while not leaving the neighborhood burdened with empty properties. Mr. Lawson explained that the acquisition process can take anywhere from one to four years and the Board's approval is the first real step in being able to determine exactly when a specific property may close and be fully acquired. His intent is to ensure that vacating owners and tenants have enough lead time to vacate the property in time for project needs. Mr. Hampton added that the project team is particular in sequencing it's property needs and aims to acquire properties for early construction work first and refine further packages as design progresses.

Board member Wilson asked staff to respond to a public commenter questioning why their specific parcel is being acquired. Mr. Hampton answered that the project has gone to great lengths to reduce its property needs by roughly a third and associated costs by roughly half. He added that the team would be willing to revisit the property with the construction and design teams to fully understand the need for the parcel but noted that the parcel was certified as necessary by a broad range of Agency staff.

Board member Strauss thanked Sound Transit for their collaboration on the SODO neighborhood impacts, noting that the industrial zones of the city make up a significant portion of city tax revenue. He asked how many more sets of property acquisition authorizations are planned to come to the Board. Mr. Hampton noted that the number of property needs is not always indicative of the number of actions the Board may be requested to consider. He stated that the larger, more immediately necessary parcels were included in previous actions or today's action; later this year, staff intend to bring more easements and partial acquisitions in the future. He estimated that the project has about 50 full acquisitions and around 200 easements. Mr. Hampton answered that he anticipates around three to four more property packages for the project. Board member Strauss inquired into the rough percentage of properties approved for acquisition for the project. Mr. Hampton responded that 33 were previously approved, there are 55 in today's action, and there are roughly 190 remaining. Board members Strauss, noting his prior remarks about tying future property acquisition votes to the vacate property framework, expressing his satisfaction that Mr. Lawson and his team are making good progress on the policy which he expects to be in place by the time most of the properties in today's actions close. He intends to vote in favor.

Board member Wilson also expressed her gratitude to Agency and City staff for their work on the SODO transmission lines. She added that the City will continue to be committed to do its part in ensuring project schedules.

**It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2026-18 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2026-19: Amending the Adopted 2026 Budget to fund property acquisitions and construction support services for the West Seattle Link Extension project by increasing the authorized project allocation by $765,000,000 from $738,612,926 to $1,503,612,926.

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

**It was moved by Board member Strass, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2026-19 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.**

## Reports to the Committee

System Expansion Monthly Status Report update

Brad Owen, Acting Chief Capital Delivery Officer, began the report by noting that the information covered is from June 2026. The presentation will cover Program-level updates, as well as updates on Projects in Planning & Design and Projects in Construction. Mr. Owen noted the report includes refinement and minor updates stemming from the updated System Plan from May. Ongoing updates will be made to help meet requirements from Resolution No. R2026-11.

Mr. Morgan reported that the capital delivery department has continued its effort to issue prompt payment, with an average of 28 days to pay applicable invoices, exceeding the 30-day benchmark. There were three OSHA recordable injuries. On the Auburn Station and Parking Access Improvement project, an employee hit his left knee with a hammer while dismantling the protective base of the tower crane; at the Renton Transit Center, an employee injured their right hand leading to two minor lacerations and a fractured bone while detaching a 4-way cable from an excavation box; and at the Pinehurst Station, an employee experience a popping sensation while climbing stairs. Corrective actions were taken, as necessary.

Moving to Projects in Planning and Design, Mr. Owen noted excitement in preparing to publish the Everett Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement in Q3. He added that preliminary engineering for the Begin Access Road and Graham Street infill stations is in progress and the final design phase for the OMFS project has commenced.

Shifting to Projects in Construction, Mr. Owen noted that the Pinehurst Infill Station is anticipated to be completed in Q3 2026 and be the next Sound Transit project to open for revenue service. He reminded the committee that Sound Parking and Access Improvements are tracking to open next year and Stride is actively in construction.

Board member Mello noted that, about a year ago, mention of the future Tacoma Community College Extension of the T-Line fell out of the System Expansion Monthly Status Report. He noted that while it was delayed in the May System Plan Update, he feels mention of it is warranted in these reports. Chair Birney added that all projects, even those in pre-development, should be included. Mr. Owen confirmed that he would look into the report.

## Executive session - None.

## Other business - None.

## Next meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

## Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Angela Birrney
System Expansion Committee Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____________, AJM.