

Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting September 3, 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	
(P) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor (A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor (P) Thomas McLeod, Tukwila Mayor	(P) Julie Meredith, Washington State Secretary of Transportation Alternate (P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember (A) Katie Wilson, Seattle Mayor

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Somers provided the report, noting that the Board adopted a motion at the August Board meeting to move forward with work for a fare gate pilot program, and shared his support for the idea while noting the benefits it would bring to riders and the system.

CEO Report

I-90 Emerging Issue

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report, sharing that the agency was alerted on August 3, 2026, by partners at WSDOT that there were a number of deceased fish in the vicinity of the I-90 floating bridge. He noted that the agency responded immediately, in coordination with regulatory agencies and tribal fisheries staff, which found a potential correlation between the fish mortality and placement of certain anodes along the lakebed in shallow waters. An interim solution was put in place on August 23, 2026, while additional study is underway. CEO Constantine noted that initial analysis has shown that the majority of deceased fish are non-native, invasive species, with a small number of local salmon also affected, and that further review will validate those findings. He also thanked Secretary Meredith for WSDOT's close collaboration and asked that she share additional comments.

Board member Meredith thanked Sound Transit staff and leadership for their quick response and development of an interim solution. She noted that WSDOT and Sound Transit are taking the issue seriously, and that the bridge remains safe for the travelling public. She further noted that WSDOT and

Sound Transit staff will continue to work closely together on root cause analysis, long-term solution development, and communications to ensure continued transparency with the public.

Ballard Request for Information

CEO Constantine continued his report, noting that a request for information had been issued on September 2, 2026, calling on industry partners, researchers, and think tanks to submit ideas and strategies that could reduce cost and speed delivery of the Ballard Link Extension. He noted that submittals will be accepted through October 5, 2026, and that the results will be shared with the Board and public following an evaluation period.

Pinehurst Station Opening Date

CEO Constantine announced that Pinehurst Station will open on September 30, 2026. He noted that this would be the first infill station opened in Sound Transit history and would connect communities near NE 130th street to the rest of the region. CEO Constantine reported that decisions by the Board in 2020 and 2022 allowed for the project to be opened five years ahead of schedule and that lessons learned from this process are being used to inform work on Graham Street and Boeing Access Road infill stations.

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.

No written, in-person, or virtual public comments were received.

Business items

Final Committee Action

June 4, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes

August 6, 2026, Executive Committee meeting minutes

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Mello, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the June 4, 2026, and August 6, 2026, Executive Committee meetings be approved as presented.

Reports to the Committee – None

Executive Session

Chair Somers advised that the Committee was going into executive session to discuss the performance of a public employee. 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).

Chair Somers noted that the Committee would be in executive session for 30 minutes.

The executive session began at 10:44 a.m., with the Committee scheduled to return at 11:14 a.m.

The executive session was extended by 10 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 11:24 a.m.

The executive session was extended by a further 10 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 11:34 a.m.

Chair Somers called the committee back into regular session at 11:34 a.m.

Chair Somers noted that the current CEO contract has a term of one year, with two one-year options to extend, and that the Board must make a determination on whether to extend by the end of September 2026. He stated that based on CEO Constantine's performance over the last 18 months, a longer contract term is justified, which would improve stability during this critical period for the agency. Chair Somers proposed that new negotiations with CEO Constantine should take place to develop a three-year contract with two additional one-year options to extend. He asked the Committee if there were any comments or questions on the idea.

Vice Chair Mello shared his support with the idea of Chair Somers conducting the negotiations on behalf of the Board to bring forward a new contract to the September Board meeting. He also noted that stability is critically important at this time and that CEO Constantine has achieved much during his tenure thus far.

Hearing no objections from the Committee, Chair Somers stated he would enter into negotiations with CEO Constantine on the development of a new employment contract to be brought forward at the September Board meeting.

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, October 1, 2026

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

ATTEST:

Dave Somers
Executive Committee Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, 2026, HRR