

Motion No. M2026-35

2026 Agency Safety Plan Submission Approval

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee	09/03/2026	Recommend to Board
Board	09/24/2026	Final Action

Staff name:	Staff title:
Moises Gutierrez	Program Management Office Deputy CEO
Andrea Trepadean	Chief Safety Officer
Melissa Durel	Safety Management System Manager

Proposed action

Approves Sound Transit's annual 2026 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan submittal to the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight Office.

Key features summary

- This action allows Sound Transit to satisfy Federal Transit Administration requirements in 49 CFR 673 to maintain a compliant Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan and provide this plan to the State Safety Oversight Office in the Washington State Department of Transportation. Per state and federal requirements, the Board of Directors must approve the revised Agency Safety Plan prior to CEO signature and submittal to WSDOT.
- This plan must be approved on an annual basis, or when continual improvement activities deem an update is needed.
- The 2026 revision updates the safety committee process by adding language for an impartial dispute resolution advisor, refreshing general content, and setting new safety performance targets. Based on past performance and trends, the 2026 Safety targets drive continuous improvement and meet federal requirements to lower safety risks across all FTA transit modes.

Background

The FTA established the 49 CFR 673 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan rule on July 19, 2018. The rule requires all rail transit agencies and bus agencies that receive 5301 funds to develop a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan using a Safety Management System framework. Sound Transit prepared an Agency Safety Plan approved by the Board in June 2020 to comply with the aforementioned rule. This plan must be reviewed on an annual basis or revised as needed for continuous improvement.

This annual update to Sound Transit's Agency Safety Plan was developed through work with the FTA, internal and external operational partners, and research and inventory of internal processes. The Safety

Division worked with operating partners, Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight office, and internal stakeholders to accurately document Sound Transit's approach to safety management.

The Safety Division researched and inventoried related safety documentation to aid in shaping the plan to provide a solid foundation for future implementation activities.

The Agency Safety Plan is organized by federal plan requirements using the Safety Management System framework: Safety Management Policy, Safety Risk Management, Safety Assurance, and Safety Promotion. These four components work in a cycle, allowing for continuous improvement of Sound Transit's processes and methodologies in a changing environment.

- Safety Management Policy references the Agency Safety Policy and sets the tone for safety management at the agency. It includes specific references required by the regulation. Additionally, this section describes the employee reporting process, integration and coordination with public safety and emergency management, and high-level roles and responsibilities as they relate to safety activities.
- Safety Risk Management describes the process of managing safety risk at the agency. Specifically, it defines the hazard identification, analysis, evaluation, and mitigation processes utilized by agency personnel.
- Safety Assurance provides the means to measure and assess safety performance through audits, investigations, system reviews, management of change and continual improvement activities.
- Safety Promotion focuses on communicating safety information and training staff to use these processes. This is how the Safety Management System effectively evolves to meet the ever-changing environment and provide feedback to employees on identified hazards.

Fiscal information

There is no direct fiscal action associated with this action.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

Not applicable to this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact on the project schedule.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Motion No. M2025-41: Approved Sound Transit's annual 2025 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan to the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight Office.

Resolution No. R2017-13: Adopted a Safety Policy.

Environmental review – KH 8/18/26

Legal review – AJP 8/25/2026

Motion No. M2026-35

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority approving Sound Transit's annual 2026 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan submittal to the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight Office.

Background

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This plan must be approved on an annual basis, or when continual improvement activities deem an update is needed.

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Safety Assurance provides the means to measure and assess safety performance through audits, investigations, system reviews, management of change and continual improvement activities.

Safety Promotion focuses on communicating safety information and training staff to use these processes. This is how the Safety Management System effectively evolves to meet the ever-changing environment and provide feedback to employees on identified hazards.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that Sound Transit's annual 2026 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan submittal to the Washington State Department of Transportation's State Safety Oversight Office is approved.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on _____.

Dave Somers
Board Chair

Attest:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator