

Motion No. M2025-38

Agreement with Systra-Brookville for Sounder Car Overhaul Services

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee Board	08/07/2025 08/21/2025	Recommend to Board Final action	Marie Olson, Acting Service Delivery Deputy CEO George McGinn, Rolling Stock Executive Operations Director Martin Young, Commuter Rail Operations Deputy Director

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Systra-Brookville Joint Venture to provide commuter rail car overhaul services in the amount of \$80,622,617 with a 15 percent contingency for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$92,716,010, plus applicable taxes, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-18.

Key features summary

- Sounder's original fleet of 58 cars are 22 to 26 years old and due for a mid-life overhaul, given that they are now beyond the midpoint of the FTA's commuter rail vehicle useful life benchmark of 39 years.
- This is a six-year contract to overhaul 18 cab cars and 40 coach cars.
- This complete overhaul of the cars includes the door system, HVAC control system, floors, restrooms, lighting, painting, couplers, trucks and other key components are to be rebuilt.
- Passenger amenities such as USB power outlets, enhanced and more energy efficient LED lighting and enhanced bicycle storage areas on cab cars will be included.
- Systra Canada is utilizing a shop of its joint venture partner Brookville Equipment Corp. in Pennsylvania to perform this work and meet Buy America requirements for FTA grant eligibility.
- In order to optimize resources, the contract will allow "time and materials" payments on the first four cars providing a more precise identification of required services, after which a baseline will be established for developing a firm fixed price for the remaining cars.
- There may be an average of five cars involved at any point in time in this project over the next six years; because of the recent purchase of 11 passenger cars from Alstom, staff expects no adverse impact to the required level of vehicles operated in daily service or the Sounder rider's experience.
- Systra-Brookville was selected through a competitive procurement process and chosen as the best value to the agency with its submission of a responsive and responsible proposal.
- Tax is estimated to be no more than \$9.6 million, including the estimated sales tax for the 15% contingency.

Background

Sounder commuter rail has been operating since September of 2000, serving the region with a convenient rail transportation alternative in the Lakewood to Seattle and Everett to Seattle corridors. For this service, the Board approved the procurement of 58 passenger cars from Bombardier Transportation in 1998 and 1999.

The Federal Transit Administration provides a benchmark of 39 years for the useful life of commuter rail vehicles. Due to Sounder's duty cycle being somewhat lower compared to most peer agencies, Sound Transit has been able to extend the schedule for this overhaul, which otherwise might have begun several years ago, as some cars are up to 26 years old. However, the original passenger cars are showing signs of wear that are beginning to impact service reliability. By beginning this overhaul work now, it will allow Sound Transit to obtain the full useful life of the vehicles and ensure the reliability of service stays at a level expected by customers.

With availability from the additional recently purchased BiLevel cars from Alstom, there is sufficient capacity to allow several cars to be off property for enough time to have the overhaul work completed.

The scope of work for the overhaul will include replacing the pneumatic door system (having had increased reliability issues as it has aged) with an improved electric motor system, which other peer agencies are moving to.

Procurement Information

The Sounder car overhaul procurement was completed by using a Request for Proposal (RFP) process where proposal responses to RFP NO. RTA/RP RP0059-24 (Bi-Level Rail Coach and Cab Car Overhaul Services) were evaluated against criteria that included firm experience and price.

Sound Transit received three submittals on September 30, 2024 in response to the RFP. The Evaluation Committee members were provided with the Proposals and evaluated the firms using the evaluation criteria provided in the RFP. The team determined the consensus scores for each evaluation criterion for each submittal. Systra-Brookville Joint Venture was selected by the Evaluation Committee as a responsive and responsible proposer, with the best overall value.

Therefore, Systra-Brookville was identified as the most advantageous proposer. A responsibility check was conducted which determined, to the satisfaction of the Procurement, Contracts and Agreements Division, that Systra-Brookville has the ability to fulfill the contract's expectations and requirements in a manner consistent with fair, customary and reasonable business practices. Systra-Brookville is therefore recommended for contract award.

Fiscal information

This action is within the authorized project allocation and sufficient monies remain after approval of this action to fund the remaining work in the Operations and Maintenance phase.

Contingent upon approval of Resolution No. R2025-18, the authorized project allocation for the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program is \$136,408,926. Within that amount, \$110,027,956 has been allocated to the Operations and Maintenance phase for rail car overhaul services.

The action would commit \$102,316,010, including contingency and estimated applicable taxes and leave a budget balance of \$2,716,801 in the Operations and Maintenance phase.

(in thousands)

1000

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure.
Board Approvals = Committed To-Date + Contingency as of June 2025 and includes pending Board actions.
For detailed project information, see page 193 of the Adopted 2025 Budget.

Not applicable to this action.

Not applicable to this action.

A one-month delay would not create a significant impact to Sound Transit Service Delivery.

None.

Legal review – DLM 8/6/2025

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Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute a contract with Systra-Brookville Joint Venture to provide commuter rail car overhaul services in the amount of \$80,622,617 with a 15 percent contingency for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$92,716,010, plus applicable taxes, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-18.

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