

Motion No. M2025-65

Purchase of Three Brookville Streetcars from the City of Portland

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee	12/04/2025	Final action	Ed Cobean, Service Delivery Deputy CEO Shankar Rajaram, Core Infrastructure and Asset Management Acting Executive Director Rob Blackburn, Tacoma Light Rail Executive Operations Director

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with the City of Portland to purchase their three Brookville LRVs and sell Tacoma Light Rail's three Skoda LRVs for a total amount of \$16,596,000, with a contingency of 10 percent, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$18,255,600, plus applicable taxes, contingent upon Board adoption of Resolution No. R2025-30.

Key features summary

- This action would allow Sound Transit to enter into an agreement with the City of Portland to exchange three 2001 Skoda vehicles and all spare parts owned by Sound Transit for three of the City's 2025 Brookville Liberty NXT ("Brookville") vehicles and all of its spare parts so that they can be used for Tacoma Link.
- This exchange would result in 30 to 40 percent Capital cost savings compared to purchasing three new custom vehicles because Sound Transit would not have a large enough order to benefit from economy of scale. Further, procuring new vehicles would take 4-5 years.
- Securing new vehicles is necessary to maintain current revenue service levels, as the current Skoda cars are nearing their end of useful life.
- Consolidating to one type of vehicle has the advantage of optimizing maintenance, training, and spare part storage costs to both Sound Transit and the City of Portland.
- Each Brookville LRV is priced at \$6.6M before taxes. Each Skoda LRV is priced at \$500,000. The City will reimburse Sound Transit for half the cost of transportation of vehicles exchanged in this Agreement plus administrative costs, insurance, and applicable taxes. The City will also reimburse for the modification of Skoda cars at Tacoma.
- Each Skoda-Brookville pair is expected to take six to nine months to complete modification and the entire swap is expected to be complete over a duration of 2½ years.
- Tax is estimated to be \$2,178,000.

Background

Sound Transit and the City of Portland each own a mixed fleet of Skoda and Brookville LRVs for the operations of the Tacoma Link light rail and the Portland Streetcar, respectively. The Skoda LRV fleet in Tacoma consists of three vehicles that were purchased in 2001 using the Portland Streetcar LRV contract options. The three Skoda LRVs and five Brookville LRVs are currently being used by Sound Transit to meet the T-Link revenue service needs. These three LRVs are coming up for replacement by the end of this decade. Replacing the Skoda LRVs is critical for Sound Transit to sustain the level of revenue service on T-Link in a few years.

In 2023, Sound Transit started exploring opportunities to procure three new replacement vehicles in partnership with other agencies. Portland Streetcar fleet includes three recently commissioned Brookville LRVs that were purchased using the Hilltop LRV contract options. In parallel, the City of Portland was exploring options to replace its 12 Skoda LRVs.

After detailed evaluation, both Sound Transit and the City concluded that there would be mutual benefit to consolidate their respective fleets with one type of vehicle when both agencies replace their existing vehicles as one type of fleet would have the added benefit of reducing the costs of operations and parts storage. To realize this synergy, Sound Transit wishes to exchange three Skoda vehicles and all spare parts in its fleet for three of the City's Brookville vehicles and all of its spare parts. The two parties have conducted extensive interactions and mutual inspections of the vehicles considered for the exchange and have developed a Draft Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Board Action will authorize Sound Transit's CEO to execute the agreement.

Once the Agreement is executed, Sound Transit will procure consultant and contractor resources to perform the vehicle modification and shipping scopes. Sound Transit will return to the Board to authorize contractor resources to perform the vehicle modification work. Sound Transit and the City will then have to coordinate schedules to take an LRV each out of service to start inspections and modifications.

The Purchase and Sale Agreement between Sound Transit and the City of Portland once executed will include the following terms:

- The customization of the Skoda vehicles to match the rest of Portland Streetcars will be performed at Tacoma and is estimated to be \$500,000 total for all three vehicles. Sound Transit's contractor will perform this work and the cost of Skoda car customization will be deducted from Sound Transit's payment to the City for the Brookville vehicles. The City will reimburse Sound Transit for half the cost of transportation of vehicles exchanged in this Agreement plus administrative costs, insurance, and applicable taxes.
- Sound Transit will be responsible for the collection and payment of all Washington sales tax and business and occupation tax owed under this transaction. The City will reimburse Sound Transit for fifty percent of all sales, excise, or other taxes owed on any part of this transaction.
- Sound Transit and the City of Portland will remove one vehicle each from their revenue service to transfer ownership and start the customization work. After delivery of the Skoda to the City of Portland and acceptance of Brookville car from the City, Sound Transit will reconcile the price of each vehicle in the pairing, the cost of modification services, the cost of delivery, and applicable taxes on each component of the transaction. Sound Transit would then pay the City the amount that it owes to the City under this agreement minus the amount the City owes Sound Transit.
- Each Skoda-Brookville pair is expected to take 6-9 months to complete modification and acceptance by the receiving agency. Sound Transit and the City of Portland can afford to take only one LRV out of their respective revenue service fleet for modification. The entire swap is expected to be completed over a duration of 2½ years from the day of contract execution between the two parties.

Fiscal information

This action is within the authorized project allocation of the T Link Trains and Trackway Program and sufficient monies remain after approval of this action to fund work in the vehicles phase.

Contingency upon approval of Resolution No. R2025-30, the authorized allocation for the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program is \$30,392,608. Within that amount, \$21,864,458 has been allocated to the vehicles phase to purchase three Brookville LRVs.

This action would commit \$20,433,600 including contingency and estimated applicable taxes and leave a budget balance of \$885,711 in the vehicles phase.

This action does not impact the affordability of the agency's Financial Plan.

T-Link Trains and Trackway Program

(in thousands)

	Authorized Project Allocation or Baseline Budget	Total Commitment to Date	This Action	Total Commitment Plus Action	Uncommitted / (Shortfall)
Operations + Maintenance	900	400		400	500
Administration	1,330	159		159	1,170
Preliminary Engineering	1,505				1,505
Final Design	245				245
Third Party Agreements					
Right of Way					
Construction	4,538	665		665	3,874
Construction Services	10				10
Vehicles	\$21,864	\$545	\$20,434	\$20,979	\$886
Project Contingency					
Total Current Budget	\$30,393	\$1,769	\$20,434	\$22,203	\$8,190
City of Portland	Board Approvals to Date	Proposed Action			
Contract Amount		\$16,596			
Contingency		1,660			
Estimated Taxes		2,178			
Total	\$	\$20,434			
Percent Contingency	0%	10%			

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure.

Board Approvals = Committed To-Date + Contingency as of Aug 2025 and includes pending Board actions.

For detailed project information, see page 207 of 242 in the 2026 Proposed Budget & Financial Plan

Disadvantaged and small business participation

N/A.

For this contract, the following small business/DBE Participation commitments were made:

Small business/DBE participation commitments	
Sound Transit DBE Goal: 0%	DBE Commitment: 0%

Public involvement

Not applicable for this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would create significant impact to the project schedule.

Environmental review – KH 11/17/25

Legal review – JW 11/20/25

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A motion of the Rider Experience and Operations Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an agreement with the City of Portland to purchase their three Brookville LRVs and sell Tacoma Light Rail's three Skoda LRVs for a total amount of \$16,596,000, with a contingency of 10 percent, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$18,255,600, plus applicable taxes, contingent upon Board adoption of Resolution No. R2025-30.

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Motion

It is hereby moved by the Rider Experience and Operations Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is authorized to execute an agreement with the City of Portland to purchase their three Brookville LRVs and sell Tacoma Light Rail's three Skoda LRVs for a total amount of \$16,596,000, with a contingency of 10 percent, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$18,255,600, plus applicable taxes, contingent upon Board adoption of Resolution No. R2025-30.

APPROVED by the Rider Experience and Operations Committee of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on _____.

Kristina Walker
Rider Experience and Operations Committee Chair

Attest:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator