



Motion No. M2026-18

Asset Management Support Services Contract Award

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee	05/07/2026	Final Action

Staff name:	Staff title:
Moises Gutierrez	Program Management Deputy CEO
Joe Gildner	Chief Engineer
Brian Holloway	Deputy Chief Engineer

Proposed action

Authorizes the chief executive officer to execute a 3-year contract, with two optional one-year extensions, with Network Rail Consulting, Inc. to provide asset management standardization, documentation, training, and independent verification services in an amount of \$14,878,851 for the initial term of three years, \$10,678,055 for the two option years, and a contingency fund of 10 percent or \$2,555,691, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$28,112,597.

Key features summary

- This contract accelerates the maturation of our asset management program to match system breadth and complexity, per the recommendations noted in the Sound Transit Resiliency Assessment Report issued February 2025.
- As the Link light rail system has expanded in fleet size, track mileage, power systems, and facilities, there is a need for the agency's maintenance practices to scale at the same pace in terms of standardization, documentation depth, and technical training capacity.
- This effort does not replace existing maintenance personnel. It strengthens their effectiveness through structured on-the-job coaching, clearer technical standards, enhanced training capacity, and independent verification of maintenance execution where internal resources are limited.
- The contract includes a three-year base term with two optional one-year extensions. The Office of the Chief Engineer will have oversight of the contract and will work with Sound Transit Operations and King County Metro maintenance leadership to ensure accountability, performance tracking, and measurable outcomes.
- There is no applicable sales tax for this action.

Background

This procurement will engage a nationally recognized asset management and rail maintenance advisory firm to work jointly with Sound Transit and King County Metro. The purpose is to strengthen maintenance performance by coaching frontline staff, refining procedures, improving inspection quality, and providing independent assurance that maintenance activities are complete.

The contract supplements existing maintenance crews. It provides additional technical depth, standardized processes, and expanded training capacity at a time when system growth has outpaced internal upskilling bandwidth.

The expected outcome is uniform maintenance and inspection standards across the entire Link system, with consistent practices, metrics, documentation, and performance expectations across all operating segments.

In addition, the contract provides independent verification and transparency through regular review of inspection quality, procedural adherence, and performance metrics. This strengthens accountability and improves the agency's ability to demonstrate regulatory compliance, operational reliability, and stewardship of public investment.

Procurement information

Prior to issuing the solicitation for these services, Sound Transit considered the project scope, the determining factors for contract award, and the need for proposal discussions and revisions. It was then determined that a Request for Proposal procurement method was the most advantageous.

Sound Transit advertised Request for Proposals No. RP 0187-25 on December 19, 2025. Six firms submitted proposals, which were evaluated based on the advertised evaluation criteria including Knowledge and Experience of Key Individuals, Firm(s) Experience and History, Price, Capacity and Project Organization, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, Commitment to and Compliance with Equal Employment Opportunity Law.

Sound Transit recommends the award of the contract based upon determination that the proposal from Network Rail Consulting, Inc. best meets the evaluation criteria, offers the best value, and the contract award is in the best interest of Sound Transit.

Fiscal information

Service Delivery Department

(in thousands)

Cost Category	2026 Annual Operating Budget	YTD Actuals ¹	Contract Spend Forecast Remainder of 2026	YTD Plus Action (Current Year Only)	Remaining Annual Operating Budget
Salaries and Benefits	\$81,635	\$4,875		\$4,875	\$76,759
Services	182,059	12,195	4,092	16,286	165,773
Materials and Supplies	25,726	1,133		1,133	24,593
Utilities	18,742	2,014		2,014	16,728
Insurance		(65)		(65)	65
Taxes	3,638	210		210	3,428
Purchased Transportation Services	438,636	40,769		40,769	397,866
Miscellaneous	3,194	68		68	3,126
Leases and Rentals	1,985	199		199	1,787
Total Annual Operating Budget	\$755,614	\$61,398	\$4,092	\$65,490	\$690,125
Cost Categories Detail					
Consulting Services	\$28,683	\$733	\$4,092	\$4,825	\$23,858
Others	153,376	11,462		11,462	141,915
Total	\$182,059	\$12,195	\$4,092	\$16,286	\$165,773

Contract Spending Plan	Contract spend up to YTD ²	Estimated Contract Spend Remaining 2026	Future Spending	Total
Network Rail Consulting, Inc.	\$	\$4,092	\$24,021	\$28,113
Contract Detail		Board Approved Contract Value	Proposed Action	Proposed Revised Contract Value
Contract		\$	\$25,557	\$25,557
Contingency		\$	2,556	2,556
Contract Total		\$	\$28,113	\$28,113
Estimated Taxes				
Total (with estimated taxes)		\$	\$28,113	\$28,113
Percent Contingency		0%	10%	10%

Notes:

¹YTD Actuals as of Jan 2026.

This action for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$28,112,597, which includes a 10 percent contingency, will be funded from the Transit Operations department annual operating budget. Within the Services category, the 2026 annual budget for consulting services is \$28,682,842, of which \$4,091,684 is estimated to be spent from this new contract for the remainder of 2026 and is currently within the agency's budget authority.

After approval of this action, sufficient budget remains to cover the remaining annual expenditure; funding for year 2026 of the contract will be from possible savings within the department's annual budget requests and/or agency contingency. Thereafter, additional years of the contract will be included in future annual budget requests.

The cost of this action on the affordability of the agency's Financial Plan is negligible.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Sound Transit promotes and encourages small business participation. Small business goals are based upon an examination of subcontracting opportunities contained in the work of this contract and the number of small businesses available to perform such subcontracting work.

For this specific contract, the following goals were set, and the successful Bidder/Proposer has committed to the following small business participation:

Sound Transit small business goal: 8%

Small business commitment: 9.29%

Time constraints

Sound Transit and King County Metro staff will continue to provide safe and reliable service by maintaining assets in accordance with manufacturer-recommended intervals and current procedures.

While a delay in awarding this contract does not create an immediate quantifiable fiscal impact, postponement would slow progress toward standardized practices, consistent training, and systemwide performance verification. Earlier implementation accelerates workforce development, improves maintenance efficiency, reduces variability in inspection practices, and supports improved reliability across the system.

Environmental review – KH 3/16/26

Legal review – LA 23 April 2026



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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 a 3-year contract, with two optional one-year extensions, with Network Rail Consulting, Inc. to provide asset management standardization, documentation, training, and independent verification services in an amount of \$14,878,851 for the initial term of three years, \$10,678,055 for the two option years, and a contingency fund of 10 percent or \$2,555,691, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$28,112,597.

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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 a 3-year contract, with two optional one-year extensions, with Network Rail Consulting, Inc. to provide asset management standardization, documentation, training, and independent verification services in an amount of \$14,878,851 for the initial term of three years, \$10,678,055 for the two option years, and a contingency fund of 10 percent or \$2,555,691, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$28,112,597.

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:

Katie Flores,
Board Administrator