



Motion No. M2026-20

Appointing Heather Kurtenbach as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:
Executive Committee	06/04/2026	Recommend to Board
Board	06/25/2026	Final Action

Staff name:	Staff title:
Katie Flores	Board Administration Deputy Executive Director

Proposed action

Appointing Heather Kurtenbach as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board of Directors for the remainder of the unexpired labor liaison term beginning July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027.

Key features summary

- In 2019, the Board approved Motion No. M2019-79 to authorize the appointment of a labor liaison. The motion requests that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee would then recommend an appropriately qualified person to the Board to serve as the Board's labor liaison.
- In November 2024, the Board appointed Lisa Bogardus to fulfill the remainder of retiring Labor Liaison, Mark Riker's, term from December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.
- With Ms. Bogardus's retirement, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO was asked to provide a recommendation on a person that has knowledge and experience working with labor unions that represent employees operating or constructing the agency's transit facilities to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.
- On May 27, 2026, The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO submitted a recommendation that Heather Kurtenbach be appointed as the labor liaison.
- Ms. Kurtenbach is a member of the Ironworkers Local 86 and Executive-Secretary of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO.
- If appointed, Ms. Kurtenbach will fulfill the requirements for the labor liaison outlined in Motion No. M2019-79 to:
 - Participate in committee meeting discussions regarding any proposed board action that could impact the labor forces required to build and operate the agency's transit systems, or Board discussions if such an action will be considered by the full Board without prior committee review.
 - Serve the remainder of the unexpired four-year term, reside within the Sound Transit District, and be recommended by the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO.
 - Disclose any relationship or transaction that would constitute a conflict-of-interest under Sound Transit's code of ethics (Resolution No. 81-2) before participating in committee discussions.

Background

State law specifies that the board of directors of regional transit authorities consist of local elected officials and the state secretary of transportation. State law vests the Sound Transit Board with all the powers necessary to implement a high-capacity transportation system.

To implement Sound Move, ST2, and ST3, the Board approved a Project Labor Agreement and employs staff to address labor issues arising under the Project Labor Agreement. The Board also approved multiple agreements with partner transit agencies—Community Transit, King County/Metro, and Pierce Transit—to provide the labor force required to operate and maintain ST Express and Link light rail.

As Sound Transit implements both ST2 and ST3, the largest transit capital project in North America, and significantly expands light-rail operations from 20 miles to 116 miles, the Board's deliberations regarding proposed actions that could impact the labor forces constructing or operating the agency's transit system will benefit by receiving regular input from a liaison from the labor community with experience building and operating the agency's transit facilities and services.

Fiscal information

Not applicable to 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.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Motion No. M2024-76: Appointed Lisa Bogardus as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board for the remainder of the unexpired labor liaison term beginning December 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2027.

Motion No. M2023-95: Reappointed Mark Riker as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board for another four-year term beginning January 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2027.

Environmental review – KH 5/27/26

Legal review – AJP 5/28/26



Motion No. M2026-20

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority appointing Heather Kurtenbach as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board of Directors for the remainder of the unexpired labor liaison term beginning July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027.

Background

In 2019, the Board approved Motion No. M2019-79 to authorize the appointment of a labor liaison. The motion requests that the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO submit a recommendation to the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee would then recommend an appropriately qualified person to the Board to serve as the Board's labor liaison.

In November 2024, the Board appointed Lisa Bogardus to fulfill the remainder of retiring Labor Liaison, Mark Riker's, term from December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

With Ms. Bogardus's retirement, the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO was asked to provide a recommendation on a person that has knowledge and experience working with labor unions that represent employees operating or constructing the agency's transit facilities to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

On May 27, 2026, The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO submitted a recommendation that Heather Kurtenbach be appointed as the labor liaison.

Ms. Kurtenbach is a member of the Ironworkers Local 86 and Executive-Secretary of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. If appointed, Ms. Kurtenbach will fulfill the requirements for the labor liaison outlined in Motion No. M2019-79 to participate in committee meeting discussions regarding any proposed board action that could impact the labor forces required to build and operate the agency's transit systems, or Board discussions if such an action will be considered by the full Board without prior committee review, serve the remainder of the unexpired four-year term, reside within the Sound Transit District, and be recommended by the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and disclose any relationship or transaction that would constitute a conflict-of-interest under Sound Transit's code of ethics (Resolution No. 81-2) before participating in committee discussions.

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As Sound Transit implements both ST2 and ST3, the largest transit capital project in North America, and significantly expands light-rail operations from 20 miles to 116 miles, the Board's deliberations regarding proposed actions that could impact the labor forces constructing or operating the agency's transit system will benefit by receiving regular input from a liaison from the labor community with experience building and operating the agency's transit facilities and services.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that Heather Kurtenbach is appointed as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board of Directors for the remainder of the unexpired labor liaison term beginning July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027.

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