

Motion No. M2026-25

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority ratifying the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency to expedite the procurement of repair services for a Sounder Locomotive, in order for it to be placed back into daily revenue service as soon as possible.

Background

The Board's Procurement, Agreements and Delegated Authority policy, Resolution No. R2023-30, Section 2.9, authorizes the CEO to make a written finding that an emergency exists and to execute any contracts or make purchases necessary to respond to that emergency. The policy requires that the CEO request ratification of the finding of an emergency, and any emergency contracts that exceed \$5,000,000 excluding taxes, at the next regular Board meeting. The policy also requires that the CEO keep the Board informed about the emergency and the progress of any contracts or purchases executed to address the emergency.

On April 17, 2026, the turbocharger of Sounder locomotive SDRX901 had a catastrophic failure rendering the unit unusable and in need of a major emergency repair.

The Sounder mechanical team worked with Amtrak and a potential vendor to diagnose the extent of damage and determine the scope and cost of repair. Rail Power Services (RPS) has, after a thorough analysis, provided Sound Transit with a price quote of \$202,928.75 to repair the damage, which may be reduced after further discussions on materials required for work scope. RPS has special capabilities with a mobile repair unit, providing a way to avoid what would otherwise be expensive shipping costs and related delays in the repair schedule.

On June 12, 2026, the CEO made a written finding that declared an emergency and staff proceeded to prepare a contract with RPS for \$202,928.75 to repair the damage.

Without this locomotive, Sounder ridership is subject to adverse impacts, including the potential inability to provide the scheduled service the public has been promised and expects. Sounder service is particularly vulnerable at this time to service degradation as any other major mechanical issues will have a great impact on the ability to provide the equipment needed for scheduled service.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency is ratified.

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