

Motion No. M2026-32

Transit Development Plan 2026-2031

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee	08/06/2026	Recommend to Board
Board	08/27/2026	Final Action

Staff name:	Staff title:
Ed Cobean	Transit Operations Deputy CEO
Marie Olson	Strategic Performance and Operations Executive Director
Simon Tan	Senior Transportation Planner

Proposed action

Approves the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2026-2031 to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Key features summary

- This action allows Sound Transit to satisfy state requirements to provide an updated Transit Development Plan (TDP) to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Washington State Legislature.
- The report provides an overview of the agency's current services, equipment, and facilities for all operational modes (ST Express, Sounder, T Line, and Link) as well as planned capital expenses, operating financial plans, and planned operating changes from 2026-2031, based on information known as of June 2026.
- The report also includes descriptions of how Sound Transit's strategic priorities and agency goals align with state transportation system policy goals (i.e., Preservation, Safety, Stewardship, Mobility, Economic Vitality, and Environment). A discussion of how the agency coordinates its activities with local jurisdictions and partner transit agencies is also included.
- The TDP references agency performance measures and targets for 2026 (such as Transit Asset Management and Safety goals), which are included per WSDOT guidelines.

Background

By September 1 of each year, transit agencies are required under RCW 35.58.2795 to prepare a six-year TDP for that calendar year and the ensuing five years. The TDP must include information on how the agency's goals align with state and local long-range priorities, planned capital improvements, significant planned operating changes, a multiyear financial plan, and a list of regionally significant projects among other required elements.

The report must be filed with WSDOT, which uses TDPs to prepare the annual Washington State Summary of Public Transportation. The annual summary is reported to the Washington legislature and is an avenue by which uniform data is provided to other transit agencies, legislative transportation committees, and local and regional government bodies such as the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Fiscal information

Not applicable to this action.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

RCW 35.58.2795 requires a public hearing on the Transit Development Plan. A public hearing was held on August 6, 2026.

Time constraints

In accordance with RCW 35.58.2795, Sound Transit must prepare a Transit Development Plan by September 1 of each year. A delay in Board approval would require Sound Transit to request an extension from WSDOT and any further delay may mean that updated agency information may not be available in WSDOT's state records such as the Washington State Summary of Public Transportation.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Motion No. M2025-39: Approving the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2025-2030 to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Motion No. M2024-52: Approving the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2024-2029 to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Motion No. M2023-63: Approved the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2023-2028 and 2022 Annual Report to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Motion No. M2022-65: Approved the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2022-2027 and 2021 Annual Report to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Environmental review – KH 7/17/26

Legal review – AJP 7/28/2026

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A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority approving the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2026-2031 to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

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Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2026-2031 to the Washington State Department of Transportation is approved.

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