

## Resolution No. R2025-18

### Budget Amendment for the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Project

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee	08/07/2025	Recommend to Board	Marie Olson, Acting Service Delivery Deputy CEO
Board	08/21/2025	Final action	George McGinn, Rolling Stock Deputy Executive Director <b>Martin Young, Commuter Rail Operations Deputy Director</b>

### Proposed action

Amends the authorized project allocation of the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program by \$62,500,000 to bring the total authorized allocation from \$73,908,926 to \$136,408,926.

### Key features summary

- This action provides funding for the overhaul of the 58 original Sounder passenger cars in need of a mid-life overhaul and also provides funding for other car/locomotive overhaul projects not specifically included in the Sounder mid-life overhaul project.
- The car overhaul project is programmed through Motion No. M2025-38, which would authorize Sounder's original fleet of 58 Bombardier BiLevel cars to be overhauled over the next six years.
- Many of the original cars are now over 25 years old and due a mid-life overhaul, given that we are now beyond the midpoint of the FTA's commuter rail vehicle useful life benchmark of 39 years.
- Extending the life of the current vehicles is an economical way to continue providing equipment for the service as the average cost per unit for this overhaul is about \$1.4 million, which compares to a current price estimate of between \$4 to \$5 million for new cars.
- The project budget reflects the proposed purchase in Motion M2025-38 plus additional quality assurance, inspection and testing oversight consulting services.
- The proposed action is consistent with the Sounder Fleet Management Plan, as shared with the FTA, the funding partner for \$112 million of the original Sounder fleet purchased, to whom Sound Transit has an obligation for maximizing asset life.

### Background

Sounder commuter rail has been operating since September of 2000, serving the region with a convenient rail transportation alternative in the Lakewood to Seattle and Everett to Seattle corridors. For this service, the Board approved the procurement of 58 passenger cars from Bombardier Transportation in 1998 and 1999.

The Federal Transit Administration provides a benchmark of 39 years for the useful life of commuter rail vehicles. Due to Sounder's duty cycle being somewhat lower compared to most peer agencies, Sound Transit has been able to extend the schedule for this overhaul, which otherwise might have begun several years ago, as some cars are up to 26 years old. However, the original passenger cars are

showing signs of wear that are beginning to impact service reliability. By completing this overhaul work now, the agency will extend the life of the vehicles for up to another 20 years and ensure that the reliability of service remains where our customers expect it to be.

The independent cost estimate was under \$50 million and developed before considerable increases in costs occurred in the industry. The original plan was to overhaul the vehicles some years ago, but Sounder has been able to take advantage of the lighter duty use of the equipment and the fact that Sounder passengers have caused less damage to the equipment than our peer entities providing similar services have experienced. Updating the cost estimate for this project reflects a realistic increase based on known costs impacted by the current labor and materials costs associated with this work scope.

This budget amendment will provide funding for the overhaul of all of Sounder's original commuter rail's passenger cars. It is expected that an average of five cars will be removed from service at a time. This will occur over a six-year timeframe, with cars returning to service beginning in early 2027. This overhaul project is also funding other ongoing overhaul projects, such as periodic HVAC unit refurbishments, locomotive Head End Power (HEP) engine overhauls, as well as a Positive Train Control (PTC) enhancement project that will improve the geolocation of trains, especially where weaker communication signals exist, known as the Precision Navigation Module (PNM) project.

## Fiscal information

The action funding the commuter rail car overhaul services will increase the authorized project allocation of the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program in the amount of \$62,500,000 from \$73,908,926 to \$136,408,926.

Motion No. M2025-38 Systra-Brookville Joint Venture Contract is submitted for the committee's consideration in conjunction with the prerequisite Resolution No. R2025-18. If the resolution to increase funding for the project is not approved, the execution of the contract will also not proceed.

Pending the approval of this resolution, the concurrent motion will be within the authorized project allocation and sufficient monies remain after approval of this action to fund the remaining work in the Operations and Maintenance phase.

The agency has sufficient allocated funding in the long-term service delivery projects forecast to fund this budget amendment.

Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program						
(in thousands)				Authorized Project Allocation to Date		
Phase	Annual Project Budget			Authorized Project Allocation to Date (Current)	Allocation Change	Authorized Project Allocation to Date (New)
	Adopted 2025 Annual Project Budget	Budget Revision	Revised 2025 Annual Project Budget			
Operations + Maintenance	\$3,310		\$3,310	\$49,528	\$60,500	\$110,028
Agency Administration			\$			\$
Preliminary Engineering			\$			\$
Final Design			\$			\$
Third Party Agreements			\$			\$
Right of Way			\$			\$
Construction			\$	12,233		\$12,233
Construction Services			\$			\$
Vehicles	685		\$685	12,148	2,000	\$14,148
Contingency			\$			\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,995</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$3,995</b>	<b>\$73,909</b>	<b>\$62,500</b>	<b>\$136,409</b>

### Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure.

For detailed project information, see page 193 of 263 in the Adopted 2025 Transit Improvement Plan.

## **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 to Sound Transit Service Delivery.

## **Prior Board/Committee actions**

Resolution No. R2024-25: Adopted an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2025 and adopts the 2025 Transit Improvement Plan (TIP). an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2020, and adopted the 2020 Transit Improvement Plan.

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**Environmental review** – KH 7/21/25

**Legal review** – DLM 8/6/2025

## **Resolution No. R2025-18**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending the authorized project allocation of the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program by \$62,500,000 to bring the total authorized allocation from \$73,908,926 to \$136,408,926.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under chapters 81.104 and 81.112 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Sound Transit district on November 5, 1996, November 4, 2008, and November 8, 2016, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in November 2016, the voter-approved ST3 Plan included funding to extend and enhance service of and access to its Sounder Commuter Rail; and

WHEREAS, this action provides funding for the overhaul of the 58 original Sounder passenger cars in need of a mid-life overhaul and also provides funding for other car/locomotive overhaul projects not specifically included in the Sounder mid-life overhaul project; and,

WHEREAS, the car overhaul project is programmed through Motion No. M2025-38, which would authorize Sounder's original fleet of 58 Bombardier BiLevel cars to be overhauled over the next six years; and

WHEREAS, many of the original cars are now over 25 years old and due a mid-life overhaul, given that we are now beyond the midpoint of the FTA's commuter rail vehicle useful life benchmark of 39 years; and,

WHEREAS, extending the life of the current vehicles is an economical way to continue providing equipment for the service as the average cost per unit for this overhaul is approximately \$1.4 million, which compares to a current price estimate of between \$4 to \$5 million for new cars; and,

WHEREAS, the project budget reflects the proposed purchase in Motion M2025-38 plus additional quality assurance, inspection and testing oversight consulting services; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed action is consistent with the Sounder Fleet Management Plan, as shared with the FTA, the funding partner for \$112 million of the original Sounder fleet purchased, to whom Sound Transit has an obligation for maximizing asset life; and,

WHEREAS, Motion No. M2025-38 is contingent upon adoption of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the authorized project allocation of the Sounder Vehicle Overhaul Program is amended by \$62,500,000 to bring the total authorized allocation from \$73,908,926 to \$136,408,92600.

ADOPTED by no less than a 2/3 affirmative vote of the entire membership of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Dave Somers  
Board Chair

**Attest:**

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Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator