

Resolution No. R2025-30

Budget Amendment for T-Link Trains and Trackway Program

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:	Staff contact:
Rider Experience and Operations Committee Board	12/04/2025 12/18/2025	Recommend to Board Final action	Shankar Rajaram, Acting Executive Director - Core Infrastructure & Asset Management Rob Blackburn, Executive Operations Director - Tacoma Light Rail

Proposed action

Amends the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$24,633,550 from \$5,759,058 to \$30,392,608, (b) increasing the annual project allocation by \$16,422,417 from \$1,169,427 to \$17,591,844 to allow for the execution of a streetcar purchase, sale, and transfer agreement with the City of Portland.

Key features summary

- This action provides funding for Sound Transit to exchange three 2001 Skoda vehicles and all spare parts owned by Sound Transit for three of the City's 2025 Brookville Liberty NXT ("Brookville") vehicles and all of its spare parts so that they can be used for Tacoma Link.
- Each Brookville LRV is priced at \$6.6M before taxes. Each Skoda LRV is priced at \$500,000. The City will reimburse Sound Transit for half the cost of transportation of vehicles exchanged in this Agreement plus administrative costs, insurance, and applicable taxes. The City will also reimburse for the modification of Skoda cars at Tacoma.
- The three Skoda LRVs and five Brookville LRVs are currently being used by Sound Transit to meet the T-Link revenue service needs. These three LRVs are coming up for replacement by the end of this decade. Replacing the Skoda LRVs is critical for Sound Transit to sustain the level of revenue service on T-Link in a few years.
- The 2026 Adopted Budget and Transit Improvement Plan (adopted November 20, 2025) established the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program, an asset-based service delivery program with the scope of "projects related to keeping in a state of good repair or enhancing Tacoma Link assets, including but not limited to, light rail vehicle, traction power, signaling, and track assets and equipment." Obtaining vehicles to replace others at the end of their useful life falls within this scope.

Background

Sound Transit and the City of Portland each own a mixed fleet of Skoda and Brookville LRVs for the operations of the Tacoma Link light rail and the Portland Streetcar, respectively. The Skoda LRV fleet in Tacoma consists of three vehicles that were purchased in 2001 using the Portland Streetcar LRV contract options. The three Skoda LRVs and five Brookville LRVs are currently being used by Sound Transit to meet the T-Link revenue service needs. These three LRVs are coming up for replacement by the end of this decade. Replacing the Skoda LRVs is critical for Sound Transit to sustain the level of revenue service on T-Link in a few years.

In 2023, Sound Transit started exploring opportunities to procure three new replacement vehicles in partnership with other agencies. Portland Streetcar fleet includes three recently commissioned Brookville LRVs that were purchased using the Hilltop LRV contract options. In parallel, the City of Portland was exploring options to replace its 12 Skoda LRVs.

After detailed evaluation, both Sound Transit and the City concluded that there would be mutual benefit to consolidate their respective fleets with one type of vehicle when both agencies replace their existing vehicles as one type of fleet would have the added benefit of reducing the costs of operations and parts storage. To realize this synergy, Sound Transit wishes to exchange three Skoda vehicles and all spare parts in its fleet for three of the City's Brookville vehicles and all of its spare parts. The two parties have conducted extensive interactions and mutual inspections of the vehicles considered for the exchange and have developed a Draft Purchase and Sale Agreement. The Board Action will authorize Sound Transit's CEO to execute the agreement.

Once the Agreement is executed, Sound Transit will procure a consultant and contractor resources to perform the vehicle modification and shipping scopes. Sound Transit and the City will then have to coordinate schedules to take an LRV each out of service to start inspections and modifications.

Fiscal information

The action will increase the authorized project allocation of the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program by \$24,633,550 to bring the total authorized allocation from \$5,759,058 to \$30,392,608. Additionally, this action will increase the annual project allocation by \$16,422,417 from \$1,169,427 to \$17,591,844. Motion No. M2025-65 Purchase of 3 Brookville Streetcars from the City of Portland is submitted for the committee's consideration in conjunction with the prerequisite Resolution No. R2025-30.

If the resolution to increase funding for the program 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 work in the vehicles phase.

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

T-Link Trains and Trackway Program

(in thousands)

Phase	Annual Project Budget			Authorized Project Allocation to Date		
	Adopted 2026 Annual Project Budget	Budget Revision	Revised 2026 Annual Project Budget	Authorized Project Allocation to Date (Current)	Allocation Change	Authorized Project Allocation to Date (New)
Operations + Maintenance	300		300	900		900
Agency Administration	88	667	754	330	1,000	1,330
Preliminary Engineering	5	1,000	1,005	5	1,500	1,505
Final Design	175		175	245		245
Third Party Agreements						
Right of Way						
Construction	492	667	1,158	3,538	1,000	4,538
Construction Services	10		10	10		10
Vehicles	100	14,089	14,189	731	21,133	21,864
Contingency						
Total	\$1,169	\$16,422	\$17,592	\$5,759	\$24,634	\$30,393

Notes:

Amounts are expressed in Year of Expenditure.

For detailed project information, see page 207 of 242 in the 2026 Proposed Budget & Financial Plan.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

N/A.

For this contract, the following small business/DBE Participation commitments were made:

Small business/DBE participation commitments	
Sound Transit DBE Goal: 0%	DBE Commitment: 0%

Public involvement

Not applicable for this action.

Time constraints

A one-month delay would create significant impact to the project schedule.

Environmental review – KH 11/17/25

Legal review – JW 11/24/25

Resolution No. R2025-30

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$24,633,550 from \$5,759,058 to \$30,392,608, (b) increasing the annual project allocation by \$16,422,417 from \$1,169,427 to \$17,591,844 to allow for the execution of a streetcar purchase, sale, and transfer agreement with the City of Portland.

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 implement enhancements to the Tacoma Link light rail system; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit and the City of Portland each own a mixed fleet of Skoda and Brookville LRVs for the operations of the Tacoma Link light rail; and

WHEREAS, the Skoda light rail vehicle fleet in Tacoma consists of three vehicles that were purchased in 2001 using the Portland Streetcar light rail vehicle contract options; and

WHEREAS, the three Skoda and five Brookville light rail vehicles are currently being used by Sound Transit to meet the T-Link revenue service needs; and

WHEREAS, the three Skoda light rail vehicles are coming up for replacement by the end of this decade and replacing them is critical for Sound Transit to sustain the level of revenue service on Tacoma Link; and

WHEREAS, this action provides funding for Sound Transit to exchange three 2001 Skoda vehicles and all spare parts owned by Sound Transit for three of the City's 2025 Brookville Liberty NXT vehicles and all of its spare parts so that they can be used for Tacoma Link.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Adopted 2025 Budget is amended to amend the T-Link Trains and Trackway Program by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$24,633,550 from \$5,759,058 to \$30,392,608, (b) increasing the annual project allocation by \$16,422,417 from \$1,169,427 to \$17,591,844 to allow for the execution of a streetcar purchase, sale, and transfer agreement with the City of Portland.

ADOPTED by no less than a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire membership of 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