



## Summary Minutes

### System Expansion Committee Meeting March 9, 2023

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Committee Chair Balducci.

#### Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chair
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Kent Keel, University Place Councilmember
(P) David Baker, Kenmore Councilmember	(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember
(A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor	

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

#### Report of the Chair

##### Monthly Contract Report and Agency Progress Report

The meeting packet included the monthly contract report and the January agency progress report.

##### Extended Meeting Time

Chair Balducci reminded everyone that this meeting has been extended from its usual schedule to accommodate robust public comment and committee discussion on the Ballard Link Extension action item.

#### CEO Report

CEO Timm provided the report.

##### Puyallup Sounder Station Garage

CEO Julie Timm reported that the agency had finalized the off-peak parking agreement with City of Puyallup and is coordinating with the city on final steps to approve traffic and pedestrian signals improvements. The last major item for the garage to open is the closing of the permit with the city, and the agency will announce the official opening shortly.

##### FTA Recovery Plans

Ms. Timm shared that, pursuant to the terms of the TIFIA loans for the four Link Extension projects in construction, agency staff had been keeping Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Build America Bureau apprised of changes to construction challenges and shifts to revenue services dates. The

Bureau and FTA formally requested the Recovery Plans on January 27<sup>th</sup>, and staff submitted those plans per the March 2, 2023, deadline.

Staff anticipate several iterations of questions and refinements as the agencies begin their review; however, initial conversations have been overall positive.

### Bellevue City Plaza Celebration

CEO Timm shared that Sound Transit will participate in a celebration with the City of Bellevue for their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and the completion of the plaza at City Hall on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The plaza was reconstructed as a part of the East Link project to create a new public space with a seamless transition from City to the Downtown Bellevue Station.

## **Public comment**

Chair Balducci announced that public comment would be accepted via email to [meetingcomments@soundtransit.org](mailto:meetingcomments@soundtransit.org) and would also be accepted verbally.

### Written public comments:

Anis

Friends of Little Saigon, Seattle CID Preservation and Development Authority, Monisha Singh for the CID BIA, Kathleen Barry Johnson for Historic South Downtown, the Alliance for Pioneer Square, Dani Tran, Donald Liu, Charles Fowles, Phillip Reeder, Giridhar Babu, Sean Bennet, Jennifer Simpson, Stephen Fesler, Isaac Gloor, Braeden Van Deynze, Scott Mayhew, Austin Johnson, David Guillard, Drew Johnson, Marshall Katz, Sam Fullerton, Jason Rock, Liesl, Olson, Grant, Erich, Nick, Rainer Metzger, Ian Boudreaux, Jackson Teal, Charles Cooper, Skyler Urban, Scott Bonjukian, Tyler Van Dooren, Brett Burton, Alonso Alvarado, Cole Jackson, Ryan Lorey, Ted Wiederhold, Austin England, Kian Bradley, Javeed Shah, Taylor, Samir Yhann, Eugene Kramer, Derek Dexheimer, Avery S, Thomas De Leon, Max Burke, Alex, Ross Peizer, Ben Broesamle, Hendrik de Kock, Jeremy Swirsley, Ashok Parasa, Akshay Saini, Ashley Hotchkiss, Jon Lesnau, Peter, Angelus McNally, Ben Ferlo, Eric Herde, Corey Ford, Joseph Barber, Max Baker, Steven Neuman, Ashley Stefanoff, Efrain Hudnell, Trevor Reed, David Scott, Tony, Benjamin Rogers, John Curry, Kris Williams, Charles Phillips, Adam, Madison Warnock, Carl Sanman, Reece Huff, Matt McDonnell, Marcus Johnson, Akira Murphy, Porter Funston, S Finden, Michael Robb, Charles Fowles, John Cracolici, Mike Scully, Jon Mathison, Michael Hlas, Bill, , and 31 unnamed commenters

Janet Brown, Tanya Lee-Valasquez, and Joe Kunzler

Nicole Reath

Mary's Place, Paul Evasick for the Westin Hotel, WRI 2200 Westlake LP, a collection of South Lake Union Small Businesses, Christine Moss, Chris and Jade Simonson, Elston and Jackline Hill, Dean Temple, Mike and Judy Waring, Carolyn Blount, Dick Fike, Matt Jamin, Carol Pugh, Dr. James and Sue Lane, Tom McArthur, Judith and Darrel Guder, Jim Holland, Diane King, Mort Berman, Diane Holmes, Patricia Harris, Julia Wan, Geneva J Thompson, Ben Wood Jr., Laura Bailey, Mary Jossem, Sue Herring, Ruth Benfield, Tim Hill, Les Parrott, Andrea Lewis, Susan Dillon, Jane Blackwell, Linda Berkman, Eunice Askov, Meredith Birkmeyer, Barbara Daniels, Jane Beer, David and Susan Webber, Ron Butler on behalf of 34 Enso residents, Earl Sedlik, Diana Holland, Nancy Eliason, and Amy Fair Gunnar for Portage Bay Café

Clark Kokich

Seattle Arts and Music Commissions

Tracy Burrows

Robert DeMacron and unnamed commenters

Corey Hutton

Tacoma Transportation Commissioner Troy Serad

Bill Hirt

Jonathan, Eric Stewart, and Michael Lipp

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Mary Bingham  
Neha Nariya  
Vrajlal Nariya  
Rob Brandenburg  
Paul Evasick  
Nora Chan  
Asher Shafer  
Betty Lau  
Brien Chow  
Lisa Howard  
Ada Healey  
Dan McGreday  
Julie Holland  
Ryan Dean  
Marykate Ryan  
Tiantian Ding  
Tiernan Martin  
Sabrina Villanueva  
Reza Marashi

David Namura  
Von Perkins  
Jasmeet Singh  
Kaileah Baldwin  
Christina Shimizu  
Phillip Pantaleo  
JM Wong  
Joe Reilly  
Betty Luke  
Amy Lozano  
Doug Holtom  
Kyran Hynes  
Shaizi Jaymes  
Tom Mara  
Sue Kay  
Joel Tan  
Judy Tobin  
Yin Yu

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Josh Simms  
Lars Erickson  
Jim Lovsted  
Leonard Garfield  
Marty Hartman  
Rachel Moormeier  
Vicki Michael  
Jimmy Esteban  
Ben Neiman  
Denise Moriguchi  
Jordan Goldwarg

Kari  
Dani Tran  
Margaret Wells  
Hester Serebrin  
Jacob Tukel  
Matthew Trecha  
Nisha Nariya  
Michael LeGore  
Sue Strosky  
Dough Trumm  
Beth Strosky

**Business items**

**For Committee Final Action**

Minutes: February 9, 2023 System Expansion Committee meeting

**It was moved by Boardmember Baker, seconded by Boardmember Keel, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the February 9, 2023 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

**For Recommendation to the Board**

Motion No. M2023-18: Confirming or modifying the preferred alternative light rail route and station locations for the Ballard Link Extension for evaluation.

Chair Balducci asked Cathal Ridge, Executive Corridor Director, to begin the staff presentation.

Chair Balducci thanked Mr. Ridge for walking through the preliminary design of the North of CID station. Boardmember Keel asked how far the existing Pioneer Square Station and the North of CID station are apart based on the current design option. Mr. Ridge answered that the two stations would be about a block apart.

Chair Balducci noted that Boardmembers indicated a desire to have the motion brought forward today to include an Example Modified Preferred Alternative for the committee to consider. She then invited Boardmember Harrell to begin discussion.

Boardmember Harrell noted that the motion for consideration does leave some areas of the preferred alternative up for discussion and identification at the full Board meeting. He believed the committee was in a position to advance most of the options for the Preferred Alternative and stressed the importance of the activation of Union Station and the Jackson Hub as critical to the success of the alignment as a whole.

Chair Balducci agreed on the approach of selecting as many options along the alignment as possible at the System Expansion Committee meeting as further data and discussions are had in advance of the Board meeting. She opened the floor for questions and discussion from committee members.

Boardmember McDermott stated that, in a perfect scenario, the committee should forward a motion that identifies the Preferred Alternative along the entire alignment but recognized that there were crucial conversations to be had and agreed with the approach to advance as many segments as possible today.

Boardmember Keel concurred with the approach and re-iterated the importance of identifying the full preferred alternative at the March Board meeting. He also noted that regardless of the action at the Board meeting, some individuals and groups will be upset with the outcome.

**Motion No. M2023-18 was moved by Boardmember Harrell and seconded by Boardmember Roscoe.**

Boardmember Somers echoed the comments regarding keeping the pace for action at the Board meeting and added that he is looking for direction from King County and the City of Seattle on what is best for the alignment in their subarea.

Boardmember Backus also signaled her agreement with the motion as presented today. She also thanked staff and external partners for their roles in the engagement and decision process.

Boardmember McDermott stated his concurrence with previous comments.

Boardmember Baker added that his main concern that will impact his vote at the Board meeting will be the outcome for the Chinatown-International District.

Chair Balducci thanked all involved in the recent public engagement directed by the Board and noted that the quality of the renewed outreach efforts can be seen in the amount and quality of public comments in recent months. She stated her support for the motion before the committee today. She highlighted key issues that will shape the preferred alternative identification at the Board meeting, including the transfer scenario for east-to-south and south-to-east riders based on the CID option selected, the impacts in the Denny area and key downtown streets, and the third-party finances in relation to the baseline options needed to support some of the state alternatives.

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Dave Somers  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the eight members present that Motion No. M2023-18 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

CEO Timm again expressed gratitude to the project team for their increased outreach and public engagement efforts over the last few months in preparation for these decisions.

Motion No. M2023-19: (1) Identifying additional alternatives for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project, including new alignment and station options, and (2) modifying the preferred alternative in the South Federal Way segment from the station area south

Chair Balducci asked Curvie Hawkins, High-Capacity Transit Development Director, to begin the presentation. He introduced Chelsea Levy, Acting Deputy Executive Director for Capital Project Development. Ms. Levy initiated the presentation and handed it back to Mr. Hawkins to continue.

Chair Balducci asked Mr. Hawkins to again state the key elements of the motion. Mr. Hawkins clarified that the motion would identify additional alternatives for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and alter the previously identified preferred alternative for the alignment south of the planned South Federal Way station.

Vice Chair Roscoe stated that Fife still supports and is hopeful of the identified Preferred Alternative for the station in the city, and the city is working with Sound Transit and FEMA.

**Motion No. M2023-19 was moved by Boardmember Roscoe and seconded by Boardmember Backus with a do-pass recommendation.**

Boardmember Keel asked about how the potential year-long delay to the publication of the DEIS translates to a three-year delay in the beginning of revenue service. Ms. Levy clarified that the additional work to prepare the DEIS is because the alignment being added in South Federal Way is roughly one-third of the entire Tacoma Dome Link Extension. Moreover, the previously identified 2032 Service date was in December, so the push to 2035 is less than three years, but staff is looking into mitigation measures.

Chair Balducci thanked staff for mentioning the letter for the Pierce County Council and asked for them to keep the Board informed of discussion with partners to meet the concerns expressed in the letter.

Boardmember Keel asked for him and the Pierce County Boardmembers to be kept in the loop on those discussions and potential response plans. Ms. Levy noted staff's intent to return to the committee in the next few months with an update on those discussions. She highlighted that potential options include expanding Sounder service and increased ST Express service to the south corridor that is already budgeted but facing staffing challenges.

Chair Balducci expressed interest in looking at long-term Sounder service expansion, which she realizes is more difficult to implement than it is to ask for.

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Dave Somers  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the eight members present that Motion No. M2023-19 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-20: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amendment to the Expedited Permitting, Reimbursement, and Construction Services Agreement with the City of Shoreline to support the design review, permitting, and approval of permit conditions for the Lynnwood Link Extension, adding scope and increasing the agreement amount by \$1,775,321, with a 10 percent contingency of \$177,532, totaling \$1,952,853, for a total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$8,052,568, all within the Board approved project budget.

Chair Balducci asked Taylor Carroll, Light Rail Development Manager, to begin the staff presentation. Mr. Carroll noted he is joined by Randy Harlow, Executive Project Director for the Lynnwood Link Extension.

Chair Balducci thanked the team for the clear presentation and was pleased to hear cooperation with partnering jurisdictions.

Boardmember McDermott asked how much of the remaining uncommitted funds for the project are expected to be used. Mr. Harlow noted that much of the remaining uncommitted funds are related to final construction and close-out, with contingency to address any changes along the way to project completion.

**Motion No. M2023-20 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember McDermott with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-20 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2023-08: Authorizing the chief executive officer to acquire certain real property interests, including acquisition by condemnation to the extent authorized by law, and to reimburse eligible relocation and reestablishment expenses incurred by affected owners and tenants as necessary for the Stride BRT Bus Base North project.

Chair Balducci asked James Chung, Real Property Project Manager, to begin the presentation. He noted he is joined virtually by Faith Roland, Real Property Director, and Rick Capka, Bus Rapid Transit Deputy Program Executive.

Boardmember Baker inquired into three of the five properties, asking for clarification on the structures identified in the visual provided. Mr. Chung noted that all five properties included in this action are planned as temporary construction easements, including a portion of roadway in the area.

**Resolution No. R2023-08 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember McDermott with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Resolution No. R2023-08 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-21: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the agreement contingency to Task Order B-11 under the Umbrella Agreement GCA 3361 with the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide continued construction administration and construction services for the East Link Extension rights-of-way adjacent to or within SR-520 in the amount of \$180,800, for new total authorized task order amount not to exceed \$1,776,430, all within the Board approved project budget.

Chair Balducci asked Jon Lebo, East Link Senior Executive Project Director, to present on this item and the remaining five agenda items as they all relate to the East Link Extension.

Chair Balducci asked if committee members have questions on any of the six motions covered so the committee could expeditiously move through a series of votes. She noted that some of the additional funds for contracts appear tied to craftsmanship issues and asked for assurance that the agency is prepared to pursue recovery of funds at the appropriate time.

Ron Lewis, Design, Engineering, and Construction Management Executive Director, confirmed that is the intent of agency, should further investigation find legal justification for those recovery efforts.

Chair Balducci asked Boardmembers McDermott and Baker to help by providing expeditious motions to forward and seconds on the action items.

**Motion No. M2023-21 was moved by Boardmember McDermott and seconded by Boardmember Baker with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-21 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-22: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the agreement contingency to Task Order B-12 under the Umbrella Agreement GCA 3361 with the Washington State Department of Transportation to provide continued construction administration and construction services for the I-90 segment of East Link construction contracts in the amount of \$1,039,060, for a new total authorized task order amount not to exceed \$6,698,683, all within the Board approved project budget.

**Motion No. M2023-22 was moved by Boardmember McDermott and seconded by Boardmember Baker with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-22 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-23: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with Northwest Transit Systems Partners for Construction Management Consultant services for the East Link Extension's Systems in the amount of \$8,800,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$72,661,124, with \$36,721,160 allocated to the East Link Extension, all within the Board approved project budget.

**Motion No. M2023-23 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember McDermott with a do-pass recommendation.**

Boardmember Backus noted typo on the header of the motion and asked for clarification.

Staff confirmed it was a typo and noted it would be corrected prior to final adoption at the Board meeting.

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**



**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-23 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-24: Authorizes the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with Mass Electric Construction Company for the East Link Systems Construction contract in the amount of \$15,000,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$395,450,000, with \$283,556,534 allocated to the East Link Extension, all within the Board approved project budget.

**Motion No. M2023-24 was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember McDermott with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-24 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-25: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with Kiewit-Hoffman, East Link Constructors, for the construction of the Seattle to South Bellevue Segment of the East Link Extension project in the amount of \$14,000,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$735,660,541, all within the Board approved project budget.

**Motion No. M2023-25 was moved by Boardmember McDermott and seconded by Boardmember Baker with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-25 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2023-26: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with Jacobs Project Management Company to provide ongoing construction management consultant services for the Seattle to South Bellevue segment of the East Link Extension in the amount of \$17,000,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$80,919,350, all within the Board approved project budget.

**Motion No. M2023-26 was moved by Boardmember McDermott and seconded by Boardmember Baker with a do-pass recommendation.**

**Chair Balducci called for a roll call vote.**

**Ayes**

Nancy Backus  
David Baker  
Bruce Harrell  
Kent Keel  
Joe McDermott  
Kim Roscoe  
Claudia Balducci

**Nays**

**It was carried by unanimous vote of the seven members present that Motion No. M2023-26 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Chair Balducci noted that staff has been flagging that the quantity of items coming to the System Expansion Committee would be increasing as ST3 projects continue to advance. She asked staff if today's volume was an early wave of that increase or simply due to East Link construction. Mr. Lewis responded affirmatively to both reasons.

**Executive session** - None.

**Other business** - None.

**Next meeting**

Thursday, April 13, 2023  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Board Room &  
Virtually via WebEx

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Roscoe  
System Expansion Committee Vice Chair

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on April 13, 2023, AJM.