

*1/11/2024 Special Board of Directors  
Meeting Written Public Comment  
Submissions*

Submissions

**Stephen Felser** ..... 2

**Michael Williams** ..... 2

**Rachel Smith – Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce** ..... 2

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## *Stephen Fesler*

I want to be clear that this board cannot hire its contractor as CEO, interim or otherwise. This agency must have policies around cooling-off periods before hiring anyone for a principal management position when they have been employed by a major contractor.

I don't question Sparrman's engineering skills despite HNTB's terribly clumsy and shoddy work for Sound Transit, but the perception of conflict of interest here is just too clear. Appointing Sparrman is an act of total corruption.

This board cannot afford to take this action. Doing so would further tarnish a heavily damaged public image of Sound Transit and its board. Do more work and seek another candidate.  
Kind regards,

Stephen A. Fesler

## *Michael Williams*

Hello,

I'd like to ask this of the Board during the Special Meeting on Thursday January 11th's in regards to possibly appointing Goran Sparrman as interim chief executive officer.

I'd like to state that an internal Sound Transit candidate for Interim CEO feels like a better choice to increase better internal agency trust and cooperation with the board instead of the several week lag it would take to fully integrate an outside and temporary candidate. This proved successful during the prior CEO transition period and seems like the most cost effective method as the agency works through several large scale projects that require it's attention and continued support, rather than a disruptive new and temporary addition.

Thank you,  
Michael Williams

## *Rachel Smith – Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce*

**The substance of this comment is within a letter included at the end of this summary document.**

Dear Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, attached is a letter of support for Motion 2024-02 on today's agenda to approve Goran Sparrman as interim CEO.

Thank you,

**Rachel Smith**

*President and CEO*

[Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce](#)

## *Rashma Agarwal – Economic Alliance Snohomish County*

**The substance of this comment is within a letter included at the end of this summary document.**

Dear Sound Transit,

We understand that the Board of Directors will be holding a special meeting at 3pm to approve the interim CEO's appointment. Please find attached Economic Alliance Snohomish County's letter in support of the motion.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Best,  
Rashma

## *Comments received after the deadline*

*Alex Tsimerman*

STOP! NOW!  
DEM NAZI FASCISM  
YUNTA!!!  
BANDITO!!!

Alex Tsimerman

Pt. Standup-America!



January 10, 2024

Dow Constantine, Chair  
Sound Transit Board of Directors  
401 S. Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair Constantine,

On behalf of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 2,400 members, I am writing today to urge your approval of Motion 2024-02 appointing Goran Sparrman as interim CEO. We appreciate the leadership of Chair Constantine and Vice Chair Somers in bringing this motion forward today.

Mr. Sparrman is uniquely qualified to fill this role as a transportation professional with more than 30 years of experience and public agency leadership, a deep understanding of the Puget Sound region, and strong relationships with agency staff, Board members, and stakeholders in the community. This will be both an exciting and pivotal year for Sound Transit. The opening of light rail on the Eastside and to Lynnwood will mean thousands more people will have daily access to reliable and fast transit to get them to jobs, school, and recreation. In 2025, light rail across Lake Washington and to Downtown Redmond will open, followed by Federal Way in 2026. Altogether, this represents 34 new miles of light rail and 20 new stations added to the system in just three years, an unprecedented undertaking by the agency.

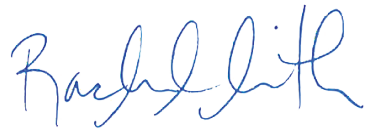
At the same time, Sound Transit is facing significant headwinds on projects under construction and in planning. Completing East Link across Lake Washington in 2025 ahead of the 2026 World Cup is a must do and deserves direct oversight by agency leadership and the Board. And like so many agencies across the country, cost increases due to global challenges of supply chain disruptions and labor shortage are affecting the entire ST3 program. The Board is facing critical decisions that must be well-informed by transparent and complete information prepared by the agency.

Recommendations by the Technical Advisory Group to improve project delivery offer an important roadmap to improve the agency's project delivery and must advance swiftly. It is encouraging to see the recruitment underway of new agency executives with megaproject experience.

These successes, challenges, and time critical work are all reasons why Mr. Sparrman is the right person to lead the agency while a permanent CEO is identified. We continue to believe the agency needs a leader who can drive a culture of trust and accountability, be an exceptional partner within the agency and externally, embrace challenges and complexity, and deliver results. Mr. Sparrman has the right combination of skills and experience to lead the agency on an interim basis and continue the important work that is underway.

We stand ready to partner with Mr. Sparrman, the Board of Directors, and agency staff to deliver high quality transit service for the benefit of the entire region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Smith  
President & CEO  
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

January 11, 2024

Dow Constantine, Chair  
Sound Transit Board of Directors  
401 S. Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Chair Constantine,

As the county-designated economic development organization and regional chamber of commerce, Economic Alliance Snohomish County (EASC), would like to urge your approval of Motion 2024-02 appointing Goran Sparrman as interim CEO. We appreciate the leadership of Chair Constantine and Vice Chair Somers in bringing this motion forward today.

Mr. Sparrman is uniquely qualified to fill this role as a transportation professional with more than 30 years of experience and public agency leadership, a deep understanding of the Puget Sound region, and strong relationships with agency staff, Board members, and stakeholders in the community.

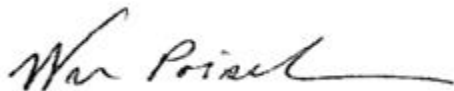
This will be both an exciting and pivotal year for Sound Transit. The opening of light rail on the Eastside and to Lynnwood will mean thousands more people will have daily access to reliable and fast transit to get them to jobs, school, and recreation. In 2025, light rail across Lake Washington and to Downtown Redmond will open, followed by Federal Way in 2026. Altogether, this represents 34 new miles of light rail and 20 new stations added to the system in just three years, an unprecedented undertaking by the agency. In addition, the system is moving forward with light rail expansion efforts, including the planned opening of the Everett Link Extension in 2037 that will serve Snohomish County's Southwest regional industrial and employment center with more than 40,000 employees.

At the same time, Sound Transit is facing significant headwinds on projects under construction and in planning. Starting up Lynnwood Link with sufficient capacity to meet demand is critical to meet customer expectations and build public confidence in the program. Completing East Link across Lake Washington in 2025 ahead of the 2026 World Cup is a must do because it will also double capacity in North King and Snohomish counties, the busiest part of the whole system and deserves direct oversight by agency leadership and the Board. And like so many agencies across the country, cost increases due to global challenges of supply chain disruptions and labor shortage are affecting the entire ST3 program. The Board is facing critical decisions that must be well-informed by transparent and complete information prepared by the agency.

These successes, challenges, and time critical work are all reasons why Mr. Sparrman is the right person to lead the agency while a permanent CEO is identified. We continue to believe the agency needs a leader who can drive a culture of trust and accountability, be an exceptional partner within the agency and externally, embrace challenges and complexity, and deliver results. Mr. Sparrman has the right combination of skills and experience to lead the agency on an interim basis and continue the important work that is underway.

EASC stands ready to partner with Mr. Sparrman, the Board of Directors, and agency staff to deliver high quality transit service that continues to move Snohomish County and the entire region forward.

Sincerely,



Wendy Poischbeg  
Interim President & CEO  
Vice President of Economic Development