

## Summary Minutes

**Board Meeting**  
**November 21, 2024**

### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Dow Constantine and was available for viewing in person and online.

The meeting was recorded and can be found at <https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/board-directors/meeting-videos>.

### Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chairs
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor (P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

  

Board members	
(A) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor (P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor (P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive (P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor (P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor (P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor (A) Jim Kastama, City of Puyallup Mayor	(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary (P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Council President (A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember (A) Dave Upthegrove, King County Council Chair (P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember (P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember (P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Vice Chair

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

### Report of the Chair

Revising the Agenda - Chair Constantine announced that Resolution No. R2024-26 would be removed from the Consent Agenda and, due to an error in the notice letters to affected property owners, the Board will need to take up consideration of that action after 3:00pm. If needed, a recess would be called to hold the meeting until that time. He called for any objections, and no objections were made.

Monthly Contract Report - The meeting packet included the monthly CEO contract report for October 2024.

### CEO Report

Interim CEO Sparrman provided the report.

#### December UW-related Disruption

CEO Sparrman reminded the Board and the public of a planned service disruption on December 7, and December 8, 2024, to repair the overhead power system just north of UW station. The repairs will allow the trains to go full speed through that stretch of the 1 Line after roughly two months of limited speed. He recapped the three segments that the 1 Line will be split into and noted that a supplementary bus

bridge would be running between U District and Capitol Hill stations. He mentioned that the Board and public will have another chance to hear about the logistics at the December Rider Experience and Operations Committee meeting.

CEO Sparrman also flagged that three additional disruptions to service in the downtown segment will occur early in the new year to complete East Link tie-in work. He added that the agency is planning much of this work during the periods when ridership is historically lowest.

#### Board Annual Program Review Available

The Board recently received the Board Annual Program review, and the Agency has posted the document to the Sound Transit website. The report begins with an executive summary, while the full report summarizes financial capacity, accomplishments, key issues and challenges, and key benefits.

#### Budget Process Appreciation

CEO Sparrman thanked the Board for their leadership and willingness to accelerate the budget process this year. He added that moving the timeline up alleviates some risk with planning for budget adoption at the last meeting of the year.

#### Introductory Remarks to the At-grade Crossings presentation

CEO Sparrman noted the urgency in advancing the At-Grade Crossing safety work. While he is pleased with the progress to date, he knows that more challenging work is ahead. He also stressed that the presentation today would focus on treatments and solutions that Sound Transit can influence and control, while further dialogue will continue with partners to study broader opportunities that will require deep interagency partnership.

### **Public Comment**

Chair Constantine announced that the Board was accepting public comment via email and verbally through the virtual meeting platform.

The following people provided written public comment to the Board:

William Condon  
2 Unnamed Commenters  
Marilyn Kennel  
Kyle Jacobson  
Jade Smith  
Stephen Fesler

The following people provided in-person verbal public comment to the Board:

Connie So  
Brien Chow  
Kathleen Barry Johnson  
Daisy Quin  
Betty Lau  
Paul Wu

The following people provided virtual verbal public comment to the Board:

Martin Westerman  
Joe Kunzler  
Marilyn Kennel  
Kathy H.

## Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: October 2024

Minutes: Minutes for the October 24, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2024-69: Authorizing the chief executive officer to enter into an agreement with the City of Bellevue to temporarily reduce transit parking requirements at BelRed Station to facilitate construction of transit-oriented development.

Motion No. M2024-70: Reappointing Mr. Scott Lampe and Mr. Paul Thompson to the Community Oversight Panel to serve a third term of three years beginning December 1, 2024, and expiring November 30, 2027.

Motion No. M2024-75: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an Amendment to extend the existing Commuter Rail Rolling Stock Maintenance Agreement with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for the continued maintenance of Sounder locomotives and cars, including the cost of fuel, in an amount not to exceed \$29,785,893 for a new total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$386,929,580.

Motion No. M2024-76: Appointing Lisa Bogardus as the Labor Liaison to the Sound Transit Board for the remainder of the unexpired labor liaison term beginning December 1, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2027.

**The consent agenda was moved by Board member Franklin and seconded by Board member Walker.**

Board member Millar asked that Motion No. M2024-71 be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration, as he intends to abstain on that action due to his positive in the Washington State Executive branch.

Board member Balducci asked to confirm that Resolution No. R2024-26 was removed from the Consent Agenda to consideration later in the meeting. Chair Constantine confirmed that the Resolution was removed.

**It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 13 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.**

## Business items

Motion No. M2024-71: Adopting the Sound Transit 2025 State Legislative Program and directing staff to evaluate and engage in issues that impact the agency as it continues to implement a regional high-capacity transit system.

**It was moved by Board member Walker, seconded by Board member Frizzell, and carried by the majority vote of the 13 Board members present, with Board member Millar abstaining, that Motion No. M2024-71 be approved as presented.**

Resolution No. R2024-25: Adopting an annual budget for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2025, and adopting the 2025 Transit Improvement Plan.

Ryan Fisher, Executive Director for Finance, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Dammeier inquired into whether the funding devoted to State of Good Repair contains adequate financing to address issues of reliability with Vertical Transportation. Mr. Fisher responded that the vertical transportation modernization program is accounted for in the Transit Improvement Plan, in addition to high-level maintenance dollars included in the operating budget. Mr. Fisher added that he

believes a presentation on the State of Good Repair program is coming before the Rider Experience and Operations Committee in the coming months.

**Resolution No. R2024-25 was moved by Board member Walker and seconded by Board member Birney.**

**Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2024-25.**

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Claudia Balducci	Roger Millar
Angela Birney	Kim Roscoe
Bruce Dammeier	Dave Somers
Cassie Franklin	Peter von Reichbauer
Christine Frizzell	Kristina Walker
Bruce Harrell	Girmay Zahilay
	Dow Constantine

**It was carried by the majority vote of the 13 Board members present that Resolution No. R2024-25 be approved as presented.**

**Reports to the Board**

Presentation on the At-grade Crossing Program Draft Master Plan – Rainier Valley and Systemwide

Moises Gutierrez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Agency Oversight, began the presentation, noting that this report is in response to the Board direction in Motion No. M2024-45. He explained that today’s presentation will include elements of the presentation initially intended for the October Board meeting that had to be truncated due to time constraints. He stressed the importance of this work in saving lives and building engagement with the community. He turned the presentation over to Victoria Morris, Acting Project Director.

Ms. Morris noted that she is joined by Anna Huntington, Deputy Director, and Branden Porter, Acting Chief Safety Officer. In alignment with Motion No. M2024-45, today’s presentation will update the Board on the work toward an At-grade Crossing Program Master Plan. The presentation will review the work to-date and preview next steps. Ms. Morris defined the program’s scope and stressed the central role that the Rainier Valley has in the program. The program has five defined program priorities: reduce collisions and near misses, provide a consistent and safe systemwide passenger experience, provide reliable service with degradation to operational performance, increase accessibility to the entire Sound Transit network, and build positive, proactive relationships with surrounding communities.

Between 2021 and June 2024, Sound Transit in partnership with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) completed nine projects in the Rainer Valley. Preliminary analysis of the enhancements shows that there is a 33% reduction in pedestrian-train safety events and a 3% reduction in vehicle-train safety events. Additional long-term analysis is planned to continue, and updated data will be included in the final Master Plan document. Further partnership with SDOT is especially crucial to enhancements in the Rainier Valley.

Ms. Morris reported that the Master Plan is designed to provide clarity and transparency into the development of enhancement projects, guide collaboration with regional partners, and summarize data trends. The Master Plan includes 17 projects in various stages of development and are primarily within Sound Transit’s – and Board’s – full control to implement. Specifically speaking to automatic pedestrian gates pilot project in the Rainier Valley that was referenced during the July discussion on Motion No. M2024-45, Ms. Morris reported that the 30% milestone is about to be reached and the project is on track for a Q2 2026 completion date.

Ms. Morris added that the At-Grade Crossing program is also working to identify grant opportunities, both as a standalone program and in conjunction with other Sound Transit projects/programs. The program's current budget is \$13.8 million, and the current projected cost of implementing all identified enhancements is \$65-96 million. The program would return to the Board for additional funding for specific projects once development work is complete.

Ms. Morris elaborated on the importance of collaboration and coordination with regional partners due to their authority on roadways and traffic operations, permitting, and maintenance. She also stressed the internal coordination with other Sound Transit departments.

Continued work to finalize the Master Plan will stretch from December 2024 to May 2025. Staff will work to integrate Board feedback on assessment criteria, advance development of enhancements, further coordinate with SDOT, and continue community engagement. Ms. Morris summarized the focus areas of community engagement: Master Plan Engagement, Project Development and Construction, and ongoing Safety Education and Awareness. She also highlighted specific engagement steps that will take place over the next few months.

Ms. Morris closed the report by noting that the program team intends to return to the Board in May 2025 with the final Master Plan.

Chair Constantine applauded the collaborative effort between Sound Transit, SDOT, and the local communities for their work in quickly advancing these safety efforts, both in the Rainier Valley and systemwide. He also noted his support for near-term and medium-term efforts to enhance safety and challenged the agency to begin looking at longer-term operational and capital improvements.

Board member Dammeier inquired about what peer agency review has been conducted. Ms. Morris said that while it was included in the slides, there is an appendix in the draft Master Plan that looks at peer agencies. She added that there have been conversations with applicable staff at peer agencies to gather information. Board member Dammeier asked if safety metrics are set before an enhancement is implemented. Ms. Morris said that the area of improvement is identified, and once enacted, there are avenues to determine the true effect of the improvement, such as through safety reporting at the agency. Board member Dammeier asked whether safety engagement takes place when a new alignment prepares for and begins revenue service. Ms. Morris confirmed the agency does perform additional safety messaging when extensions are brought on for service.

Board member Zahilay thanked all involved for their work in advancing this critical work, as he knows from his own engagement with the Rainier Valley community that at-grade safety is a key issue. He asked if analysis into long-term, larger improvements will be included in the Master Plan delivered in May. Mr. Gutierrez acknowledged that the current enhancements being reviewed are within the current Sound Transit footprint and system space, and committed to also launching analysis into larger improvements that may be more complicated. CEO Sparrman concurred with Mr. Gutierrez.

Board member Harrell asked for more detail about the automated pedestrian gates, including engagement. Ms. Morris responded that work on how to engage on these gates and their impacts on the community is in development, alongside the enhancements themselves. She added that continued collaboration with SDOT is needed to determine the interfacing of these gates as Sound Transit infrastructure with SDOT-controlled traffic and signals. Ms. Huntington added that additional peer agency engagement on automatic pedestrian gates is planned for early 2025.

Board member Balducci inquired into what next steps exist for the Board on this work. Ms. Morris reiterated that the current project list is dynamic and even Board member feedback could spur additional projects analysis. She noted that at the moment, it is planned for a funding request to accompany or shortly follow the May 2025 report of the full Master Plan. Following that, it is expected that an annual report would be provided to inform the Board of progress made and any new project or enhancements

being analyzed. Board member Balducci asked if the Board would be tasked with formally adopting the Master Plan. Mr. Gutierrez responded that staff will work with the Board on the method of adoption, citing that there is still work to be done on the current projects being analyzed, as well as acting on feedback provided today. CEO Sparman concurred and noted that should a funding request come forth, it would be tied to a recommended list of projects, which the Board will be able to influence and adopt. Board member Balducci asked that a Board direction motion be drafted at some point to aim for the larger improvements.

Board member Walker raised a request to provide information on other key partnerships aside from SDOT, noting that SDOT is the current high-priority partner for the Rainier Valley. She asked if the listed current projects are funded. Ms. Morris confirmed that projects being advanced are funded, and that part of the ongoing analysis is to quantify cost for identified enhancements that would require additional funding. Board member Walker also asked what additional analysis work on the collisions – such as type of crash or demographics of those involved – has been done. Mr. Porter responded that 90% of collisions in the Rainier Valley are specific due to left turns across the tracks. He noted that there is constant analysis of safety data, which has helped to inform the list of projects being studied. He noted that individual circumstances of each event are difficult to accurately determine. Mr. Gutierrez noted that enhanced safety information is also planned for regular reporting to the Rider Experience and Operations Committee.

Board member Birney noted that in her recent trip to Tampa, Florida, she observed that their streetcar had similar issues with left turns and crossing safety. She thanked staff for their work in developing the plan and analyzing potential enhancements.

## **Business items (cont.)**

Resolution No. R2024-26: 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 construction, operation, and maintenance of the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project.

Chair Constantine noted that it was now after 3:00 pm. He asked if any additional public comments received on this action. Ms. Flores reported that no additional written comments or sign-ups for verbal comment were received.

Clint Dameron, Acting Real Property Director, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Balducci noted that the System Expansion Committee recommended this action to the Board and reiterated her support for its final passage.

**It was moved by Board member Balducci, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 11 Board members present that Resolution No. R2024-26 be approved as presented.**

## **Executive Session**

None.

## **Other business**

Board member Balducci reported that the CEO Search Group – composed of Board members Somers, Dammeier, and Balducci – has identified a search firm for the CEO recruitment process, Krauthamer & Associates. The search firm will begin contacting and interviewing regional stakeholders for feedback on the profiles and priorities of the position.

The search firm is planning to provide feedback at the December Board meeting for discussion with the Board for input on CEO goals and agency priorities. The firm is on track to post the position and begin accepting applications in January.

### **Next meeting**

The next regular Board meeting would be held on December 19, 2024, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via Zoom. Chair Constantine noted that the December Board meeting would be taking place a week earlier than usual to accommodate holiday schedules.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Dow Constantine  
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on December 19, 2024, AJM.