



Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting January 9, 2025

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Committee Chair Balducci 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/livestream-video>.

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) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(A) Jim Kastama, Puyallup Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
	(P) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember

Alejandro Monzon, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Shawn Yim Memorial

Chair Balducci shared with the Committee and public that a memorial service for King County Metro operator Shawn Yim was planned for tomorrow, January 10, at Lumen Field’s WAMU Theatre.

CEO Report

Interim Chief Executive Officer Goran Sparman provided the report.

Activation Update

CEO Sparman reported that the Downtown Redmond Link Extension will start operator familiarization training this month, which is a crucial step to maintaining the schedule for a Spring opening. He also highlighted that the Rider Experience and Operations Committee will hear about planned service disruptions related to supporting system expansion work. He mentioned that work is upcoming to integrate the 2 Line with the 1 Line.

East Link Starter Line award

The East Link Starter Line (2 Line) received an Award of Merit in the Airport/Transit category from Engineering News-Record Northwest. This is in addition to awards received by the Lynnwood Link Extension.

Public comment

Chair Balducci announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted verbally.

Written public comments:

Justin Roll
Bill Hirt
Brien Chow
Betty Lau
MaryKate Ryan

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Betty Lau
Brien Chow

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

None

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: December 12, 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the December 12, 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2025-01: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Project Administration Agreement with the City of Bellevue for the I-405 Stride Bus Rapid Transit project.

Rick Capka, Acting Stride Program Executive, and Joey Altchech, Senior Project Manager, gave the staff presentation.

Vice Chair Roscoe asked if there was a reason why the staff report for the action noted that services under the agreement are not expected to exceed \$300,000 but also includes language deferring to the CEO's delegated authority limit of \$10,000,000. Staff responded that should the agreement be approved, it would be subject to the standard \$10,000,000 of delegated authority to the CEO. The additional information regarding the expected cost range is supplemental and for transparency purposes.

Chair Balducci noted that these types of agreements are a good reminder of the intergovernmental cooperation that keeps the agency's projects moving. She asked for staff to confirm that the reason this agreement requires Board approval is not due to the cost but since it involves another jurisdiction. Staff confirmed that is the case. Chair Balducci added that the Board has been on the path of pushing some decision-making to staff where appropriate and receiving reports for scrutiny and oversight. Chair Balducci inquired into which of the current reports may capture those changes within the CEO authority. Deputy CEO Terri Mestas responded that the Board receives a monthly contract report that includes both new contracts and contract modifications under the CEO's delegated authority.

Chair Balducci also opined on potentially having a periodic report on project spending projections as another layer of oversight.

Board member Birney added her feedback that rationale for why Board approval is necessary was slightly muddled with the information on cost expectations.

Board member Strauss again asked for clarity on what the Board is approving funding-wise. Chair Balducci responded that the Board is approving the agreement, not the specific funding. Board member Strauss stated that he requires briefings on all actions before he is comfortable voting in favor of any motion. Since that could not take place before the meeting, he intends to abstain on votes for today's actions.

It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the voice vote of all committee members present, with Board member Strauss abstaining, that Motion No. M2025-01 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2025-01: 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.

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

Chair Balducci asked for additional information on the acquisitions that seem to impact a large number of individuals at the same addresses/parcels. Mr. Dameron responded that those acquisitions are planned as strip takes affecting a condominium complex which warrants the agency to inform all resident due to their tax-paying relationship with the property.

Board member Strauss reiterated his intention to abstain on this action.

It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Vice Chair Roscoe, and carried by the voice vote of all committee members present, with Board member Strauss abstaining, that Resolution No. R2025-01 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Discussion on Draft 2025 System Expansion Committee Work Plan

Chair Balducci briefly walked through the process that goes into the Work Plan and highlighted the Special Topics of Interest to the Committee portion. She noted that the topics currently included were carried over from last year's workplan or suggested by staff. She asked fellow committee members to provide feedback.

Vice Chair Roscoe noted her agreement with the special topics currently identified and thanked staff for proactively carrying over any previous topics.

Board member Strauss asked how staff plan to fully inform the Board of impacts to other projects when individual project decisions are being considered, referencing the key project decisions that are listed. CEO Sparrman responded that it is staff's duty to provide the broader programmatic context when discussion individual project decisions. CEO Sparrman also noted that an additional effort is underway to review ST3 in the context of the current construction environment, given that 2016 and 2025 look very different from the perspective of costs. This is to help to further contextualize each decision that the Board may consider in 2025.

Board member Harrell asked, elaborating on Board member Strauss's point, that there is a longer runaway for Board member engagement on individual actions, in particular property acquisitions, before public consideration. He noted that the information being provided is good but highlighted a preference for getting the information earlier.

Chair Balducci noted that this is a conversation that surfaces occasionally on this Board. Speaking for herself, she noted that she doesn't need a tremendous amount of detail on every individual action as

most are fairly routine. She called out property acquisitions and project decisions as two key areas where earlier information is definitely helpful and desired. CEO Sparrman acknowledged the request and noted a few of the current avenues by which Board members receive information. He stated that staff are always available for feedback and are willing to adapt as needed.

Board member Birney also highlighted a desire for more programmatic and project-level information when considering individual actions.

Chair Balducci asked staff to look into staff report improvements in response to the discussion today and from feedback from other Board members. Board member Birney agreed with asking staff to engage in that work. She noted that this often happens overtime as boards, committees, or commissions see turnover.

Chair Balducci noted she would like to work with the Board Administration team to include a discussion on this topic to the Work plan. CEO Sparrman thanked the Board members for their feedback.

Executive session - None.

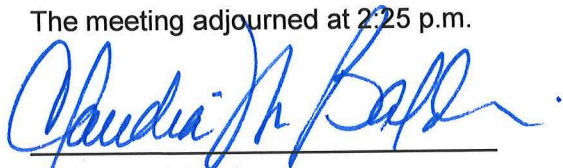
Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.



Claudia Balducci
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on February 13, 2025, AJM.