



Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
January 23, 2025

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Chair Dave Somers 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) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive	(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor	(P) Julie Meredith, Secretary of Transportation
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Council President
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(A) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Jim Kastama, City of Puyallup Mayor	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Vice Chair
(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive	

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

Report of the Chair

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

Welcome New Board members – Chair Somers welcomed newly-elected Pierce County Executive Ryan Mello and newly-appointed Washington State Secretary of Transportation Julie Meredith to the Board. Board member Mello previously served on the Tacoma City Council and Pierce County Council and is a longtime member of the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners. Board member Meredith has extensive experience within the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) from leading large-scale transportation infrastructure projects. She also previously served as the WSDOT Alternate to the Sound Transit Board.

Welcome Labor Liaison Lisa Bogardus – Chair Somers also introduced Labor Liaison Lisa Bogardus, who began her term in December upon the retirement of Mark Riker. She currently serves as the Assistant Executive Secretary for the Seattle Building Trades Labor Council and is also an executive board member for the Puget Sound Labor Agency.

CEO Search Update – Chair Somers reported that since the Board’s discussion in December, the search firm, Krauthamer & Associates, has launched the search for the next Sound Transit CEO on January 3, and over 60 applicants have already responded to the search effort.

To continue moving forward, Chair Somers proposed that the CEO Selection Team, which is composed of himself, Committee Chairs Balducci, Backus, and Walker, and new Board member Mello, work to narrow the applications to those who most align with the selection criteria developed through stakeholder conversations and the Board’s discussion. Once narrowed, the Executive Committee can schedule meetings to hold interviews with those selected. He noted that the interviews would be open to non-Executive Committee members and would be held in Executive Sessions, as allowed under State law.

He asked if there were any objections to this plan. No objections were heard, and Chair Somers stated that work will continue to identify the agency’s next Chief Executive Officer.

CEO Report

Interim CEO Sparrman provided the report.

Shawn Yim Memorial Service

On January 10, CEO Sparrman and members of the agency’s leadership team attended the memorial service for King County Metro operator Shawn Yim, organized by the Amalgamated Transit Union. Noting the touching tributes by Mr. Yim’s colleagues and attendance from transit workers across the nation and Canada, CEO Sparrman also committed to collaborating with King County Metro and other agencies to implement joint solutions to enhance employee and passenger safety throughout the regional system.

Federal Way Link Extension Update

Earlier this month, the Federal Way Link Extension team successfully towed a railcar across Structure C and all the way down to Federal Way Downtown Station. This means that the project can begin testing activities at the sound end of the alignment, which have already been underway on the north end.

Introduction of Chief Strategy Officer Nadia Anderson, Ph.D.

On January 13, Sound Transit welcomed Dr. Nadia Anderson, Ph.D. as Chief Strategy Officer. Dr. Anderson will lead the new Strategy Department and guide the agency’s current and future strategic approaches in communications, marketing, engagement, government relations, innovation, transit-oriented development, and sustainability.

Dr. Anderson briefly introduced herself and stated her excitement to join Sound Transit.

Motion to Ratify Emergency Declaration

To conclude, CEO Sparrman spoke to his finding of an emergency related to critical system components of the Link light rail system. On Tuesday, he declared the emergency and issued a limited notice to proceed to HNTB to continue their work on these issues.

While Deputy CEO Moises Guterrez will present the action later in the meeting, CEO Sparrman added that this is another step in how the agency is taking Link reliability seriously.

Public Comment

Chair Somers 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:

Bill Hirt
Brien Chow
Betty Lau

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

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Day-Z Gould-Wong

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

Steve Casseaux
Jon Grant
Joe Reilly

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: December 2024

Minutes of the December 19, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

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.

Motion No. M2025-03: (1) Approving the key business terms of an agreement with the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) for the sale of Sound Transit surplus property in the U District in Seattle for the creation of a mixed-use project comprised of affordable housing and community-serving uses; and (2) delegating to the chief executive officer the authority to execute and subsequently amend, as necessary, the disposition and development agreement (DDA) and related covenants, conditions, and easements for the TOD project, all subject to the Board-approved key business terms.

Motion No. M2025-04: Adopting the permanent station name for the NE 130th Infill Station, located in north Seattle on the Lynnwood Link Extension.

The consent agenda was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Board member Backus.

Board member Kastama asked that Resolution No. R2025-02 be removed for separate consideration.

Vice Chair Balducci asked that Resolution No. R2025-01 be removed for separate consideration.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

Business items

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.

Vice Chair Balducci, noting that the System Expansion Committee did forward this item with a do-pass recommendation, wanted to elevate a concern raised in public comment regarding the scope of property acquisitions. She noted that while staff seek to inform the Board of the current intended acquisitions, whether they be partial or full and temporary or permanent impacts, the Resolutions considered by the Board authorize staff to acquire property by parcel, which has led to some comments over the years of

asking the Board to be more restrictive in its authorizations. She asked what assurances are given that the agency will only acquire what is necessary.

Clint Dameron, Acting Real Property Director, stated that due to the project development timeline and the project still being in Final Design, it is important to note that needs might change later down the line. Should the authorizing resolutions be over-restrictive, it would result in staff needing to return to the Board for authorization of any changes. He noted that once design is more fully developed, the agency would present an offer to the affected owners with much more detail on the specific property to be acquired. Should no agreement be reached, the Board has authorized staff to pursue acquisition by condemnation.

Vice Chair Balducci noted that if the scope of the property to be acquired dramatically changes after Board authorization, there should be adequate time for the affected owner to send in Public Comment to the Board should it be necessary.

It was moved by Vice Chair Balducci, seconded by Board member Roscoe, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-01 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-02: (1) Approving the chief executive officer's declaration that portions of six parcels ("TOD Sites") adjacent to the Federal Way Downtown Link light rail station and composed of four separate TOD Sites are surplus upon completion of Federal Way Link Extension construction; (2) declaring TOD Sites 1 and 2 as suitable for housing; (3) authorizes staff to offer TOD Sites 1 and 2 first to qualified entities for development of affordable housing; and (4) authorizes staff to offer TOD Sites 1 and 2 below market value, including at no cost, to facilitate affordable housing outcomes.

Board member Kastama stated that he was approached by Federal Way leaders asking for the first right of refusal on the sites listed in the action. He added that the city would develop the properties for the purposes included in the motion and sees the request as reasonable.

Matthew Matteo, Transit-oriented Development Project Manager, responded that the team has been collaborating with the City of Federal Way and would continue to do so, regardless of any amendment to the action. He also noted that further collaboration is already needed on Sites 3 and 4 which are not a part of today's action.

Board member Birney asked if there is precedent of Sound Transit offering a first right of refusal to local jurisdictions for TOD-related purposes. Mara D'Angelo, TOD Deputy Director, responded that she is unaware of any previous TOD action that included such a provision. She also noted that the City of Federal Way would be classified as a qualified entity under the 80/80/80 rule that guides TOD policy. Board member Birney followed-up by asking if the City would, under current practice, get special considerations. Ms. D'Angelo responded that a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) would be issued, which the city could opt to submit a bid for.

Board member Roscoe stated that the mechanism by which City leadership approached this request makes her uncomfortable in supporting Board member Kastama's request.

Board member Kastama responded by saying that he feels comfortable in elevating requests, whether they come from local leaders or everyday citizens, and stated that he would see that as appropriate from other Board members.

Vice Chair Balducci added that she also finds the process behind the request unusual as there was no letter from City leadership sent to the Board nor public comment from the City.

Board member von Reichbauer asked if there is a need to approve this action today. Mr. Matteo responded that approval today would allow staff to begin the lengthy process of preparing the RFP and any delay now would push out that issuance. Board member von Reichbauer asked how long the RFP

development process can take. Mr. Matteo responded that it would take several months and would be expected mid-year. Board member von Reichbauer stated that he wants to be sure there is time for him and other South King County leaders to reach out to the City for additional clarity on the request.

Board member Constantine suggested that the Board approve today's action as presented, which would give South King County Board members time to meet with City Leaders on the request and perhaps bring an amendment to the February Board meeting, if deemed prudent. Ms. D'Angelo confirmed that there is nothing in the action that would preclude those additional discussion from occurring.

Chair Somers added his concerns over the process of the request.

Board member Kastama noted that he is satisfied with the direction the Board will be taking and would not offer an amendment at this time.

It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member von Reichbauer, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-02 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-02: Adopting 2025 performance goals and objectives for Goran Sparrman, Sound Transit interim chief executive officer.

Chair Somers noted that the performance goals included in this action would be in place for the remainder of Interim CEO Sparrman's contract, which expires on May 15, 2025. The Board's leadership had also worked with CEO Sparrman and his team to develop the proposed goals and objectives.

It was moved by Board member Kastama, seconded by Board member Backus, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-02 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-06: Ratifying the chief executive officer's finding of the existence of an emergency to expedite Operational and Network Reliability work by engaging consultant services.

Moises Gutierrez, Deputy CEO for Agency Oversight, and Brian Holloway, Director of Infrastructure Engineering, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Walker asked if the work under the limited notice to proceed and the HNTB contract modification would presuppose any individual course of action, and if this scope of work falls into the technical or operational buckets. Mr. Gutierrez stated that the work covers both technical and operational aspects of Link system resiliency and does not presuppose any specific solutions to these issues.

It was moved by Board member Birney, seconded by Board member Kastama, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Motion No. M2024-06 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-05: Electing a Sound Transit Board Vice Chair from Pierce County for a two-year Vice Chair term, beginning January 23, 2025 and ending December 31, 2026.

Noting that the Board Rules stipulate that the Executive Committee is charged with developing recommendations for the Board leadership positions, and that the Executive Committee was unable to consider a nomination for Vice Chair given the timing of the most recent confirmation from Pierce County, Chair Somers asked that, by unanimous consent, the rules be suspended to allow the Board to consider the Motion. There were no objections.

Per the Board rules, the Washington State Secretary of Transportation is responsible for acting as Chair during the election of Sound Transit Board Officers Chair Somers asked Board member Meredith to preside over the action.

Board member Meredith asked for nominations for a Board Vice Chair from Pierce County.

Board member Roscoe nominated Ryan Mello for Board Vice Chair from Pierce County. Board member Constantine seconded the nomination. Board member Roscoe spoke to Board member Mello's capabilities to represent Pierce County's needs as a part of the Board's leadership.

Board member Constantine spoke in favor of Board member Mello's nomination as Board Vice Chair and welcomed him to the Sound Transit Board.

It was moved by Chair Somers, seconded by Board member Walker, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 15 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-05 be approved with Board member Mello named as Board Vice Chair from Pierce County.

Reports to the Board

There were no reports to the Board.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on February 27, 2025, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on February 27, 2025, AJM.