

Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Special Meeting March 11, 2025

Call to order

The special meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Committee Chair 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 Chair
(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive	(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor (A) Dow Constantine, King County Executive (A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor (A) Julie Meredith, Washington State Secretary of Transportation (P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember

Hunter Rancipher, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the Committee was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair - None

CEO Report - None

Public comment

Chair Somers announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted in-person and virtually.

The following people submitted written comments:

Janice Richardson	Corliss F. Gooch
Donna Popich	Ryan C.
Candace Shattuck	Elizabeth Reynolds
Gale Sketchley	

The following person provided in-person comments:

Noah Williams

The following people provided virtual comments:

Joe Kunzler
Wes Mills

Business items - None

Reports to the Committee – None

Executive Session

Chair Somers advised that the Committee was going into executive session to discuss the qualifications of CEO applicants. He introduced Amy Pearsall, Deputy General Counsel, who explained that the committee was allowed to enter into executive session to discuss the qualifications of applicants for public employment under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g).

Chair Somers noted that the Committee would be in executive session for 20 minutes.

The executive session began at 4:12 p.m., with the Committee scheduled to return at 4:32 p.m.

The executive session was extended by 20 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 4:52 p.m.

The executive session was further extended by 5 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 4:57 p.m.

The Executive session was further extended by 2 minutes, with the Committee scheduled to return at 4:59 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 4:59 p.m.

Chair Somers opened discussion for the recommendation of a final CEO candidate to the Board of Directors.

Chair Somers expressed his thanks for all those involved in the CEO selection process. He noted the extensive amount of work undertaken over the last few months, as well as the large number of candidates that shared their interest in the position. Chair Somers further shared his perspective on the needed leadership qualities in a new candidate, including the ability to navigate difficult headwinds the agency faces.

Committee Vice Chair Balducci requested an overview of the process thus far. Gregg Moser, of Krauthammer and Associates, provided a brief outline of the CEO search process. He noted that the position was opened in late December following stakeholder discussions and feedback, which led to over 60 candidates of interest. From that, 15 candidates were found to meet the minimum qualifications for the position, who were then forwarded to the CEO Selection Team for continued review, resulting in the final pool of five candidates for interview, which was then narrowed to three finalists.

Committee Vice Chair Mello shared his experience and involvement in the process and thanked the Board for its work. He also noted that the finalists had the opportunity to meet with multiple groups for further screening. Vice Chair Mello also outlined his top desired qualities in a candidate, including the ability to serve the entire region, an understanding of the complexities of the region, and the ability to resolve tough challenges.

Board member Backus shared her thoughts on the process, expressing her thanks for the robust process and the opportunity to participate. She also shared her priority in a new CEO being able to complete and successfully deliver the program and build the “spine” of the light rail network from Everett to Tacoma.

Board member George noted that variety and diversity of the voices included in the CEO search process, highlighting his view that all parties have had the opportunity to be heard throughout the process.

Board member Franklin expressed her thanks for Chair Somers' leadership throughout the process, while noting the importance of selecting a CEO candidate who will prioritize the efficient completion of the "spine" light rail connection across the region.

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Balducci and seconded by Board member Franklin that Candidate C be recommended to the Board for the Chief Executive Officer position and the Executive Committee Chair and Vice Chairs be authorized to negotiate an employment agreement with Candidate C with a goal of presenting an employment agreement to the Board for consideration.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote.

Ayes

Nays

Claudia Balducci
Cassie Franklin
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello
Julie Meredith
Kristina Walker
Dave Somers

Other business – None

Next meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2025
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.



Dave Somers
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on April 3, 2025, HRR