

Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
April 24, 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 (P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor (P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor (P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor (P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor (P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember (P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor (P) Julie Meredith, Secretary of Transportation	(A) Ed Prince, City of Renton Council President (P) De'Sean Quinn, King County Councilmember (P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor (P) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember (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

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

Upcoming CEO Goals action – Chair Somers noted that next month, the Board will consider an action to establish the annual goals for the agency's new CEO. Board Leadership will work with the new CEO to define a set of mutually agreed upon goals for the Executive Committee to consider forwarding to the Board. Motion No. M2025-15, which authorized the employment agreement with Dow Constantine, also imposed a May 30, 2025 deadline for the Board to establish these goals.

Thank you and Happy Retirement to Goran Sparrman – Chair Somers shared that when Goran Sparrman was appointed as Interim CEO, he graciously did so by postponing his planned retirement. Chair Somers thanked Mr. Sparrman for serving the region with his expertise and collaborative, collegial temperament. Mr. Sparrman not only urged the agency to rise to recent challenges but also celebrated with the agency at two historic light rail openings in Lynnwood and East King County. He wished Mr. Sparrman a restful retirement. Chair Somers also recounted his first interaction with Mr. Sparrman in 2001 on a research trip to Sweden. He presented Mr. Sparrman with a commemorative plaque for his service to the agency.

Board member Birney added her thanks to Mr. Sparrman and was looking forward to hopefully seeing him at the Downtown Redmond Link Extension opening on May 10.

Board member Walker echoed Chair Somers's comments and thanked Mr. Sparrman for his engagement with Board members during his tenure, especially during meetings throughout the region.

Vice Chair Balducci added that, at a time of transition, the Board was fortunate that Mr. Sparrman was available and willing to take on the role of Interim CEO. She noted that on top of the comments made in the Board room, she has heard nothing but positive feedback and appreciation from regional stakeholders about Mr. Sparrman. She reminisced on a routing change that Mr. Sparrman had made some years ago as a constant reminder of his willingness to be responsive.

Board member Frizzell added that Mr. Sparrman not only kept the CEO seat warm but really dove-in and faced the work head-on.

Board member Backus acknowledged that in her relatively short time knowing Mr. Sparrman, he made it obvious that he was not only the best pick at the time but would be a great Sound Transit CEO at any time.

Board member Strauss thanked Mr. Sparrman for the stability and future-path he has set for the agency. He added that many will personally benefit from his impacts on the region throughout this career.

Board member von Reichbauer agreed with the sentiments expressed by Vice Balducci and Board member Backus and provided an additional "Mahalo."

Mr. Sparrman thanked the Board for their kind remarks and noted that much of his success was rooted in the Sound Transit team that supported him, including the new Cabinet that has been assembled and all the staff that work to provide for the region. He thanked the Board for their initial and continued support during his tenure as Interim CEO.

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

Inaugural

CEO Constantine added his praise and thanks for Mr. Sparrman's tenure with the agency. He recounted that he was unable to convince Mr. Sparrman to postpone his retirement during an initial meeting regarding hiring an Interim CEO, but after some help from mutual colleagues and regional partners, he found Mr. Sparrman in a much more agreeable position.

As CEO Constantine begins his role, with support from Mr. Sparrman for a few more weeks, he committed to continuing many of the re-established priorities: trusting and empowering the agency's staff, executing and elevating the Board's vision, and working every day to delivery a reliable and safe work-class public transit system to the region. For decades, CEO Constantine has been a believer in Sound Transit's missions and has invested much of his career in building the system. He noted that he is well aware of the challenges the agency faces, including cost-constraints, service reliability, and dramatic changes with federal partners.

CEO Constantine laid out two guiding principles to meet these challenges: regionalism must always be central to the agency's mission, and that the agency's work must always be defined by transparency.

Thank you to riders

Yesterday, Sound Transit completed work to replace a section of rail that required reduced service through downtown Seattle. CEO Constantine thanked riders for enduring 10 days of reduced service, and for learning a new service pattern that was rolled out. While service in the downtown section was

reduced, the new pattern allowed for near-normal service on the north and south ends of the 1 Line. Transit partners also offered supplemental bus services to downtown, and the agency heavily publicized alternative routes for those needing to avoid the disruption. He added that there will be disruptions in the coming months as the agency continues State of Good Repair work and prepares to integrate the 1 and 2 Lines.

COMTO WA Agency of the Year

At it's Annual Gala on April 11, 2025, the Conference of Minority Transit Officials (COMTO) Washington State recognized Sound Transit as Agency of the Year. Chief Strategy Officer Nadia Anderson accepted the award on behalf of Sound Transit, which was instrumental in the formation of the Washington State COMTO chapter. Additionally, Audit Project Analyst Sherise Williams was recognized as COMTO WA's Emerging Leader of the Year.

Lynnwood Link Extension AGC National Awards

CEO Constantine reported that the Lynnwood Link Extension was recently recognized at the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America annual banquet. Both civil contractors received AGC Baldwin Group Build America National Awards. Stacy and Witbeck/Kiewit/Hoffman JV won the award for the Highway and Transportation \$100M+ category for the southern portion of the project, and Skanska won the award for the Construction Management Civil \$100M+ category for the northern portion of the project. Out of the 28 individual category winners, Skanska was also selected as the recipient of the Grand Award "Best of the Best" AGC project of the year.

Service Delivery Deputy CEO Recruitment

In partnership with the People and Culture team and Board Leadership, CEO Constatine is launching a competitive, national recruitment for hiring a permanent Deputy CEO for Service Delivery. As the agency continues to grow, operations and operational resilience are top priorities.

Downtown Redmond Link Extension Opening Day

On May 10, 2025, the Downtown Redmond Link Extension will be opened for service, extending the current 2 Line further east toward Marymoor Park and Redmond's downtown core. A speaking program will begin at 10:30am before a ribbon cutting and first ride around Noon.

Opening Day festivities will continue at both of the new stations until 4pm, and local non-profit organization and community partners will help to amplify the activities, ensuring a fun, equitable, and engaging celebration open to the public. Invitations have also been extended to the agency's Congressional delegation, state elected leaders, and regional stakeholders.

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:

Katrina Hoch
Martin Westerman and transit colleagues
Rachel Ann Hodson
Gary Reifel
Bill Hirt
Robert M Williams, on behalf of Rainier Valley Community Development Fund
Marilyn Kennell
Jan Roberts

Brien Chow
Betty Lau
Joe Kunzler
MaryKate Ryan
Scott Belz, on behalf of Merlone Geier Partners with the Commons at Federal Way

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

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Betty Lok

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

Joe Kunzler
Marilyn Kennell

Community Oversight Panel Annual Report

Tina Pierce, Community Oversight Panel (COP) Chair, provided the report. She summarized some key accomplishment and areas of concern with the report. She reported that despite facing challenges such as cost escalations, labor shortages, transitions in leadership, and agency reorganization, the panel found Sound Transit in substantial compliance in all areas monitored this past year. She also noted that it is crucial for the agency to proactively address these challenges to maintain compliance and ensure continued success and efficiency. Accomplishments included continued ridership recovery, a 202% increase in security staffing after contracting changes and additional trainings for Fare Ambassadors, increased fare engagement and platform checks that enable riders to purchase fares instead of being immediately penalized, expansion of payment methods via ORCA, the openings of the 2 Line and Lynnwood Link Extension, and continued implementation of the Technical Advisory Group recommendations. Areas of concern included financial constraints and stability, ST3 project delays, impacts from leadership vacancies and the agency reorganization effort, greater use of technology for Communications and engagement initiatives, and service reliability. Chair Somers thanked Ms. Pierce and the Panel for completing the 2024 Annual Report and their continued volunteer service to the agency and region.

Board member Walker thanked Ms. Pierce for her report and noted that she would like to see more regular touchpoints with the Community Panel. She asked what the process is for dialogue and follow-up between the Board and COP. Ms. Pierce responded that members of the Board Administration team work with other Sound Transit staff to provide information to the COP when questions from their meetings require follow-ups. She noted that any Board member is welcome to meet with the COP but noted that working through Board Administration is likely the path forward for general follow-up. CEO Constantine also added that he would be happy to help support the interbody dialogue as well.

Board member Roscoe shared the same sentiments as Board member Walker.

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: March 2025

Minutes of the March 27, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2025-18: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase certain NE 130th Street Infill Station project contract and/or agreement amounts as necessary, for a total authorized cumulative increase not to exceed \$12,000,000, all within the NE 130th Street Infill Station project approved baseline budget.

Motion No. M2025-19: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the cumulative contingency amount authorized to increase certain Lynnwood Link Extension contract and/or agreement amounts as necessary, by an amount of \$15,000,000 for a new total authorized cumulative contingency expenditure not to exceed \$30,000,000, all within the Lynnwood Link Extension approved baseline budget.

Motion No. M2025-20: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification to the construction contract with Hoffman Construction Company to provide General Contractor/Construction Manager services for Stride Bus Rapid Transit station shelters, furnishings, and systems in the amount of \$77,386,451, with a 12 percent contingency of \$9,286,374 totaling \$86,672,825, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$87,892,729.

Motion No. M2025-21: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Project Administration Agreement with the City of Tacoma for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project.

Resolution No. R2025-08: (1) 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 ("OMFS") project and (2) ratifying and confirming the authority granted under Resolution No. R2023-26 to acquire mobile homes and cell tower infrastructure situated on the Belmor Mobile Home Park, one of the subjects of that resolution.

Resolution No. R2025-09: 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.

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

Board member Roscoe thanked Board member Birney and staff for ensuring the Minutes accurately reflect the discussion at last month's meeting, noting her misattribution of comments during discussion.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Business items

Resolution No. R2025-10: (1) Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget to advance the West Seattle Link Extension project through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase into the Final Design phase by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,400,000 from \$270,340,863 to \$331,740,863 and b) increasing the adopted 2025 annual project budget by \$44,350,000 from \$94,926,236 to \$139,276,236; and (2) amending the Adopted 2025 Budget to advance the Ballard Link Extension project through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering phase by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$7,400,000 from \$806,619,999 to \$814,019,999 and b) increasing the adopted 2025 annual project budget by \$3,700,000 from \$96,298,561 to \$99,998,561.

Brad Owen, Executive Director over the West Seattle Link and Ballard Link Extensions, provided the staff presentation. Chair Somers noted that the presentation will cover the three interrelated actions.

Vice Chair Balducci briefly summarized the System Expansion Committee's discussion which applies to all the actions. She noted that there was robust discussion and many questions that still needed to be answered. She added that staff are hearing the discussions in the Board room and are advancing the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) in a much more phased approach than projects in the past, providing decision points for the Board that could be used as off-ramps. She highlighted the need, given the financial constraints the agency is seeing on system expansion projects, for the additional

information and transparency so that the Board is best able to see the potential paths forward. She asked that staff share a supplemental project timeline document with the other Board members that helped her to understand the path forward. While there were still questions to address after staff presented at the System Expansion Committee meeting, the Committee opted to forward the actions without recommendation so that staff could engage with the Board in the lead-up to the Board meeting and at today's System Expansion Committee meeting given the relative time sensitivity for these actions. She stated her support for today's actions as delaying these projects would also result in potential cost increases but underscored the need to understand trade-offs with each decision.

Resolution No. R2025-10 was moved by Board member Strauss and seconded by Board member Birney.

Board member Birney thanked the System Expansion Committee for its robust discussion and thanked staff for the clearer and more granular presentation today. She stated her support for the action.

Board member Walker thanked staff for the presentation. She noted that Board members on the ends of the ST3 plan, including herself, have concerns about the future implications of the costs increases seen, and acknowledged that the actions requested today will help to refine the WSLE project and better inform the Board for future decisions. She asked if the Board will have to be engaged to execute Phase 2 of the design contract after Phase 1 is complete and provides more information. Mr. Owen confirmed that is the case. She noted that will support today's actions.

Board member Franklin agreed with Board member Walker's comments and stressed the importance of both finding cost-savings and prioritizing the regional Link light rail spine. She stated her cautious support for the actions but added that her future support is contingent on ensuring the spine can be completed.

Board member Frizzell noted that she was concerned about not seeing the System Expansion Committee's do-pass recommendation on the actions. She cautioned her fellow Board members against falling into sunk cost thinking for when the project returns with more information and a potential request for funding for Phase 2 design work. She expressed willingness to meet with concerned West Seattle residents and wanted to be sure that the WSLE meets the needs of the region, community, and environment. She concluded by stating that she is willing to commit the funds today and support the actions.

Board member George also had concerns about not seeing the System Expansion Committee's do-pass recommendation and watched the recording of the meeting to better inform his thoughts. He thanked the committee for their questions and discussion. After today's presentation, he stated his support for the actions. He called out the detail in the three staff reports noting that the current estimate for the West Seattle Link Extension exceeds the Financial Plan estimate and could impact other system expansion projects. He thanked staff for being transparent and cautious with that information and added that design work on WSLE can have positive impacts to the entire portfolio of projects. He noted his reservations on future funding decisions but could support the actions today.

Board member Roscoe asked how far into design progression the services authorized under Motion No. M2025-17 would take the project. Mr. Owen responded that the services that could be authorized today would validate the Preliminary Engineering work and cost-savings measures which sits around 30%. Should the Board authorize Phase 2 of the contract, that would take the project from 30% to roughly 60% design. Board member Roscoe echoed the concerned raised by other Board members and stated her interest in knowing more about options to truncate planned extensions as a cost-control measure. Mr. Owen responded that the work to identify those options is included between the two contracts being presented today.

Board member Strauss thanked staff for their time briefing him on these actions after he watched the Committee meeting and had questions. In response to potentially truncating lines, he opined that it would be appropriate to rename some of the extensions to accurately reflect their reach.

Chair Somers stated his support for today's actions as delaying decisions that could provide more information for larger decisions adds cost and risk while stalling work on the project. He added that this conversation has been insightful for potential topics at an upcoming Board retreat.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-10.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Angela Birney
Cassie Franklin
Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Nays

Julie Meredith
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe
Dan Strauss
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-10 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-16: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification to the Program Management Support Services contract with Connect Seattle Partners, a Mott MacDonald/WSP Joint Venture, to exercise an option for Phase II services and extend the term of the contract for one year in the amount of \$37,700,080, with a 10 percent contingency of \$3,770,008, totaling \$41,470,088, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$83,209,716, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-10.

Motion No. M2025-16 was moved by Board member Strauss and seconded by Board member Birney.

Board member Strauss clarified that his previous comments apply to all three actions.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Motion No. M2025-16.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Angela Birney
Cassie Franklin
Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Nays

Julie Meredith
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe
Dan Strauss
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-16 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2025-17: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc for Phase 1 Civil Engineering Design Services for the West Seattle Link Extension in the amount of \$24,791,877, with a 10 percent contingency of \$2,479,188 for a total authorized amount not to exceed \$27,271,065, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-10.

Motion No. M2025-17 was moved by Board member Strauss and seconded by Board member Birney.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Motion No. M2025-17.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
Claudia Balducci
Angela Birney
Cassie Franklin
Christine Frizzell
Hunter George
Bruce Harrell
Ryan Mello

Nays

Julie Meredith
De'Sean Quinn
Kim Roscoe
Dan Strauss
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-17 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

None.

Executive Session

None.

Other business

Board member Roscoe shared that she was able to attend the COMTO WA gala that CEO Constantine mentioned in the CEO Report and was impressed with the caliber of the scholarship recipients, acknowledging that they are the future leaders of the transportation industry.

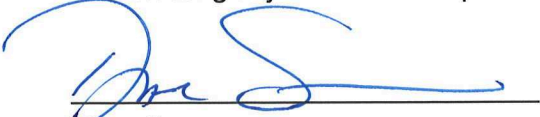
Board member Quinn added that he was also in attendance for his own recognition as Leader of the Year and also noted the impressive roster of scholarship recipients that will be future leaders. Chair Somers congratulated Board member Quinn.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on May 22, 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 3:05 p.m.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on May 22, 2025, AJM.