



Summary Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting July 3, 2025

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.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	
(A) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Shannon Braddock, King County Executive	(P) Julie Meredith, Washington State Secretary of Transportation
(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, Tacoma City Councilmember

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Somers thanked staff and members of the public for joining the Board at its retreat on May 29th in Bellevue, noting that additional information on key takeaways and next steps will be provided later in the meeting.

CEO Report

Chief executive officer Dow Constantine provided information on recent service disruptions on the 2 Line due to copper wire theft, an unplanned closure of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel to repair a cracked rail, and an upcoming disruption to accommodate WSDOT bridge inspections.

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.

No written, in-person, or virtual public comments were received.

Business items

Final Committee Action

May 1, 2025, Executive Committee meeting minutes

May 13, 2025, Executive Committee special meeting minutes

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Balducci, seconded by Vice Chair Mello, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that the minutes of the May 1 and May 13, 2025, Executive Committee meetings be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2025-33: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amendment to Sound Transit's 457(b) deferred compensation plan to add provisions for matching employee contributions, as allowed by 26 U.S. Code Section 457, SECURE 2.0 Act and any related law.

Julie Honeywell, Chief People and Culture Officer, provided remarks on the action.

It was moved by Board member Franklin, seconded by Board member Braddock, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2025-33 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2025-34: Directing the chief executive officer to research and implement updates to Sound Transit rider rules for dogs onboard Sound Transit vehicles to allow leashed dogs when under control of the dog handler.

Brian de Place, Acting Security and Fare Engagement Executive Director, provided a presentation on the action.

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Balducci, seconded by Board member Walker.

Board member Walker shared her support for the action, summarizing the discussion that occurred on the topic at the June Rider Experience and Operations Committee meeting. She noted her agreement with keeping the policy at the administrative level and requested that additional reports be provided to the committee as policy work progresses.

Committee Vice Chair Balducci shared her experiences and observations on the agency's on-board pet policy and noted the importance of having a policy that mirrors the current events that occur on the system.

Board member Harrell asked for an estimated completion date for this effort, as well as clarification on whether this update would be specifically about dogs or pets generally. Mr. de Place responded that the update would be to the agency's current on-board pet policy, but that specific provisions may be made regarding dogs. He also responded that he estimated that most of the work may be completed by the end of the Summer, with a plan to return with an updated policy in the Fall, while noting that he would update the committee on the progress of the effort as it gets underway.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all Board members present that Motion No. M2025-34 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

Enterprise Initiative Principles Discussion

Alex Krieg, Enterprise Planning Director, provided the report.

Mr. Krieg gave a summary of the May 29, 2025 Board Retreat. He highlighted the principles raised by Chair Somers at that retreat, which included: Doing what is best for the region, putting passengers first, collaborating inclusively, stewarding taxpayer funds responsibly, acting transparently, and informing all decision-making with data.

Mr. Krieg gave an overview of the previous realignment effort that the agency carried out in 2020-2021. He noted the various characteristics that were used as evaluation measures and noted the specific criteria that were laid out in the realignment motion (Motion No. M2020-36).

Mr. Krieg then asked the committee for feedback on whether any principles were missing from the discussion and whether it was the expectation that these principles will act as the foundation of the current enterprise initiative.

Chair Somers reiterated that the goal of these discussions is to establish a set of principles that will help guide further work and discussion throughout the enterprise initiative. He noted that the agency has previous policies in place that have helped to guide the agency towards its broader goals.

Board member Braddock noted that the enterprise initiative is a system-wide effort, highlighting that the principles that guide the agency's discussions must also match that system-wide perspective. She asked if the system-wide, long-term perspective should be considered as a guiding principle in and of itself. Mr. Krieg thanked Board member Braddock for her feedback, noting that staff intends to present all of its work in a systemic framework.

Chair Somers asked for clarification on next steps on the principles discussion. Mr. Krieg responded that staff was expecting a formal Board action to codify the guiding principles for the enterprise initiative work.

Mr. Krieg provided an overview of what the enterprise initiative entails. He noted that it will be a comprehensive effort to ensure delivery of the greatest ST3 benefits while remaining within the agency's financial capacity. This work encompasses planning, capital, operations, maintenance, and finance reviews to ensure the agency meets the region's future mobility needs. Mr. Krieg further noted that the initiative will ultimately result in an updated system plan and the adoption of a balanced and affordable long-range financial plan, while achieving high confidence in the agency's ability to deliver on the system plan commitments. He also noted that new processes will be established to iterate and manage potential future issues proactively.

Mr. Krieg explained the need for the enterprise initiative, describing the challenges the agency has faced since the adoption of the current long range plan and system plan in the mid-2010s. He also highlighted the consequences of inaction, which would result in the agency's inability to both complete and operate the system.

Mr. Krieg elaborated on the four primary workstreams of the initiative, outlining the work that would take place in planning and policy, capital delivery, service delivery, and finance to ensure the initiative is successful. He further explained the various tools the Board has at its disposal to take action on the various workstreams.

Mr. Krieg Described the two phases that the enterprise initiative entails. Phase one will progress throughout the rest of 2025 and will include the majority of the analysis and study of current agency tools and challenges. Phase 2 will occur in 2026 and will include various Board actions to address the challenges identified during phase one.

Mr. Krieg outlined the various responsibilities that will be delegated to each committee. The Executive Committee overseeing the planning and policy workstream, the System Expansion Committee overseeing the capital delivery workstream, the Rider Experience and Operation Committee overseeing the service delivery workstream, and the Finance and Audit Committee overseeing the finance workstream.

Chair Somers noted that this work has been in development since the Fall of 2024 and emphasized both the importance and impact that the Board's work will have over the next year as the enterprise initiative progresses.

Board member Braddock raised the importance of the agency proactively engaging with other partner agencies and groups as part of the initiative's work.

Vice Chair Balducci noted that this initiative is the most important work that the Board has to undertake going forward, while stressing the dedication that staff and Board leadership has placed on this work as it has developed. She further noted the importance of maintaining transparency throughout the process and the importance of sharing both the challenges and work being done to address problems as the agency moves forward.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

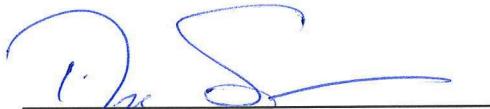
Thursday, August 7, 2025

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Boardroom and virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



Dave Somers
Executive Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on August 7, 2025, HRR.