

Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
July 24, 2025

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 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) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) De'Sean Quinn, King County Councilmember
(P) Shannon Braddock, King County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember	(A) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Chair
(P) Julie Meredith, Secretary of Transportation	

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

Report of the Chair

Items requiring a supermajority – Chair Somers noted that Resolutions Nos. R2025-15 and R2025-16 require affirmative supermajority votes of the Board to adopt.

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

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

Annual Safety Report – The Annual Safety Report, covering 2024, was published and distributed in today's meeting materials. The Report highlighted an overall positive trend for employee and passenger injuries, and detailed key focus areas for the Safety division for the current year. Safety data will continue to be included in monthly reports to the Rider Experience and Operations Committee.

2 Line Disruptions – Earlier this month, the 2 Line experienced two distinct service disruption due to vandalism and copper wire theft along the alignment. CEO Constantine thanked King County Metro for its support with bus bridges and King County Sheriff's Office for launching an investigation. A camera monitoring pilot program was launched and includes 37 cameras across the corridors where wire theft and damage has recently been experienced.

July 16 Power Outage and 1 Line Disruption – Last Wednesday, a widespread Seattle City Light outage, caused by an underground utility fire, affected more than 25,000 people in North Seattle and led to a total loss of light rail service between UW and Shoreline South stations for approximately 5 hours. More than 100 passengers in the tunnels near Roosevelt were safely evacuated without injuries. CEO Constantine thanked all those who assisted passengers.

He added that the incident also reviewed shortcomings in standard procedures for evacuating passengers with mobility devices, and the agency is working urgently to correct this. One passenger with a mobility device was unable to be evacuated with the other passengers and was impacted by this incident for multiple hours. Staff stayed with the passenger throughout the incident and were ultimately able to evacuate her and transport her home directly. CEO Constantine met with the passenger, apologized for the experience, and thanked her for productive engagement since.

Diversity Oversight Committee Appointments – CEO Constantine announced six new appointments to the Diversity Oversight Committee (DOC). The DOC was established as an advisory body by the Board in 2006 and members represent small businesses, trade organizations, and community-based groups across King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties. He welcomed Curtis Bennett, Margaret Dungo Gritten, Ricardo Ibarra, Tali Rausch, Sanita Salter, and Daniel Tappana to the DOC.

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:

Brien Chow
Betty Lau
MaryKate Ryan, on behalf of Historic South Downtown
Kristina Sawyckyj

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

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Seferiana Day
Adam Jacques
McKenna Lux
Ra-tah

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

Kristina Sawyckyj
Joe Kunzler
Zak Osman
Mahad Dahir

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: June 2025

Minutes of the June 26, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting

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.

Motion No. M2025-35: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a Law Enforcement Services Agreement with the City of Lynnwood for a one-year term in an amount not to exceed \$335,000.

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

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 17 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Business items

Resolution No. R2025-15: (1) Authorizing the chief executive officer to negotiate an agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to purchase the Mountlake Terrace Garage through a land transfer agreement, and (2) establishing a budget for the Mountlake Terrace Garage Rehabilitation Program by a) establishing an authorized program allocation of \$17,394,447 and b) establishing the program’s 2025 annual budget of \$9,763,675.

Alex Krieg, Enterprise Planning Director, Michelle Walker, Deputy Executive Director of Facilities and System Maintenance, and Clint Dameron, Acting Real Property Director, provided the staff presentation.

Board member Roscoe asked for clarification on who is funding the improvements to the garage while the structure is still on WSDOT land. Mr. Krieg responded that Sound Transit will be funding the necessary repair work and has already taken-up maintenance of the facility while the process of preparing for transferring the property is underway. The transfer of the property to Sound Transit is expected to be executed through pre-existing land bank credits. Board member Roscoe asked if staff believe they have sufficient maintenance records from prior owners of the facility. Ms. Walker responded that staff is comfortable with what has been provided.

Vice Chair Balducci asked what the expected useful life of the garage is estimated to be. Mr. Krieg responded that similar parking structures are assumed to have a useful life of 40 years but frequently last longer.

Resolution No. R2025-15 was moved by Board member Prince and seconded by Board member Backus.

Ed Prince, Rider Experience and Operations Committee Vice Chair, reported that the Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution with a do-pass recommendation.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-15.

Ayes

Nancy Backus	Julie Meredith
Claudia Balducci	Ed Prince
Angela Birney	De’Sean Quinn
Shannon Braddock	Kim Roscoe
Cassie Franklin	Dan Strauss
Christine Frizzell	Peter von Reichbauer
Hunter George	Girmay Zahilay
Bruce Harrell	Dave Somers
Ryan Mello	

Nays

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 17 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-15 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-16: 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 the West Seattle Link Extension project.

Vice Chair Balducci introduced the action, explaining that staff prepared a tailored property acquisition package to respond to unique personal and project needs. She noted that the System Expansion Committee considered this action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution with a do-pass recommendation.

Board member Zahilay asked how this action fits into the timeline and direction of the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE). Vice Chair Balducci responded that moving forward with these targeted acquisitions will not commit the agency to fully proceed with the project until the Enterprise Initiative catches up. She noted one of the properties is necessary to perform cost-savings work that will better inform the future of the project.

Board member Franklin stated her support for this action, in spite of her general concerns with the WSLE project.

Board member Quinn inquired into how the Port of Seattle property will inform cost-savings measure. Capital Delivery Deputy CEO Terri Mestas responded that the team is still validating the design assumptions and conducting site investigations will confirm or alter the path forward.

Board member Braddock thanked staff for their work to develop a prudent and compassionate package of properties for the Board to consider.

Board member Strauss asked if there was an update on staff's plans for maintaining acquired property before the start of construction, understanding that there may not have been significant progress since the Committee meeting. Bernadette McDermott responded that staff will be meeting Board member Strauss and his staff next week to provide information and plans to engage with other Board members as well.

Resolution No. R2025-16 was moved by Vice Chair Balducci and seconded by Board member Roscoe.

Chair Somers reminded the Board that this item will need a two-thirds supermajority vote for final adoption and stated his support for the action.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2025-16.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Nancy Backus	Julie Meredith
Claudia Balducci	Ed Prince
Angela Birney	De'Sean Quinn
Shannon Braddock	Kim Roscoe
Cassie Franklin	Dan Strauss
Christine Frizzell	Peter von Reichbauer
Hunter George	Girmay Zahilay
Bruce Harrell	Dave Somers
Ryan Mello	

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 17 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-16 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2025-17: Amending the 2025 Service Plan to include the major service change of extending the 1 Line to Federal Way Downtown Station and changing the order of Link light rail

openings to allow the 1 Line Federal Way Link Extension to open for revenue service prior to the 2 Line Crosslake connection.

Emily Yasukochi, System and Service Planning Director, and Kerry Pihlstrom, Asset Transition Office Executive Director, provided the staff presentation.

Board member Prince reported on comments received at a Public Hearing on the 1 Line Service Change held in the morning.

Board member Quinn expressed his support for the action and excitement for the arrival of light rail in South King County. He asked what future riders can expect as we get closer to the opening. Ms. Yasukochi responded that finishes are being completed on the stations and that community engagement work will begin soon to plan the opening events.

Board member Roscoe noted that I-5 HOV in Federal Way has a separate ramp that enters the Federal Way Transit area and inquired into whether there have been discussions around allowing transit users access to the HOV lane for easier access. Ms. Yasukochi noted that she doesn't have information on that at this time but will work with staff to provide an answer following the meeting.

Board member von Reichbauer thanked CEO Constantine for the work he has put into engaging with the South King County Board members as this project has advanced. He also thanked staff for their work in delivering the project and noted that Tacoma and Pierce County aren't too far away.

Board member Backus echoed the sentiment of excitement for the project's opening.

Vice Chair Mello noted the importance of opening both the Federal Way Link Extension and 2 Line Crosslake Connection before the 2026 World Cup and stressed that this decision is not an "either-or" between the two projects. He also highlighted public comments speaking to the future ST Express service changes.

Board member Birney added her appreciation and excitement toward to the project's opening and also noted the importance of ST Express service changes that may come to East King County following the Crosslake Connection.

Board member Roscoe asked how many parking spaces are included throughout the Federal Way Link Extension alignment. Ms. Yasukochi didn't have the number on-hand but committed to following-up.

Vice Chair Balducci thanked the agency for continuing the practice of remaining flexible in activating infrastructure when it is safe and ready for the public.

It was moved by Board member Prince, seconded by Board member Backus, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 17 Board members present that Resolution No. R2025-17 be approved as presented.

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.

Vice Chair Balducci introduced the action.

CEO Constantine added that the agency and the region have seen a shift in how people interact with their pets, such that many riders are non-nefariously violating rider rules related to pets on the system. He noted that work to research and update the policy will take place over the coming months, with an update expected before the end of the year.

Board member Birney noted that she would like to see the current direction to also include other pet animals.

Board member Roscoe suggested that insights from the Fare Ambassador program be incorporated into the research and policy change.

Board member Strauss noted that this change could also be very valuable down the line as the Seattle Animal Shelter is located in Interbay. He also took a moment to share several of the animals up for adoption at the shelter. Board members Braddock, Backus, and Chair Somers highlighted other regional animal shelters.

Board member Birney asked if a formal amendment is needed for staff to expand the scope of the research and policy change. Vice Chair Balducci accepted the change as a friendly amendment and asked staff to update the Motion accordingly.

It was moved by Vice Chair Balducci, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the unanimous vote of the 17 Board members present that Motion No. M2025-34 be approved as presented with the modification to include other pets.

Reports to the Board

Enterprise Initiative Update

Alex Krieg, Enterprise Planning Director, explained that the presentation would provide an overview of the Enterprise Initiative; touch on recent Committee engagement; describe key workstreams, anticipated deliverables, and a proposed schedule; and support Board discussion of draft principles to guide the work.

The Enterprise Initiative will ensure that the agency can deliver the greatest benefits from ST3 within available financial capacity and will touch on planning, capital, operations, maintenance, and finance levers to ensure both current and future regional mobility needs are met. Mr. Krieg noted that this effort is broader than previous “Realignments” of the expansion program. Outcomes include adopting an updated System Plan and balanced long-range finance plan. Without action now, the ST3 program will be unaffordable, and operations will likely be strained.

Four primary workstreams will make up the Enterprise Initiative. Planning & Policy will review existing plans, policies, assumptions, and changed conditions. The Board will be able to modify planning assumptions and update policies that guide implementation. Capital Delivery will identify cost savings approaches to delivery projects within existing resources. The Board will use this information to consider the potential for scope changes, phasing projects, and even reconsider some projects. Service Delivery will identify cost savings and develop better cost data for operating and state of good repair needs. The Board will be able to adjust service levels across modes, update staffing and resource levels, and clarify asset management needs. Finance will assess overall financial capacity and maximize existing revenue opportunities. The Board could consider changing financial planning assumptions and potential revenue enhancements. Mr. Krieg stressed that these workstreams are interdependent and have many touchpoints with one another.

Through the rest of 2025, the Enterprise Initiative Phase 1 will strive to set a baseline with the Board and public by building a deep understanding of the challenges facing the agency and how to use available agency tools. Phase 2 of the Enterprise Initiative will begin in 2026 and will focus on how to update the ST3 plan. Mr. Krieg added that as work advances, the plan is for each Board Committee to oversee one of the workstreams. The Executive Committee will oversee planning & policy, the System Expansion Committee will oversee capital delivery, the Rider Experience & Operations Committee will oversee service delivery, and the Finance & Audit Committee will oversee finance. The Board will also likely participate in workshops and retreats as the effort continues.

Mr. Krieg summarized each of the Committee-workstream pairings’ key activities and outcomes and also summarized the highlights of the recent cost-savings presentation from capital delivery to the System Expansion Committee and the long-range financial plan update to the Finance & Audit Committee earlier this month. He also laid out next steps of engaging with the Committee on their relevant workstreams and advancing technical work to inform the Board.

Board member Birney highlighted that not only have circumstances changed since 2016, but conditions are continuously updating, even over the past year as return to office policies have altered commute patterns. She asked that more recent information be used to help project out future conditions. Mr. Krieg responded that much of that analysis is planned in Phase 1 and cautioned that pre-pandemic and post-pandemic data are not easy apples-to-apples comparisons given the large expansion of the Link system during the last few years.

Board member Roscoe noted that this effort will be focused on pre-baselined projects and suggested that it would be beneficial to the Board to have an accessible list of major projects that could be impacted, especially any outstanding ST2 projects that have been deferred over time. Mr. Krieg responded that he believes nearly all ST2 projects have been baselined, and that the information can be included in future capital delivery workstream updates at the System Expansion Committee.

Board member Strauss re-iterated his concerns with planning to construct only the minimum operable segments of Link extension projects. He hopes that future discussions will help to set the standards upon which the Board assesses the potential impacts to the updated ST3 plan.

Board member Braddock concurred with Board member Strauss's list of potential metrics and added that knowing what those metrics are at this point, as well as where they might end up in the future, is essential to informing the future expansion of the system.

Board member Zahilay asked if there is information on the total affordability gap and which levers are reasonably expected to make major differences. Mr. Krieg responded that there is some analysis into the final number and staff expect to inform the Board of the figure. He also noted that the work in capital delivery under Deputy CEO Mestas does make sure to inform the System Expansion Committee of the potential cost-savings of each opportunity as it moves through the validation framework. Ms. Mestas briefly explained the Opportunity Register her department is maintaining and how the cumulative impacts are expected to drive cost-savings across the system expansion program.

Chair Somers noted that much of the information that Board members are raising is expected to be analyzed, parsed-out, and reported to the Committees and Board over the course of the Enterprise Initiative.

Executive Session – None

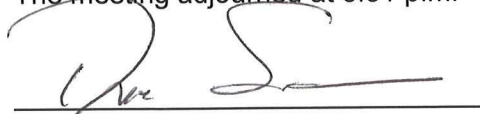
Other business – CEO Constantine responded to Board member Roscoe's question on parking along the Federal Way Link Extension. Across the three stations, there are 3,166 parking spaces.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on August 28, 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 3:31 p.m.


Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:


Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on August 28, 2025, AJM.