



## Summary Minutes

### System Expansion Committee Meeting August 14, 2025

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Committee Chair Balducci 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) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(A) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive
(A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
	(P) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember

Alejandro Monzon, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

#### Report of the Chair

##### Bus Base North Groundbreaking

Noting that more would be shared during the CEO Report, Chair Balducci briefly stated her excitement for the construction of the new facility that will cater toward a more environmentally friendly service model.

#### CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report.

Activation Update – The Federal Way Link Extension is entering its final construction phase, with system testing underway and preparation beginning in September to train operators and maintainers.

Meanwhile, working on the I-90 floating bridge for the East Link Extension to ensure long-term safety and reliability is taking longer than expected.

Bus Base North Groundbreaking – Earlier this week, Sound Transit broke ground on the Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility, which will support the 45-mile Stride Bus Rapid Transit battery-electric bus fleet. He thanked Board members Balducci and Birney for joining him and Stride staff to celebrate the occasion in Bothell.

SBE/DBE Programming – This summer, the office of Civil Rights, Equity, and Inclusion hosted its first Small & Disadvantaged Business Program update event and welcomed over 83 prime and subcontractors who joined to learn about doing business with Sound Transit. In June, the office

launched monthly onboarding sessions with TABOR 100 to provide information to potential new and existing contractors. An additional 99 vendor consultant office hours have been offered with TABOR 100 since April.

Society of Military Engineers Award – Capital Delivery Deputy CEO Terri Mestas was recognized by the Society of Military Engineers Foundation Board with their inaugural Soaring Eagle Award.

## **Public comment**

Chair Balducci announced that public comment would be accepted via email to [meetingcomments@soundtransit.org](mailto:meetingcomments@soundtransit.org) and would also be accepted verbally.

### Written public comments:

Joe Kunzler  
Betty Lau  
Brien Chow

### In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Alex Tsimerman  
Derek Liu  
Betty Lau  
Brien Chow  
Marykate Ryan

### Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Joe Kunzler

## **System Expansion Monthly Status Report update**

Capital Delivery Deputy CEO Terri Mestas began the report by noting that the information covered is from June 2025. The presentation will cover Program-level updates, as well as updates on Projects in Planning & Design and Projects in Construction.

Ms. Mestas reported that the capital delivery department has continued its effort to issue prompt payment, with an average of 30 days to pay applicable invoices. There were also OSHA recordable injury incidents in June. Out of 799,987 labor hours this year, Sound Transit has experienced four incidents.

Moving to Projects in Planning and Design, Ms. Mestas noted that there are no significant changes this month from last month's report. She noted that staff intend to bring the Ballard Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to the Committee later this year and flagged that the Everett Link Extension DEIS is expected to be published early next year.

Shifting to Projects in Construction, Ms. Mestas noted that there are no notable changes but highlighted the change in construction completion for Link Extensions, Sounder garages, and third-party managed Stride elements. She asked Michael Morgan, a Capital Delivery Executive Director, to speak to the changes for the East Link Extension.

Mr. Morgan noted that work ongoing for the East Link Extension is related to ensuring appropriate mitigation for potential stray current. The layer for protection for the floating bridge is a cathodic protection system. There was an initial successful steady state test, but an auto-potential mode test resulted in feedback that required adjustment. Work on the last handful of sensors (out of 300) is underway. Once the system is in place, Sound Transit will coordinate with WSDOT on preparing the

bridge for the first electrified train to cross the I-90 bridge. He recognized the concerns with the timing of the work but noted that it takes a few days for the sensors to calibrate after being adjusted.

Chair Balducci asked if the schedule Key Performance Indicator for Link projects in construction was pointing down just due to East Link. Mr. Morgan noted that the other active projects in construction are doing well on timing, so the potential impact is just from East Link. Chair Balducci asked if there was any remaining float on the East Link Extension's new timeline. Mr. Morgan answered that there is still some, but work needs to advance in order to keep the project schedule aligned.

## **Business items**

### **For Committee Final Action**

Minutes: July 10, 2025 System Expansion Committee meeting

**It was moved by Vice Chair Roscoe, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the July 10, 2025 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

### **For Recommendation to the Board**

Motion No. M2025-40: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with Mott MacDonald, LLC to exercise a contract option for Phase 2 Design-Build Project Management services for the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project in an amount not to exceed \$109,840,000, with an approximate 10 percent contingency of \$11,160,000, totaling \$121,000,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$140,843,544, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2025-19.

Eza Agoes, Operations and Maintenance Facility South Executive Project Director, gave the staff presentation. She was joined by Michael Morgan, Executive Director, and Ryan Fisher, Finance Executive Director.

Board member Mello asked to confirm if the scope of work being approved by this motion is expected to last through project construction and closeout. Ms. Agoes responded that it is expected that the funding in this modification will carry the project management services through project completion. He also asked if the general rule that Design Build Project Management services are about 10% of the full construction holds true. Ms. Agoes responded that the full Operations and Maintenance Facility South project is estimated at \$2.26 billion, and the allocations for DPBM services are falling within the norm.

Board member Birney congratulated Ms. Agoes on her new role and lauded her efforts on the Downtown Redmond Link Extension project.

Chair Balducci noted reservations about the change in how the impact of budget amendments are graphically represented during presentations. CEO Constantine answered that he would work with his team to look back at previous graphics and be sure to touch base with Board members about any potential changes going forward. Board member Somers added that he had the same thought.

Ms. Agoes briefly explained the specific scopes of work that will be completed under the \$121,000,000 contract modification. Ms. Mestas also helped to clarify the role of Construction Services at this point in the project and as the project moves through the Design and Construction phases.

Chair Balducci asked if there might be any additional related major expenses expected to be charged to Construction Services. Mr. Morgan explained that, in terms of contracted project management needs, this is the expected cost. He added that Sound Transit staff time will be accounted for in the annual budget process.

Chair Balducci also highlighted Board member Mello's question as a good aid in helping Board members to understand the total financial picture when considering an individual action.

**It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Somers, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2025-40 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2025-19: Amending the Adopted 2025 Budget to advance the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$121,000,000 from \$403,729,393 to \$524,729,393 and b) increasing the adopted 2025 annual project budget by \$2,000,000 from \$156,672,390 to \$158,672,390.

Information on this action was included in the previous presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Birney, seconded by Board member Strauss, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2025-19 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation**

Resolution No. R2025-20: 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.

Ms. Agoes gave the staff presentation. She was joined by Clint Dameron, Acting Real Property Director.

Vice Chair Roscoe asked what relocation services would be offered since the land to be acquired is currently vacant and when the specific property owners were first notified. Mr. Dameron responded that full relocation services, such as those offered to tenants, would not be a component but the project is helping to relocate the transmission tower infrastructure. He also answered that the property owners were lawfully given notice of today's action, but engagement has taken place over several years. Mr. Dameron clarified that the impacted property owners are not new and have worked with Sound Transit on other acquisitions in the same area.

Chair Balducci asked how many acquisitions are remaining for the OMFS project. Mr. Dameron answered that only environmental mitigation parcels remain to be approved by the Board.

Board member Strauss asked where the four towers will be relocated to as a part of the project. Ms. Agoes asked for a specific slide to be pulled up to show a more detailed future-state map.

**It was moved by Board member Birney, seconded by Board member Strauss, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2025-20 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2025-21: 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 Stride Bus Rapid Transit SR522/NE 145th Street project.

Rick Capka, Stride BRT Executive Project Director, gave the staff presentation. He was joined by Clint Dameron and Manan Garg, Executive Director.

Board member Strauss asked why an additional easement is needed if the power lines are already there and about the future siting of the poles. Mr. Capka explained the future state of the area, which includes a bus queue jump lane on NE 145<sup>th</sup> Street. The widening of the road is the impetus for needing to shift the location of the poles along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. While the Sound Transit easement is roughly co-located to the current easement and the poles will still exist within the easement's boundaries, Seattle City Light has informed Sound Transit that the current easement would not cover the assumed future state. Specifically, the current easement does not include distribution lines which already exist in the area, so an easement from Sound Transit would require capturing that fact.

Board member Strauss asked why the parcels to the north and south along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE are not also needed. Mr. Capka noted that the parcel to the south was already approved for acquisition by the Board. Board member Strauss offered additional insights into how best to provide information to the Board for the purposes of property acquisitions.

Chair Balducci noted that this action is coming when a new condition was discovered and asked if there are any future acquisitions planned. Mr. Capka responded that the Stride program does not intend to bring any future property acquisitions to the Board.

**It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2025-21 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.**

## **Reports to the Committee**

None.

## **Executive session**

None.

## **Other business**

None.

## **Next meeting**

Thursday, September 11, 2025

1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

## **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.



Nancy Backus  
Chair Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on September 11, 2025, AJM.