

Motion No. M2025-34

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority directing the chief executive officer to research and implement updates to Sound Transit rider rules for pets onboard Sound Transit vehicles to allow leashed pets when under control of the pet handler.

Background

Sound Transit is expanding transit to connect 16 cities with light rail, 30 cities with BRT and ST Express bus service, and 12 cities with commuter rail.

In 2025, part of that expansion will include the extension of the 2 Line to Redmond with two new stations in southeast Redmond, at Marymoor Village and Downtown Redmond. The stop at Marymoor Village will provide a connection to Marymoor Park including a 40-acre off-leash dog area. In addition, there are existing transit connections to dog parks in Magnuson Park and Denny Park in Seattle and Marina Beach Park in Edmonds, along with planned off-leash dog parks at the Othello Playground near the Othello Station on the 1 Line and in West Seattle near the future Avalon Station on the future 3 Line.

Sound Transit rider rules allow service animals on Sound Transit buses and trains, but pets may only ride if they are carried in small containers.

The Board would like to explore updating the rider rules to allow pets on leashes on Sound Transit buses and trains, in addition to those permitted in carriers, when under control of the handler.

Sound Transit is committed to the safety and needs of its passengers and recognizes that expanding access to leashed pets must be managed to maintain passenger comfort and vehicle and facility cleanliness.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the chief executive officer is directed to do the following:

1. Research industry peers and best practices to inform updates to the rider rules based on the following principles:
 - a. Pets will be allowed on leashes or in carriers when under control of the pet handler;
 - b. Sound Transit may limit pets based on the animal's behavior, or under certain riding conditions such as crowded events;
 - c. Sound Transit will consider whether to designate certain spaces as pet-friendly;
 - d. No fare will be required for pets on Sound Transit buses and trains; and
 - e. No changes to rules allowing service animals, or the existing rule allowing pets if they are carried in small containers.
2. If it is determined to be in the best interest of passengers, implement a rule change consistent with the principles listed above, inform passengers and report back to the Board.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on July 24, 2025.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator