



Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
January 22, 2026

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) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Steffanie Fain, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(A) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(A) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Hunter George, City of Fircrest Councilmember	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Thomas McLeod, City of Tukwila Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Julie Meredith, WSDOT Secretary Alternate	(P) Katie Wilson, City of Seattle Mayor
(A) Teresa Mosqueda, King County Councilmember	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive

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 December 2025, as well as the monthly Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) report.

Welcoming New Board members – Chair Somers welcomed Tukwila Mayor Thomas McLeod and Seattle Mayor Katie Wilson to the Board.

CEO Report

CEO Constantine provided the report.

Welcome to new Board members – CEO Constantine echoed the welcome message from Chair Somers.

Seahawks Game and Weekend Service – The agency will run special Sounder N & S Line trains, while the 1 Line will operate on a normal Sunday schedule. Additional trains will be ready to clear crowds following the game. CEO Constantine also shared that regular testing work in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel is cancelled to ensure there is no impact on the game-day service. Testing will still take place from Friday night through end of service on Saturday, with a bus bridge in place from Capitol Hill to SODO stations.

Crosslake Connection update – CEO Constantine shared that testing and operator training is advancing well and an announcement for an opening date is coming soon.

Board member Birney thanked CEO Constantine and agency staff for the preview ride with Board member Wilson. CEO Constantine extended an invitation to all members who are interested in test rides.

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:

Robert Lindenhovius
Bryan Green
Brien Chow
Unnamed Commenter
Kyle Sullivan
Betty Lau

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

Betty Lau
Brien Chow
Isabella Wolfhound
Marilyn Kennell
Ra-tah
Alex Tsimerman
Sue Kay
Marykate Ryan

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

Joe Kunzler
Day-Z Gould

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: December 2025

Minutes of the December 18, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2026-02: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the cumulative contingency amount authorized to increase certain East Link Extension contract and/or agreement amounts as necessary, by an amount of \$60,000,000 for a new total authorized cumulative contingency expenditure not to exceed \$110,000,000, contingent upon adoption of Resolution No. R2026-01.

Motion No. M2026-04: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute multiple agreements with the Washington State Department of Transportation for operation, maintenance, inspection, and preservation of the East Link Extension within the I-90 corridor.

The consent agenda was moved by Board member Birney and seconded by Vice Chair Mello.

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

Business items

Resolution No. R2026-01: Amending the East Link Extension project baseline budget and adopted 2026 budget to provide funding to complete the East Link Extension project by the forecast revenue service date by a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$60,000,000 from \$3,757,150,000 to \$3,817,150,000 and b) increasing the 2026 annual project budget by \$60,000,000 from \$50,617,534 to \$110,617,534.

Tony Raben, East Link Extension Executive Project Director, provided the staff presentation. He was joined by Terri Mestas, Capital Delivery Deputy CEO, and Hughey Newsome, Chief Financial Officer.

Board member Walker asked where the funds are sourced from. Mr. Newsome responded that the money is coming from roughly \$450 million in ST2 savings.

Board member Birney added that the 2 Line also extends into Redmond with two stations funded from ST3.

Board member Fain asked for examples of what work would fall into the funds allocated to the Construction phase of the project. Mr. Raben responded that resiliency work, security augmentations, and cathodic protection operation and maintenance would fall under the Construction phase. Board member Fain inquired into how these elements weren't previously accounted for. Mr. Raben answered that some of the work was not included in original scope of the project—including the resiliency work, extended support through 2026, and cathodic protection maintenance. Board member asked if this new work since the last budget amendment in 2024. Mr. Raben confirmed the work was incorporated into the project since that last request.

Board member Fain asked if staff would need to return to the Board if the money being added to the project today would need to be moved within the project. Mr. Raben responded that staff can move some funds administratively within the project, but adding to the overall budget would require returning to the Board.

Board member Fain also asked if staff were incorporating these lessons learned into future project planning. Deputy CEO Mestas responded that there is a robust lessons learned program at the department, such as how to ensure future security needs.

Resolution No. R2026-01 was moved by Vice Chair Balducci and seconded by Board member Birney.

Vice Chair Balducci reported that the System Expansion Committee considered the action earlier this month and unanimously forwarded the Resolution to the Board with a do-pass recommendation. She noted that the Committee also had similar questions regarding the funding source and explained that unlike most of the jurisdictions the Board members are elected to, Sound Transit does not maintain distinct funds. Speaking to new Board members, she noted that it takes getting used to dealing with the figures of Sound Transit's work. She also mentioned the ST2 savings as a reason to consider this action affordable and the constant refinement of a project's risk profile as it nears completion, particularly as it relates to East Link.

Chair Somers called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2026-01.

Ayes

Claudia Balducci
Angela Birney
Steffanie Fain
Hunter George
Thomas McLeod
Ryan Mello
Julie Meredith

Nays

Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Katie Wilson
Girmay Zahilay
Dave Somers

It was carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Resolution No. R2026-01 be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2026-05: Updating committee chairs, vice chairs, and members.

Chair Somers noted that the action would appoint the newest Board members to Committees and shift around existing membership. Additionally, Board member McLeod and Board member Birney would be appointed as Chairs of the Finance & Audit Committee and System Expansion Committee, respectively. The action also appoints the soon-to-be named Snohomish County Board member so they can dive into Committee meetings once confirmed. He also echoed sentiments from public comment thanking Vice Chair Balducci for her leadership of the System Expansion Committee.

It was moved by Vice Chair Mello, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the unanimous vote of all the Board members present that Motion No. M2026-05 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Enterprise Initiative update

Alex Krieg, Enterprise Planning Deputy Executive Director, and Brad Owen, Capital Delivery Executive Director, began the presentation and noted that today's report would provide both a recap of the 2025 Enterprise Initiative activities and a lookahead to 2026's work.

Mr. Krieg defined the Enterprise Initiative and noted that it will touch on all aspects of the agency to ensure the ST3 program meets the region's mobility needs within available financial capacity. Without action, the ST3 program will be unaffordable, but the agency has the tools to manage the challenges. Mr. Krieg also flagged several of the leading indicators that led to standing up the Enterprise Initiative.

In August 2025, the agency projected that \$34.5 billion in cost savings or new funding would be required to fully fund the ST3 program, as currently envisioned. Since August, Sound Transit's financial teams updated revenue projects and implemented financing improvements that increased financial capacity by \$4 billion. The current long range financial plan projects \$149 billion, in year-of-expenditure dollars, to be affordable.

Mr. Krieg summarized Motion No. M2025-36 which established the Board's guiding principles and goals for the Enterprise Initiative, as well process elements, including community engagement, transparent governance, and data-driven decision-making. The Motion also directed that a comprehensive framework to deliver the Enterprise Initiative be in place by Fall 2025, an updated ST3 System Plan be adopted by the end of Q2 2026, a new Regional Transit Long-Range Plan be adopted in Q3 2026, and an updated Long Range Financial Plan be presented in Q4 2026.

Mr. Krieg noted that the comprehensive framework was presented at the November Board Retreat and includes four distinct workstreams to be overseen by the Board's Committees: Planning & Policy by the Executive Committee, Capital Delivery by the System Expansion Committee, Service Delivery by the Rider Experience & Operations Committee, and Finance by the Finance & Audit Committee. He provided a recap of each workstream and explained how the work is iterative, concurrent, and supporting the efforts to deliver updated long-range plans. He also displayed a rough timeline of key tasks and deliverables for each workstream.

The work ahead includes responding to direction from the Board retreat to develop and present plausible, affordable scenarios for an updated ST3 System Plan, built from the workstream elements discussed previously. Mr. Krieg cautioned that certain opportunities would need additional analysis and/or be outside of the Board's direct authority to implement. He also explained the components that can be taken from each workstream and meaningfully changed to impact the ST3 program overall affordability. These building blocks from across the workstream will be used to construct example

scenarios. Policy & Planning includes policy changes and updated service assumptions (stemming from modified capital program and ridership projects); Capital Delivery includes incorporating cost savings opportunities, exploring phasing and re-sequencing of projects, updating cost allocations for shared/systemwide assets, and considering deferral of some project; Service Delivery includes potential new resiliency investments and revised operations & maintenance costs; and Finance includes updated financial planning assumption, policy changes and exercising existing available revenue authority, and potential third-party funding opportunities.

Mr. Krieg closed by previewing upcoming presentations at the February Committee and Board meetings.

Board member Zahilay noted that even as the agency has a daunting challenge to overcome, the agency continues to deliver on its mission and expand transit in the region. While big decisions are expected to be made soon, he encourages Board members to be ready and prepared outside of these formal meetings as delays may further compound financial challenges.

Board member Fain asked how often and in what form regional collaboration is taking place on issues related to the Enterprise Initiative, noting that some opportunities will need other jurisdiction's cooperation. Mr. Krieg highlighted that engagement work is underway in Interagency Groups and noted that a meeting occurred just this week with King County Metro (KCM) to discuss potential interactions between Sound Transit's Enterprise Initiative and KCM's planning work.

Chair Somers encourage Board members to engage with their fellow subarea members noting the importance of the Subarea Equity framework, under which the agency operates. He also added that anything that falls between the workstreams will be brought to the Executive Committee as a catch-all. He reminded members that they are welcome to attend any Committee meeting, even if they are not a voting member.

Vice Chair Mello echoed the sentiments of Chair Somers and Board member Zahilay.

Board member Walker asked if the Board will consistently receive a monthly Enterprise Initiative presentation so that members of the public don't have to attend all the Committee meetings to follow the work. Mr. Krieg confirmed that it is the plan.

Board member McLeod asked if there are specific logistics for attending meetings as a non-voting member. Chair Somers directed him to the Board Administrator for information.

Executive Session – None

Other business – None

Next meeting

The next Board meeting would be held on February 26, 2026, from 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 2:58 p.m.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on February 26, 2026, AJM.