Summary Minutes

System Expansion Committee Meeting
October 8, 2026

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Board member Ryan Mello 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
(A) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(A) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Steffanie Fain, King County Councilmember	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
(P) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(A) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember
(P) Ryan Mello, Pierce County Executive	(P) Katie Wilson, Seattle Mayor
	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Executive

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

Report of the Chair

Chair Pro Tem selection

Board member Mello noted that, per the Board's Rules, in the absence of the Chair and the Vice Chair, an affirmative vote among the members present is requested to select a Chair Pro Tem to preside over the meeting. He explained that Chair Birney asked staff to coordinate and prepare him to chair the meeting.

It was moved by Board member Wilson, seconded by Board member Fain, and carried by the unanimous vote of the committee members present that Board member Mello be selected Chair Pro Tem for today's meeting.

CEO Report

Chief Executive Officer Dow Constantine provided the report.

Pinehurst Opening – CEO Constantine noted that service at the new Pinehurst station began last Wednesday. The opening day of Sound Transit's first infill station featured a community celebration with local vendors and interactive activities. He also highlighted King County Metro's new route 77 which provides a direct connection to the new station.

Sound Transit in the community – CEO Constantine joined Board members Zahilay, McLeod, and Fain at the Museum of Flight last week for a community meeting to gather feedback on opportunities related to the Boeing Access Road Infill station. On Saturday, the agency partnered with the City of Seattle at

the Graham Block Party where staff members were joined by Board members Wilson, Zahilay, and McLeod to hear about community priorities for the station area.

On October 19, Sound Transit is hosting a community forum on the Ballard Link Extension at the National Nordic Museum.

Request for Information period extended – Early last month, staff released a Request for Information (RFI), following Board direction in the updated System Plan, related to delivery of the ST3 program. The RFI called on industry partners for strategies that could reduce costs or speed delivery of ST3 projects using innovative technologies. The submittal date has been extended to October 12, 2026, and the results will be evaluated and shared with the Board and public.

Public comment

Chair Pro Tem Mello announced that public comment would be accepted via email to meetingcomments@soundtransit.org and would also be accepted verbally.

Written public comments:

Betty Lau
Marilyn Kennel
Bill Heunefeld
Gordon Bluechel, with Access Laser
Martin Westerman

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Heather Pihl
Noah William

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Wes Mills
Joe Kunzler

Business items

For Committee Final Action

Minutes: September 10, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting

It was moved by Board member Franklin, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the September 10, 2026 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2026-40: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency to fund continued services under the Series 3 Light Rail Vehicle project engineering and inspection consultant services contract with Mott MacDonald in the amount of $8,700,000, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed $16,528,700, within the existing project approved pre-baseline budget.

Shankar Rajaram, Infrastructure and Asset Management Executive Director, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Fain inquired into why the requested action is to increase contingency funds and not a direct contract modification. Mr. Rajaram explained that the project is in a very dynamic phase of work as the potential car-builders are putting together responses to the Request for Proposal. Over the next year, staff expect there to be back-and-forth and additional support from Mott McDonald that is not yet

clearly defined. The following two years will include support for the car builder, which is also yet to be specifically defined and will be refined during the selection process. Staff are recommending an increase in contingency to be flexible and able to issue task orders based on the needs that arise.

Board member Fain, noting that staff intend to return next year to baseline the project, inquired into why staff opted to bring this action now instead of waiting until then when more certainty is known. Mr. Rajaram responded that the contract is established with a three-year base term, with subsequent three-year extensions. Staff executed a no-cost change order to exercise the first option to the contract to ensure a continuation of services utilizing existing contract funds. The request contingency amount is projected to cover the services anticipated throughout the current extension.

Board member Fain asked if the Board would be able to further modify the contract once the baselining action was brought and more clarity was available. Mr. Rajaram noted that the Board could further modify the contract at that time.

It was moved by Board member Franklin, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-40 be approved as presented.

For Recommendation to the Board

Motion No. M2026-41: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the cumulative contingency amount authorized to increase certain Lynnwood Link Extension contract and/or agreement amounts as necessary, by an amount of $40,203,671, for a new total authorized cumulative contingency expenditure not to exceed $70,203,671, all within the existing Lynnwood Link Extension approved baseline budge.

Taylor Carroll, Deputy Executive Project Director, and Ronald Weltzin, Principal Construction Manager, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Board member Franklin, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-41 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Motion No. M2026-42: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute an amendment to the Construction Services Agreement with the City of Seattle to include the West Seatle Link Extension project and to provide construction assistance and construction services for the West Seattle Link Extension in an amount not to exceed $13,636,364 with a 10 percent contingency of $1,363,636 totaling $15,000,000, for a total authorized agreement amount not to exceed $57,850,421.

Jason Hampton, Commercial Director, and Linneth Riley-Hall, Executive Project Director, gave the staff presentation.

Board member Fain noted that the 2026 Adopted Budget, referenced in the Fiscal Information section, showed $10.2 million in the third-party agreements phase for the project while acknowledging the table in the prepared Staff Report shows $40.2 million in that phase. She asked whether funding had been moved around. Mr. Hampton reminded the Committee that the Board increased the West Seattle Link Extension project earlier this year and the Budget Amendment included the funds anticipated for this action, as well as other agreements.

Board member Fain asked if staff could include information on recent budget amendments in the documents prepared for the Board. Mr. Monzon pointed out that the action is listed in the prior actions list at the end of the Staff Report. Board member Fain stated a preference that additional information be added to the Fiscal Information section, specifically in the prepared budget tables.

Chair Pro Tem Mello noted that key agreements can aid in minimizing disruption during project completion and maximizing eventual impacts. He thanked the team for their work.

It was moved by Board member Wilson, seconded by Board member Franklin, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Motion No. M2026-42 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Resolution No. R2026-23: 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.

Wells Lawson, Real Estate Deputy Executive Director, and Jason Hampton gave the staff presentation.

Board member Fain asked Mr. Lawson to highlight the recent communications with property owners, noting efforts by staff to enhance those touchpoints. She also noted a follow-up on how staff balance the Board's authorization to potentially acquire full parcels with the stated intent to secure easements. Mr. Lawson opined on the Committee's recent discussions and directions to ensure the agency has genuine, real contact with affected property owners prior to receiving the required notice letter in advance of an action. Notices are now sent with supplemental information that points recipients to staff who are on the ground and ready to meet. He also noted that teams are conducting drop-in sessions, both virtual and in-person. He noted that the improvements are still in a "pilot" phase but is expected to continue as a key aspect of future acquisitions. For the second question, Mr. Lawson noted that certification of need for these parcels is completed and he expressed that the goal is to have the flexibility to take as little as the property as is necessary for the project. He also pointed out that Exhibit B of the resolution is hopefully providing a snapshot of what staff are currently anticipating being needed for each parcel. He added that providing this information is helpful for the ongoing two-way discussions with the property owners.

Board member Fain thanked Mr. Lawson for the answers and the improvements to the communications with impacted owners and tenants. She noted a desire to be minimal in property acquisitions, with potential future action by the Board if more is needed. She expressed an interest in exploring a potential change to the Board authorized acquisition process.

Board member Franklin disagreed with Board member Fain noting that the Board micromanaging property acquisitions could pose complications. She added that the improvements to communications are a good step and noted that the agency's best interest is to take as little property as possible to control project costs.

It was moved by Board member Franklin, seconded by Board member Wilson, and carried by unanimous voice vote that Resolution No. R2026-23 be forwarded with a do-pass recommendation.

Reports to the Committee

System Expansion Monthly Status Report update

Brad Owen, Acting Chief Capital Delivery Officer, began the report by noting that the information covered is from August 2026. The presentation covered Program-level updates, as well as updates on Projects in Planning & Design and Projects in Construction.

Mr. Owen reported that the capital delivery department has continued its efforts to issue prompt payment, with an average of 27 days to pay applicable invoices, exceeding the 30-day benchmark. There was one OSHA recordable injury on the Auburn Station Parking and Access Improvements project.

Moving to Projects in Planning and Design, Mr. Owen thanked the agency's partners at FTA for their support in issuing the Draft EIS for the Everett Link Extension with the public comment period ending on November 2, 2026. Additional work continues to resolve comments on the Ballard Link Extension draft EIS, with efforts underway to publish the document in the coming months. Preliminary Engineering efforts continue on the Graham Street and Boeing Access Road Infill stations, as does Final Design work on the Operations and Maintenance Facility South.

Shifting to Projects in Construction, Mr. Owen noted that Stride BRT construction work is in full swing and thanked the Board for approving the preliminary work for the Renton Transit Center garage so that it can be integrated with the project that is currently underway. Additionally, notice to proceed was issued for improvements at the Burien Transit Center and the procurement for work at the Tukwila International Boulevard Stride station was released last month.

Executive session - None.

Other business - None.

Next meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2026
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Angela Birney
Committee Chair

ATTEST:

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on November 12, 2026, AJM.