

Resolution No. R2026-21

Budget Amendment for ST Express South Bus Base Expansion

Meeting:	Date:	Type of action:
System Expansion Committee	09/10/2026	Recommend to Board
Board	09/24/2026	Final Action

Staff name:	Staff title:
Brad Owen	Acting Chief Capital Delivery Officer
Manan Garg	Executive Director – Capital Program Delivery
Lucien Bruno	Bus Operations Director

Proposed action

Amends the Adopted 2026 Budget to advance the ST Express South Bus Base Expansion project through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering/Design Validation phase by increasing the authorized project allocation by \$10,000,000 from \$5,808,000 to \$15,808,000.

Key features summary

- This action increases the ST Express South Bus Base project authorized allocation by \$10 million to advance the project through key pre-construction and validation activities, including Preliminary Engineering (PE), additional geotechnical borings, traffic mitigation planning, constructability reviews, Quantitative Risk Assessments (QRAs), and Independent Cost Estimates.
- Final design and construction of the project will require additional budget allocations to be authorized by the Board, supported by a clear project scope, delivery method and timeline, and bottoms-up cost estimate which staff intend to complete utilizing the funding requested in this action.
- \$4.1 million in uncommitted authorized allocation is already available to support early planning prior to this Board action, with a MATOC Task Order to perform preliminary engineering having been issued.

Background

Transit Operations has needed to replace ST Express buses operated by Pierce Transit with higher-capacity models for several years; however, the Pierce Transit bus base could not accommodate maintenance of the larger buses. This created a choice between continuing with undersized replacement vehicles that would not meet long-term demand or advancing facility improvements to support higher-capacity operations.

Rather than initiating a separate service delivery effort, direction shifted toward leveraging the existing ST Express Bus Base capital project supporting southern corridor operations. The project team is progressing design on a maintenance facility in the southern portion of Pierce Transit's Lakewood base

that will support the maintenance of double-decker, articulated, and battery-electric buses. This work will be performed through a Preliminary Engineering MATOC task order, with bids currently under evaluation. Scope of the task order includes preliminary engineering, environmental review, permitting plans, cost estimate, constructability review, surveying, and geotechnical engineering.

The facility will include five bus bays and supporting functions to accommodate up to 50 double-decker buses, including 4-5 acres of paved bus staging, EV charging infrastructure, and site access modifications. Preliminary lease/commercial discussions with Pierce Transit have been initiated and the facility will be a Sound Transit-owned asset on Pierce Transit-owned land through a ground lease. The facility will be operated and maintained by Pierce Transit so long they are an ST Express operator. Sound Transit will compensate Pierce Transit for facility maintenance costs through the ST Express Intergovernmental Agreement.

In May 2026, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. R2026-11 which defined the ST Express Bus Base as a partially funded project within existing resources. The resolution identified \$100,000,000 for the project.

Project status

Project Development Phase: Preliminary Engineering

Percent complete (measured to revenue service date): 0%

Current project status, and performance metrics will be included in the System Expansion Monthly Status Report after the approval of this action.

Fiscal information

This action increases the Authorized Project Allocation for the ST Express Bus Base project. This action funds ST Express Bus Base Project’s Preliminary Engineering and Final Design phases by increasing each phase’s authorized project allocation.

The current authorized project allocation for ST Express Bus Base project is \$5,808,000. This action increases the authorized project allocation by \$10,000,000, resulting in a revised total of \$15,808,000.

ST Express Bus Base

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Authorized Project Allocation		
	Current Authorized Project Allocation	Allocation Revision	Revised Authorized Project Allocation
Agency Administration	\$859		\$859
Preliminary Engineering	4,748	1,300	6,048
Final Design & Specifications		8,700	8,700
Right-Of-Way	201		201
Property Acquisition			
Construction			
Construction Services			
Third Parties			
Vehicles			
Contingency			
Total	\$5,808	\$10,000	\$15,808

In May 2026, the Board approved Resolution No. R2026-11 updating the ST3 system plan and identifying ST Express Bus Base as a partially funded project. These phase increases to the ST Express Bus Base authorized allocation are within the total cost estimate by phase for the affordable project

included in Resolution No. R2026-11. These increases to the project's authorized allocation do not materially impact other projects within the updated system plan.

Disadvantaged and small business participation

Not applicable to this action.

Public involvement

Not applicable to this action.

Time constraints

Delay in approving this action would affect the timeline to housing new buses and replacing an aging fleet that is already beyond its useful life.

Prior Board/Committee actions

Resolution R2026-11: Updated the Sound Transit 3 System Plan to be affordable within available and projected financial capacity.

Resolution R2007-05: Adopted the Sound Transit 2 Regional Transit System Plan for the Central Puget Sound.

Environmental review – KH 8/28/26

Legal review – MT 9/3/26

Resolution No. R2026-21

A RESOLUTION of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority amending the Adopted 2026 Budget to advance the ST Express South Bus Base Expansion project through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering/Design Validation phase by increasing the authorized project allocation by \$10,000,000 from \$5,808,000 to \$15,808,000.

WHEREAS, the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, commonly known as Sound Transit, was formed under chapters 81.104 and 81.112 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties region by action of their respective county councils pursuant to RCW 81.112.030; and

WHEREAS, Sound Transit is authorized to plan, construct, and permanently operate a high-capacity system of transportation infrastructure and services to meet regional public transportation needs in the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in general elections held within the Sound Transit district on November 5, 1996, November 4, 2008, and November 8, 2016, voters approved local funding to implement a regional high-capacity transportation system for the Central Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008, the voter approved ST2 Plan included funding for ST Express bus fleet and maintenance capacity expansion; and

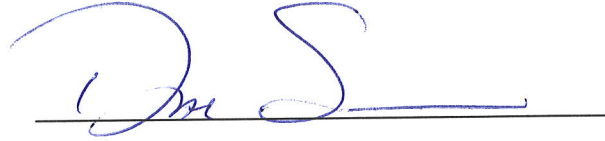
WHEREAS, in November 2016, the voter approved ST3 Plan included funding for an ST Express Bus Operations and Maintenance Facility; and

WHEREAS, in May 2026, the Board adopted Resolution No. R2026-11 which defined the ST Express Bus Base as a partially funded project; and

WHEREAS, the funding will be used to advance the project through key pre-construction and validation activities, including Preliminary Engineering, additional geotechnical borings, traffic mitigation planning, constructability reviews, Quantitative Risk Assessments, and Independent Cost Estimates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Adopted 2026 Budget is amended to advance the ST Express South Bus Base Expansion project through the completion of the Preliminary Engineering/Design Validation phase by increasing the authorized project allocation by \$10,000,000 from \$5,808,000 to \$15,808,000.

ADOPTED by no less than a two-thirds affirmative vote of the entire membership of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on September 24, 2026.



Dave Somers
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator