



Summary Minutes

Board Meeting
January 25, 2024

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Dow Constantine in a Virtual Meeting via telephone and video conference.

The meeting was recorded and can be found at <https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/board-directors/livestream-video>.

Roll call of members

Chair	Vice Chairs
(P) Dow Constantine, King County Executive	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Council President
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Angela Birney, City of Redmond Mayor	(P) Dan Strauss, City of Seattle Councilmember
(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Council Chair
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Councilmember
(P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Girmay Zahilay, King County Council Vice Chair
(P) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary	

Katie Flores, Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Welcoming New Board members

Chair Constantine welcomed Angela Birney, Dan Strauss, and Girmay Zahilay as new Sound Transit Board members from King County. He also shared that Pierce County Executive Dammeier intends to nominate Puyallup Mayor Jim Kastama to the remaining seat from Pierce County.

Welcoming Goran Sparrman as Interim chief executive officer

Chair Constantine welcomed Goran Sparrman as interim chief executive officer and reiterated Mr. Sparrman's transit experience in the region.

CEO Report

Interim CEO Sparrman provided the report.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Sparrman thanked the Board for his appointment as interim CEO and expressed his excitement to work with staff to deliver the daily transit services and transformative capital projects for the region. He

stated that his top three priorities are to continue delivering great service and expanding the passenger experience, overseeing two light rail extension openings this year, and implementing the Technical Advisory Group recommendations.

Update on Link light rail service disruption

CEO Sparrman reported that improvements were made to communications during the disruption after Sound Transit heard concerns voiced by members of the public as well as comments from Board members during the January Rider Experience and Operations Committee meeting.

U District Station closure

On Saturday, January 20, 2024, a planned protest caused a disruption to 1 Line service at University District Station for a period of 4 hours. Based on information available and in consultation with local law enforcement, the station was closed to ensure the safety of passengers and staff.

Overlake Station Pedestrian Bridge opened

CEO Sparrman shared that the pedestrian bridge at Overlake Village Station was opened yesterday, with Board members Balducci and Birney present to cut the ribbon.

Implementing the TAG Recommendations

CEO Sparrman re-iterated his commitment to implementing the Technical Advisory Group's recommendations and expressed that he sees eagerness to move the work forward at multiple levels of the Agency. He shared that Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, will be providing updates at the February Executive Committee and System Expansion Committee meetings on the latest progress. Mr. Gutierrez briefly spoke to the renewed focus and updated path forward to implementing the recommendations.

Tukwila International Boulevard Stride BRT Station update

CEO Sparrman asked Ron Lewis, Executive Director of Design, Engineering, and Construction Management, to provide an update on work to address an emerging issue at the planned Stride BRT Station at Tukwila International Boulevard.

Mr. Lewis reported that WSDOT had alerted Sound Transit to its need to replace a culvert as a part of its project that would include the construction of the in-line Stride BRT Station at Tukwila International Boulevard. At this time, WSDOT does not have the funding to complete its project. As work continues to identify a solution, the Stride BRT team is moving forward with a plan to route the BRT line through the bus loop at the Tukwila International Boulevard Link station. Mr. Lewis noted that the new plan would add roughly six minutes of travel time and would provide a key transfer point for both Link and Stride services. It is within the current baseline budget and schedule. The design work for the in-line station will continue so Sound Transit is in a position of readiness when WSDOT funding is available.

Board member Balducci inquired if there was any action needed from the Board. Mr. Lewis responded that this report is informational, and he expects to bring further information to the Rider Experience & Operations and System Expansion Committee at a later date to discuss the change.

Board member Zahilay recounted his commute to the meeting via Link through the Rainier Valley. He thanked the attentive staff who were in-the-field helping riders and recommended more obvious signage for which trains would turn around and which would proceed through the tunnel.

Public Comment

Chair Constantine 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:

John Ho
Bill Hirt
Janey Hunter-Shaw

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

Brian Chow
Betty Lau
Ashley Holland
SaraEllen M. Hutchinson

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

Stephen Fesler
Joe Kunzler
Kathleen Barry Johnson

Before moving to the Consent Agenda, Board member Dammeier asked if he could pose a question to Mr. Lewis on the Stride Station update in the CEO Report. Chair Constantine confirmed that Mr. Lewis was still available.

Board member Dammeier asked why the impact of the culvert was being surfaced now and not identified in earlier discussions and planning. Mr. Lewis and Bernard van de Kamp, Stride BRT Program Executive, responded that the surface roadway improvements themselves are not triggering the need to repair the culvert, but further inspection of the culvert has revealed it is beyond its useful life and needs to be repaired before additional construction work can occur above and around it. Additionally, the culvert would need to be replaced with a costly fish passage-friendly solution.

Board member Balducci noted that the System Expansion Committee had received some information on this with visuals at a past meeting and asked if it could be distributed as reference after the meeting.

Board member Millar briefly explained WSDOT's obligations when it comes to culvert replacement, adding that this specific culvert falls into the category of replacing when it exceeds its useful life or when a project prompts it, as opposed to those culverts that need to be specially replaced due to high habitat impact.

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: December 2023

Minutes: Minutes for the December 15, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: Minutes for the January 11, 2024, Board of Directors Special Meeting

Motion No. M2024-01: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with HDR Engineering Inc. for construction management services for the East Link Extension in the amount of \$7,000,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$125,440,000.

The consent agenda was moved by Board member Prince and seconded by Board member Balducci.

Board member Upthegrove asked that Resolution No. R2024-01 be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 16 Board members present that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.

Business items

Resolution No. R2024-01: 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 SR 522/NE 145th Street Stride Bus Rapid Transit project.

Board member Upthegrove stated the importance of government to act with caution when it comes to property acquisition. He added that he intends to work with staff on altering the actions that authorize property acquisitions to shift from authorizing the acquisition of up to full parcels to setting stricter limits on the size of the property that staff are authorized to acquire. His main concern regarding the current Resolution is the full acquisition of a parcel that contains a green space in Lake Forest Park. The parcel is being acquired in order to improve a relatively minor portion of the green space, but the action is still to acquire the full parcel. He added that he has had good communications with staff but would be a dissenting vote today.

Faith Roland, Real Property Director, explained that the full parcel is rather arcane as there are two distinct portions of it. Staff have worked with the community to ensure that the lakefront property of the Sheridan Beach Club is not impacted, but the project could still create a connection from its sidewalk improvements to the Burke Gilman Trail.

Board member Upthegrove asked if it would be possible to add the assumed square footage of acquisitions in comparison to the full parcels in future actions and whether the Board could authorize less than a full parcel for acquisition.

Ms. Roland answered that the acquisition in question today is due to permitting requirements from the City of Lake Forest Park for the Stride project and the square footage of the planned acquisition for a temporary construction easement (TCE) is 800-1,000 sq. ft. with design currently at 90%. She noted that she doesn't have the square footage of the full parcel available at this time.

Board member Upthegrove stated that he believes the parcel is many times bigger than the planned TCE and would like to see the practice changed in the future, if possible, about authorizing the acquisitions of full parcels when that is assumed to not be necessary.

Board member Balducci briefly provided an overview of the discussions in that area of the SR22 BRT project. She stated that she believes staff only acquire what is needed and that too stringent of a limit on the properties to be acquired would result in many additional actions for the Board to revise previous authorizations.

Resolution No. R2024-01 was moved by Board member Balducci and seconded by Board member Prince.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2024-01.

Ayes

- Nancy Backus
- Claudia Balducci
- Angela Birney
- Bruce Dammeier
- Cassie Franklin
- Christine Frizzell
- Bruce Harrell
- Roger Millar
- Ed Prince
- Kim Roscoe
- Dave Somers
- Dan Strauss
- Peter von Reichbauer
- Kristina Walker
- Girmay Zahilay
- Dow Constantine

Nays

- Dave Upthegrove

It was carried by a majority vote of the 17 Board members present that Resolution No. R2024-01 be approved as presented, with Board member Upthegrove voting in the negative.

Motion No. M2024-03: Ratifying the chief executive officer’s finding of the existence of an emergency and a contract with VECA Electric & Tech, LLC (VECA) not to exceed \$1,000,000 to remediate the de-electrification of the Pine Substation.

Suraj Shetty, Executive Director of Operations, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Board member Strauss, seconded by Board member Balducci, and carried by the unanimous voice vote of the 17 Board members present that Motion No. M2024-03 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

None.

Other business

None.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on February 22, 2024, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via WebEx.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Dow Constantine
Board Chair

Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on _____, AJM.