

Motion No. M2022-36

A motion of the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (1) temporarily suspending the Board's rules to (a) remove the limitation that only 25 percent of Board members may participate in a Board meeting, committee meeting or subcommittee meeting via phone or video conference and (b) remove the limitation that participation via phone or video be reserved for extraordinary circumstances and allow any Board member to attend a Board, committee or subcommittee meeting via phone or video if desired, effective June 1, 2022 and remaining in place until the Board adopts updated rules, or September 30, 2022, whichever takes place first, (2) setting the Ruth Fisher Boardroom at Union Station in Seattle, WA as the physical location for Sound Transit Board, committee and subcommittee meetings, and (3) superseding Motion No. M2020-23.

Background

On February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee issued a proclamation that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington due to COVID-19, and on March 24, 2020 Governor Inslee issued a proclamation that prohibits public agencies from holding public meetings unless they can be held virtually.

On March 26, 2020, the Sound Transit Board approved Motion No. M2020-23 to temporarily suspend the Board's rules to require public comment to be submitted via email, and allow meetings of the Sound Transit Board to be held virtually while the state of emergency related to COVID-19 remains.

On March 24, 2022, through HB 1329, the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) was updated to require oral or written public comment at all regular meetings where final action is taken and to encourage real-time remote telephonic, electronic or internet access to meetings, among other changes. The updated OPMA also allows members of a government body to participate in a meeting remotely with no declared emergency.

On April 29, 2022, and effective June 1, 2022, Governor Jay Inslee rescinded Proclamation 20-28 that required all meetings to be held virtually.

The rules adopted by the Sound Transit Board in 2021 state that "No more than 25 percent of the membership of the Board, a committee or a subcommittee may attend a meeting by phone or video, except in the case of an emergency as described in section 3.11.2 or as may otherwise be permitted by suspending these rules" and that a request to "attend a meeting by phone or video is limited to extraordinary circumstances such as emergencies, illness, accident, official business outside of the agency's district, or other circumstances that do not allow attendance at the meeting."

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, all public meetings of the Sound Transit Board and its committees and any subcommittees will be held with the Ruth Fisher Boardroom open for public viewing and participation in the meeting and public comment. The Ruth Fisher Boardroom is located in Union Station, at 401 S. Jackson Street, Seattle, WA.

In addition, all such meetings will also be available through the agency's virtual meeting platform for public viewing and participation in virtual public comment. The Sound Transit Board will also continue to accept written public comment. Comments received up to one hour before the meeting are provided to Board members electronically during the meeting. Comments received after that deadline are provided to Board members after the meeting.

Temporarily suspending the rules to remove the limitation that only 25 percent of Board members may participate in a Board meeting, committee meeting or subcommittee meeting via phone or video

conference and remove the limitation that participation via phone or video be reserved for extraordinary circumstances will allow any Board member to attend a Board, committee or subcommittee meeting via phone or video if desired.

The Board will determine what permanent changes, if any, should be made to the Board rules before September 30, 2022.

Motion

It is hereby moved by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority that the Board's rules are temporarily suspended to (a) remove the limitation that only 25 percent of Board members may participate in a Board meeting, committee meeting or subcommittee meeting via phone or video conference and (b) remove the limitation that participation via phone or video be reserved for extraordinary circumstances and allow any Board member to attend a Board, committee or subcommittee meeting via phone or video if desired, effective June 1, 2022 and remaining in place until the Board adopts updated rules, or September 30, 2022, whichever takes place first, (2) the Ruth Fisher Boardroom at Union Station in Seattle, WA is set as the physical location for Sound Transit Board, committee and subcommittee meetings where the public can hear and be heard by all participating Board members, and (3) Motion No. M2020-23 is superseded.

APPROVED by the Board of the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on May 26, 2022.



Kent Keel
Board Chair

Attest:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator