



Summary Minutes

**Board Meeting
August 24, 2023**

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	(A) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive (A) Kent Keel, City of University Place Councilmember

Board members	
(P) Nancy Backus, City of Auburn Mayor	(P) Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember
(P) David Baker, City of Kenmore Councilmember	(P) Cordelia Crocket, WSDOT Secretary Alternate
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(A) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(P) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Council Chair
(A) Christine Frizzell, City of Lynnwood Mayor	(P) Peter von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember
(P) Bruce Harrell, City of Seattle Mayor	(P) Kristina Walker, City of Tacoma Deputy Mayor
(P) Debora Juarez, City of Seattle Council President	

Adam Montee, Acting Board Administrator, announced that a quorum of the Board was present at roll call.

Report of the Chair

Business Items requiring a Supermajority

Chair Constantine noted that today’s agenda includes 2 items – Resolution Nos. R2023-24 and R2023-25 – that require a supermajority vote of the Board to approve final adoption.

CEO Report

CEO Timm provided the report.

Safety and Security on Link Services

CEO Timm, referencing multiple assaults at various location along the Link Light Rail system over the last few weeks, assured the public that there is no reason to believe that the incidents indicate a pattern. The Agency executed four new security contracts after Board approval early this year and has taken additional steps in light of these recent episodes. Sound Transit has authorized overtime for security personnel, and staff will be bringing monthly reports on security metrics to the Board.

Congressional Tours

During Congress's August recess, Sound Transit had the pleasure of hosting congressional staffers and Members of Congress. CEO Timm reported that she had met with the Transportation policy leads for both Senators Murray and Cantwell over the past two weeks. Additionally, the Agency was able to host Congressman Rick Larsen for a construction tour of the Lynnwood Link Extension.

Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration

CEO Timm noted the recent announcement that revenue service for the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension will begin on Saturday, September 16, 2023. The T Line was first opened on August 22, 2003, and this opening will kick-off a series of light rail openings over the next few years.

In addition to beginning revenue service, a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 10am on September 16, 2023, at the Tacoma Urban Performing Arts Center.

Breaking Ground on Stride BRT

The Stride Bus Rapid Transit program will officially break ground on September 12, 2023, in Kirkland at the NE 85th Street Interchange. Sound Transit will be joined by the Washington Department of Transportation and represents of the communities and jurisdictions that the project will serve. As a new line of service for the Agency, Stride Bus Rapid Transit will provide fast, frequent, and reliable service for communities on North, South, and East of Lake Washington.

Redmond Technology Station Garage

CEO Timm reported that the Redmond Technology Station Garage is in the final stages of activation and should be available to the public in the next few weeks. Sound Transit is working with the City of Redmond to secure a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy and working with King County Metro to connect bus service to the adjoining transit loop, which Microsoft Connector Shuttles began using earlier this month. An official opening date and celebration for the Garage is expected to be announced by next month.

Link Repair Work

CEO Timm noted that the work for the Royal Brougham Grade Repair project, which had caused a service disruption, had completed over the weekend. She added that while the work was completed within expectations, the actual headways provided during the single tracking disruption were longer than the announced anticipated headways. She also reported that projects were able to be advanced or completed during this disruption, reducing the need for future disruptions to accommodate those projects.

The agency jumped directly into a projected four-week period of single tracking at the south end of the system to complete station rehabilitation work at Rainier Beach and Othello stations. While initially modeled to operate at 12-minute headways during the disruption, actual worksite conditions required a shift to 15-minute headways.

CEO Timm stated that additional coordination with King County Metro, bundling of maintenance projects during a single service disruption, and earlier notices to ridership are all being explored as ways to ensure future repair work has minimal impacts to passengers.

Operations and Maintenance Facility South Property Acquisition Delay

CEO Timm reported that an action to approve Early Property Acquisitions for the Operations and Maintenance Facility South and Tacoma Dome Link Extension projects would need to be delayed to the September Board for final approval. While considered and forwarded by the System Expansion

Committee at its meeting on August 10th, the required 14-day public notice was not circulated in the newspapers. This shift will not impact critical project activities.

Agency Leadership Welcome and Farewell

CEO Timm reported that Nora Friend has joined the Agency as Chief Communications and Engagement Officer. Ms. Friend is tasked with bringing a unified communications and engagement strategy to Sound Transit and will lead the Communications, Marketing & Engagement and Government & Community Relations departments.

CEO Timm also shared that, after 2 decades with Sound Transit, Portfolio Services Office Executive Director Eric Beckman's last day with the Agency will be tomorrow, August 29th. Beginning as a project manager for ST Express and Sounder services, Eric work has been vital to implement Sound Move, ST2, and ST3. His leadership will be missed.

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:

Historic South Downtown and more than 2800 individuals

Gerhard Lutz

Stephen Just

Beth Osborne on behalf of Symetra, Brady Nordstrom on behalf of Futurewise, Dane Jepsen, and

Cordell Wagendorf

Bill Hirt

Joe Kunzler

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

Gui Hui Q

Betty Lau

Brien Chow

Kathleen Johnson

Jon Cracolici

Redmond Mayor Angela Birney

Barb Wilson

Ada Healey

Matt Jack

Kristina Hudson

John Chelminiak

Alex Tsimmerman

Dick Falkenbury

Logan McArthur

Kim Pravitz

Kelli Refer

Jake Torrey

Jamie Alberts

Kristopher Antonelli

Michael Lu

Dana Rystrom

Adam Kendall

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

Mayor Lynne Robinson

Jonathan Hopkins

Joe Kunzler

Katherine Bax

Veronica Subat

Ryan Welch

Zachary Martin

Alex McGuire

Sam Pettee

Cameron Fraser

Max Baker

Frederick Robert Stevens

Jonathan Jaffe

Inaki Longa

Jonatan Gonzalez

Emma Hoppe

Stephanie Velasco

Sabrina Hawkins

William King
Kevin Heim
Andrew Villeneuve
Julia Granstrom

Riley Avron
Allen
Neha Nariya

Consent Agenda

Voucher Certification: July 2023

Minutes: Minutes for the July 27, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

Motion No. M2023-63: Approving the submittal of the Transit Development Plan 2023-2028 to the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Motion No. M2023-66: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract with Alexander Dennis, Inc. for the purchase of the electric bus fleet for the I-405 Stride Bus Rapid Transit project in the amount of \$73,160,000 plus a 10 percent contingency of \$7,316,000, for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$80,476,000, all within the project baseline budget.

Motion No. M2023-67: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the agreement contingency for the construction agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for the design-build delivery of the I-405/NE 85th Street Interchange and In-line Freeway Station for the I-405 Bus Rapid Transit Project, in the amount of \$16,259,000, for a new total authorized agreement amount not to exceed \$303,519,000.

Motion No. M2023-68: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a modification to the contract with Jacobs Project Management Co. for on-call general engineering consultant services for the Stride Bus Rapid Transit program, in the amount of \$81,000,000, with a 10 percent contingency of \$8,000,000, totaling \$89,000,000 for a new total authorized amount not to exceed \$193,000,000, all within the approved Stride baseline budgets.

Motion No. M2023-69: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a contract modification with HNTB Corporation to provide project development services for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions projects in the amount of \$136,999,751, with a 7% contingency of \$9,589,983 totaling \$146,589,734, for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$318,842,705, contingent upon approval of Resolution No. R2023-25.

Motion No. M2023-70: Authorizing use of existing funds from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000 within the Alternative Concept Allowance authorized to fund additional substantial added value improvements to the design-build contract with Stacey and Witbeck/Kuney, a Joint Venture, for completion of the Downtown Redmond Link Extension, all within the project baseline budget.

Motion No. M2023-71: Authorizing the chief executive officer to increase the contract contingency with Mass Electric Construction Company for the East Link Systems Construction contract in the amount of \$38,000,000 for a new total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$433,450,000, with \$321,556,534 allocated from the East Link Extension, all within the Board approved baseline budget.

Resolution No. R2023-23: Adopting a Board Policy for the Sound Transit Tacoma Link Light Rail Substance Abuse Program.

Resolution No. R2023-27: 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 I-405 Stride Bus Rapid Transit Project.

It was moved by Boardmember Balducci, seconded by Boardmember Prince that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

In addressing testimony from the Public Comment period, Boardmember Balducci noted that Motion No. M2023-69 funds the contract needed to perform the remaining environmental work for both the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions and that once that information is available, the Board will be in a position to determine the best alignment for the projects.

It was carried by the unanimous vote of the 12 Boardmembers present that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

Business items

Resolution No. R2023-24: Authorizing the chief executive officer to implement the phased opening of the East Link Extension via the East Link Starter Line using funds authorized in the approved budget for the East Link Extension, inclusive of \$6 million authorized by Resolution No. R2023-06.

Moises Gutierrez, Chief System Quality Officer, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Balducci and seconded by Boardmember Baker that Resolution No. R2023-24 be approved as presented.

Boardmember Balducci inquired into the version of the Substitute Resolution provided in the meeting packet as she provided comments and edits that she doesn't see in the final version. Andrew Austin, Acting Executive Director of Government and Community Relations, responded that the version in the packet is the finalized Substitute Resolution as worked on with the Snohomish County delegation. Chair Balducci noted that the root of her question was to ensure this is the most recent and final version.

Amendment 1 – offered by Boardmember Franklin

To substitute the Staff Report with the one included in the meeting materials marked “Substitute Resolution No. R2023-24”

It was moved by Boardmember Franklin and seconded by Boardmember Balducci that Resolution No. R2023-24 be amended via substitution with Substitute Resolution No. R2023-24.

Boardmember Franklin stated that the Substitute Resolution codifies the responses and work that staff have been addressing with the Snohomish Delegation. She added that while she supports the opening of both the East Link Starter Line and the Lynnwood Link Extension, the Substitute Resolution takes care to address the potential crowding on the extended 1 Line that is expected due to the construction impacts along the I-90 Bridge. She added that the expected total ridership generated by the Lynnwood Link Extension is nearly six times greater than that on the East Link Starter Line.

Chair Constantine asked a pair of questions to clarify that the crowding impacts to the 1 Line along Lynnwood Link Extension are caused by the lack of connection to the Operations and Maintenance Facility East in Bellevue. He reiterated that the opening of the East Link Starter Line will not affect the operations of the extended 1 Line.

Boardmember Roscoe inquired into the financial impacts of the amended and added language in the Substitute Resolution. CEO Julie Timm noted that the funds are there to meet the directions of the Board should the Substitute Resolution be approved. She added that the while financial constraints are not the key issue, the strain of hiring operators and maintainers for the operations is still a pressure. Boardmember Roscoe asked if there is movement to examine whether it is possible to commit additional financial resources to boost the hiring trends. CEO Timm responded those conversations are ongoing with operating partners.

Boardmember Balducci expressed her support for the Substitute Resolution, noting that the added language is still tied to adapting the system's expansion program around the construction delays on the I-90 segment of the East Link Extension project.

Boardmember Franklin added that the hope is that complimentary transit support along the Lynnwood Link Extension will not only benefit Snohomish County riders, but also those who start their Link travel in North King County and along the rest of the system southbound.

Chair Constantine called for a voice vote to amend the Resolution by replacing it with Substitute Resolution No. R2023-24.

The motion to amend Resolution No. R2023-24 by replacing it with Substitute Resolution No. R2023-24 was carried by the unanimous vote of the 13 Boardmembers present.

Boardmember Balducci thanked staff for their work on developing the East Link Starter Line in response to construction issues and requests from the Board.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2023-24 as amended.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Cassie Franklin
Bruce Harrell
Debora Juarez

Nays

Joe McDermott
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 13 Boardmembers that Resolution No. R2023-24 be approved as amended.

Resolution No. R2023-25: Amending the Adopted 2023 Budget for the Ballard Link Extension project by increasing the total authorized project allocation by \$32,771,172 from \$630,636,160 to \$663,407,332 to accommodate additional scope and activities required to complete environmental review and Preliminary Engineering.

Sandra Fann, Project Director for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions projects, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Baker and seconded by Boardmember Roscoe that Resolution No. R2023-25 be approved as presented.

Boardmember Balducci noted that the System Expansion Committee forwarded this action with a do-pass recommendation and referenced her earlier comments on the Motion No. M2023-69 as applicable to this action as well.

Boardmember Roscoe thanked Boardmember McDermott for his comments during the System Expansion Committee's discussion of the Resolution.

Chair Constantine added that this action is necessary to continue to advance the project as the Board has decided on the Preferred Alternatives for study at its March and July meetings. He asked that staff bring the traffic mitigation plan associated with the Denny Station to the Board sooner than is expected under the environmental review process. Don Billen, Executive Director of Planning, Environment, and Project Development, responded that the team hopes to bring relevant information forward as the work progresses on the technical environmental review process.

Boardmember McDermott reiterated his comments from the System Expansion Committee, stating that this Resolution is not deciding anything new, but is implementing the decisions already made by the Board.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2023-25.

Ayes

Nancy Backus
David Baker
Claudia Balducci
Cassie Franklin
Bruce Harrell
Debora Juarez

Nays

Joe McDermott
Ed Prince
Kim Roscoe
Dave Upthegrove
Peter von Reichbauer
Kristina Walker
Dow Constantine

It was carried by a unanimous vote of the 13 Boardmembers that Resolution No. R2023-25 be approved as presented.

Reports to the Board

Fares Strategy Update and Public Engagement Preview

Alex Krieg, Director of Access, Integration & Station Area Planning, noted that the presentation will recap recent Board engagement on fares-related work, preview key topics for passenger and public engagement scheduled to begin in mid-September, and review the potential schedule to implement changes to fare structures.

Mr. Krieg summarized the areas of focus for staff in 2023. For the fare policy update and Link fare changes, staff presented briefings at the April and May meetings of the Executive and Rider Experience & Operations Committees on fare structures, as well as a briefing on farebox recovery targets to the Executive Committee in May. Multiple Board members expressed interest in pursuing a flat fare for Link as the growing system would require higher fares for longer distances traveled and the common confusion of needing to tap-off after riding. For the parking management program expansion, staff provided briefings to the Executive and Rider Experience & Operations Committees in August. He noted that the feedback from the briefings has put staff in position to continue work and engage the public on these updates.

Turning to the potential questions for public engagement, Mr. Krieg began with the Link fare structure and rates. Agency staff will be seeking input on whether Link should maintain a distance-based fare or adopt a flat fare, with follow-up questions on possible fare rates with distance-based fares being raised by either 25 cents or 50 cents and Flat Fares costing either \$3, \$3.25, or \$3.50. These updates would only occur on regular adult boardings and not apply to low-income, senior/disable, or youth fares.

For the parking program expansion engagement, staff have developed three primary alternatives to solicit feedback and input from the public. These alternatives vary on whether reserved parking is included, the nature of fees as either monthly and/or daily, the pricing as variable or flat, and whether to apply the parking program at all or select stations.

Mr. Krieg explained that the engagement period is scheduled to begin in mid-September and end in late October. Key tactics for engagement include an online open house, passenger surveys, direct engagement with community-based organizations, targeted focus groups, and street teams to drive survey participation. He added that engagement efforts will target areas and populations likely to be most impacted by the updates.

Mr. Krieg reviewed the anticipated schedule of Board-related briefing and actions. In October, staff will return to the Executive Committee for another briefing to preview potential changes for fare policy and bring an update on fare revenue as part of the Finance Plan to the Finance & Audit Committee. In November, Staff expect to report on the fares-related engagement findings and Title VI considerations at the Executive and Rider Experience & Operations Committees. They will also share initial

recommendations on policy updates and link fare structure changes. In December, staff will bring forward actions to the same committees to send recommendations to the Board for final adoption. He noted that a similar process is expected to be followed for the parking program, with that planned to begin in March 2024.

Boardmember Roscoe inquired if the Community Oversight Panel will be engaged on this policy questions. Adam Montee, Acting Board Administrator, added that there are plans to bring this information to the panel.

Boardmember Balducci recommended further collaboration with local transit partners to ensure fares are aligned, even perhaps approaching the joint ORCA board. She added her support for a shift to flat fares for Link.

Boardmember Walker thanked the staff for the approach of rolling out discussion on the complex policy questions related to fares and parking. She noted that making the system as simple as possible for riders is a step in the right direction.

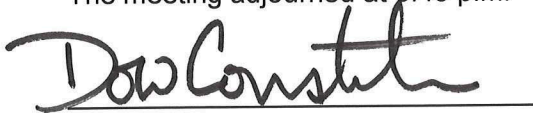
Other business - None.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on September 28, 2023, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via WebEx.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on September 28, 2023, AJM.