



Summary Minutes

Board Special Meeting November 22, 2023

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.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) Roger Millar, WSDOT Secretary
(P) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Ed Prince, City of Renton Councilmember
(P) Bruce Dammeier, Pierce County Executive	(A) Kim Roscoe, City of Fife Mayor
(P) Cassie Franklin, City of Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Upthegrove, King County Council Chair
(P) 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
(A) Debora Juarez, City of Seattle Council President	

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

Report of the Chair

There was no Report of the Chair.

CEO Report

There was no CEO Report.

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 Niles

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

John Niles

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

Joe Kunzler

Business items

Resolution No. R2023-36: (1) Authorizing a 1.0 percent statutory increase in the property tax levy for 2024, (2) certifying the total property tax levy amount inclusive of levy increases per RCW 84.55.010, and (3) authorizing the preparation of the levy certification forms.

Stephanie Ball, Director of Financial Planning & Analysis, gave the staff presentation.

Chair Constantine asked for the full percentage increase of the Property Tax Levy, inclusive of both the 1% increase and the new construction adjustments. Ms. Ball responded that it comes out to 3.4%. Chair Constantine noted that the Consumer Price Index, which is used to calculate inflation, has been estimated to have risen by 3.7% this year, while it was 6.5% last year and 7.5% the year before.

Board member Frizzell inquired into the additional dollar amount in taxes that an average could expect to pay. Ms. Ball noted that she would perform a quick calculation to provide the answer. The 1% increase is to the Levy itself, not necessarily on an individual property owner’s taxes.

Board member Dammeier asked about the budgeted interest earnings in 2024 and how that compares to current projections. John Henry, Chief Financial Officer, responded that the Proposed 2024 Budget includes \$133 million from interest as revenue. He added that the calculation comes to about a 4% earning with about 1.9% in payments related to debt services. Mr. Henry did warn that this may be an opportune time for those investment yields and staff are not assuming it will continue to be as robust in the future. Board member Dammeier noted that he believes the yield from interest earnings will dwarf not only this year’s levy increase but also the revenue collected from the Property Tax Levy through 2046.

Ms. Ball determined that the increase in property taxes from the 2024 Property Tax Levy for the average \$750,000 home is around \$7.50. Board member Frizzell noted that she came to a similar number, but wanted Sound Transit to confirm her interpretation.

Resolution No. R2023-36 was moved by Board member Baker and seconded by Board member Balducci.

Chair Constantine noted that the 1% annual increases in the Sound Transit Property Tax Levy were assumed when ST3 was approved by voters in 2016, and a Board decision to not approve the increases would impact the adopted Long Range Financial Plan. He also noted the trouble with taxation at the state level.

Chair Constantine called for a roll call vote on Resolution No. R2023-36.

Ayes

- Nancy Backus
- David Baker
- Claudia Balducci
- Cassie Franklin
- Christine Frizzell
- Bruce Harrell
- Joe McDermott

Nays

- Bruce Dammeier

It was carried by a supermajority vote of the 14 Board members present that Resolution No. R2023-36 be approved as presented, with 13 Board members voting in the affirmative and Board member Dammeier voting in the negative.

Other business - None.

Next meeting

The next regular Board meeting would be held on December 15, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Ruth Fisher Board Room and as a virtual meeting via WebEx.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.



Dow Constantine
Board Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores
Board Administrator

APPROVED on December 15, 2023, AJM.