



## Summary Minutes

### System Expansion Committee Meeting August 8, 2024

#### Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Committee Vice Chair Roscoe and was available for viewing in person and online.

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 Chair
(A) Claudia Balducci, King County Councilmember	(P) Kim Roscoe, Fife Mayor

Board Members	
(P) Nancy Backus, Auburn Mayor	(P) Bruce Harrell, Seattle Mayor
(P) Angela Birney, Redmond Mayor	(A) Jim Kastama, Puyallup Mayor
(A) Cassie Franklin, Everett Mayor	(P) Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive
	(P) Dan Strauss, Seattle Councilmember

Alejandro Monzon, Board Relations Specialist, announced that a quorum of the System Expansion Committee was present at roll call.

#### Report of the Chair

##### Char Pro Tem Election

Vice Chair Roscoe informed the Committee that she would likely be unable to chair for the entirety of the meeting and noted that Board member Somers was prepared to step in as Chair Pro Tem.

It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Birney, and carried by the unanimous vote of the committee members present that Board member Somers is elected as Chair Pro Tem for the meeting following Vice Chair Roscoe's departure.

#### CEO Report

Interim Chief Executive Officer Goran Sparrman provided the report.

##### Activation Update

CEO Sparrman acknowledged that a power outage from simulated service along the Lynnwood Link Extension extended south and impacted 1 Line service between Northgate and Roosevelt Stations on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The failure has been identified and addressed. While simulated service continues, the agency remains on track for starting revenue service on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Two outages also occurred on the 2 Line on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and the causes are currently being investigated. CEO Sparrman announced that he is commissioning an independent technical review of the systems to identify necessary actions to achieve the agency's reliability commitment.

### Projects in Planning updates

The Federal Transit Administration signed the Record of Decisions for the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project. Additionally, an online public open house is underway through the end of September for the King Street Station Platform Area project. In partnership with the City of Seattle, the South Downtown Hub planning effort continues with Workshop #2 and an ongoing online survey to collect additional public input through August 31, 2024. The Everett Link Extension launched an update website in late June with revised station area designs. In July, there were 3,300 visitors to the site.

### At-grade Crossing Safety update

The at-grade crossing safety program has begun developing the Rainier Valley and system-wide safety master plans as directed in Motion No. M2024-45. In addition to compiling and consolidating information from previous studies, the program is updating and developing additional information on costs, benefits, and potential impacts of proposed solutions. Additional content for public engagement is being created, and a multilingual survey and program website will be launched in the coming weeks. Stall will also be at the Othello Park International Festival.

CEO Sparrman added that he signed an emergency declaration to allow for the team to bring on General Engineering Consultants. A ratification action will be brought to the Board meeting later this month.

### Federal Way Link Extension Structure C update and tour

As reported in last month, the final closure pour on Structure C has been completed. The alignment is now tied-in end to end, with track and systems activities across Structure C advancing. He reminded interested Board members that there will be tour of Structure C on August 14, 2024.

### Ron Lewis Retirement

After 22 years of service to the agency, Design, Engineering, and Construction Management (DECM) Executive Director Ron Lewis will be retiring from Sound Transit on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Lewis will still be present on August 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the opening of the Lynnwood Link Extension, his tenth Link opening. Throughout his career at Sound Transit, Mr. Lewis left an indelible mark on the agency, including navigating construction projects through the pandemic, concrete strikes, and other serious challenges.

Mr. Lewis' affiliation with Sound Transit began in 1998 as a consultant. Officially joining staff in 2002, he climbed the ladder and led the Airport Link and East Link Extensions before becoming DECM Executive Director in 2018. In addition to his construction leadership, Mr. Lewis proudly sponsored the Blacks Empowering Success in Transit (BEST) employee Resource Group. CEO Sparrman asked all to join in thanking Mr. Lewis and invited him to say a few words.

Mr. Lewis reflected on his time at Sound Transit and the many projects he has been able to contribute to in order to enhance mobility and change the landscape of the region. He thanked the Board and Executive Leadership for their guidance, vision, and tough love. Mr. Lewis thanked the talented staff at the agency and urged them to continue their work to realize the agency's vision for the region.

Vice Chair Roscoe and Board members Somers and Backus added their own thanks for Mr. Lewis's tenure and leadership at the agency.

## **Public comment**

Vice Chair Roscoe announced that public comment would be accepted via email to [meetingcomments@soundtransit.org](mailto:meetingcomments@soundtransit.org) and would also be accepted verbally.

### Written public comments:

Laura Housley

Matthew Papaly  
Joe Kunzler

In-person Verbal Public Comments:

Alex Tsimerman

Committee Vice Chair Roscoe announced that Mr. Alex Tsimerman would be excluded from providing verbal public comment to the Sound Transit Board of Directors and Committees for a period of 365 days. The exclusion was based on Mr. Tsimerman's third violation in 18 months of the Board Rules and Operating Procedures, which require that comments be related to an agenda item(s) or matters designated for public comment and also prohibit derogatory remarks.

Betty Lau  
Brien Chow  
Liam Foy-McAuliff

Virtual Verbal Public Comments:

Joe Kunzler  
Sean Osborn

## **Business items**

### **For Committee Final Action**

Minutes: July 11, 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting

**It was moved by Board member Somers, seconded by Board member Backus, and carried by unanimous voice vote that the minutes of the July 11, 2024 System Expansion Committee meeting be approved as presented.**

### **For Recommendation to the Board**

Resolution No. R2024-17: Adopting the Lakewood Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$59,266,000 from \$8,880,000 to \$68,146,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$277,531 from \$2,301,469 to \$2,579,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030.

Mark Johnson, Project Director, gave the staff presentation for the three items on today's agenda.

Board member Strauss thanked Sound Transit staff for their work and clear presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Somers, and carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-17 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Motion No. M2024-53: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a funding agreement with the City of Lakewood to reimburse the city of Lakewood for costs incurred for the design, construction, ownership and maintenance of non-motorized improvements that are part of the Lakewood Station Access Improvements Project in an amount not to exceed \$31,625,000, contingent upon approval of Resolution No. R2024-17.

Vice Chair Roscoe noted that the information for this action was included in the previous presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Somers, and carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present that Motion No. M2024-53 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

Resolution No. R2024-18: Adopting the South Tacoma Station Access Improvements project baseline schedule and budget by (a) increasing the authorized project allocation by \$61,167,000 from \$9,200,000 to \$70,367,000, (b) increasing the annual project budget by \$1,102,287 from \$1,872,713 to \$2,975,000, and (c) establishing an open for service date of Q4 2030.

Vice Chair Roscoe noted that the information for this action was included in the previous presentation.

**It was moved by Board member Backus, seconded by Board member Somers, and carried by the unanimous voice vote of all committee members present that Resolution No. R2024-18 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.**

At this time, Vice Chair Roscoe departed, and Board member Somers continued the meeting as Chair Pro Tem.

## **Reports to the Committee**

### Status of Implementing the Technical Advisory Group recommendations

Terri Mestas, Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Capital Delivery, began the presentation by noting an updated version of the tracking table was included in the member's packets. Today's report will focus on the work to become the Owner of Choice and industry engagement.

Over the last few months, the agency has begun significant and meaningful engagement with the construction and professional services communities, both of which will be necessary partners for the success of the capital program. Becoming the Owner of Choice will shore these relationships and lead to long-term collaboration. There are three areas of focus related to industry engagement – outreach and engagement, joint working groups, and delivery methods – which will be discussed on the following slides.

Ms. Mestas first showed a partial list of the extensive industry engagement done since January of this year, with most contractor engagement occurring since May. These engagements have ranged from one-on-one meetings with firms for feedback to joint "lessons learned" meetings with industry partners, as well as meetings with industry organizations, such as the Association of General Contractors (AGC).

Over the years, Sound Transit and AGC has met to jointly identify areas of focus and establish subcommittees to identify solutions and efficiencies. Unfortunately, that work stalled-out and engagement stagnated. Ms. Mestas and CEO Sparman recently met with AGC in April and June and re-invigorated this effort with subcommittee meetings scheduled over the next several months. A new joint agreement with AGC was developed on what the goals are of each subcommittee are and the associated schedule for each.

As a result of reviving the "Best Practices" Committees with AGC, an all-day industry workshop was held on the West Seattle Link Extension in July. Twenty-two contractors attended and discussed delivery methods, constructability issues, and best practices and opportunities for innovation. The resulting feedback has already begun shaping planned procurements and execution strategies.

Sound Transit is established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the agency's success in a number of areas, including industry engagement and being the Owner of Choice. The slide included a list of KPIs related to the procurement phase, including tracking the numbers of responses to requests for information or proposals, as well as the time for the agency to move from selection to award for any given contract. There was also a list for KPIs related to the implementation phase of a project, including tracking time to make decisions and prompt payment. For example, a Request for Information (RFI) for the Operations and Maintenance Facility Sound was issued in April 2022 and June 2024. The April 2022

RFI received one response, while the June 2024 updated RFI saw 15 firms respond. This seems to indicate that there is interest in the project, a high likelihood of good competition, and that the outreach to date is meaningful to the contractor community. Additional unsolicited feedback has also been positive.

Through the end of the year, there are more than 50 industry events being tracked that the agency is either organizing or has been invited to speak and present. The first event is the Equity in Infrastructure Pledge signing in the Great Hall on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Pro Tem Somers asked if a dashboard for these metrics has been created and is publicly available. Ms. Mestas said that a dashboard is in the works and will be shared once all KPIs are established.

**Executive session** - None.

### **Other business**

None.

### **Next meeting**

Thursday, September 12, 2024  
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Ruth Fisher Board Room & Virtually via Zoom

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.



Claudia Balducci  
System Expansion Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Kathryn Flores  
Board Administrator

APPROVED on September 12, 2024, AJM.