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CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE 127304
COUNCIL BILL 121068

AN ORDINANCE amending Ordinance 127156, which adopted the 2025 Budget, including the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP); changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels, and from various funds in the Budget to support the City’s efforts to expeditiously deliver the Sound Transit 3 program permit review and other oversight; creating exempt and nonexempt positions; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

WHEREAS, the 2025 Adopted and 2026 Endorsed Budgets included a reserve budget in Finance General for the purpose of supporting Sound Transit 3 (ST3) program related staffing needs; and

WHEREAS, release of the 2025 reserve is predicated on approval of a ST3 Staffing and Resource Plan; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 127228, passed by the Council in June 2025, makes changes to development regulation and processes applicable to light rail transit facilities to streamline the permit review process or resolve code conflicts; and

WHEREAS, permitting for the West Seattle Link Extension is expected to expand substantially in Q4 2025, construction is expected to begin in 2027, and service is anticipated to begin in 2032. The Ballard Link Extension is still in the planning stages and opening of the extension is scheduled for 2039; and

WHEREAS, timing of the staffing increase has been aligned with expected receipt of Sound Transit 3 permit submissions in late 2025, the anticipated need to support City ST3 staffing and consultant support from the reserve amount for 2025 is \$2,431,947; and

1 WHEREAS, the City and Sound Transit have financial agreements to bill and collect fees on
2 bodies of work that are necessary to advance project design and permitting but that are
3 not billable through permit fees; and

4 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a large portion of staff time required to implement the light rail
5 code amendments to facilities' streamlined permitting will be resourced through City of
6 Seattle and Sound Transit Task Orders; and

7 WHEREAS, the Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects, and Sound Transit (OWCPST)
8 prepared an ST3 Staffing and Resource Plan that includes an analysis of resource needs
9 (staffing and consultant) to support the ST3 program effort; and

10 WHEREAS, the ST3 Staffing and Resource Plan identifies 50.0 additional staff in various City
11 departments who will collaborate with Sound Transit on project design and engineering,
12 environmental review and project permitting, and construction management and project
13 impact mitigation, as well as lead on station area planning and access projects; and

14 WHEREAS, the ST3 Staffing and Resource Plan also identifies funding for consultant services
15 to supplement staff work; and

16 WHEREAS, Mayor Harrell's Executive Order 2025-02 prioritized expanding the Office of the
17 Waterfront and Civic Projects to provide oversight of the City's Sound Transit Program
18 in order to streamline permitting and processes, add key resources and staffing, and
19 develop a strategy for delivering an excellent transit experience; NOW, THEREFORE,

20 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

21 Section 1. To pay for necessary costs and expenses to be incurred in 2025, but for which
22 insufficient appropriations were made due to causes that could not have been reasonably

1 foreseen at the time of the making of the 2025 budget, the appropriations for the following items
 2 in the 2025 Budget are modified from the funds shown, as follows:

Item	Department	Fund	Budget Summary Level	Amount (\$)
1.1	Finance General	Transportation Benefit District Fund (19900)	General Purpose (19900-BO-FG-2QD00)	(2,296,000)
1.2	Seattle Department of Transportation	Transportation Benefit District Fund (19900)	Waterfront and Civic Projects (19900-BO-TR-16000)	2,296,000
1.3	Seattle Department of Transportation	Transportation Fund (13000)	Waterfront and Civic Projects (19900-BO-TR-16000)	2,431,947
Total				2,431,947

3 Section 2. The following new positions are created in the Department of Transportation,
 4 Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Department of Neighborhoods:

Item	Department	Position Title	Position Status	Number
2.1*	Seattle City Light	Civil Engineer, Sr	Full-time	1.0
2.2*	Seattle City Light	Electrical Engineer, Associate	Full-time	4.0
2.3*	Seattle City Light	Electrical Engineer, Assistant	Full-time	1.0
2.4*	Seattle City Light	Electrical Power Systems Engineer	Full-time	1.0
2.5*	Seattle City Light	Electrical Power Systems Engineer, Principal	Full-time	1.0
2.6*	Seattle City Light	Cable Splicer	Full-time	5.0
2.7*	Seattle Public Utilities	Civil Engineering Spec, Sr	Full-time	2.0
2.8*	Seattle Public Utilities	Civil Engineer, Senior	Full-time	2.0
2.9*	Seattle Public Utilities	Construction Maintenance Equipment Operator	Full-time	1.0
2.10*	Seattle Public Utilities	Senior Water Pipe Worker	Full-time	1.0
2.11*	Seattle Public Utilities	Water Crew Chief	Full-time	1.0

2.12*	Seattle Public Utilities	Water Pipe Worker	Full-time	2.0
2.13	Seattle Department of Transportation	Project Funds and Agreements Coordinator, Sr	Full-time	1.0
2.14	Seattle Department of Transportation	Transportation Planner, Sr	Full-time	1.0
2.15	Seattle Department of Transportation	Administrative Staff Analyst	Full-time	1.0
2.16	Seattle Department of Transportation	Environmental Analyst, Sr	Part-time	0.5
2.17*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Civil Engineer, Sr	Full-time	3.0
2.18*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Civil Engineer, Sr	Part-time	0.5
2.19*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Civil Engineer, Supervisor	Full-time	1.0
2.20*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Civil Engineering Specialist, Associate	Full-time	2.0
2.21*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Civil Engineering Specialist, Sr	Full-time	1.0
2.22*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Landscape Architect	Full-time	2.0
2.23*	Department of Neighborhoods	Community Development Spec, Sr	Full-time	1.0
Total				36.0

1 The Director of Transportation, General Manager/CEO of Seattle City Light, General
2 Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities, and the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods
3 are authorized to fill these positions subject to Seattle Municipal Code Title 4, the City’s
4 Personnel Rules, and applicable employment laws.

5 The above-named department directors are authorized to fill the positions denoted above
6 with an asterisk (*) only upon completion of a funding agreement and/or permit schedule
7 commitment from Sound Transit being obtained by the City.

1 Section 3. The following new positions, which are exempt from Civil Service and Public
 2 Safety Civil Service rules and laws, are created in the Department of Transportation, Seattle City
 3 Light, Seattle Public Utilities, the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections, and
 4 Seattle Parks and Recreation:

Item	Department	Position Title	Position Status	Number
3.1	Seattle Department of Transportation	StratAdvsr1, General Govt	Full-time	4.0
3.2*	Seattle Department of Transportation	StratAdvsr3, General Govt	Full-time	2.0
3.3	Seattle Department of Transportation	StratAdvsr3, General Govt	Full-time	1.0
3.4*	Seattle Department of Transportation	Arborist	Full-time	2.0
3.5*	Seattle City Light	Manager 3	Full-time	1.0
3.6*	Seattle Public Utilities	StratAdvsr2, General Govt	Full-time	2.0
3.7*	Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections	StratAdvsr1, General Govt	Full-time	1.0
3.8*	Seattle Parks and Recreation	StratAdvsr1, General Govt	Full-time	1.0
Total				14.0

5 The Director of Transportation, General Manager/CEO of Seattle City Light, General
 6 Manager/CEO of Seattle Public Utilities, Director of the Seattle Department of Construction and
 7 Inspections, and Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation are authorized to fill these
 8 positions subject Seattle Municipal Code Title 4, the City’s Personnel Rules, and applicable
 9 employment laws.

10 The above-named department directors are authorized to fill the positions denoted above
 11 with an asterisk (*) only upon completion of a funding agreement and/or permit schedule
 12 commitment from Sound Transit being obtained by the City.

1 Section 4. The positions established in Section 2 and Section 3 of this ordinance will
2 sunset after completion of the West Seattle and Ballard Link Light Rail Extension projects.

3 Section 5. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken after its passage
4 and prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed.

5 Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code
6 Sections 1.04.020 and 1.04.070.

7 Passed by a 3/4 vote of all the members of the City Council the 23rd day of
8 September, 2025, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its
9 passage this 23rd day of September, 2025.

10 

11 President _____ of the City Council

12 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this 26th day of September, 2025.

13 

14 Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

15 Filed by me this 26th day of September, 2025.

16 

17 Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

18 (Seal)