



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Transportation, Waterfront, and Seattle Center Committee Agenda

Thursday, April 2, 2026

9:30 AM

Council Chamber, City Hall
600 4th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Rob Saka, Chair
Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Vice-Chair
Dionne Foster, Member
Robert Kettle, Member
Eddie Lin, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8801; Rob.Saka@seattle.gov

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Transportation, Waterfront, and Seattle Center
Committee
Agenda
April 2, 2026 - 9:30 AM

Meeting Location:

Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:

<https://seattle.gov/council/transportation-waterfront-and-seattle-center>

This meeting also constitutes a meeting of the City Council, provided that the meeting shall be conducted as a committee meeting under the Council Rules and Procedures, and Council action shall be limited to committee business.

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Please register in advance in order to be recognized by the Chair. Details on how to register for Public Comment are listed below:

Remote Public Comment - Register online to speak during the Public Comment period at the meeting at <https://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/public-comment>. Online registration to speak will begin one hour before the meeting start time, and registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

In-Person Public Comment - Register to speak on the public comment sign-up sheet located inside Council Chambers at least 15 minutes prior to the meeting start time. Registration will end at the conclusion of the Public Comment period during the meeting.

Please submit written comments no later than four business hours prior to the start of the meeting to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the meeting. Comments may be submitted at Council@seattle.gov or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Business hours are considered 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Comments received after that time will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated

A. Call To Order

B. Approval of the Agenda

C. Public Comment

Members of the public may address items on the agenda and matters within the purview of the committee. Please register in advance to be recognized by the Chair.

D. Items of Business

1. Seattle NBA Readiness Roundtable

Briefing and Discussion

Presenters: Beth Knox, Seattle Sports Commission; Kristin Akers and Brian Robinson, Seattle NBA Fans; Rosie Selle, Climate Pledge Arena; Brad Meyers, Native Youth Rise Above; Spencer Hawes, retired NBA player; Brian Surratt, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office

- 2. [Res 32198](#) A resolution affirming The City of Seattle's readiness for a National Basketball Association (NBA) team; declaring that Climate Pledge Arena is ready for an NBA team; and affirming Seattle is a basketball city.**

Supporting Documents:

[Summary and Fiscal Note](#)

Briefing, Discussion, and Possible Vote

Presenters: Brian Surratt, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office; Lish Whitson, Director, Council Central Staff

3. Update on 1st Avenue South Bridge Repairs

Briefing and Discussion

Presenter: Brian Nielsen, Regional Administrator, Washington State
Department of Transportation (WSDOT)

E. Adjournment



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2869, **Version:** 1

Seattle NBA Readiness Roundtable



Legislation Text

File #: Res 32198, **Version:** 1

Screen Reader Users: Make sure settings include reading strikethrough and underline font attributes.

The City of Seattle

Resolution

A resolution affirming The City of Seattle's readiness for a National Basketball Association (NBA)

team; declaring that Climate Pledge Arena is ready for an NBA team; and affirming Seattle is a basketball city.

Recitals:

On March 25, 2026, the National Basketball Association (NBA) Board of Governors voted

unanimously to formally explore expansion to Seattle, making Seattle an official candidate to receive a franchise.

Seattle has a proud and storied history as home to the Seattle SuperSonics, an NBA franchise from 1967 to 2008, including the 1979 NBA Championship team that remains a source of civic pride and identity.

Seattle has continued to cultivate one of the nation's strongest basketball ecosystems, with sustained growth in youth participation, elite grassroots programs, and nationally recognized high school and collegiate competition.

Generations of players from Seattle and the Pacific Northwest have gone on to successful collegiate and professional careers, reinforcing Seattle's reputation as a premier talent pipeline and a community deeply connected to the game of basketball at every level.

The departure of the Seattle SuperSonics left a lasting impact on the Seattle community, and public

interest in the return of the NBA has remained strong and consistent across generations of residents.

Through a competitive request for proposals process initiated in 2017, The City of Seattle (City) ensured the original home of the Seattle SuperSonics was successfully redeveloped and modernized into today's Climate Pledge Arena - a 100 percent privately-funded, world-class, sustainable, state-of-the-art facility designed to host professional basketball at the highest level.

The construction and redevelopment of Climate Pledge Arena was made possible by thousands of skilled union construction workers and building trades professionals, reflecting Seattle's deep expertise in delivering complex, large-scale infrastructure projects to the highest standards.

As part of the Lease Agreement (Lease), the City required Climate Pledge Arena to use all commercially reasonable efforts to pursue an NBA team as an arena tenant, for that team to play its home games at the arena at Seattle Center, and maintain the team's corporate headquarters in Seattle.

Exclusivity being required to incentivize the \$1.15 billion private redevelopment of Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center, the City agreed during the Lease term not to provide future financial support, benefits, or incentives for construction of any additional live entertainment venue with a capacity of more than 15,000 seats within Seattle.

Climate Pledge Arena has been designed, constructed, and intended for a dual hockey National Hockey League (NHL) and basketball Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) / National Basketball Association (NBA) operation, and as such meets and exceeds NBA standards, including seating capacity, premium amenities, broadcast capabilities, locker room facilities, and fan experience infrastructure.

Critical to the successful operation of Climate Pledge Arena and its readiness to host an NBA

franchise is a skilled and experienced workforce of more than 1,500 part-time employees represented across eight collective bargaining units, reflecting Seattle's strong labor partnerships and commitment to high-quality event operations.

Climate Pledge Arena has hosted 144 basketball games to date (out of nearly 1,000 total public and private events), which includes 90 WNBA / Seattle Storm games, 23 Seattle University Men's games, 15 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Men's and Women's Tournament games, four NBA preseason games, and more.

The Seattle Storm, a WNBA franchise, has achieved sustained local and national success and strong fan support, further demonstrating the region's deep commitment to professional basketball.

Seattle has demonstrated its ability to successfully support major professional sports franchises, including the NHL, WNBA, Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), Major League Soccer (MLS), and National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) with strong attendance, national visibility, national titles, and passionate fan engagement.

Seattle has a history of ardently supporting teams affiliated with semi-professional sports leagues, including the United States Basketball League (USBL), the USL W League, and the USL League Two, among others.

Seattle is one of the largest media markets in the United States without an NBA franchise, with a robust and growing population, a diverse and highly educated workforce, and one of the strongest regional economies in the country.

Seattle's business and innovation ecosystem - including global leaders in technology, life sciences, aerospace, and clean energy - provides a deep base of sponsorship, partnership, and long-term financial support for a successful NBA franchise.

The return of the Seattle SuperSonics would generate significant economic, cultural, and community

benefits, including job creation, increased tourism, small business growth, continued downtown revitalization benefits, further activation of Seattle Center, and enhanced national and international visibility for Seattle and the region.

Community support for the return of the Seattle SuperSonics includes widespread public enthusiasm, strong grassroots advocacy, and the continued preservation of the Seattle SuperSonics' legacy through fan organizations, alumni engagement, and civic leadership.

The City of Seattle is committed to ensuring that the return of the Seattle SuperSonics aligns with broader community priorities, including equitable access to play, community development opportunity, workforce development, youth engagement, and impacts in underserved communities. Therefore,

Be it resolved by the City Council of The City of Seattle, the Mayor concurring:

Section 1. Affirmation of readiness. The City of Seattle formally affirms its readiness to welcome the return of the Seattle SuperSonics and expresses its strong desire to partner with the NBA to make this vision a reality.

Section 2. Arena commitment. The City affirms that Climate Pledge Arena is fully NBA-ready and capable of serving as a premier home venue, supported by lease terms, operational readiness, and infrastructure aligned with league requirements.

Section 3. Market strength and sustainability. The City highlights the strength of the Seattle market, including its economic vitality, corporate base, media reach, and demonstrated fan support, as a foundation for long-term franchise success.

Section 4. Partnership with the NBA. The City commits to collaborating with the NBA, potential ownership groups, and regional partners to facilitate expansion opportunities that would return professional basketball to Seattle.

Section 5. Regional and civic collaboration. The City will continue to collaborate with regional stakeholders - including King County, the State of Washington, business leaders, and community organizations - to support a unified and compelling case for the return of the NBA.

Section 6. Legacy and identity. The City recognizes the enduring legacy of the Seattle SuperSonics and affirms its commitment to honoring that history as part of any future NBA franchise in Seattle.

Adopted by the City Council and signed in open session in authentication of its adoption on .

President of the City Council
Signed in concurrence on .

Katie B. Wilson, Mayor
Attested on .

Scheereen Dedman, City Clerk

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Summary and Fiscal Note

1. Legislation Summary

Department: Seattle Center

Title: A resolution affirming The City of Seattle’s readiness for a National Basketball Association (NBA) team; declaring that Climate Pledge Arena is ready for an NBA team; and affirming Seattle is a basketball city.

Background: With this resolution, the City formally affirms its readiness to welcome the return of the Seattle SuperSonics and expresses its strong desire to partner with the NBA to make this vision a reality and affirms that the Climate Pledge Arena (Arena) fully NBA-ready and capable of serving as a premier home venue, supported by lease terms, operational readiness, and infrastructure aligned with league requirements. Critical to the successful operation of the Arena and its readiness to host an NBA franchise is a skilled and experienced workforce of more than 1,500 part-time employees represented across eight collective bargaining units, reflecting Seattle’s strong labor partnerships and commitment to high-quality event operations. The Arena has hosted 144 basketball games to date (out of nearly 1,000 total public and private events), which includes 90 WNBA/Seattle Storm games, 23 Seattle University Men’s games, 15 NCAA Men’s and Women’s Tournament games, 4 NBA Pre-Season games and more. The Seattle Storm, a WNBA franchise, has achieved sustained local and national success and strong fan support, further demonstrating the region’s deep commitment to professional basketball.

Summary Attachments: None.

2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?

Yes

No

a. CIP Project Name:

b. Master Project ID:

c. Project Location:

d. Start Date:

e. End Date:

f. Total Project Cost Through 2030:

3. Summary of Financial Implications

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

Yes

No

The legislation does not have financial impacts to the City. However, the intent of the resolution is to promote the return of the Seattle SuperSonics to Seattle with the expectation of generating significant economic, cultural, and community benefits, including job creation, increased tourism, small business growth, continued downtown revitalization benefits, further activation of Seattle Center and enhanced national and international visibility for Seattle and the region.

4. Other Impacts

a. Does this legislation require a public hearing?

Yes

No

b. Does this legislation require a notice to be published in The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times?

Yes

No

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

Indirectly, yes. The resolution declares Climate Pledge Arena on the Seattle Center campus ready for a National Basketball Association (NBA) team. The City owns the property and ArenaCo leases and operates the building.

d. Race and Social Justice Initiative impacts:

1. How does this legislation affect vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you come to this conclusion? Please consider both impacts within City government (like employees and internal programs) and in the broader community. This legislation will not have a material impact on vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities.

2. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses used to develop or assess this legislation. N/A

3. What is the Language Access Plan for communicating with the public about this legislation? N/A

e. Climate change impacts:

1. Emissions: Will this legislation significantly increase or decrease carbon emissions? Attach any studies or materials that inform your answer. No impact identified.

2. Resiliency: Will this legislation make Seattle more or less able to adapt to climate change? If it reduces resiliency, explain what can be done to lessen the impact. No impact identified.

LEG Basketball City SUM
Eric McConaghy
D1a

f. If this legislation creates a new program or expands an existing one, what are the long-term, measurable goals? How will this legislation help achieve those goals? What methods will be used to track progress? N/A

g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP that involves shared funding with a non-City partner or organization? No.



Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2870, **Version:** 1

Update on 1st Avenue South Bridge Repairs