

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

600 Fourth Ave. 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104



Journal of the Proceedings of the Seattle City Council

Tuesday, July 21, 2026

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, City Hall

600 4th Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

City Council

Joy Hollingsworth, Council President

Dionne Foster, Member

Debora Juarez, Member

Robert Kettle, Member

Eddie Lin, Member

Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Member

Maritza Rivera, Member

Rob Saka, Member

Dan Strauss, Member

Chair Info: 206-684-8803; Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov

A. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of The City of Seattle met in the Council Chamber in City Hall in Seattle, Washington, on July 21, 2026, pursuant to the provisions of the City Charter. The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m., with Council President Hollingsworth presiding.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

C. PRESENTATIONS**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals addressed the Council:

Yvette Dinish
Roberto Daniel Smith
Pauline Van Senus
Greg Woodfill
Kirk Hovenkotter
Clive Hayward
Cesar Sanchez
Keith Miller
Jason Li
Bennett Haselton
Sarah Gaspard
Eric Githui
Magdalena Ware
Rose Legionaires
David Haines

E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:

[IRC 532](#) **July 21, 2026**

By unanimous consent, the Introduction & Referral Calendar (IRC) was adopted.

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

By unanimous consent, the Agenda was adopted.

G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion was made by Council President Hollingsworth, duly seconded and carried, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Journal:**1. [Min 576](#) July 14, 2026**

The Minutes were adopted on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Minutes (Min):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

Bills:**2. [CB 121255](#) An ordinance appropriating money to pay certain claims for the week of July 6, 2026, through July 10, 2026, and ordering the payment thereof; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

PARKS AND CITY LIGHT COMMITTEE:

3. [CB 121249](#) **An ordinance relating to the City Light Department; authorizing ten-year agreements with customers eligible for transportation electrification programs.**

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 5 - Juarez, Kettle, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

4. [CB 121250](#) **An ordinance relating to City-owned real property known as Lake City Garage and Plaza; transferring jurisdiction and management authority from the Department of Finance and Administrative Services to Seattle Parks and Recreation for municipal purposes; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

The Committee recommends that City Council pass the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 5 - Juarez, Kettle, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed on the Consent Calendar by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT DISTRICT:

1. [CB 121226](#) **An ordinance relating to a sales and use tax; providing for the submission to qualified electors of the City at an election to be held on November 3, 2026, a proposition to collect a sales and use tax to fund transit and related transportation programs in Seattle; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.**

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 9 - Saka, Rinck, Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rivera, Strauss

Opposed: None

ACTION 1:

Motion was made by Councilmember Saka and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 121226, by amending Sections 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10, as shown on Attachment 1 to the Minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

ACTION 2:

Motion was made by Councilmember Hollingsworth and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 121226, by adding a new Section 8, as shown in the underlined language below, and renumbering the subsequent sections:

Section 8. One-time reporting. The Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, is requested to provide a report that includes analysis and recommendations for an implementation plan to extend Transit Access Program (TAP) benefits to additional low-income populations, including, but not limited to, those participating in City-run, income-verified programs such as the Utility Discount Program, Seattle Preschool Program, Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. Additional analysis regarding expanding the TAP to Seattle households receiving support to access low-income housing services is also request. The report should include cost and funding scenarios, enrollment and eligibility pathways, demographic and equity impacts, administrative feasibility, and risks, barriers, and mitigation strategies. The report should be provided to the City Council by March 31, 2028.

The motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

ACTION 3:

Motion was made by Councilmember Rivera and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 121226, by adding a new Section 8, as shown in the underlined language below, and renumbering the subsequent sections:

Section 8. One-time reporting. The Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, shall provide a report on the performance outcomes for bus routes that travel within one-quarter mile of public middle schools, public high schools, and community centers. The report should inform potential additional service delivery to these routes to accommodate the timely attendance at school or scheduled events at these locations of school students, school staff, and youth, prioritizing these individuals' safety both while waiting for buses and while in transit. For each such route, the report should analyze the service levels throughout the day and how the service provided aligns with the commitments of the Frequent Transit Network, the efficiency of the route and ability of drivers to keep to an on-time schedule, and the reliability of these routes. The report should also reflect, for each such route, any regular occurrences of overcrowding (a bus's lack of capacity to admit all who wish to board at a given stop, or the need to skip a stop or stops due to lack of capacity), particularly (1) during peak daily travel times or "rush hour" and (2) in the sections of the route that contain stops within one-quarter mile of public middle schools, public high schools, and community centers. The report should also make recommendations for prioritized potential future transit service changes that are most likely to alleviate overcrowding that impacts students, school staff, and youth. The report should be provided to the City Council by September 31, 2028.

The motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 7 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: 2 - Lin, Rinck

ACTION 4:

Motion was made by Councilmember Saka and duly seconded to amend Council Bill 121226, by amending Section 7 as shown in the underlined language below:

Section 7. Annual reporting and oversight. The City of Seattle shall issue an annual report to the public that provides an overview of transit service levels in Seattle and describes how the Seattle Transit Measure has invested in transit service, transportation access, other transit improvements, and Sound Transit expansion efforts in that year and the impacts these investments have had on the travelling public, including progress toward Frequent Transit Network and City mobility goals.

Additionally, the Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, shall provide a separate annual report, beginning March 31, 2028, to the City Council related to the following aspects of the Seattle Transit Measure's investments in transit service:

A. Fare recovery effectiveness, including the percentage of people paying fares, the farebox recovery ratio, including the farebox recovery ratios of a national group of at least 20 comparator or "peer" transit agencies and King County Metro's ranking within that group or the percentage of King County Metro operating costs that was funded directly by passenger fares, total fare revenues collected, the actions taken by King County Metro to support the goal that all adult transit passengers have paid fares or possess a valid transit pass, and any service, operational, or policy changes that affected revenue performance;

B. On-time performance across service hours and routes served, including the percentage of trips arriving within Metro's defined on-time window and early/late distributions, describing how far ahead of schedule ("early") or behind schedule ("late") buses arrive, disaggregated by route including, beginning in year two of the report's preparation, a comparison of on-time performance to the previous three year's metrics in this subject area; and

C. Reliability, or the number of missed or canceled trips and the degree to which King County Metro transit service was delivered consistently and predictably including, beginning in year two of the report's preparation, a comparison of reliability to the previous three years' metrics in this subject area.

The community-led Seattle Transit Advisory Board will continue to serve as the public oversight committee charged with advising on spending of Proposition revenues. Appointments to the Transit Advisory Board, the scope of its duties, and reporting requirements shall continue to be consistent with Resolution 31572, as adopted by Council in 2015, following passage of the 2014 Transportation Benefit District measure.

The motion carried by the following vote:

In favor: 5 - Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Rivera, Saka

Opposed: 4 - Foster, Lin, Rinck, Strauss

The Council Bill (CB) was passed as amended by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

PARKS AND CITY LIGHT COMMITTEE:

2. [CB 121231](#) **An ordinance relating to the City Light Department; establishing new retail rate schedules; establishing a new customer class and conditions of service for data centers whose electricity demand constitutes a new large load; modifying customer charges for service connections; augmenting the rate stabilization account mechanism; amending Sections 21.49.020, 21.49.030, 21.49.052, 21.49.055, 21.49.057, 21.49.058, 21.49.060, 21.49.065, 21.49.083, 21.49.086, 21.49.110, and 21.49.130 of the Seattle Municipal Code; adding a new Section 21.49.059 to the Seattle Municipal Code; and repealing Section 21.49.081 of the Seattle Municipal Code.**

The Committee recommends that City Council pass as amended the Council Bill (CB).

In Favor: 5 - Juarez, Kettle, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Council Bill (CB):

In Favor: 9 - Foster, Hollingsworth, Juarez, Kettle, Lin, Rinck, Rivera, Saka, Strauss

Opposed: None

I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

There were none.

J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

By unanimous consent, Councilmember Strauss was excused from the August 18, 2026, City Council meeting.

L. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Jodee Schwinn, Deputy City Clerk

Signed by me in Open Session, upon approval of the Council, on July 28, 2026.

Joy Hollingsworth, Council President of the City Council

Attachment 1 - Action 1 of Council Bill 121226

Attachment 1 – Action 1 of CB 121226

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

Amendment A Version 1 to CB 121226 – Seattle Transit Measure

Sponsor: Councilmember Saka

Adjusting reporting deadlines

Effect: This amendment would adjust the deadlines for various reports requested via amendments made to CB 121226 on July 16, 2026. The new deadlines are better aligned with initial implementation date of April 1, 2027, in most cases providing at least a year of implementation of the new measure before reporting is required. The proposed deadlines have been identified in consultation with Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). The new deadlines are informed by SDOT's anticipated staff capacity limitations during the transition of ending the current measure and beginning the proposed measure, and the ramp up of new and enhanced programming. Also, the additional time provided by the new deadlines help to ensure ample engagement with King County Metro, allowing them to update their own processes and generate the information necessary to support these reports. With the deadline changes, Central Staff anticipate the reports created with be more informative.

Amend Section 4 of CB 121226 as follows:

Section 4. Unspent transit service funds. By December 31 of each year beginning in 2028, the Seattle Department of Transportation shall report to the Council the anticipated amount of unspent funds that had been designated for the purchase of transit service in that year. The first report on unspent transit service funds is requested to include analysis of the unspent funds from the beginning of the measure and as projected through the end of 2028. The Council intends to appropriate the unspent funds for uses in subsection 2.H of this ordinance that support safe access to transit for pedestrians and increased or enhanced accessibility for transit riders in the public right-of-way.

Amend Section 7 of CB 121226 as follows:

Section 7. Annual reporting and oversight. The City of Seattle shall issue an annual report to the public that provides an overview of transit service levels in Seattle and describes how the Seattle Transit Measure has invested in transit service, transportation access, other transit improvements, and Sound Transit expansion efforts in that year and the impacts these investments have had on the travelling public, including progress toward Frequent Transit Network and City mobility goals.

Additionally, the Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, shall provide a separate annual report, beginning March 31, 2028, to the City Council related to the following aspects of the Seattle Transit Measure's investments in transit service:

A. Fare recovery effectiveness, including the percentage of people paying fares, the farebox recovery ratio or the percentage of King County Metro operating costs that was funded directly by passenger fares, total fare revenues collected, and any service, operational, or policy changes that affected revenue performance;

* * *

Amend Section 8 of CB 121226 as follows:

Section 8. One-time reporting. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), in partnership with King County Metro, is requested to provide a report evaluating the current implementation of policies governing bus stop spacing within Seattle, along with identification of opportunities to improve route speed and service quality. The report should:

A. Assess current policy application – Provide an analysis of how Metro’s stop spacing guidelines – an average of 1/2 mile (RapidRide routes) and 1/4 mile (all other services) – are currently applied throughout the transit network within Seattle.

B. Identify variances & opportunities for optimization – Map and analyze locations where existing stop spacing does not follow the applicable guideline. Evaluate opportunities to expand stop spacing on routes where stop density exceeds policy targets. Assess the operational feasibility of increasing spacing on existing routes (e.g., route-level impacts on travel time, reliability, fleet planning).

C. Evaluate constraints and accessibility impacts – Analyze accessibility considerations, including impacts on riders with mobility challenges and access to essential services; economic impacts, such as: effects on local businesses, community access, and transit-dependent populations; and public safety considerations, including pedestrian conditions, lighting, crossings, and stop location safety.

D. Provide recommendations – Identify policy or implementation changes that could improve service delivery via consistency with guidelines while maintaining equitable access.

The report should be provided to the City Council by ~~((March 30, 2027))~~ March 31, 2028.

Amend Section 9 of CB 121226 as follows:

Section 9. One-time reporting. The Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, is requested to provide a report on the outcomes to date, and opportunities for improvement or expansion, of King County Metro’s Waterfront Shuttle pilot program, which provides seasonal transit service largely at

stops west of the Third Avenue bus corridor. The report should include the qualitative input of neighborhood councils and other local business and advocacy organizations. The report should analyze the feasibility of making permanent and year-round transit service along this route or a similar route. The report should take into account cost and operational considerations for King County Metro, and economic, public safety, and public order considerations, as well as considerations around year-round proximity to public transit, that pertain in the area currently served seasonally by the Waterfront Shuttle. The report should be provided to the City Council by ~~((March 30, 2027))~~ June 30, 2027.

Amend Section 10 of CB 121226 as follows:

Section 10. One-time reporting. The Seattle Department of Transportation, in partnership with King County Metro, is requested to provide a report on the current policies guiding the size of the buses in its fleet, the current use of small buses 40 feet in length or smaller, like shuttles, and opportunities to expand their use. Exploration of how smaller buses and shuttles may create opportunities to more efficiently serve riders during low- and off-peak hours and for potential cost savings generated from reduced fuel consumption and maintenance. The report should explore the possibility of serving routes on narrow streets and steeper terrain where smaller buses may allow for improved maneuverability and safety. Lastly, the report should address the impact that purchasing smaller buses and shuttles may have on King County Metro's ability to purchase electric or hybrid models that emit less carbon dioxide and make less noise than larger buses or shuttles. The report should be provided to the City Council by ~~((March 30, 2027))~~ March 31, 2028.

Note: Multiple amendments may amend the same sections or subsections. Following Select Committee on Seattle Transportation Benefit District action on all amendments, Central Staff will reconcile language and renumber and re-letter sections and subsections as needed in the amended bill.