SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Transportation, Waterfront, and Seattle Center Committee

Agenda

Thursday, March 5, 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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Meeting Location:
Council Chamber, City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Committee Website:
https://seattle.gov/council/transportation-waterfront-and-seattle-center

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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. Memorial Stadium Renovation Project Status Update

Supporting Documents: Presentation

Briefing and Discussion

Presenter: David Kunselman, Seattle Center

2. FIFA Readiness: Seattle Center's Fan Celebration Planning

Supporting Documents: Presentation

Briefing and Discussion

Presenter: Chelsea Riddick-Most and Gretchen Lenihan, Seattle Center

3. **FIFA Readiness: Expanded Transit Access for 2026 World Cup**

Briefing and Discussion

Presenters: Liz Sheldon, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT); Juan Higuera, Sound Transit; and Jonathan Rose, King County Metro

E. Adjournment

Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2847, **Version:** 1

Memorial Stadium Renovation Project Status Update

Memorial Stadium Project Update

STEPS Committee Meeting

March 5, 2026

Public Private Partnership

Seattle Public Schools and the City jointly selected the One Roof Stadium Partnership, legally known as Memorial Stadium Redevelopment LLC (MSR), as the new Memorial Stadium developer and operator in June 2023 through a Request for Proposals.

The stadium will operate under a not-for-profit model.

One Roof Stadium Partnership

ONE ROOF FOUNDATION

CLIMATE PLEDGE ARENA

New Memorial Stadium

- Cost: $150M
- 6,500 seats
- 8,000 total capacity
- Architect: Generator Studio
- Contractor: Sellen Construction

New Memorial Stadium

Demolition

Demolition

Concrete Processing Operation

Memorial Wall – Prior to Construction

- Designed by Garfield High School student Marianne Hanson
- Dedicated on May 29, 1951
- Honors 762 local students who lost their lives in WWII
- Designated a landmark October 2023

Memorial Wall – During Construction

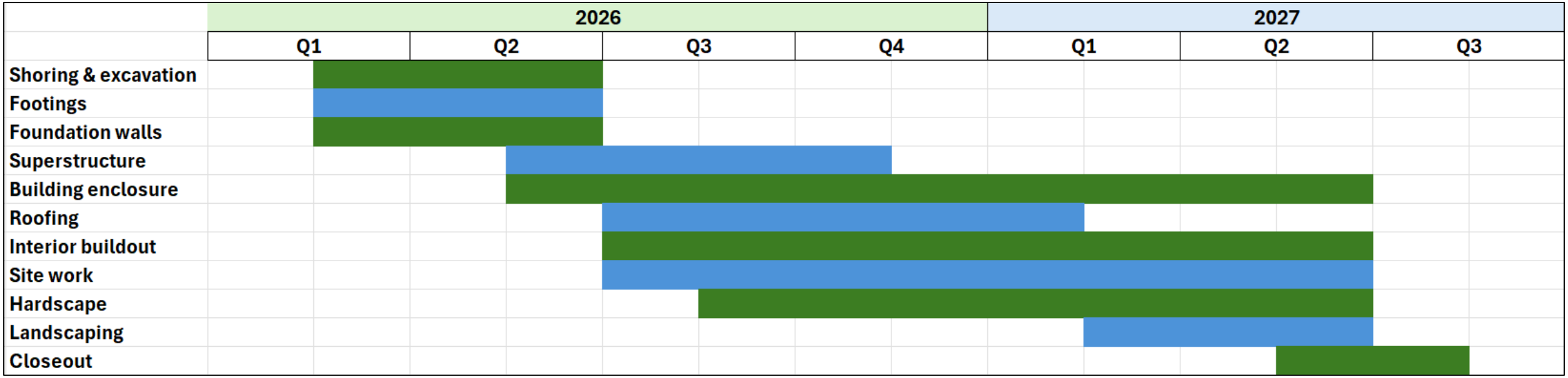
Structural bracing supporting the Memorial Wall during construction.

Memorial Wall - Rendering

Sewer Main Replacement Project

South Canopy Grade Beams

Construction Schedule



Major milestones achieved:

Demolition complete

New sewer main replacement complete

Construction started July 2025.

On track to finish by start of school, September 2027.

Questions?

Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2849, **Version:** 1

FIFA Readiness: Seattle Center's Fan Celebration Planning

Fan Celebration Activity at Seattle Center during FIFA World Cup 2026

Introduction

Seattle Center has collaborated with Seattle FWC26, Seattle's Local Organizing Committee (LOC) since July 2024 to plan a singular major "Fan Celebration" during the Seattle matches.

- Because it remains essential for the City to provide a ***free, accessible public experience of the World Cup***, Seattle Center is moving forward with a self-produced viewing party experience.
- On February 23, the LOC formally designated Seattle Center as one of four sanctioned Fan Celebration sites.

Beginning June 11, fans will be able to experience FIFA World Cup 2026™ excitement at multiple locations along Seattle's Unity Loop, including Seattle Center, Waterfront Park, Pacific Place, and Victory Hall in SODO. All fan experiences in this new distributed model will be free and open to the public.

Why a Fan Celebration at Seattle Center is Essential

It remains important that the City provides a large-scale, free viewing experience to the public during the World Cup. Large numbers of residents will want to engage in the games regardless of whether they can obtain tickets; and thousands of out-of-town visitors will be looking for a “home base” fan experience beyond the game(s) for which they have tickets.

Public Safety and Crowd Management

- A large overflow venue is important for crowd management, to relieve pressure on the streets surrounding the stadium and provide predictable, easily-controlled gathering points.
- Seattle Center is part of existing safety strategies for SPD, SFD, OEM, and transit agencies including SDOT, King County Metro and Sound Transit.
- Seattle Center has the experience, accessibility & infrastructure to host hundreds of thousands of visitors
- Focusing gatherings at Seattle Center supports safety and stability of the downtown business core by minimizing impact on downtown rights-of-way and reducing subsequent demand on Citywide public safety resources.

Let's Play SEA '26 - World Soccer Fan Celebration

Campus and fan celebration activity will include:

Game Experiences – *a home base for fans without tickets*

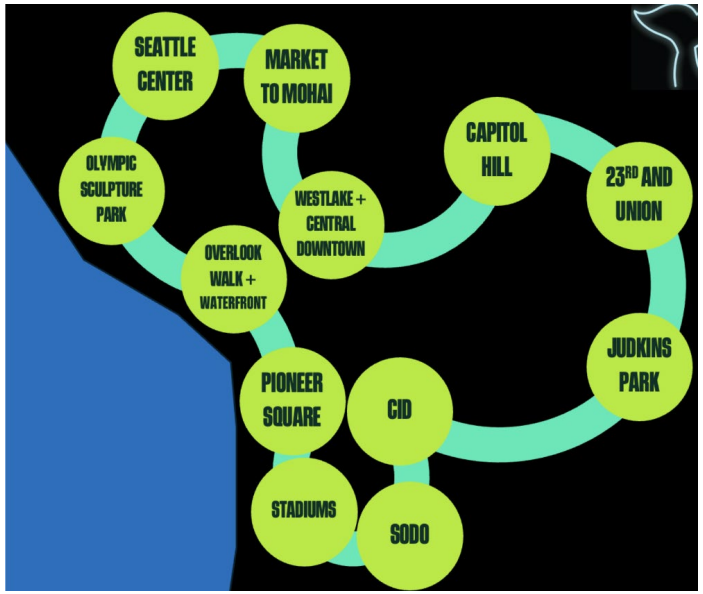
- Daily screening at the Armory, supplemented by partner organization sites
- High-capacity viewing at the Mural for Seattle match days
- *Watch party activity is subject to license approval from FIFA*

Events & Program – business as usual to Seattle Center and its partner organizations

- Established Seattle Center Festivals & Events *(primarily weekends)*
- Ongoing programs (installations, Artists at the Center, Summer Fitness)
- Partner organization events & education programs
- Community celebrations specific to the moment
- Daily Engagement: a clean, safe and welcoming hub of family-friendly activity

Exhibits and Attractions – *anchor the guest experience on shoulder days*

- Campus and neighborhood amenities – open green space, public restrooms, customer service, food & beverage, groceries and pharmacies
- Unity Loop and new transit connections (seasonal as well as gameday) between Seattle Center and the rest of the city



seattlecenter

Fan Celebration Upcoming Milestones

Some major planning components take shape in March, including:

- Confirm schedule for game experience screenings, including partner organization participation
- Contract ancillary event activity for June/July
- Submit watch party license application to FIFA
- Confirm joint operating plans and submit Fan Zone Authorization application to Washington State Liquor & Cannabis Board
- Submit required permit applications to SFD, SDCI, and other departments as needed
- First draft of the Seattle Center Fan Celebration public safety plan
- Finalize Let's Play SEA '26—World Soccer at Seattle Center brand identity with Visit Seattle

Questions?

Legislation Text

File #: Inf 2848, **Version:** 1

FIFA Readiness: Expanded Transit Access for 2026 World Cup