

# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Council Briefing

**February 23, 2026 - 2:00 PM**

### **Meeting Location:**

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

### **Committee Website:**

<http://www.seattle.gov/council/>

---

Only written public comment will be accepted at this meeting. Please submit written comments prior to 10 a.m. to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the start of the meeting. Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Comments received after 10 a.m. will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

Please Note: Times listed are estimated.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes**

#### **Council Briefing Minutes (2026)**

[February 9, 2026](#)

### **2. President's Report**

2:00 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.

### **3. State Legislative Session Update (2026)**

2:05 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

**Presenters:** Mina Hashemi, Director, Anna Johnson, and Samir Junejo, Office of Intergovernmental Relations

**4. Sound Transit Expansion Program Update**

2:25 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

**Presenters:** Cody Reiter, Alex Krieg, and Brad Owen, Sound Transit ; Angela Brady, Interim Director, and Sara Maxana, Seattle Department of Transportation

[Presentation](#)

**5. Signing of Letters and Proclamations**

3:15 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

**6. Preview of City Council Actions, Council and Regional Committees**

3:20 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.

**City Council Agenda (2026)**

[Link to City Council Agendas](#)

[Preliminary February 23, 2026, Agenda](#)

**7. Executive Session on Pending, Potential, or Actual Litigation\***

4:10 p.m. - 5:10 p.m.

*\*Executive Sessions are closed to the public*



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Inf 2818, **Version:** 1

---

Council Briefing Minutes (2026)



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

# Seattle Council Committee Report Council Briefing

**Monday, February 9, 2026, 2:00 PM**

**Meeting Start Time:** 2:02 p.m.

**Presiding Officer:** Council President Hollingsworth

**Present:** 7 - Joy Hollingsworth, Dionne Foster, Robert Kettle, Eddie Lin, Alexis Mercedes Rinck, Maritza Rivera, Rob Saka

**Excused:** 2 - Debora Juarez, Dan Strauss

## 1. Approval of the Minutes

**Inf 2818** Council Briefing Minutes (2026)

The February 2, 2026, Council Briefing Minutes were approved.

## 2. President's Report

3. **Inf 2821** State Legislative Session Update (2026)

The Information Item (Inf) was heard in Committee.

## 4. Signing of Letters and Proclamations

## 5. Preview of City Council Actions, Council and Regional Committees

**Inf 2819** City Council Agenda (2026)

The Information Item (Inf) was heard in Committee.

## 6. Executive Session on Pending, Potential, or Actual Litigation\*

*\*Executive Sessions are closed to the public*

At 3:13 p.m., Council President Hollingsworth announced that the Council would convene in Executive Session to discuss pending, potential, or actual litigation with an estimated end time of 4:45 p.m. The Executive Session concluded at 3:57 p.m.

**Meeting Adjournment Time:** 3:57 p.m.

**Prepared by:** Phillip Wood-Smith, Deputy City Clerk



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Inf 2821, **Version:** 1

---

State Legislative Session Update (2026)



Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Inf 2842, **Version:** 1

---

Sound Transit Expansion Program Update

# *System Expansion Program*

*Seattle City Council Briefing*  
*2/23/2026*



# *Why are we here*

- *Sharing information on the Enterprise Initiative*
- *Providing updates on major capital projects in the City of Seattle*

# *2026 Openings*

# Upcoming openings



Judkins Park Station and the Crosslake Connection are scheduled to open on Saturday, March 28



Pinehurst Station is finishing construction and on track to open by Q3 2026



# *Enterprise Initiative*

# ***Enterprise Initiative***

## ***What is the Enterprise Initiative?***

- Sound Transit's effort to ensure we can deliver the greatest benefits of ST3 within available financial capacity
- A comprehensive effort touching planning, capital, operations, maintenance, and finance to ensure we are meeting both current and future regional mobility needs

## ***Why are we undertaking the Enterprise Initiative?***

- If we don't act, the ST3 program will be unaffordable
- We have the tools to successfully manage these challenges, and we will be able to create an affordable plan and operate a dependable, resilient, and safe system

# Leading indicators of program affordability challenges

## Need for an enterprise approach

- Cost growth on West Seattle Link and Board direction to investigate cost savings opportunities in late 2024
- Rapid system expansion and challenges with delivering resilient, dependable service
- Poorer revenue projections and national and global economic uncertainty
- Post-Covid mobility environment and ensuring that ST3 investment meet regional transportation needs



## ***Quantifying our affordability challenges***

***The following summarizes unmitigated cost pressures across the major elements of our Long-Range Financial Plan***

- **\$34.5B in cost savings and new funding required to fully fund ST3 program**
- Cost growth on the capital program is approximately \$14B-\$20B more in 2025 dollars, or \$22B-\$30B more in year-of-expenditure dollars
- Cost pressures related to improved service delivery could require approximately \$5B more in year-of-expenditure dollars
- Updated revenue projections and financing improvements included since August have increased agency financial capacity by \$4B

**\$149B in total year-of-expenditures dollars is projected to be affordable, including \$51B in pre-baselined capital projects.**

# ***M2025-36: Board principles and timeline***

## ***Principles***

- Advance regional connectivity
- Support future growth
- Prioritize the passenger experience
- Protect public investments with fiscal integrity
- ST3 performance characteristics

## ***Process elements***

- Engage communities through inclusive collaboration
- Build trust through transparent governance
- Drive decisions with data and insight

## ***Timeline***

- A comprehensive framework to deliver the Enterprise Initiative: **Fall 2025**
- An updated ST3 System Plan: **by the end of Q2 2026**
- A new Regional Transit Long-Range Plan: **in Q3 2026**
- An updated Long Range Financial Plan: **in Q4 2026**

# Enterprise Initiative workstreams

	<b>Planning &amp; Policy</b>	<b>Capital Delivery</b>	<b>Service Delivery</b>	<b>Finance</b>
<b>What will this workstream entail?</b>	Reviewing existing plans, policies, assumptions, and changed conditions.	Identifying cost savings approaches to deliver projects within existing resources.	Identifying cost savings and developing better cost data for operating and state of good repair needs.	Assessing overall financial capacity to deliver the program and maximizing existing revenue opportunities.
<b>What tools and levers does the Board have?</b>	Modifying planning assumptions and updating policies that guide plan implementation.	Finding project and program efficiencies, and the potential for scope changes, phasing projects, reconsidering some projects.	Adjusting service levels across modes of service, updating staffing and resource levels, and clarifying asset management needs.	Changing financial planning assumptions and considering potential revenue enhancements.

# ***2026 lookahead***

## ***Scenario development process***

- Responding to Board direction to develop and present plausible, affordable scenarios for an updated ST3 System Plan
- Creating scenarios that are built from different work stream elements, including policy/planning, capital delivery, transit operations, and finance
- Recognizing that certain opportunities will require additional analysis and/or be outside of the Board's direct authority

# *Scenario development*

## *Rules & expectations*

- **Ensure meaningful differences:** Scenarios should reveal real trade-offs and illustrate policy considerations for Board members
- **Focus on what matters:** Prioritize and vary components that truly move the needle
- **Keep it simple:** Complex scenarios collapse under their own weight; clarity is critical
- **Build on existing work:** Leverage cost-savings opportunities as the foundation; supplement with additional technical work
- **Expect a blended outcome:** The eventual ST3 System Plan update put forward to the Board is likely to combine elements from multiple scenarios

# Scenario development process

**Late 2025**

## **Define scope and approach**

- Establish building blocks by workstream
- Define scenario rules and expectations

**January**

## **Develop building blocks**

- Understand what discrete building blocks can achieve
- Define evaluation criteria based on Board-defined principles

**February**

## **Develop initial scenarios**

- Engage the Board on building blocks and policy considerations
- Assemble draft scenarios reflecting Board input

**March**

## **Board retreat to review scenarios**

- Present plausible, affordable scenarios for Board review
- Identify and discuss policy trade-offs

# *System Expansion Projects in the City of Seattle*

# Capital delivery cost savings workplan

- Following the Board's directives from Motions Nos. M2024-59 & M2025-36
- **Programmatic opportunities** identified as opportunities across the portfolio of projects
- **Project opportunities** identified as unique opportunities for specific capital projects
- Opportunities will provide benefits to include improving passenger experience, lower O&M costs as well as cost savings

Pre-baselined projects  
developing cost savings  
opportunities

## Conceptual engineering:

- **Ballard Link Extension**
- Tacoma Dome Link Extension
- Everett Link Extension
- **Infill Stations**
- Souder Program
- OMF North

## Post-preliminary engineering:

- OMF South
- **West Seattle Link Extension**

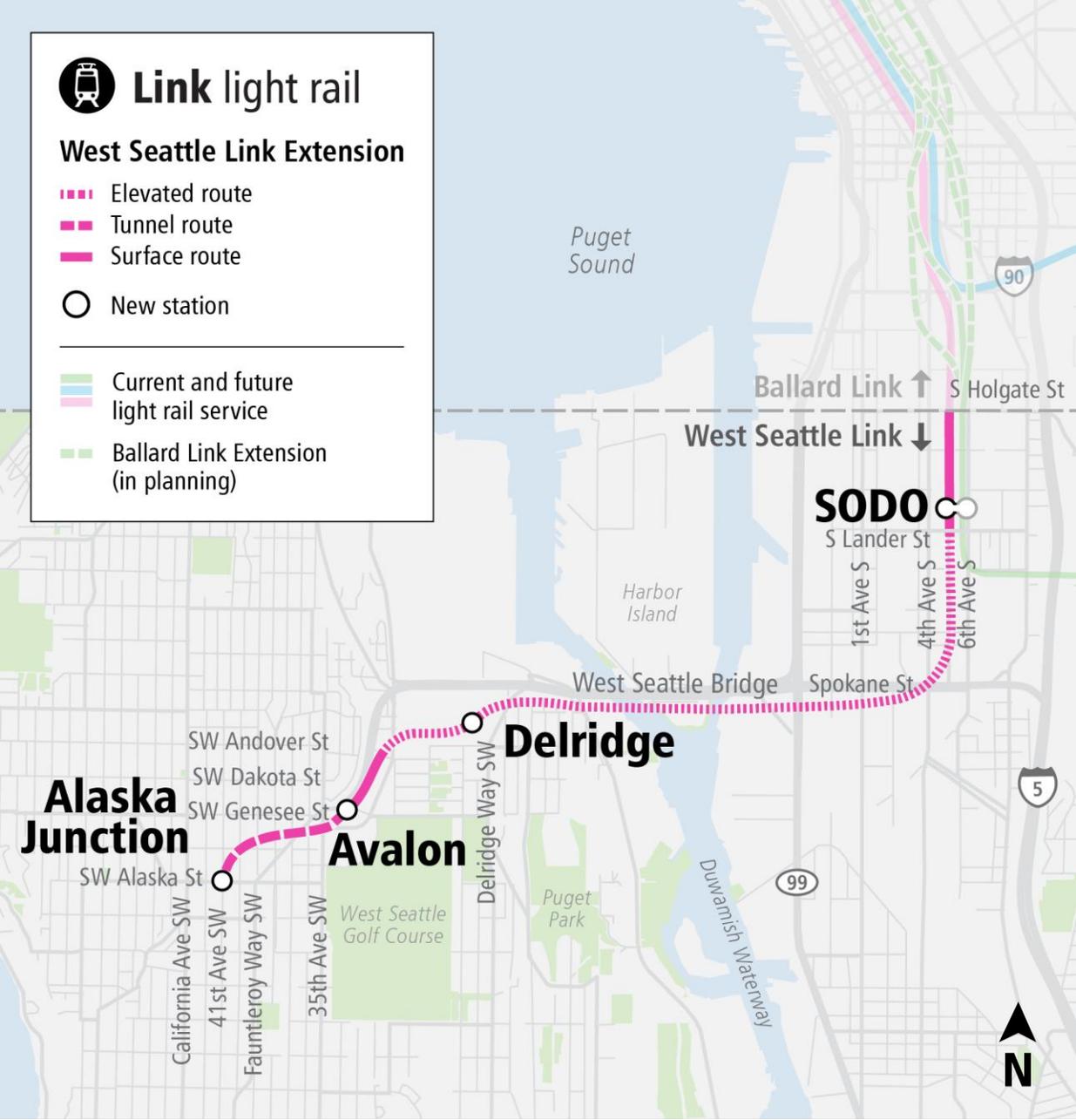


# Link light rail

## West Seattle Link Extension

- Elevated route
- Tunnel route
- Surface route
- New station

- Current and future light rail service
- Ballard Link Extension (in planning)



# West Seattle Link Extension

- **Adds 4.1 miles** of light rail service and **4 new stations** with connections in SODO, Delridge, and West Seattle
- **Improves** transit service **frequency, reliability** and **capacity**
- **Reduces transit travel time** from Alaska Junction to Westlake Station by 50% once Ballard Link Extension is complete
- Record of Decision issued in April 2025; **currently in Design Phase**
- Working to integrate cost savings opportunities identified through **Cost Savings Workplan** to **reduce cost and community effects**



# Ballard Link Extension

- **Adds 7.7 miles** of light rail service and **9 new stations** from Chinatown-International District to Ballard
- **New light rail-only tunnel** improves regional mobility by increasing connectivity and capacity through Downtown Seattle
- **Encourages equitable and sustainable urban growth** in station areas through transit-oriented development and multi-modal integration
- Publication of **Draft EIS anticipated this Spring**, followed by ST Board action to confirm/modify the preferred alternative
- Working to integrate cost savings opportunities identified through **Cost Savings Workplan to reduce cost and community effects**

July 2023: This map shows routes and station locations to be studied as part of ongoing environmental review as identified by the Sound Transit Board. Routes and station locations are subject to refinements based on ongoing planning and design activities. The Sound Transit Board identified the preferred alternative for Ballard Link Extension in March and July 2023.



# S Graham St Infill Station Project

- **New infill station** on the existing 1 Line between Columbia City and Othello stations
- Currently in **Preliminary Engineering**
- Working to advance multiple **cost savings opportunities**
- Forecasted Start of Service: **2031**

*Thank you.*



 [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)





Legislation Text

---

**File #:** Inf 2819, **Version:** 1

---

City Council Agenda (2026)



# CITY OF SEATTLE

## City Council

### Agenda

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

2:00 PM

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

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](mailto:Joy.Hollingsworth@seattle.gov)

[Watch Council Meetings Live](#) [View Past Council Meetings](#)

Council Chamber Listen Line: 206-684-8566

The City of Seattle encourages everyone to participate in its programs and activities. For disability accommodations, materials in alternate formats, accessibility information, or language interpretation or translation needs, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 206-684-8888 (TTY Relay 7-1-1), [CityClerk@Seattle.gov](mailto:CityClerk@Seattle.gov), or visit <https://seattle.gov/cityclerk/accommodations> at your earliest opportunity. Providing at least 72-hour notice will help ensure availability; sign language interpreting requests may take longer.



# CITY OF SEATTLE

## City Council Agenda

**February 24, 2026 - 2:00 PM**

### **Meeting Location:**

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

### **Committee Website:**

<http://www.seattle.gov/council>

---

Members of the public may register for remote or in-person Public Comment to address the Council. Speakers must be registered 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 <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.

Written comments must be submitted prior to 10 a.m. to ensure that they are distributed to Councilmembers prior to the start of the meeting. Comments may be submitted at [Council@seattle.gov](mailto:Council@seattle.gov) or at Seattle City Hall, Attn: Council Public Comment, 600 4th Ave., Floor 2, Seattle, WA 98104. Comments received after 10 a.m. will be distributed after the meeting to Councilmembers and included as part of the public record.

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

### **B. ROLL CALL**

### **C. PRESENTATIONS**

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Members of the public may sign up to address the Council for up to 2 minutes on matters on this agenda; Introduction and Referral Calendar; and Council's Work Program; and total time allotted to public comment at this meeting is up to one hour.*

**E. ADOPTION OF INTRODUCTION AND REFERRAL CALENDAR:**

*Introduction and referral to Council committees of Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF) for committee recommendation.*

**F. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA****G. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

*The Consent Calendar consists of routine items. A Councilmember may request that an item be removed from the Consent Calendar and placed on the regular agenda.*

**Journal:**

**Bills:**

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Discussion and vote on Council Bills (CB), Resolutions (Res), Appointments (Appt), and Clerk Files (CF).*

**FINANCE, NATIVE COMMUNITIES, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS COMMITTEE:**

1. [Appt 03442](#) Appointment of Aly Pennucci as Director, City Budget Office, for a term to December 31, 2029.

**The Committee recommends that City Council confirm the Appointment (Appt).**

**In Favor: 4 - Strauss, Rivera, Hollingsworth, Saka**

**Opposed: None**

**I. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR****J. ADOPTION OF OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

**K. OTHER BUSINESS**

**L. ADJOURNMENT**