

Seattle design Commission

Katie Wilson
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Phoebe Bogert, Chair

Eric Alipio

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Tatum Lau

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi, Vice Chair

Kevin O'Neill

Zubin Rao

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Robin Magonegil
Administrative Staff

June 4, 2026

Convened – 1:00 pm

Adjourned – 4:00 pm

Projects Reviewed

Commission Business

WSLE & BLE City and ST Quarterly Update

Commissioner's Present

Eric Alipio

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Tatum Lau

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi (virtual until 1:30 pm)

Kevin O'Neill

Zubin Rao

Commissioners Excused

Staff Present

Valerie Kinast

Robin Magonegil

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Commission Business (1:00 – 2:00 pm)

The Commission adopted May 7, 2026, minutes. The Commission also discussed ongoing project work and had a briefing on the projects to be reviewed today.

West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) and Ballard Link Extension (BLE) Light Rail Quarterly Briefing (2:00 – 4:00 pm)

The Commission received an update by ST staff and the City team on ST 3 program. The update is a quarterly briefing designed to keep the commission up to date on the overall project and the City's work. Justin Clark, Sandra Fong, Jason Hampton, and Gavin Schaefer from Sound Transit briefed the Commission on the recent work by ST in their Enterprise Initiative as it relates to station and guideway designs. Sara Maxana, Erik Rundell, Katy Haima, and Eric Trinh provided a briefing on the City's work to prepare for ST3, both the WSLE and BLE segments.

The following people presented:

- Justin Clark, Sound Transit (consultant)
- Sandra Fong, Sound Transit
- Jason Hampton, Sound Transit
- Gavin Schaefer, Sound Transit
- Sara Maxana, Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects, and Sound Transit (OWCPST)
- Erik Rundell, OWCPST
- Katy Haima, OPCD
- Eric Trinh, OWCPST

The following people attended in person and virtually:

- Russel Bennett, Community Member
- Amy Chasenov, OWCPST
- Carrie Deichl, Sound Transit
- Evan Garepis-Holland, Student
- CJ Holt, OWCPST
- Lindsay King, SDCI
- Brian Macek, Sound Transit
- Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
- Julie Montgomery, Sound Transit
- Benjamin Smith, OWCPST
- Molly Spetalnick, Sound Transit
- Evan Wheeler, Student

The Commission provided the following comments:

To the City Team

1. **Longfellow Creek:** Have Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation provide an update on their plans for the Longfellow Creek watershed now that the guideways bypass the open channel, and how those plans will intersect with station design.
2. **Alaska Junction Station Access:** Explain how City street design plans are being modified to address the reduced number of station entrances proposed in the cost-savings designs.
3. **Official City Actions:** Ensure that all future quarterly updates include progress on updating the transitway agreement and any relevant City Council actions regarding light rail.
4. **RET Application:** Provide comprehensive information on the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) work. Explain how it is being applied in decision-making by technical teams, and how it carries through into City inputs on system planning and station design.
5. **RET Communities:** Identify which specific communities have been designated as RET communities.
6. **RET Outcomes:** Report on the explicit RET outcomes currently being identified and discussed.
7. **Station Area Planning:** Summarize the feedback received during community engagement and provide a clear timeline of next steps and key upcoming dates.
8. **Program Alignment & Reviews:** Explain the relationship between Sound Transit's TOD work, City Station Area Planning, and ETOD. Clarify the status of each ahead of the BLE PE and WSLE 30% reviews, and your work program for updating the Commission prior to our station and guideway reviews.
9. **Surplus Properties:** Deliver an update on the technical analysis for surplus properties, including a summary of the community input received.
10. **TOD Site Optimization:** Provide a progress report on the City's work to optimize TOD sites, including coordination milestones with Sound Transit and how potential partners are being engaged.
11. **Related OPCD Plans:** Provide relevant updates on the Regional Centers Plans to serve as context for our upcoming project reviews.
12. **Tactical Urbanism:** Detail how tactile urbanism is being planned into the public realm and open spaces. Provide a clear breakdown of who is responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of these elements.
13. **Art Integration:** Report on how art is being factored into Station Area Planning and coordinated with Sound Transit art planning. Specifically address whether the planning artist model is being utilized.
14. Please coordinate your communication with us on City planning work through quarterly updates, the Staff Review Panel process, and other established avenues so that we are fully updated on this context when we review the WSLE 30% plans and BLE Preliminary Engineering plans.

To the Sound Transit Team

1. **Natural Systems:** Explain how Longfellow Creek and other natural landforms and ecosystems will be considered in the design, despite the guideways no longer crossing open segments of the creek.
2. **Federal Coordination:** Provide a status report on current FTA coordination and the steps remaining within the Sound Transit process.
3. **Board Actions:** Keep the Commission informed on upcoming Sound Transit Board actions, including the timeline for final project build approval.
4. **Design Refinements:** Explain the process for board action when projects are refined, both for changes occurring now and those anticipated in the future.
5. **SLU Station Decision:** Provide a detailed explanation regarding the decisions and analysis surrounding the elimination of the South Lake Union (SLU) station.

6. **Downtown Joint Development:** Provide a targeted update on joint development plans specifically for the downtown stations.
7. **General Development Strategy:** Outline Sound Transit's general approach to joint development, specifically how and when partners are being—or plan to be—engaged.
8. **RET Accountability:** Report on how the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) is being actively applied to decision-making, both at the staff level and the Board level.
9. **Art Coordination:** Report on how art planning is being actively integrated and coordinated with TOD initiatives and station design.
10. **Station Standardization.** Provide an update on changes to design standards and project delivery approach.