

## Transit Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Dec. 17, 2025

**Time:** 6pm – 8pm

**Notetaker:** Sidney Orr

### TAB Member Attendance

Member	Present (X)
Priya Balan	x
Deborah Barnard	
Ashwin Bhumbala	x
Zach Burton	x
Shirley Chu	x
Dana Coppernoll-Houston	x
Katie Freeman	
Art Kuniyuki	x
Sidney Orr	x
Sandro Pani	x
Carolyn Tillinger	
Daniel Wolpert	x

### Public Comment

None

### Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion:	To approve November 2025 TAB meeting minutes
Motioned by:	Zach
Seconded:	Dana
Nays:	None
Vote outcome:	Passed

### Presentations

Alison Redenz and Maria Koengeter presentation on Seattle Streetcare

Daniel asked a question about cost per rider clarification and why the figures differ

- Answer: Different data sources. Local data and federal data sources generate different figures.

Art asked a question about what we lose if we scrap streetcar

- Answer: Streetcar is integrated into neighborhoods and provides unique connectivity. Seattle is the asset owner despite the fact that build costs were covered by many non-city resources.

Ashwin asked about what benefits a streetcar delivers over a bus

- Answer: Streetcars aren't just about transit, they're about neighborhood definition. The SLU streetcar was transformational for the city. Streetcars are highly legible. They support commuters as well as visitors and tourists. Permanence, development, performance.

Ashwin asked a question about why the commercial parking tax no longer contributed to SLU

- Answer: The CPT funds are allocated to other resources.

Ashwin clarified whether streetcars future was contingent on STM passing

- Answer: Streetcar continuation is very much in line with the STM, so it's part of the conversation.

Sandro asked what continued improvement capital projects are being considered as part of streetcar

- Answer: We're looking at a few suggestions such as striping and spot improvements, but nothing large planned on First Hill

Sandro also asked if SDOT had information on the reliability of streetcar

- Answer: We track those in our streetcar annual reports, which are available on the SDOT website

Sandro asked how staffing and retention is on streetcar

- Answer: Fully staffed. Streetcar runs with a fairly lean crew.

Dana asked if there are plans to try to increase ridership in South Lake Union

- Answer: We're focusing on reliability pinchpoints. South Lake Union is still growing.

Sidney asked what pressures took the CPT away from Streetcars as a funding source

- Flexible fund source. During the pandemic it declined dramatically.

Sidney asked what investments are being made in reliability pinchpoints

- Looking at Terry and Mercer for some improvements. J line will also make some capital improvements to streetcar routes.

## **Board Business**

Committee updates

- Shirley - Thank you to Councilmember Rinck from Subcommittee. She wanted to set something up. Caroline will coordinate something with Councilmember Rinck's staff.
- Ashwin - Angela Brady will be the new interim SDOT Director.

- Zach - Update on the levy oversight committee. Planning to tap into more levy-funded projects

#### Brainstorming TAB priorities and STM hopes and dreams

- Themes include:
  - Enthusiastic emphasis on frequency, as it is the key for getting more ridership.
  - I am in favor of hard language about set amounts being spent on transit hours.
  - Interest in more “last mile” solutions
  - Less focus on big capital improvements. More transit hours.

#### **Board action**

##### STM Priorities Subcommittee

- Daniel
- Art
- Zach
- Ashwin

##### TAB Vision Statement committee

- Sidney
- Sandro
- Shirley
- Art
- Priya

#### **Meeting Adjourned**