

MEETING MINUTES

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor

Rico Quirindongo
Director, OPCD

Kevin O'Neill, Acting Chair

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick

Caitlin Truong

Michael Jenkins
Director

Valerie Kinast
Strategic Advisor

Windy Bandekar
Planner

Robin Magonegil
Administrative Staff

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March 6, 2025

Convened - 9:00 am

Adjourned - Noon

Projects Reviewed

Commission business

Westlake Park

WSLE briefing – City team

Commissioners Present

Phoebe Bogert

Kate Clark

Ray Gastil

Ben Gist

Brian Markham

Shirin Masoudi

Zubin Rao

Molly Spetalnick (Acting Chair for the day)

Caitlin Truong

Commissioners Excused

Kevin O'Neill

Staff Present

Michael Jenkins

Valerie Kinast

Robin Magonegil



Commission Business (8:30 – 9:00 am)

The Commission welcomed its new members Ray Gastil and Shirin Masoudi. The Commission also welcomed a new staff member – Robin Magonegil. The rest of Commission business was devoted to a briefing on the day’s schedule.

Westlake Park (9:00 – 10:30 am)

The Commission received its initial presentation on a proposal for upgrades to Westlake Park.

The following people were presenters:

- Rebecaa Bear, Seattle Parks Foundation
- Beth Purcell, Seattle Parks Foundation
- Andy Mitton, Berger Partnership

The following people attended:

- Andy Sheffer, Seattle Parks
- Andrew McConnico, Seattle Parks
- Julia Beabout, Downtown Community Council
- Paulina Arango, Berger Partnership
- Ben Handziak, Seattle Parks
- Seth Geiser, Downtown Seattle Association

The Commission received a presentation, heard public comment, and asked questions of the team. The matter was continued to March 20 for deliberation and action.

WSLE – City staff update (10:30 – Noon)

The Commission received a briefing by City staff leading the review of West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE). The purpose of the briefing is to provide the Commission with an update on the various City staff projects that intersect with Sound Transit investment. The presenters included:

- Sara Maxana, Sound Transit Program Manager, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Angela Brady, Director, City of Seattle Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects and Sound Transit
- Chris Gregorich, Sound Transit Government and Community Affairs Manager, City of Seattle Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects and Sound Transit

The following people attended:

- CJ Holt, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Erik Rundell, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Vera Giampietro, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Susan Stoltzfus, Seattle Department of Transportation
- Ryan Packer, The Urbanist
- Brendan Smith

The presentation included an update on the work City staff has been doing to support Sound Transit’s undertaking to develop two new light rail lines in Seattle. This update was the first in a series of planned updates in 2025 to the Commission. The presentation included information on:

- Angela Brady’s role as the City’s designated representative for Sound Transit
- The eight City workgroups focused on ST 3 investments
- A comprehensive overview of the City work related to ST3
- Upcoming changes to the Land Use Code for stations and guideways
- Realignment of City departments and divisions related to real property issues as well as funding and finance
- An update on the environmental review for Ballard Light Rail Extension, along with the status of planning documents including street concept plans and station access plans
- An update on the timing of future Commission reviews of pre-engineering designs for Ballard and 30% reviews of West Seattle

The Commission provided these comments:

1. Please provide information on how the art reviews fit into the overall ST3 review process.
2. Consider the idea of the City ST 3 team presenting to the Commission on the same day as Sound Transit-led station reviews. The City could present its planning, analysis, and support before Sound Transit presents the station design.
3. Discuss with the Commission which City ST3 Work Groups deal with issues that will be relevant to our reviews. Consider how we can be involved and be brought along as design ideas are discussed and evolve.
4. For street concept plans and other director’s rules, consider how to engage with us in a timely manner so that we aren’t rushed at the end of your process or asked to support designs without understanding them.
5. As you prepare to do station area plans, decide early on how to engage with us to take advantage of our expertise and provide us with a strong understanding of the plans for our station reviews.
6. Provide us with information about TOD and development outside of the area of Sound Transit responsibility.
7. Keep us updated on City policies and planning related to remnant parcels.
8. We’re particularly interested in bikes, pedestrians, and creating streets and transit facilities that work well for people with mobility challenges.

June 5, 2025 is the next planned update by City staff.