



City Light Review Panel Meeting Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: JUN 17, 2026 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM Approved
Meeting held in SMT 3204 and via Microsoft Teams

MEETING ATTENDANCE					
Review Panel Members:					
Bruce Flory	x	Kerry Meade		Oksana Savolyuk	x
Cristina Sima		Leo Lam	x	Ryan Monson	x
Joel Paisner	x	Louis Ernst		Toyin Olowu	x
City Light:					
Rob Santoff Int. GM/CEO	x	Julie Ryan RP Facilitator	x	Leigh Barreca	x
Dennis McLerran Dep. GM		Carsten Croff	x	Maura Brueger	x
Angela Bertrand	x	Kirsty Grainger	x	Colm Otten	x
Bridget Molina	x	Julie Moore	x	Craig Smith	x
Brendan Armstrong	x	David Lodgson	x	Joon Sohn	x
Chris Ruffini	x				
Other Attendees:					
Paul Menefee	x	Christie Parker	x	Eric McConaghy	x
Hannah (Public)	x	Julien Loh (Public)	x	Adam Day	x
Pamela Benoit (Plymouth Housing)	x	Alex Grande (Public)	x	Joe Dougherty (Kimberly Horn)	x

Welcome and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Public Comment.

A Seattle resident voiced opposition to the proposed construction of five large scale data centers, citing concerns about immense water and power consumption, pollution, e waste, and land requirements. She stated the proposal could demand up to one third of energy use in Washington use and raised concerns about climate impacts.

Standing Items:

Chair's Report. Leo Lam welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He explained that he would be attending the council committee meeting on behalf of the Review Panel that afternoon.

Review Agenda. Julie Ryan reviewed the agenda.

Approval of May 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved.

Communications to Panel.



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- Angela thanked the Review Panel for the letter supporting the Strategic Plan and Rate Path, noting it was very detailed and City Light is grateful.
- The Review Panel headshots and bios will be updated on the website –Bridget Molina will reach out to Review Panel members to collect those.

General Manager's Update. Interim GM Rob Santoff presented.

1. 2027 – 2028 Strategic Plan and Rate Ordinance

- Later today City Light will present our proposed Strategic Plan and Rate Path to the city council as the next step towards approval.
- Thank you for the detailed letter you sent to the Mayor's office; we appreciate the clarity and thoroughness of your letter and endorsement.
- This legislation includes the new data center rate class. This class applies to data centers with new or expanded service greater than 10 MVA and ensures that existing customers do not bear the cost of the new demand.
- City Light anticipates returning to Committee in early July and then go to full Council in late July for a final vote.

2. 2026 Goals

- Since we last met, I have worked with the Executive Leadership Team to review the strategic plan and identify five key priorities for 2026.
- While this narrows our focus, all outcomes in the strategic plan remain vital to our long-term direction and operational planning.
- These are not in order of importance. Each priority is key to our success.
- The five priorities are:
 - i. **Approval of the strategic plan, rate path, and rate design**
As discussed, approval will establish the outcomes and secure the revenue needed to deliver on the outcomes. It will also ensure costs are fairly distributed across customer classes, from residents to large businesses.
 - ii. **World Cup preparations and execution**
We are in the midst of the FIFA Men's World Cup. The first game was Monday. Our focus is on supporting stadium operations, team training sites, fan celebrations, and major transit hubs. The Executive Team received regular updates leading up to this event and we are holding daily incident management calls. This is a multi-department effort, and I am grateful for the hard work across City Light – with a special thanks to Capital Programs Manager Phil Ambrose for leading our preparations!
 - iii. **Reduce service connection timelines**
We remain committed to reducing the median service-connection timeline from 54 weeks in 2024 to 26 weeks by the end of this year. We have already reduced timelines to between 36 and 46 weeks, depending on the project type, but we



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know we can do better. We are pinpointing where delays occur, whether within City processes or on the customer side. This will help us address pain points, drive continuous improvement, and create a smoother path to connection. This supports our customers and assist in increasing housing in our service territory

iv. Resolve Time and Material (T&M) invoicing backlog

T&M invoicing are for jobs where we bill customers for actual hours worked by City Light employees and for the actual material costs. By December 31, we'll send invoices for all T&M jobs finished more than six months ago and ensure full payment collection for jobs completed before 2026. Timely billing improves transparency for customers, strengthens trust, and allows everyone to plan with confidence.

v. Strengthen workplace culture

By year end, leadership will deliver workplace expectation training utility-wide to reinforce a respectful, physically and psychologically safe workplace for everyone. We've made progress, but continued investment in culture is essential to supporting our people and delivering on our mission.

3. Skagit Settlement

- On Tuesday, May 12, Mayor Katie Wilson and I joined representatives from Tribal nations, government agencies, and community stakeholders at City Hall to sign a historic settlement agreement which will shape the future of our Skagit River Hydroelectric Project for the next 50 years. The agreement directs investments in fish passage, fish habitat, and cultural resources.
- About 90 people gathered for the ceremony where Mayor Wilson framed the agreement within the larger history of the Skagit River Project. She emphasized the need to reckon honestly with that history and noted that the settlement agreement reflects a commitment to a different path forward – one that invests in long-term environmental stewardship and delivering public benefit that reflects our community's values.

4. RISE Grant

- We are excited to share that we have been selected as a recipient of a \$1.6 million Washington State Department of Commerce grant to launch our Resilient Infrastructure for Sustainable Energy, or RISE Project.
- This project is a grid modernization and vegetation management initiative designed to improve grid resilience and reliability in the face of extreme weather events. It addresses aging infrastructure and vegetation-related outages that disproportionately impact communities in the south end of our service area, improving service for thousands of customers.
- RISE is built on two parallel approaches:
 - Improving fault detection, isolation, and restoration times by replacing manual switches with smart switches and deploying line sensors for real-time monitoring.
 - Reducing vegetation-related outages through enhances vegetation management along critical distribution corridors. This will be done in coordination with the Trees for Neighborhoods program to plant powerline-compatible trees in low-canopy areas.

5. Queen Anne Outages



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- Over the past few weeks, the southwest side of Queen Anne has experienced several outages as the direct buried underground cable continues to deteriorate.
- In response, City Light is installing more than four miles of new primary duct bank and underground cables, and nearly four miles of secondary and streetlight duct banks and cables. To reduce neighborhood disruption, we are coordinating with Seattle Public Utilities to replace watermain and valves at six intersections, addressing two aging systems at once.
- We're finalizing the 90 percent design now and working across City departments to keep this moving so construction can begin in summer 2027.
- Last Thursday, we held a neighborhood meeting in Queen Anne to listen to the needs of the community.
- We had a great call where we provided a detailed overview of the current situation and the upcoming project details. We had a great Q&A session at the end of the call. The discussion allowed us to deliver communication and transparency that the community felt like was lacking.
- We are committed to maintain transparency and delivering on this project.

Comment: A Review Panel member thanked City Light staff and others involved in finalizing the Skagit Agreements describing the accomplishment as significant and the result of extensive work across City Light, the city, and other partners. He expressed respect and appreciation for those efforts.

Comment: A Review Panel member noted that project developers often cite delays in obtaining service for new projects as a concern. He also acknowledged that the issues cannot be solved quickly, he said it was encouraging to see progress and encouraged City Light to continue its work.

Response: Interim GM noted that City Light made some really good progress a couple of years ago on service connection timelines, but that has been in more of a steady state recently. He said the utility is reemphasizing the importance of the work and that a group of directors is meeting regularly to identify further improvements and adjustments. He added that he is very hopeful the utility will improve connection timelines this year.

Strategic Plan External Communications Julie Moore presented, the materials are in the packet.

Q: Does Seattle City Light have a social media presence? Have you tried exploring Threads?

A: Julie confirmed that Seattle City Light has a presence on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Nextdoor. Nextdoor is primarily used for targeted communications rather than broad outreach. Additionally, she responded that Threads was a good platform to consider and noted that Instagram has seen significant audience growth. Julie also mentioned BlueSky as another platform of interest but noted City Light has not used it because there is no ability to retain records, which



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is necessary per about the City's public records retention policy, which may also apply to Threads. However, she agreed to look into Threads further.

Julie Moore also invited Review Panel members to share future topic ideas. She noted that staff are often so immersed in the work that it can be difficult to step back and identify key messages or information gaps, and welcomed feedback on topics the public would like to learn more about and areas where communication could be improved.

Q: A Review Panel Member stated that the presentation provided great information and noted that it appears to be a very ambitious program ahead. He asked if there is a way to get notifications when a new blog post is published.

A: Users may be able to subscribe and there may be an RSS feed available, but we will follow up to confirm.

Review Panel Workplan Julie Ryan led discussion to revise the proposed workplan. The initial draft is included in the packet.

Q: What is City Light expected to do to address data center deployment?

A: Interim GM Rob Santoff provided additional information on City Light's collaboration with City Council around the data center moratorium, explaining that City Light's current focus is on its load policy, which is intended to protect existing current customers, so they do not have to pay for new loads from data centers. He noted that the City has formed an interdepartmental team, which includes City Light staff, to address water usage, land use, and other issues identified in the moratorium, with each department developing policies in their respective areas.

Q: In terms of interacting with customers, we already have data centers in the city. Is there outreach by City Light with current customers?

A: City Light is communicating with customers who have inquired about potential data centers, informing them about the proposed load policy and possible rate impacts. City Light's engineering and interconnection teams are also engaging with current customers regularly, and while uncertainty remains, the utility is working to be as transparent as possible.

Q: There are two big issues for franchise customers-right of way and clearing -which are Important for reliability. I see direct buried replacement on the work plan. Can we also include more about the right of way and clearing? For example, how much funding is City Light making annually and how will you measure success spending that money? Examples could include reliability statistics and impacts of right of way clearing.

A: Yes, we will note that to the work plan.



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Q: Will the “Utility Assistance Programs: Overview” include data on enrollment? And can we provide input to the utility assistance programs?

A: Yes, the briefings will include enrollment data. Additionally, there will be Q&A, where you can contribute. And you can provide recommendations regarding outreach ideas to the Comms team who can share that internally with the team leading customer assistance programs.

Comment: It would be helpful to use City Light’s Vision to filter topics in terms of “Does this further our vision?” or “Does this hinder our vision?” Take for example, the issue of data centers. It is hard to address that without tying back to the Vision, given there are so many perspectives and trade offs.

A: Our strategic plan has focus areas that align well with what we are pursuing. We can include discussion of the vision, mission, and values in the workplan, as we move to the next strategic plan update..

Additional topics were recommended including:

- Data Centers and City Light’s collaboration with City Council to examine impacts
- Reliability issues and right of way clearance, particularly for Franchise Cities
- Dedicated discussion around City Light’s Mission and Vision

July Agenda. FIFA Update, Service Connections Update, Strategic Plan Retrospective

Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next meeting: July 15, 2026 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.