



**Seattle**  
Department of  
Transportation

**TAB Members:**

Priyadharshini Balan  
Deborah Barnard  
Ashwin Bhumbala  
Zachary Burton  
Shirley Chu  
Dana Coppernoll-Houston  
Katie Freeman  
Art Kuniyuki  
Sidney Orr  
Sandro Pani  
Carolyn Tillingier

*The Seattle Transit Advisory Board shall **advise** the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City **on matters related to transit** and the possible and actual impact of actions taken by the City upon all forms of public transportation.*

*The Board shall be provided the opportunity to comment and make recommendations on City policies, plans, and projects as they may relate to **transit capital improvements, transit mobility, and transit operations** throughout the City...*

*The Board shall help facilitate City policies, plans, and projects that support local and region-wide transit mobility efforts, to help **ensure a functioning and coordinated transit system** throughout the City and region.*

*The Board shall function as the **public oversight committee of revenues collected under Seattle Transportation Benefit District (STBD) Proposition 1**, as described in Resolution 12 of the STBD...*

*The Board shall make an annual report to the City Council on the status of its work program and the achievement of its goals.*

**City Council Resolution  
31572**

**City of Seattle**  
**Seattle Transit Advisory Board**

December 8, 2025

**To:** Councilmember Alexis Mercedes Rinck

**Re:** 2026 Budget Follow Up

Dear Councilmember Rinck,

On behalf of the Seattle Transit Advisory Board (TAB), we sincerely thank you for voting against Council Budget Action (CBA) SDOT-041-B-1. The TAB provides public oversight of STM expenditures. As the sole member of the City Council to support the TAB's position on CBA SDOT-041-B-1, your commitment to standing up for the proper use of these funds speaks volumes about your dedication to both public transit and the needs of our city. We would like to be extremely clear that safety is always a top priority for the TAB. We support the need for increased efforts in transit safety and security, and believe that transit operators and passengers deserve reliable, accessible, and sustainable transit without fear of harm. We stand opposed to SDOT-041-B-1 as we believe the amendment as written will not make meaningful strides towards transit safety and may even work against it.

It takes real conviction to dissent when the majority is in agreement. We deeply appreciate that you took the time to understand the opposition's position on the amendment, and your references to other funding sources is exactly what we are advocating for. Your thoughtful and independent judgment in this matter gives us confidence that you are a true advocate for the people.

We hope that this will be the beginning of a continued partnership between you and the TAB. In 2026, we will be collaborating with SDOT and others to help develop the STM levy renewal on the November 2026 ballot. We want to work with all Council members to ensure that the voters of Seattle pass a renewal of the STM that is equitable, represents appropriate use of levied funds, and reflects the will of the people.

If you're open to it, we'd love the chance to meet with you and your staff in the new year to discuss the TAB, STM and your transit priorities. We meet at City Hall and virtually monthly, but if our

standing meeting time doesn't align with your schedule, our budget subcommittee would also be happy to meet with you at a time that is convenient for you.

Thank you again for your service to the city and its people. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with you in the future.

Sincerely,

The Seattle Transit Advisory Board (TAB)