



# King County

1200 King County  
Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Meeting Agenda Regional Transit Committee

**Councilmembers:**

*Jorge L. Barón, Chair*

*De'Sean Quinn*

**Alternate:**

**Sound Cities Association:**

*Vice Chair: Barbara de Michele, Issaquah; Neal Black, Kirkland;*

*Joseph Cimaomo, Jr., Covington; Susan Honda, Federal Way;*

*Karen Howe, Sammamish; Ryan McIrvine, Renton;*

*Katherine Ross, Snoqualmie; Toni Troutner, Kent;*

**Alternates:**

*Paul Charbonneau, Newcastle; JC Harris, Des Moines;*

*Tarlochan Mann, Pacific; Tracy Taylor, Auburn*

**City of Seattle:**

*Joy Hollingsworth, Rob Saka*

**Alternate: Robert Kettle**

**Lead Staff: Mary Bourguignon (206-263-3296)**

**Committee Clerk: Blake Wells (206-263-1617)**

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**3:00 PM**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2025**

**Hybrid Meeting**

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**Hybrid Meetings:** Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

**HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Regional Transit Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).  
TTY Number - TTY 711.  
Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.



There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to [kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov). If your email is received by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer (see "Connecting to the Webinar" below).

You may provide oral comment on current agenda items during the meeting's public comment period. You are not required to sign up in advance. Comments are limited to current agenda items.

You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact Language Access Coordinator, Tera Chea at 206-477-9259 or email [tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov](mailto:tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov) by 8:00 a.m. three business days prior to the meeting.

#### CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:

Webinar ID: 824 1078 7866

By computer using the Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/join> and the webinar ID above.



Via phone by calling 1-253-215-8782 and using the webinar ID above.

**HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY:** There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
- 3) Listen to the meeting by telephone – See "Connecting to the Webinar" above.

To help us manage the meeting, if you do not wish to be called upon for public comment please use the Livestream or King County TV options listed above, if possible, to watch or listen to the meeting.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

	<p>Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355). TTY Number - TTY 711.</p> <p>Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.</p>	
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**3. Approval of Minutes p. 4**

*May 21, 2025 meeting minutes*

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.

**4. Chair's Report****5. Public Comment****6. General Manager's Report****Briefing****7. Briefing No. 2025-B0093 p. 7**

Planning for 2026 FIFA World Cup Events

*April Putney, Chief Strategy Officer, FWC 2026*

*Jonathan Rose, Special Projects Manager, Metro Transit Department*

*Juan Higuera, Executive Strategic Advisor, Service Delivery Department, Sound Transit*

**Other Business****Adjournment**

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## Meeting Minutes Regional Transit Committee

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3:00 PM

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Hybrid Meeting

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### DRAFT MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

*Chair Barón called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.*

#### 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 10 - Cimaomo Jr., de Michele, McIrvine, Troutner, Honda, Barón, Howe, Quinn, Black and Harris

**Excused:** 3 - Ross, Hollingsworth and Saka

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

*Vice Chair de Michele moved approval of the April 16, 2025, meeting minutes. There being no objections, the minutes were approved.*

#### 4. Chair's Report

*Chair Barón provided an overview of the meeting topics.*

**5. Public Comment**

*The following individual provided public comment: Alex Tsimerman*

**6. General Manager's Report**

*DeAnna Martin, Chief of Staff, Metro Transit Department, reported on a lawsuit filed by a national coalition of local jurisdictions against the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the status of a motion for a restraining order that would block the FTA from imposing or enforcing unauthorized grant conditions, new data related to drug related incidents on or near Metro from 2023 – 2024, the celebration of the opening of Sound Transit's downtown Redmond link extension, Metro ridership and service changes, trailhead direct service, and the beginning of fare enforcement on May 31st.*

**Briefings****6. [Briefing No. 2025-B0053](#)**

Free Youth Fare and Youth Ridership

*Chris O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, Metro Transit Department; Ina Percival, Section Manager, Market Innovation, Metro Transit Department; and Melanie Mayock, Program Manager, Youth Mobility, Metro Transit Department; briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was Presented**

**7. [Briefing No. 2025-B0054](#)**

Update on Service Recovery Plan: Ridership Recovery and Restructures

*Chris O'Claire, Director, Mobility Division, Metro Transit Department; and Katie Chalmers, Transit Service Development Manager, Metro Transit Department; briefed the committee and answered questions from the members.*

**This matter was Presented**

## Other Business

*There was no further business to come before the committee.*

## Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.*

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk's Signature



## King County

# Metropolitan King County Council Regional Transit Committee

### STAFF REPORT

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	7	<b>Name:</b>	Mary Bourguignon
<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2025-B0093	<b>Date:</b>	June 18, 2025

### SUBJECT

Today's panel discussion will focus on planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup events.

### SUMMARY

The 2026 FIFA World Cup will take place from June 11 to July 19, 2026. It will be hosted by 16 cities in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. A total of 48 teams will participate.

Seattle is one of the host cities, with six matches between June 15 and July 6 at Seattle Stadium (aka Lumen Field), as well as nine events at Seattle Center. The FIFA Seattle Organizing Committee (Seattle FWC) has been coordinating with Metro, Sound Transit, and local jurisdictions to coordinate transit and transportation planning for the FIFA events.

At today's meeting, representatives from the Seattle Organizing Committee, Metro, and Sound Transit will discuss planning activities to date.

### INVITED

- April Putney, Chief Strategy Officer, FWC 2026
- Jonathan Rose, Special Projects Manager, Metro Transit Department
- Juan Higuera, Executive Strategic Advisor, Service Delivery Department, Sound Transit

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Seattle FWC presentation
2. Metro FIFA presentation
3. Sound Transit FIFA presentation

# Seattle FIFA World Cup 2026™

June 18, 2025

## Regional Transit Committee King County

April Putney, Chief Strategy Officer  
Seattle FIFA World Cup 26™ Local Organizing Committee (SeattleFWC26)

Nothing in this deck may be re-used for commercial purposes

# FIFA WORLD CUP 26™

## JUNE 11 – JULY 19, 2026



**358** days away

**Largest** sporting event ever staged

**SEA-VAN** are 2nd closest Host Cities

Overlaps with **America's 250<sup>th</sup>** on July 4th

**104 Matches**  
**48 Teams**  
**3 Host Countries**  
**16 Cities**

### Estimates:

3 billion+ global viewers for Final match  
6 million+ ticketed visitors to US

### Seattle specific:

Up to 750k visitors over three weeks  
More than 2 billion global viewers



# FIFA WORLD CUP 26 SEATTLE™

## MATCH SCHEDULE



**Weekday  
matches only**

**US Men's  
National Team  
play here** on June  
19

Matches on  
**Juneteenth** &  
kicking off **Pride**  
weekend

## Full match schedule



**JUNE 11 - JULY 19, 2026**

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
11 OPENING MATCH	12 USMNT		14		16	17
		20		22	23	
25 USMNT		27		29	30	
	3		5			8
9	10	11	12	13	SEMI-FINALS	
16	17			June 19, 2025		

# GETTING WA FIFA READY

## FIFA World Cup 2026

Responsible for running games & coordination across continent; “Inside the Stadium Footprint”

## SeattleFWC26 (Local Organizing Committee)

Lead for local planning, non-FIFA logistics, activations, fundraising, embedding local values

## Governments

Providing typical governmental services (transit, traffic control, law enforcement, etc.)

## Partners & vendors

Prepare venues, support marketing, host local events





OUR VISION IS TO FOSTER A LASTING LEGACY FOR OUR  
REGION, GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT OF SOCCER, INNOVATION  
AND INCLUSION.

# SEATTLE STADIUM (LUMEN FIELD)

## CURRENT PLANNING PARAMETERS



- Every match at **full capacity: ~63k**
- **Kickoff TBD**, planning for 12pm-7pm
- **More dignitaries**, esp last 2 games
- **Enhanced security protocols** in effect
- **North Lot activities restricted** to ticketed fans
- **No public parking** in garage or North Lot
- Gates open **three hours prior** to kickoff **through two hours after** final whistle
- **No Mariners/FWC26 dual event days**

# TRAINING SITES IN WASHINGTON

## CURRENT PLANNING PARAMETERS



### Venue Specific Training Sites (VSTS)

**University of Washington:** Primary

**Seattle University:** Secondary

- **Teams practice** the day before their match at Lumen Field
- **Likely not open to public**, still may see crowds of people outside depending on team

### Proposed Team Base Camps (PTBC)

**Renton:** Sounders FC Clubhouse

**Spokane:** Gonzaga University

- **Team's "home away from home"**
- **Not confirmed:** 60+ proposed, need 48
- Will be **chosen in Feb/Mar 2026**
- **Teams arrive** late May/early June, stay at least through Group Stage (June 27)
- **Likely not open to public**, still may see crowds depending on team

# SEATTLE FAN CELEBRATION AT SEATTLE CENTER

## CURRENT PLANNING PARAMETERS



- **Primary fan viewing experience**, with between **15,000-30,000 fans** daily
- Likely **ticketed** to manage crowd
- **“Operational” up to 24 days** June 11 - July 6, **excluding Pride Weekend**.
- Expect **open 2 hours prior** to 1st match through **one hour after** last match

### Coordination with other campus events

- Pride
- Naturalization Ceremony
- Festival



# OTHER FAN EVENTS & ACTIVATIONS

## CURRENT PLANNING PARAMETERS



### 9 Official fan zones

- Bellingham, Bremerton, Everett, Olympia/Lacey, Spokane, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Vancouver, Yakima

### Community watch parties

- Non-bar venues **will need FIFA & broadcast license** to host public viewing

### Community calendar

- Working out details, will share info by end of summer for how organizations can share their events for inclusion

### Looking Ahead

SSC releasing  
community  
viewing party  
playbook (July)

FIFA opens online  
portal for viewing  
party requests  
(Q4)

# APPROACH TO FWC26 MOBILITY



## Planning Principles

- **Ensure safe & seamless** event transport while maintaining mobility
- **Utilize existing** groups / structures
- **Values + Safety** protocols means we are aiming to **maximize transit & active options** (target: 80% match day by non-private vehicle)
- **Communicate early & often using standard channels + FWC26 specific opportunities:** FIFA app, international news-event marketing

## Planning Timeline

- Summer: **develop** plans for transit, rideshare, biking/pedestrian, communications messaging
- Fall: **refine** plans based on agencies & community input, and the confirmed days of planned operation
- December: **finalize** plans based on schedule from tournament draw
- April/May: begin **Know Before You Go** public education campaigns



## Stay engaged!



[www.seattlefwc26.org](http://www.seattlefwc26.org)



[info@sea2026.org](mailto:info@sea2026.org)



@fwc26seattle  
#WeAreSeattle  
#Seattle26



[www.fifa.com/tickets](http://www.fifa.com/tickets)

# 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup Transit Planning

Regional Transit Committee  
June 18, 2025



# Agenda

1. World Cup in Context
2. Planning Structure
3. Services
4. Passenger Experience
5. Safety-Security
6. Operational Readiness
7. Questions

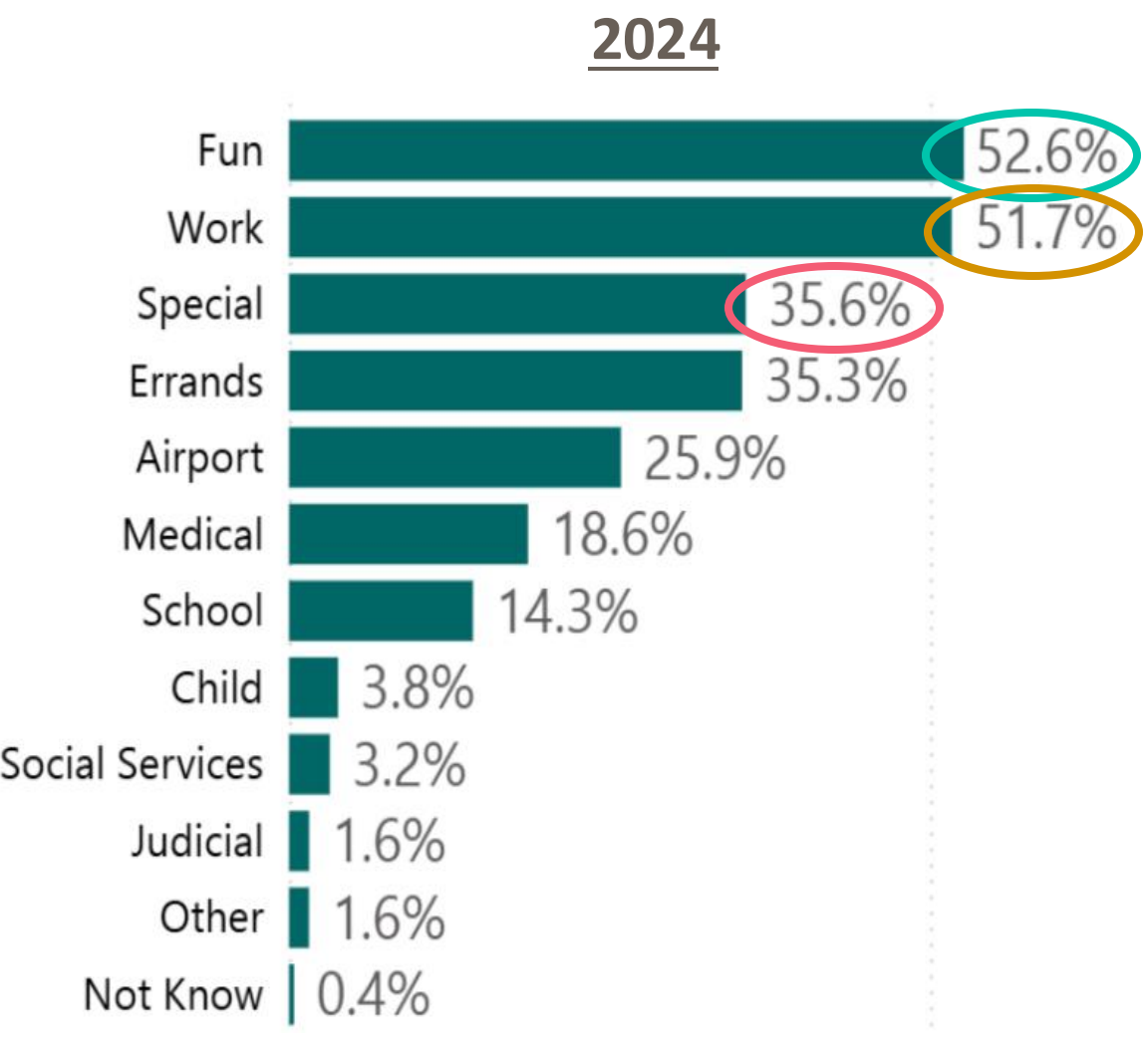
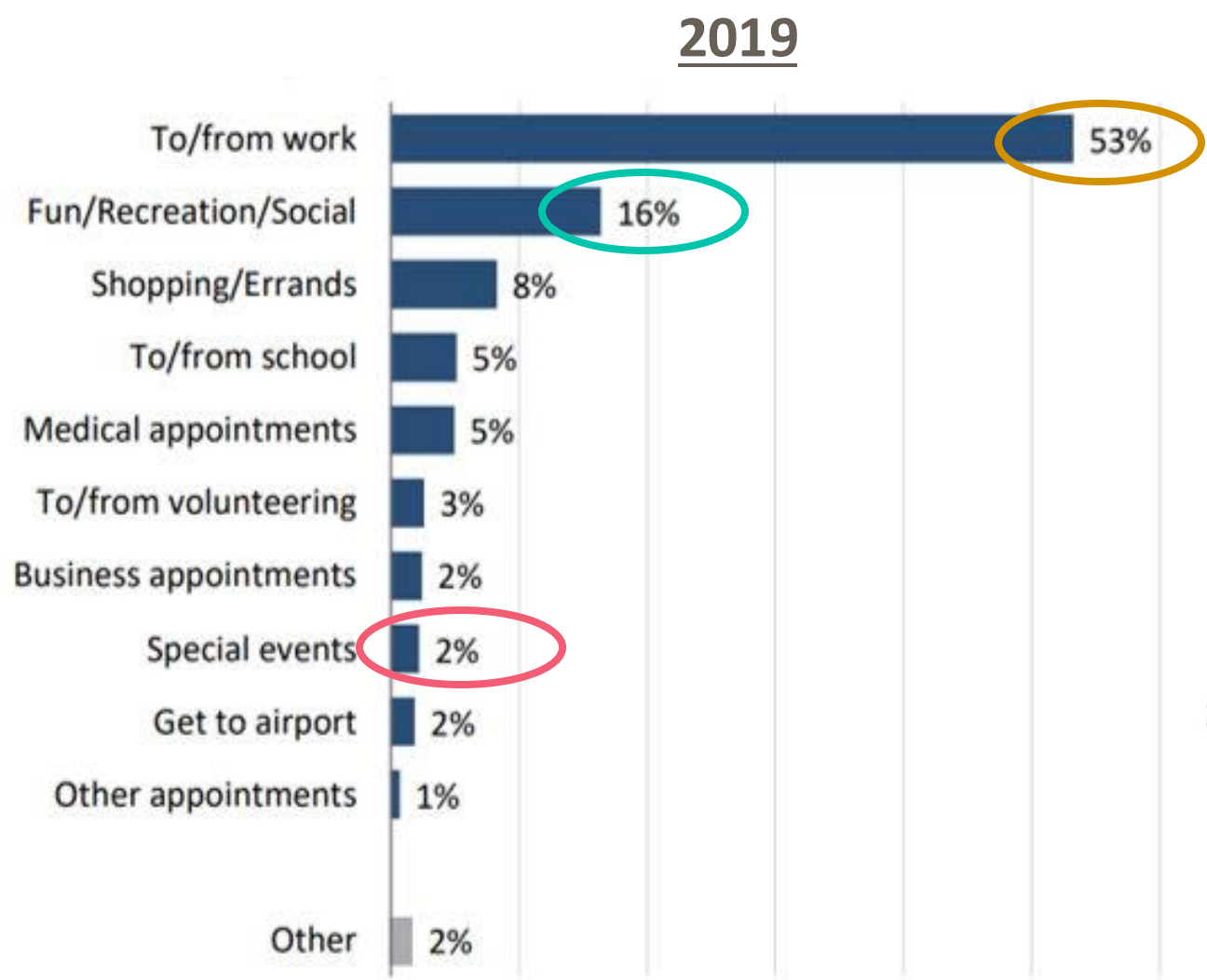


# World Cup In Context

# Focus

- King County Metro provides critical mobility to special events as a local and regional service provider
- More people are looking at transit for travel to events
- FIFA Men's World Cup presents both a unique **challenge and opportunity**. While World Cup will entail unavoidable impacts to Metro's service, it will also be an opportunity to introduce transit to new riders, and to position **public transit as a premier mobility solution**.
- Our planning for World Cup will build upon all the lessons learned from large events, **enhance regional partnerships**, and center on our core values of **equity, sustainability, and safety**.

# Why are people using transit?



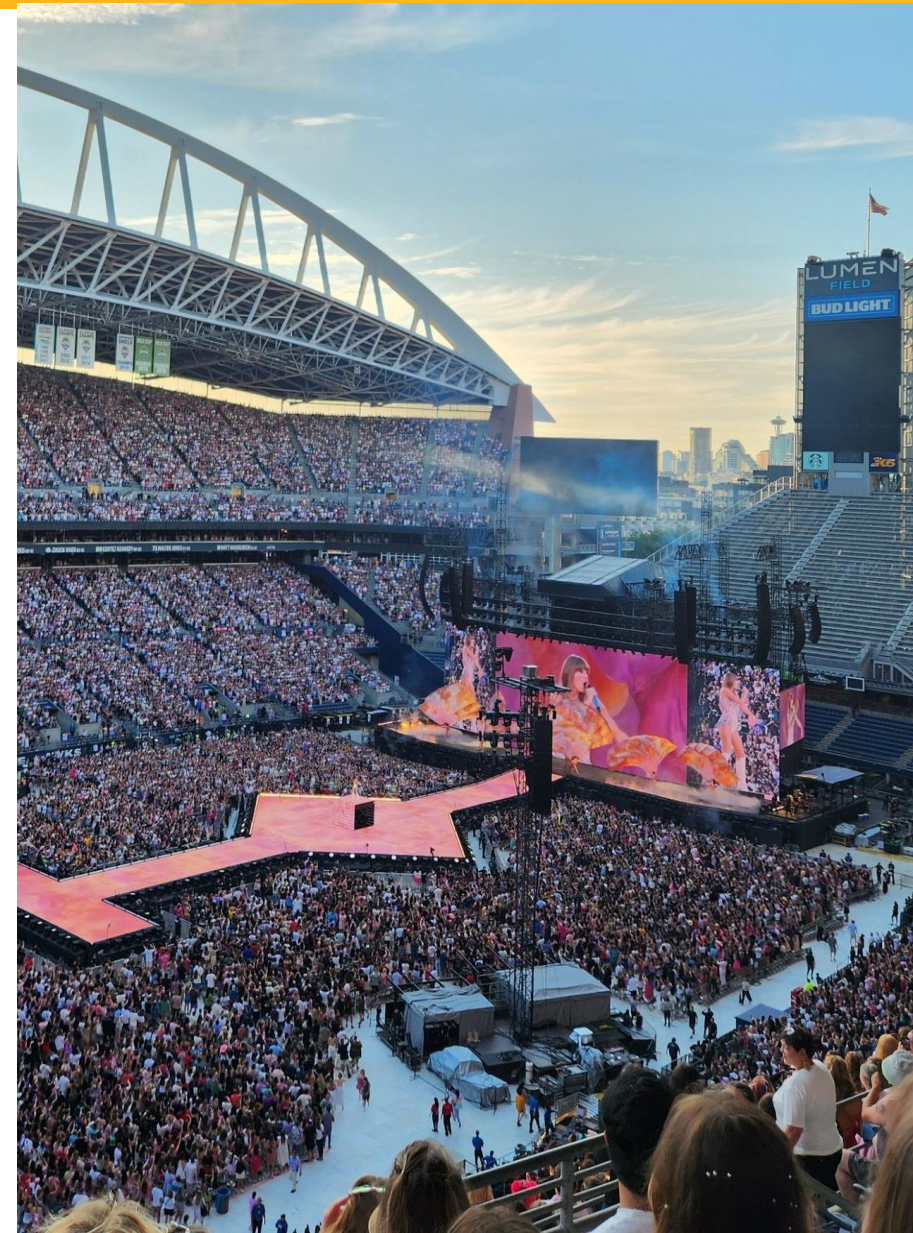
2019 Rider Non-Rider Report (March 2020 Report update)  
2022-23 Rider Non-Rider Report (March 2024 update)

# Event Support Strategy

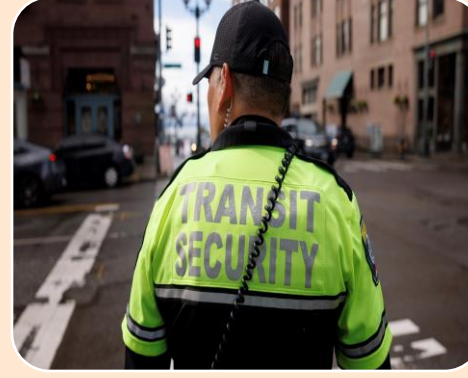
EVENT TIER	EVENT SIZE	LEAD TIME	EXAMPLE
ANY EVENT	ANY SIZE	No lead time needed	All events
TIER 1 EVENT	<15,000 attendees	> 1+ month lead time	Performances, conferences and community gatherings
TIER 2 EVENT	15,000 – 40,000 attendees	>1-3 months lead time	Fourth of July, Ballard Seafood Fest, and the Capitol Hill Block Party
TIER 3 EVENT	40,000 – 80,000 attendees	> 3-6+ months lead time	Pride Parade, Bumbershoot, Taylor Swift and Seafair.
CUSTOMIZED APPROACH	40,000 – 80,000+ attendees	>3-6+ months lead time	FIFA World Cup, Olympics, MLB All-Stars, professional sports seasons

# Lessons Learned from Previous Events & Peer Agencies

- Adding service vs the burden it places on operations
- Custom special service must be communicated early and clearly
- Queuing and Stadium Station overload
- Mitigation strategies
  - Use both scheduled and standby services
  - Downtown shuttle for very large events
- Dedicate more resource to advance planning



# Planning Structure



Services  
&  
Workforce

–

Reliable  
regional  
mobility

Passenger  
Experience

–

Seamless &  
legible

Safety &  
Security

–

Safe, clean  
services &  
facilities

Operational  
Readiness

–

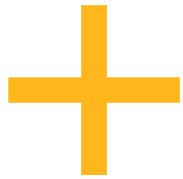
Preparedness  
& impact  
mitigation

# Services & Workforce

# Serving the needs of event attendees while also mitigating impacts to regular riders



Identifying  
deficiencies  
in capacity



Adding  
capacity &  
frequency to  
existing  
service



Coordinating  
with partners  
to improve  
efficiency—  
signal timing,  
bus priority



Custom,  
event-  
specific  
service



All modes  
working  
synergistically



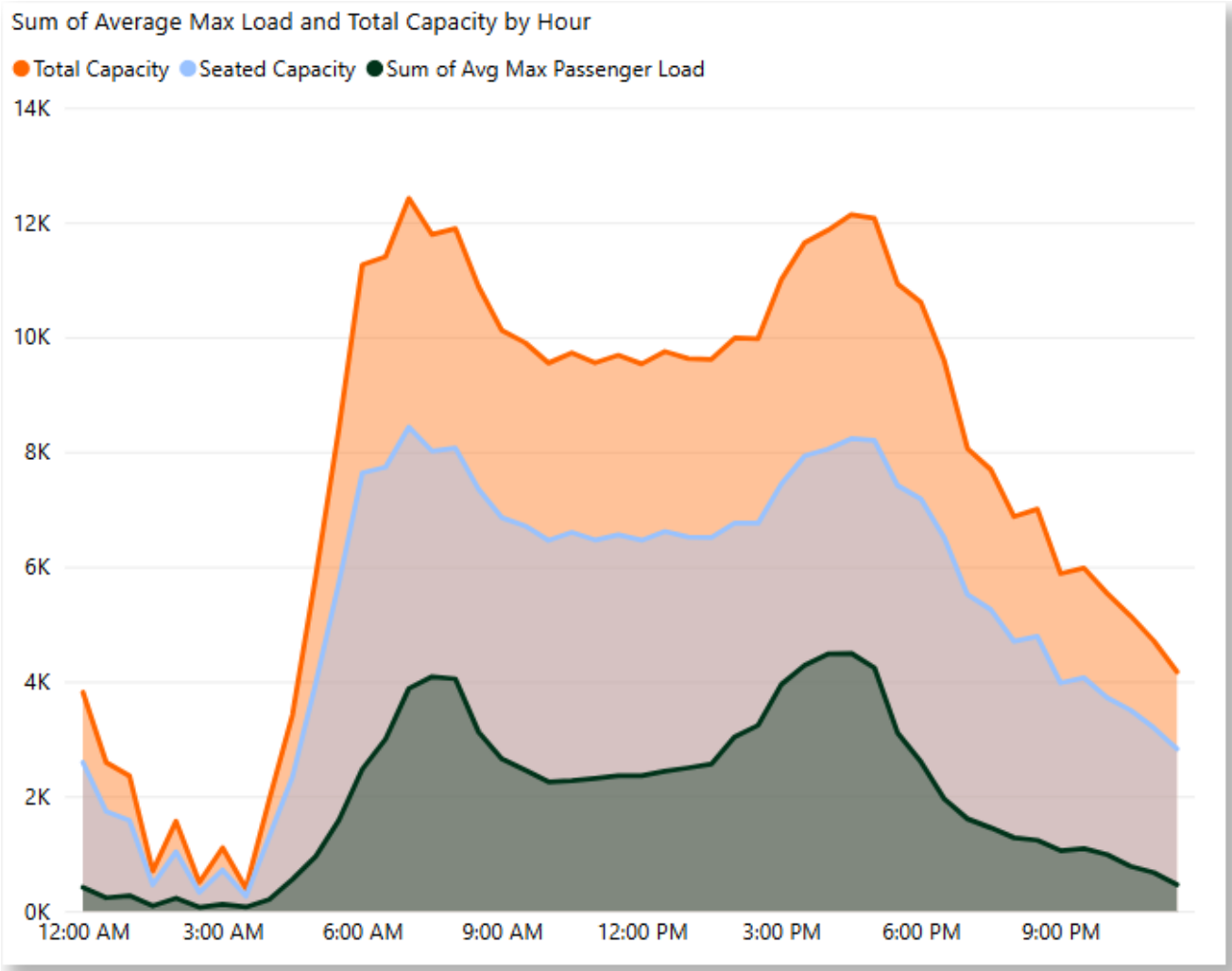
Ensuring  
workforce  
can  
support  
added  
service

# Our current system has capacity for more riders

The table shows the average total capacity available on all routes that serve at least one hotel or destination within downtown.

- The peak hours are 3-5 PM, when these routes get the highest ridership.

NOTE: The table shows Fall 2024 data, before Amazon RTO.



# Metro Downtown Seattle Shuttle

- Builds upon similar services implemented during MLB All-Star Week and the Taylor Swift concerts of 2023, as well as UW Husky shuttles
- These previous operations provide a proven model that can be scaled and adapted for the specific needs of World Cup visitors and venues
- The circulator will connect Lumen Field with Seattle Center, providing service to high-value areas in the downtown core
- Distinct match day and non-match day operations
- Seeking private and public partnership



# Passenger Experience

# Seamless, accessible, and welcoming



Digital,  
physical, and  
on-site  
wayfinding



Open  
payment,  
promotional  
Orca cards



Trip planning

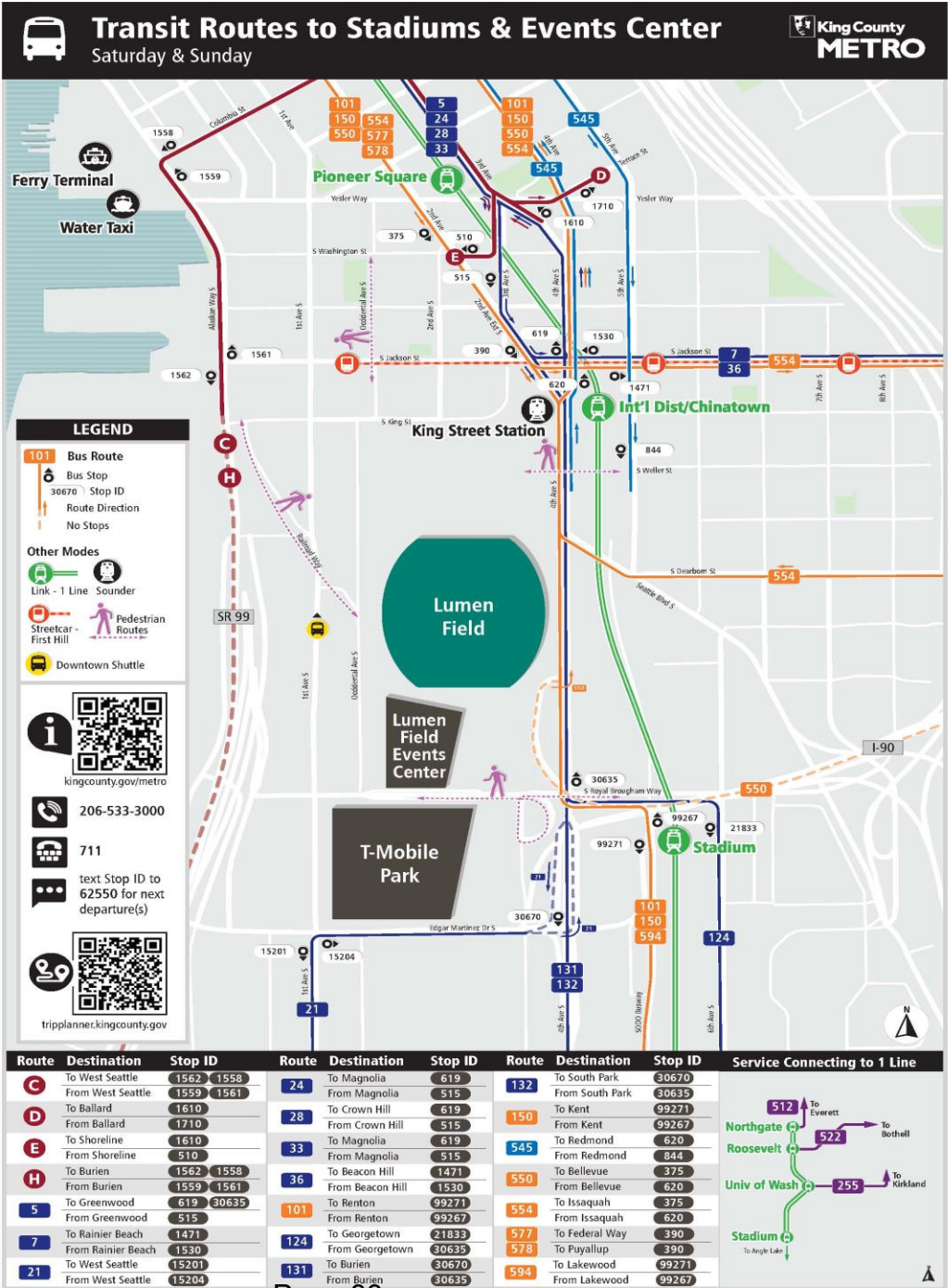


Translated and  
Language-neutral  
communications



Street teams

# Passenger map for Lumen Field events



# Safety and Security

# Safe, clean, reliable mobility for all



Enhanced  
transit  
security  
presence



Physical  
security  
measures at  
downtown  
bases



Crowd  
management  
training for front  
line staff



Coordination with  
partners in law  
enforcement &  
emergency  
services



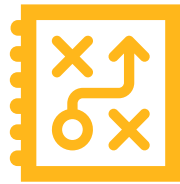
Emergency  
Operations Plan

# Operational Readiness

# Maintaining service excellence through comprehensive planning & strategic resource management



Service  
impact  
mitigation



Staffing &  
deployment  
strategies



Ensuring vehicle  
readiness &  
managing coach  
staging

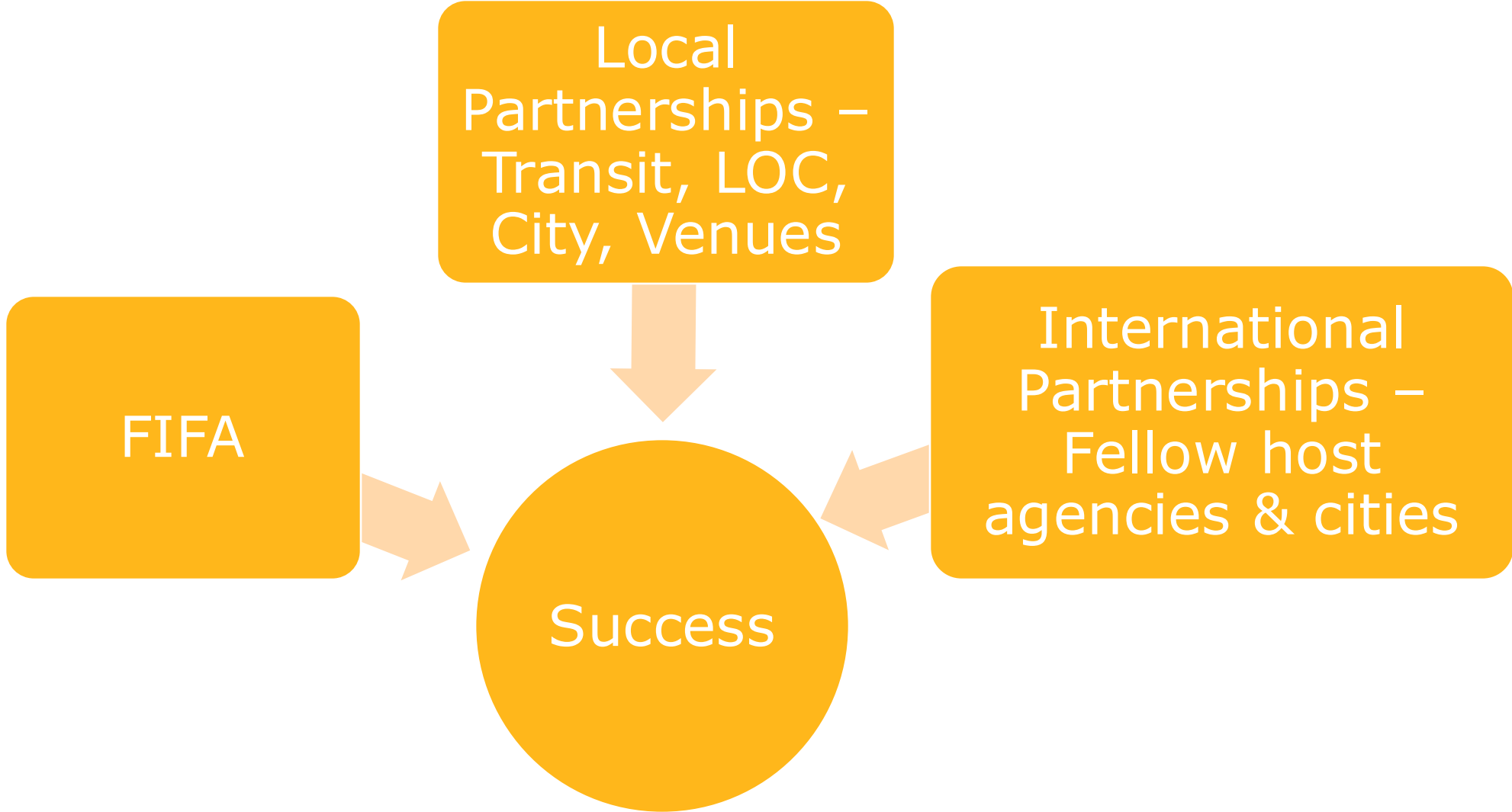


Designing &  
executing  
workforce  
training



Contingency  
planning

# Partnerships and coordination will be key to success



# Closing & Questions

# ***FIFA Club World Cup 2025 and FIFA World Cup 26 Update***

*Regional Transit Committee  
6/18/2025*



# *Agenda*

- Overview of final plans for FIFA Club World Cup 2025
- Overview of initial Fares and Service elements for FIFA World Cup 26

# ***FIFA Club World Cup 2025***

# FIFA Club World Cup 2025 Game Details

Date	Time	Day	Teams
6/15/25 <sup>#</sup>	7pm	Sunday	<b>Sounders FC</b> vs Botafogo (BRA)
6/17/25 <sup>#</sup>	Noon	Tuesday	River Plate (ARG) vs Urawa (JPN)
6/19/25 <sup>*</sup>	3pm	Thursday	<b>Sounders FC</b> vs Atletico de Madrid (SPA)
6/21/25	Noon	Saturday	Inter Milan (ITA) vs Urawa (JPN)
6/23/25	Noon	Monday	<b>Sounders FC</b> vs Paris Saint-Germain (FRA)
6/25/25	6pm	Wednesday	Inter Milan (ITA) vs River Plate (ARG)

*#6/15 Mariners vs. Guardians @1:10pm*

*#6/17 Mariners vs. Red Sox @6:40pm*

*\*Holiday – Juneteenth*

# Service Plans for FIFA Club World Cup 2025



## **1 Line**

- Additional service on 6/15 and 6/23 games
- Regular service all other game days
- Standby trains manage extra crowding



## **ST Express**

- All game days - extra trips added as needed by operating partners



## **Sounder**

- Weekend matches - Special event service on 6/21
- Weekday matches - special event trains and schedule changes on both North and South Lines (refer to schedule)

# Staffing Plans for FIFA Club World Cup 2025



## Ambassadors

- Staff ambassadors at key 1 Line stations supporting riders
- Contracted ambassadors supporting elevator use at 1 Line stations near Lumen Field
- Fare Ambassadors provide post-game customer support at IDS



## Facilities

- Sound Transit and KCM facilities staff supporting stations near Lumen Field and Downtown Seattle. On-call for rest of the system.
- Elevator/Escalator techs roaming 1 Line system to address issues real-time for weekday games. Techs on call for weekend games.



## Security

- Contracted security and law enforcement focus on 1 Line stations near Lumen Field
- Mobile patrols onboard 1 Line trains in Downtown Seattle

# 2025 Station Activation Pilot

- Goals: 1) Celebrate the people in the neighborhood, 2) pilot potential activation strategy for 2026 World Cup, 3) Promote ridership connections, 4) Enhance passenger flow for large events
- Partnership with Chinatown / International District Business Improvement District (CIDBIA) and Alliance for Pioneer Square to activate IDS / Union Station Plaza and Pioneer Square
- Activities include, neighborhood information booths, DJs / music, digital passport and more!



Ex: Redmond Opening



Ex: Starter Line Opening



Ex: Lynnwood Opening

# 2025 Wayfinding and Signage Pilot

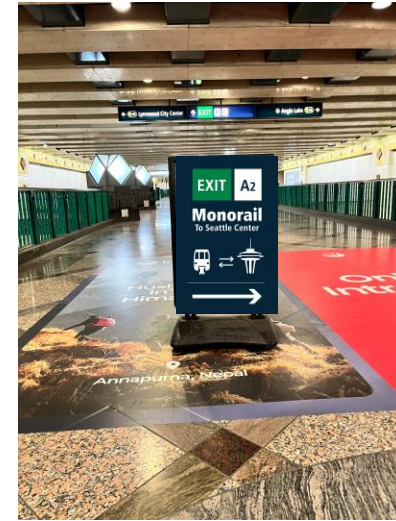
- Goal: pilot strategic wayfinding and signage elements to enhance the connections between our stations and Lumen Field, Seattle Center, and SeaTac Airport.



International District /  
Chinatown Station



Weller St Bridge /  
King St Station



Westlake  
Station



SeaTac/Airport  
Station

# ***FIFA World Cup 26***

# Regional Fares Overview and FIFA World Cup 26

## Payment Options Today



ORCA card, all-modes and able to transfer (also available in Google Wallet)



TVM Paper Ticket, all-rail modes, unable to transfer



Transit Go App, KCM and ST modes only, unable to transfer

## In Development Ahead of 2026 World Cup



Open payment, ability to pay via debit/credit cards and via NFC enabled devices

## Elements in Review for 2026 World Cup

- Development of multiday Pass
- Game day regional fares approach
- Sponsored Fares or other sponsorship opportunities

# Service Plans in Development for FIFA World Cup 26



## *Link*

- 1 and 2 Line being fully extended
- Exploring midday and evening service scenarios during game days, peak service maxed out

## *Tacoma Link*

- Planning for increased service evenings and weekends
- Additional service scenarios developed once Tacoma Fan Zone details are available

## *ST Express*

- No changes to ST Express service until after World Cup
- Additional midday and evening service scenarios developed once 2026 schedule is released

## *Sounder*

- High-level conversations with BNSF on additional round trips
- Leverage 2025 schedule pilot results to refine 2026 approach, once 2026 schedule is released

# ***Additional Support for FIFA World Cup 26***



## ***Charters***

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- RFP to procure temporary charter bus support
- Leveraged for system capacity and/or for disruptions
- Deployment coordinated with operating and regional partners



## ***Bus Refurbishment***

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- Refurbishing ST Express buses to extend useful life
- Buses leveraged for system capacity and/or for disruptions
- Buses could be leveraged by Stride Operations post-FIFA World Cup 26

# Next Steps

- Continue deploying plans for FIFA Club World Cup 2025
- Facilitate lessons learned process for FIFA Club World Cup 2025 this summer
- Continue to work with LOC and other partners to align regional strategies for FIFA World Cup 26
- Prepare for next Board briefing in Q3

*Thank you.*



 [\*soundtransit.org\*](https://soundtransit.org)

