

Spokane Transit Authority
1230 West Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-2686
(509) 325-6000

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STA BOARD MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Directors of the Spokane Transit Authority of Spokane County, Washington, that the Board will hold a meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, in the Spokane Transit Boardroom, 1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane Washington. A virtual video conference option is available, and the joining information is listed below.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that business to be discussed and/or action taken shall be in accordance with the attached agenda, which is also on file at the STA Administrative Offices.

THE MEETING SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

BY ORDER OF THE STA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF APRIL 2026.



Dana Infalt
Clerk of the Authority
Sr. Executive Assistant to the CEO
Manager Board & Executive Support

Optional joining link: [click this link to join virtually](#)

Webinar number: 2496 971 6648

Panelist password: **2026** (2026 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Guest password: **Guest**

Join by video system Dial [24969716648@spokanetransit.webex.com](tel:24969716648)

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 249 697 16648

Agendas of regular Committee and Board meetings are posted the Friday afternoon preceding each meeting on STA's website: www.spokanetransit.com. A video of the Board meeting may be viewed on the website the week after the meeting. Discussions concerning matters to be brought to the Board are held in Committee meetings. The public is welcome to attend and participate. Anyone wishing to address the Board of Directors on a specific subject at a Board meeting may do so by submitting written comments to the STA Chair of the Board (1230 West Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201-2686) 24 hours prior to the Board meeting. Mail addressed to the Board of Directors will be distributed by STA at its next meeting. Mail addressed to a named Board Member will be forwarded to the Board Member, unopened. Spokane Transit assures nondiscrimination in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information, see www.spokanetransit.com. Upon request, alternative formats of this information will be produced for people who are disabled. The meeting facility is accessible for people using wheelchairs. For other accommodations, please call 325-6094 (TTY Relay 711) at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance.



1230 W. Boone Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 328-RIDE | www.spokanetransit.com

Approve Agenda
Special Meeting Date: April 29, 2026
Agenda Item: 4

Presented To: Board of Directors
Referral Committee: n/a
Title: APPROVE BOARD AGENDA
Submitted by: Lance Speirs, STA 2026 Board Chair

Purpose: For decision.
Recommendation: Approve Board agenda.
Attachments and/or Online Links: APRIL 29, 2026, SPECIAL STA BOARD AGENDA

SUMMARY: The Special STA Board Meeting agenda is provided for the Board's consideration and approval.

Spokane Transit Authority
1230 West Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201-2686
(509) 325-6000

SPECIAL SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

April 29, 2026, 4:00-5:00 PM

Spokane Transit Authority
1230 W Boone Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

In person meeting w/virtual joining option available

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Estimated Meeting Time: 60 Minutes

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (*Chair Speirs*)
 2. Sales Tax Reauthorization – discussion and potential action (*Karl Otterstrom*)
 3. Appointments to Pro/Con Committees – discussion and potential action (*Megan Clark/Karl Otterstrom*)
 4. Adjourn (*Chair Speirs*)
-

Optional joining link: [click this link to join virtually](#)

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Board Action-Other
Special Meeting Date: April 29, 2026
Agenda Item: 2

Presented To: Board of Directors
Referral Committee: n/a
Title: SALES TAX REAUTHORIZATION - DISCUSSION & POTENTIAL ACTION
Submitted by: Karl Otterstrom, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: For decision.
Recommendation: Adopt, by Resolution #856-26, to submit to the qualified electors of STA for approval or rejection at the primary election to be held on August 4, 2026, a proposition reauthorizing sales and use tax of up to 2/10th of 1% (0.2%) within the limitations established by RCW 82.14.045; and authorize and direct the Clerk of the Authority to certify a proposition to Spokane County Elections, as ex-officio supervisor of elections in Spokane County, Washington, in substantially the form on the attached Resolution.

Attachments and/or Online Links: RESOLUTION 856-26

SUMMARY: Over the past seven months, the Board has convened multiple workshop sessions to understand the funding requirements to maintain service and enhance public transportation. Staff conducted outreach to local jurisdictions and community members to share opportunities and requirements and to gather input. That input helped inform recommended amendments to *Connect 2035* in April and confirmed broad public support for continued investment in public transportation. At the April 2, 2026 Board workshop, staff presented analyses describing the financial expectations associated with maintaining and enhancing transit and provided a draft ballot title. Following the workshop, the Board Operations Committee provided feedback on the draft resolution concerning the proposed sales tax renewal ballot proposition. Staff incorporated that feedback and presented an updated draft resolution at the April 16, 2026 Board meeting for consideration and potential action. After extended discussion at the April Board meeting, the Board voted 6–3 to defer action on the draft Resolution to a Special Board meeting following an engagement with the business community that was to occur on April 28.

RESOLUTION NO. 856-26

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SPOKANE COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BENEFIT AREA AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2026, OF A PROPOSITION REAUTHORIZING SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY TO COLLECT UP TO 2/10 OF 1% SALES TAX, FIRST AUTHORIZED BY VOTERS IN 2016, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING AND ENHANCING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE REGION; AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Spokane County, Washington

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY as follows:

WHEREAS, the Spokane Transit Authority (STA) is a municipal corporation operating and existing under and pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of the State of Washington, including RCW Title 36, Chapter 57A, Public Transportation Benefit Area; and,

WHEREAS, in prior elections, most recently on November 8, 2016, voters approved local funding with the purpose of providing quality and cost-effective public service and funding public transportation serving Spokane's transportation benefit area, and to implement the projects and purposes of a strategic planned known as *STA Moving Forward*;

WHEREAS, the local funding approved by voters in 2016 has been utilized to implement a significant increase in transit service, fulfilling the planned investments identified in the *STA Moving Forward* plan as amended, and other services, programs and activities generally consistent with Connect Spokane, STA's Comprehensive Plans;

WHEREAS, as a result of implementation of the *STA Moving Forward* plan, STA now provides more bus service than ever in its history, connecting people to more jobs and services, delivering bus rapid transit service on other high performance transit corridors, expanding the quality and frequency of service, extending paratransit service to new areas, and supporting an effective rideshare program;

WHEREAS, the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Horizon 2050, referencing the Washington State Office of Financial Management population forecasts, anticipates that Spokane County will grow by nearly 120,000 persons by the year 2050, with employment expected to grow at a higher rate, with regional activity centers, such as the West Plains/Spokane Airport, Fairchild Air Force Base, Northeast Spokane, and Spokane's Central Business District playing a central role in travel patterns;

WHEREAS, Spokane County is expected to complete the North Spokane Corridor in 2030, which will connect I-90 to US-2 and US-395, enabling the full implementation of bus rapid transit on Division Street in the near future;

WHEREAS, the local funding approved by voters in 2016 will expire on December 31, 2028, unless renewed in accordance with RCW 82.14.045;

WHEREAS, STA has developed and adopted a new strategic plan, *Connect 2035*, to maintain and enhance public transportation through 2035, seeking to advance goals to “elevate the customer experience, lead and collaborate with community partners to enhance the quality of life in our region, and strengthen our capacity to anticipate and respond to the demands of the region;”

WHEREAS, the STA Board of Directors has identified the sales and use tax as an authorized source of revenue and finds it is in the best interests and welfare of the inhabitants of STA’s public transportation benefit area to sustain the general scope of STA service and infrastructure, and carry out the investments and initiatives included in the *Connect 2035* plan and further finds, after reviewing all the funding methods within its authority, it would not be possible to implement said plan without maintaining the collection of voter-approved sales and use tax;

WHEREAS, STA remains committed to its longstanding principles and policies of diligent financial management, including maintaining a no-debt financial position, rider contribution to cost of service through reasonable fares, and pursuing and leveraging both federal and state grant funding to reduce the burden on Spokane taxpayers to ensure the long-term financial stability of STA’s transit system;

WHEREAS, with voter approval, STA shall be reauthorized to collect sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent, as first authorized in November 2016 (STA’s existing sales tax authority), which will be used to maintain and enhance the existing transit system, including fixed-route bus, paratransit and rideshare services, and improve and expand the availability of public transportation through new modes and programs, and provide for essential transit support facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of STA as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

The STA Board hereby finds that the best interests of the inhabitants of STA’s public transportation benefit area require STA be reauthorized to collect sales and use tax through this Resolution in the amount of two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) pursuant to RCW 82.12.045 for the purpose of providing a portion of the funds necessary to finance public transportation.

It is further found that the best interests of the citizens of the Spokane region, the users of STA’s public transportation system, and the economic interests of the Spokane region require the submission to the qualified electors of STA a proposition of whether STA shall be reauthorized to collect sales and use tax of up to two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) first authorized in November 2016 (STA’s existing sales tax authority).

It is further found that the funding approved by the qualified electors shall be used to maintain and enhance the existing transit system, including fixed-route bus, paratransit and rideshare services, and improve and expand the availability of public transportation through new modes and programs, and provide for essential transit support facilities. Such maintenance and enhancement will be further supported by STA’s longstanding commitments to diligent financial management, including maintaining a no-debt financial position, rider contribution to the cost of service through reasonable fares, and pursuing and leveraging both federal and state grant funding to reduce the burden on Spokane taxpayers to ensure the long-term financial stability of STA’s transit system.

Section 2. Use of Proceeds. Upon approval of the reauthorization of the sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (0.2%), which voters first approved in 2016, STA intends to continue providing quality and cost-effective public transportation services (as authorized in Ch. 36.57A RCW) as part of its general comprehensive plan, and improve and expand services as part of *Connect 2035* to best serve the public transportation benefit area, as amended from time to time to meet changed conditions and requirements.

Section 3. Calling of Election. The Spokane County Auditor, as ex officio supervisor of elections in Spokane County, Washington, is requested to submit to the qualified electors of STA for approval or rejection at the primary election to be held on August 4, 2026, a proposition reauthorizing sales and use tax of up to 2/10th of 1% (0.2%) within the limitations established by RCW 82.14.045.

Upon approval of the voters of the proposition hereinafter set forth, STA may use the proceeds of such sales and use tax to fund the costs of public transportation, as more particularly described in this Resolution.

The Clerk of the Authority is hereby authorized and directed to certify a proposition to Spokane County Elections, as ex-officio supervisor of elections in Spokane County, Washington, in substantially the following form:

SPOKANE TRANSIT AUTHORITY

PROPOSITION NO. 1

MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

The Spokane Transit Authority Board of Directors passed Resolution No. XXX-26 concerning reauthorizing sales and use tax funding for public transportation services.

This proposition would reauthorize a voter-approved sales tax of up to 2/10th of 1% (0.2%) to provide public transportation. Proceeds would be used to maintain and enhance the existing transit system, improve and expand the availability of public transportation through new modes and programs, and provide for essential transit support facilities. Voters first approved this tax in 2016, and it is set to expire on December 31, 2028, unless renewed, as permitted under RCW 82.14.045.

Should this proposition be approved?

YES _____

NO _____

For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot proposition required by RCW 29A.36.080, the STA Board of Directors hereby designates: (a) the Clerk of the Authority; and (b) STA's Legal Counsel, as the individuals to whom such notice should be provided. Legal Counsel

and the Clerk of the Authority are each authorized individually to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Spokane County Auditor.

The Clerk of the Authority is authorized to make necessary clerical corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's or clerical errors, references, numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any reference thereto.

The proper STA officials are authorized to perform such duties as are necessary or required by law to submit the question of whether the collection of the 0.2% of sales and use tax shall be approved, as provided in this Resolution, to the electors at the August 4, 2026, primary election.

Section 4. Local Voters' Pamphlet Authorized. The preparation and distribution of a local voters' pamphlet providing information on the foregoing ballot measure is hereby authorized. The pamphlet shall include an explanatory statement and arguments advocating approval and disapproval of the ballot measure, if any. In accordance with RCW 29A.32.280, the arguments advocating approval and rejection of the ballot measure shall be prepared by committees appointed by STA's Board of Directors. Each committee shall be composed of not more than three persons; however, a committee may seek the advice of any person or persons.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon passage.

Section 6. Severability. In the event any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or invalidate any other provision of this Resolution, but this Resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid provision had not been contained herein; provided that any provision which shall for any reason be held to be invalid shall be deemed to be in effect to the extent permitted by law.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Spokane Transit Authority at a regular meeting thereof held on the ___ day of _____ 2026.

Attest:

Dana Infalt
Clerk of the Authority

Lance Speirs
STA Board Chair

Approved as to form:

Megan Clark
Legal Counsel



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Board Action-Other
Special Meeting Date: April 29, 2026
Agenda Item: 3

Presented To: Board of Directors

Referral Committee: n/a

Title: APPOINTMENTS TO PRO/CON COMMITTEES – DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION

Submitted by: Megan Clark, Legal Counsel
Karl Otterstrom, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose: For decision.

Recommendation:

- 1) Appoint members to the “Pro” Committee for the proposed sales tax ballot measure for the purpose of preparing and submitting the pro statement (and rebuttal, if applicable) for the local voters’ pamphlet.
- 2) Appoint members to the “Con” Committee for the proposed sales tax ballot measure for the purpose of preparing and submitting the con statement (and rebuttal, if applicable) for the local voters’ pamphlet.

Attachments and/or Online Links: n/a

SUMMARY: Should the Board approve placing the proposed sales tax measure on the ballot for the August 4, 2026 primary election and the measure is included in a local voters’ pamphlet, Washington state law requires the legislative authority of the agency to appoint two committees—a “Pro” Committee and a “Con” Committee—to prepare the official arguments advocating voters’ approval and rejection, respectively, of the measure (RCW 29A.32.280). The committees’ statements (and rebuttals, if applicable) are published to provide voters with clear, balanced perspectives in a consistent format and within the election deadlines. Board action to appoint members to each committee must occur to meet statutory and county auditor submittal timelines if the measure moves forward.

Each committee shall not have more than three members (but the committee may seek advice from others).

Committee member qualifications:

- Must reside within the PTBA boundaries
- Must be known to favor (Pro Committee) or oppose (Con Committee) the measure

Committee member responsibilities (example):

- Develop and submit the committee’s argument (for or against the measure) in the format and word limit required for the local voters’ pamphlet.
- Prepare a rebuttal to the opposing committee’s argument, if permitted/required by the county auditor’s process.
- Coordinate with fellow committee members to agree on final content and designate a primary contact for elections staff.

Submit statements by the county auditor’s deadlines and comply with applicable content requirements (e.g., accuracy, attribution, and any restrictions on materials).