



Ethereum "Glamsterdam": 2026 Upgrade Turning the Layer 1 Back Into a Speed Demon

Summary

For the last two years, Ethereum has focused heavily on making Layer 2 networks (like Arbitrum and Base) cheaper and more scalable. Now the focus is shifting back to the main chain — Ethereum's Layer 1, which is the core blockchain where transactions are permanently settled.

Glamsterdam, scheduled for the first half of 2026, is first major Layer 1-focused overhaul in years. By introducing Parallel Processing and significantly raising Gas Limit (potentially toward 100 million and beyond), Glamsterdam aims to make Ethereum's base layer faster, fairer, and more efficient.

It's essentially a traffic control upgrade for world's busiest blockchain — ensuring that even as thousands of AI agents and applications join network, main road does not get clogged.

What It Means

From One-Lane Road to Multi-Lane Highway

Currently, Ethereum processes transactions like a one-lane road: every transaction waits in a single line. Glamsterdam introduces Parallel Execution (via block-level access lists), allowing multiple transactions to be processed at same time — as long as they do not change same data.

It's like moving from one grocery checkout counter to ten open registers. More transactions clear at once, reducing congestion.

Upgrade also addresses MEV (hidden value extraction and transaction reordering) by integrating block-building directly into protocol through a feature called ePBS. This reduces reliance on third-party relays and makes transaction handling more transparent and predictable.

At same time, Gas Limit — which determines how much work each block can handle — is expected to increase significantly. This gives network more capacity. Simple actions like sending ETH should

become more stable in cost, while heavier applications that consume more data will pay proportionally more.

For average users, this means interacting directly with Ethereum's Layer 1 should feel less exclusive and less volatile in pricing, even during peak activity.

Potential Effects on Price: Settlement Layer Repricing

As Layer 1 becomes more efficient, more applications may choose to stay directly on Ethereum instead of moving to competing chains. More activity on main chain typically leads to more ETH being burned through transaction fees, which can reduce overall supply and support price over time.

Improved resistance to transaction manipulation and stronger protocol-level controls can also increase institutional confidence. Large financial players prioritize security and censorship resistance, and strengthening base layer makes ETH more attractive as long-term infrastructure.





If Glamsterdam improves transaction speed meaningfully, it weakens argument that Ethereum is too slow compared to competitors like Solana. Closing performance gap could shift capital flows back toward ETH.

A stronger Layer 1 also benefits Layer 2 networks. When base layer becomes more efficient, rollups

become cheaper and more reliable. A healthier Layer 2 ecosystem typically increases demand for ETH.

Finally, better MEV handling can make staking rewards more predictable. More stable yields may encourage additional staking, reducing circulating supply and lowering sell pressure.

Key Takeaways

- **Parallel Processing:** Moves Ethereum from single-lane execution to multi-lane transaction processing.
- **100M+ Gas Limit:** Increases block capacity, allowing more transactions per block.
- **Layer 1 Focus:** Roadmap shifts back to improving Ethereum's main settlement layer.
- **Censorship Resistance:** ePBS reduces reliance on intermediaries and strengthens neutrality.
- **Lower Fees Stability:** Basic transfers become more predictable in cost.
- **Preparation for Future Upgrades:** Sets groundwork for long-term scalability phases.
- **Scheduled for H1 2026:** Expected in first half of year.
- **Potential Burn Increase:** Higher activity may increase ETH burn rate over time.
- **Long-Term Infrastructure Play:** Focus is structural efficiency, not short-term marketing.

Our Take (Outlook) * Speculative

Glamsterdam is not a flashy feature launch. It is structural maintenance designed to keep Ethereum's core layer competitive as usage grows.

If upgrade delivers smoother execution and stronger neutrality, Ethereum's base layer becomes more attractive for developers, institutions, and long-term holders. Price reactions may not be immediate. But historically, deep protocol improvements tend to influence valuation once network performance proves itself in real conditions.

For long-term participants, Glamsterdam signals continued maturation of Ethereum's Layer 1 into high-capacity financial infrastructure.

References

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