

Regional Transit News

Sound Transit • Community Transit • Everett Transit • King County Metro • Pierce Transit

The proposed changes outlined in this report are part of the regional transit package approved by voters in 1996.

Sound Transit continually monitors its bus and train routes to make sure the services you receive are productive and effectively meet regional transit needs. Sound Transit works closely with its partner transit agencies—Everett Transit, Community Transit, King County Metro and Pierce Transit—to coordinate service, avoid route duplication and provide new or improved transit connections to more places. The results of this work are summarized in an annual draft report called the Sound Transit Service Implementation Plan (SIP). This issue of *Regional Transit News* describes Sound Transit service changes proposed in the 2009 SIP, including the start-up of Link light rail passenger service between downtown Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport.

On Nov. 4, 2008, voters in the Central Puget Sound approved the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure, which will fund major light rail, commuter rail, express bus and transit facility expansions between 2009 and 2023. In early 2009, a separate public outreach process will begin on proposals for the first ST2 expansions: added express bus service. New service will begin as part of Sound Transit's regularly-scheduled June and September 2009 service changes. To receive information about 2009 ST2 implementation steps and how to provide comment starting early next year, please sign up for e-mail alerts at <http://future.soundtransit.org/subscribe.aspx>. You can also visit www.soundtransit.org for information and to find a separate edition of *Regional Transit News* after the New Year.



These proposals are subject to review and approval by the Sound Transit Board. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send your input by Nov. 30, 2008 to:

- fastride@soundtransit.org
- Carol Masnik at Sound Transit
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104
- 1-866-940-4387

Open House

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2008
Union Station, Great Hall
401 S. Jackson St., Seattle
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Public Hearing

Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008
Union Station
Ruth Fisher Board Room
401 S. Jackson St., Seattle
Noon - 12:30 p.m.

Central Link Light Rail Initial Segment Opens

Link light rail passenger service begins in July 2009. The electric-powered trains will initially run between Westlake Station in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and the Tukwila International Blvd. Station in Tukwila (see attached map). A temporary bus shuttle will connect light rail passengers to Sea-Tac Airport. By late 2009, Link will extend from Tukwila International Blvd. Station directly to the SeaTac/Airport Station, replacing the temporary shuttle. Proposed service levels would provide Link service from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 6 a.m. to midnight on Sundays and holidays. Frequent service is proposed, with trains operating about every 6 to 8 minutes during weekday peak periods and every 10 to 15 minutes at other times.

Travel time on Link trains will be unaffected by highway congestion or weather conditions. Most of the route is on exclusive right-of-way, either used by Link trains only or on transit right-of-way shared with buses. Where Link trains cross at street level, trains will have priority over intersecting traffic with signals protecting the train movements. As a result, Link service is expected to be dependable and consistently on-time.

Central Link fares will be established in early 2009 following a public outreach process scheduled to begin this month. Sound Transit staff will be on hand at a number of open houses to collect public comment and hold a public hearing before the Sound Transit Board's decision.

To provide connections to Link stations from communities not directly located on the rail line, King County Metro is planning potential changes to bus routes in Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley, Skyway/West Hill, Tukwila, Sea-Tac and Burien. To find out more about this planning process and how you can become involved, contact sarah.luthens@kingcounty.gov



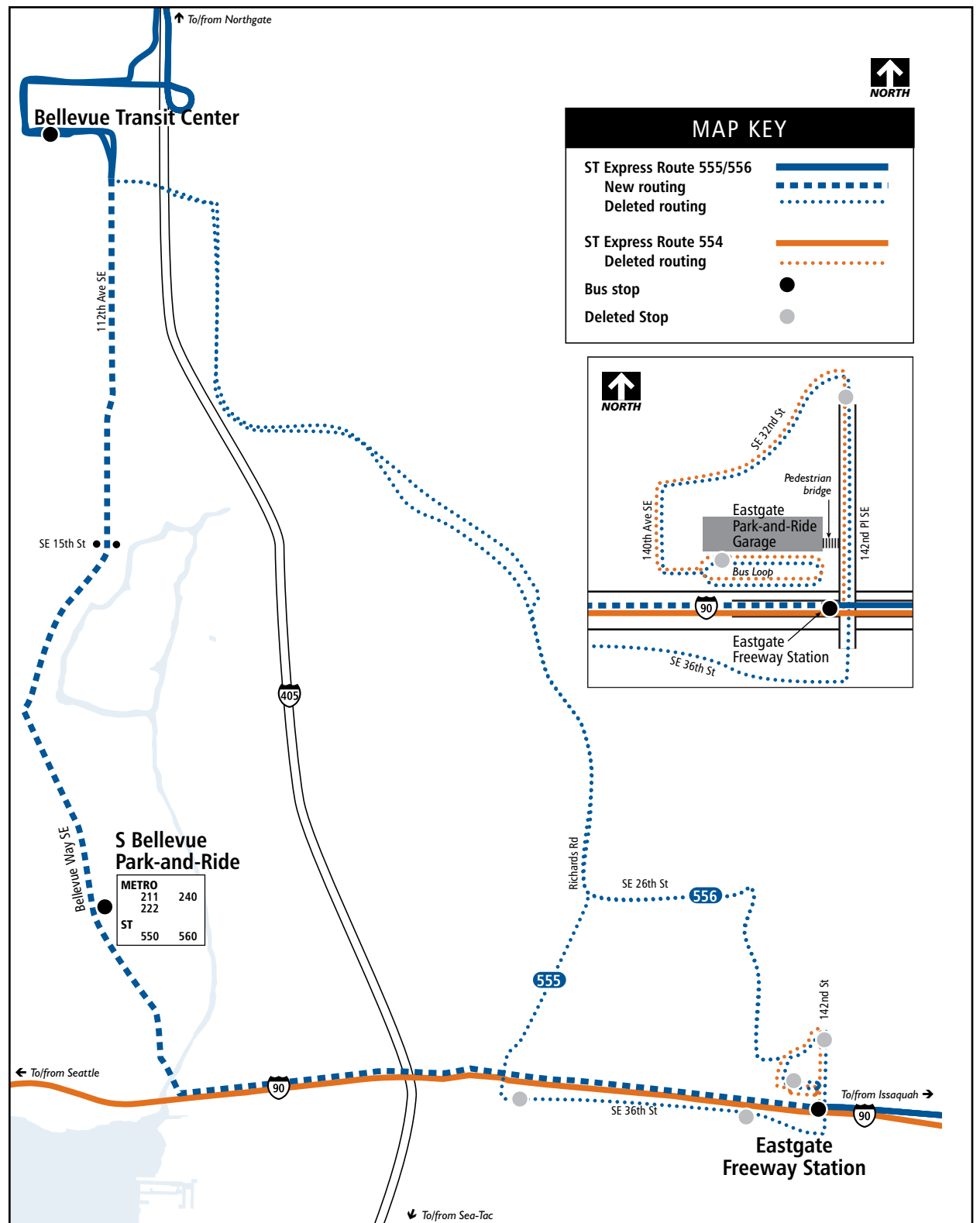
Proposed changes to ST Express bus service

Route 554 Issaquah-Seattle

- Route 554 would no longer serve the Eastgate Park-and-Ride bus loop or the bus stops on 142nd Avenue SE. Buses would continue to serve Eastgate using the eastbound and westbound stops located on the Eastgate I-90 HOV direct access freeway ramp, about a 900-foot walk from the park-and-ride bus loop.
- Weekday midday service would increase from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes between Seattle and Issaquah Transit Center. This improvement can be implemented at no cost because of the time savings with the proposed Eastgate routing change.
- One-way travel time for riders going between Seattle and Issaquah would decrease by about five minutes.
- The Route 554 changes would be implemented in June 2009.

Route 555 Northgate-Issaquah Route 556 Northgate-Issaquah via U District

- Route 555 and Route 556 would no longer serve the Eastgate Park-and-Ride bus loop or the bus stops on 142nd Avenue SE and SE 36th Street.
- Route 555 and Route 556 would be modified to use I-90, Bellevue Way SE and 112th Avenue SE between Eastgate and downtown Bellevue. The only Eastgate-area stops would be located on the Eastgate I-90 HOV direct access freeway ramp, about a 900-foot walk from the Eastgate Park-and-Ride bus loop.
- Route 555 and Route 556 would stop in both directions at the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride for connections to other routes, including Route 560 to Renton and Sea-Tac Airport.
- Travel time for riders going between downtown Bellevue and Issaquah would decrease by about five minutes each way.
- The Route 555/556 changes would be implemented in June 2009.



REGIONAL TRANSIT PARTNERS

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This publication was produced by Sound Transit and
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Sound Transit would like to hear from you about proposed changes to transit services.

若欲用中文瞭解 Sound Transit 服務可能發生的改變，請在正常的工作時間致電 1-800-823-9230。

Para saber más acerca de los posibles cambios en el servicio Sound Transit en español, por favor llame al 1-800-823-9230 durante horas de oficina normales.

Title VI Comments Pursuant to Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 and applicable state and local laws, no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in any program or activity performed by or provided for Sound Transit. Comments alleging such discrimination may be filed with Sound Transit, the Federal Transit Administration and/or the U.S. Department of Transportation. A complaint filed with Sound Transit must be in writing and filed within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory act. Sound Transit Title VI complaint forms are available at no cost by calling (206) 398-5000.

