

# EAST LINK What is light rail?



## Benefits of Link light rail

- Fast, frequent and reliable service 20 hours a day
- Exclusive and semi-exclusive right-of-way for rail transit, separated from other traffic and congestion
- East Link will connect to the Central Link line providing a one-seat ride (no transfers) from Overlake to the University of Washington via Bellevue, Mercer Island, downtown Seattle and Capitol Hill
- Reliable connection to Sea-Tac Airport
- Light rail trains are electric and do not emit harmful contaminants into the air
- Development concentrated around light rail stations promotes walkable communities, which leads to improved public health and mobility
- Light rail can carry crowds associated with fairs, sporting events, concerts, festivals, and other special events

## What is light rail?

Light rail is versatile and flexible enough to run at street level, through tunnels, or in elevated right-of-way, depending on individual routes. It also can expand and grow with increasing demand. Light rail trains are powered by an overhead electrical power source. Sound Transit's Link light rail vehicles offer level boarding (no steps required) that can operate singly or combined into two-, three- and four-car trains.

## Sound Transit's Link light rail

Link light rail is a key element of the Puget Sound region's long-term transportation network, which also includes ST Express regional buses, Sounder commuter trains, local buses, ferries and roads.

To speak with Sound Transit about the proposed Link light rail mass transit project in East King County call 1-800-823-9230 during regular business hours.

Para hablar con Sound Transit acerca del propuesto proyecto de transporte público de Light Link Rail en el este de King County, llame al 1-800-823-9230 durante horas normales de oficina.

要向 Sound Transit 瞭解或討論擬在 East King County 進行的 Link light rail 公共交通項目，請在正常的工作時間致電 1-800-823-9230。

Upang makipag-usap sa Sound Transit ukol sa iminungkahing Link light rail na proyektong sasakyang pangmasa sa Silangang King County tawagan ang 1-800-823-9230 habang sa karaniwang mga oras ng pangangalakal.

Если вы хотите высказать сотрудникам Sound Transit свои соображения по поводу предлагаемого проекта линии общественного транспорта Link light rail в восточной части King County, звоните по телефону 1-800-823-9230 в обычные рабочие часы.

Muốn nói chuyện với Sound Transit về đề án chuyên chở công cộng đường hỏa xa nhẹ Link tại Phía Đông Quận King, hãy gọi số 1-800-823-9230 trong giờ làm việc thường lệ.

برای گفتگو با سوند ترانزیت در مورد مسیر پیشنهاد شده برای پروژه ترانزیت سبک راه اهنی در کینگ شرقی با شماره 1-800-823-9230 در ساعات کاری تماس بگیرید.



Sound Transit plans, builds, and operates regional transit systems and services to improve mobility for Central Puget Sound.

**INFORMATION:** For information about Sound Transit projects or services visit us online at [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org) or call 1-800-201-4900 / 1-888-713-6030 TTY. To receive email updates for Sound Transit's bus or rail service, projects, or other information, subscribe online at [www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org). Write Sound Transit, 401 S. Jackson St., WA 98104-2826.



Sound Transit's proposed East Link light rail project will connect downtown Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Overlake and eventually Redmond via I-90.

# EAST LINK

FALL 2008



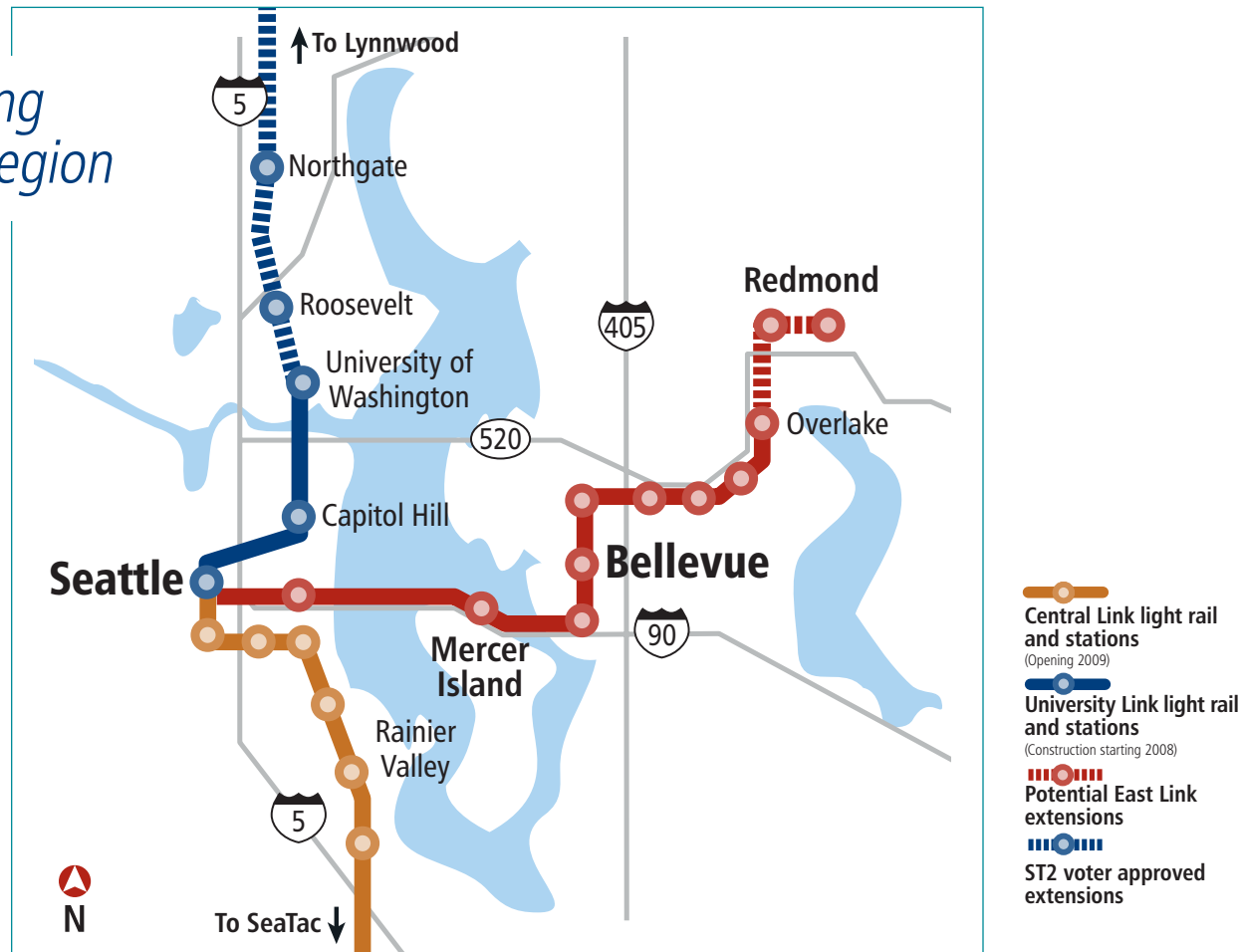
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# SOUND TRANSIT'S East Link Project

Linking our region



The East Link project is a voter-approved project to expand light rail from downtown Seattle to East King County with stations serving Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond. East Link trains are estimated to carry 40,000 to 45,000 riders daily—13 million per year—by 2030.

East Link build's on the Link light rail system between downtown Seattle and Sea-Tac Airport currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2009. Central Link is estimated to carry 45,000 daily riders by 2020. Work also begins this year on a northward extension from downtown Seattle to the University of Washington that will carry 70,000 daily riders by 2030.

The Eastside is one of the region's fastest growing economic and residential centers. The job and population growth, however, is putting increasing demand on the Eastside's transportation system. East Link will provide an alternative to driving on congested roads. Because light rail trains operate in their own

right-of-way, they provide fast, smooth and reliable service no matter what the weather or traffic conditions. East Link will connect directly to the Central Link light rail line for a no-transfer ride between Redmond, Bellevue, Mercer Island and the University of Washington via downtown Seattle and Capitol Hill.

East Link is one element of Sound Transit's Long-Range Plan, updated in 2005 using public input. The Long-Range Plan is the foundation for the region's mass transit system and will continue to provide a base for future regional transit expansion proposals.

Funding to build East Link between Seattle and the Overlake Transit Center in Redmond is included in Sound Transit 2, also known as Proposition 1, the Mass Transit Expansion Proposal that was approved by voters in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties on Nov. 4. The proposal provides funding for an at-grade or elevated alternative in downtown Bellevue. If the Sound Transit Board selects a tunnel alternative, additional funding sources will be required. Sound Transit is also conducting environmental review on a future extension for downtown Redmond.

East Link project timeline	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Scoping comment period and public meetings	■				
EIS alternatives identified by Sound Transit Board		■	■	■	■
Draft EIS prepared		■	■	■	■
Comment period for draft EIS			■	■	■
Preferred Alternative identified by Sound Transit Board				■	■
Final EIS prepared				■	■
Project adopted by Sound Transit Board				■	■
Record of Decision issued by Federal Transit Administration					■
Public meetings and outreach are continuous throughout project					

## The Environmental Process

In fall 2006, Sound Transit, the Federal Transit Administration and the Washington State Department of Transportation began the environmental review process for East Link with a public scoping comment period including four public meetings held at various locations in the project's vicinity. During scoping, Sound Transit received about 300 written and oral comments on the proposed project. These comments were included in the Scoping Summary Report, which was presented to the Sound Transit Board and made available to the public in November 2006.

In December 2006, the Sound Transit Board identified the light rail routes, stations and maintenance facility alternatives for detailed study in the environmental impact statement (EIS). In spring 2007, Sound Transit hosted five community-focused meetings to engage community members in refining the alternatives for evaluation in the draft EIS.

Sound Transit currently is conducting conceptual engineering and environmental analysis on the East Link alternatives. Each alternative and station will be taken through conceptual engineering (an approximate 5- to 10-percent design level) to provide the detail necessary to inform the environmental analysis. The draft EIS will include a detailed analysis of each alternative. Modifications and updates to some alternatives are ongoing based on early engineering, community feedback and environmental review.

Preparation of the draft EIS is lengthy because each alternative undergoes the same detailed analysis. After the draft EIS is completed, it will be published and made available to the public during a formal comment period, which will include multiple public hearings. After the public comment process for the draft EIS is complete, the Sound Transit Board will identify a preferred East Link route for final EIS analysis.

## Working with communities

As the environmental review, and conceptual engineering move forward, Sound Transit will continue to work closely with communities throughout the East Link corridor to provide opportunities for the public, other agencies and neighborhoods to be involved.

Sound Transit is committed to working with neighborhoods to design a regional light rail system that is attractive and compatible with surrounding communities.

## Stay involved!

East Link project information can be found on Sound Transit's website at [www.soundtransit.org/eastlink](http://www.soundtransit.org/eastlink). You can also sign up on the Web site for electronic updates and provide feedback. For additional information on East Link or to request an East Link briefing for your organization, contact Ann Mueller at 206-370-5511 or [ann.mueller@soundtransit.org](mailto:ann.mueller@soundtransit.org).

## Sample travel times (approximate)

in minutes

- Downtown Bellevue to Microsoft campus: **10 minutes**
- South Bellevue Park-and-Ride to Qwest Field: **15 minutes**
- Downtown Bellevue to the University of Washington: **30 minutes**
- Sea-Tac International Airport to downtown Bellevue: **55 minutes**
- Downtown Bellevue to downtown Seattle: **20 minutes**