



## East Link Extension



September 16, 2014

## **Bel-Red Conclusion to Final Design Open House Public Involvement Summary**

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# Background

East Link Extension is a key element of the regional mass transit system approved by voters in 2008. This 14-mile light rail line will benefit local communities and support regional growth with fast, frequent and reliable light rail service, connecting the Eastside's biggest population and employment centers to Seattle.

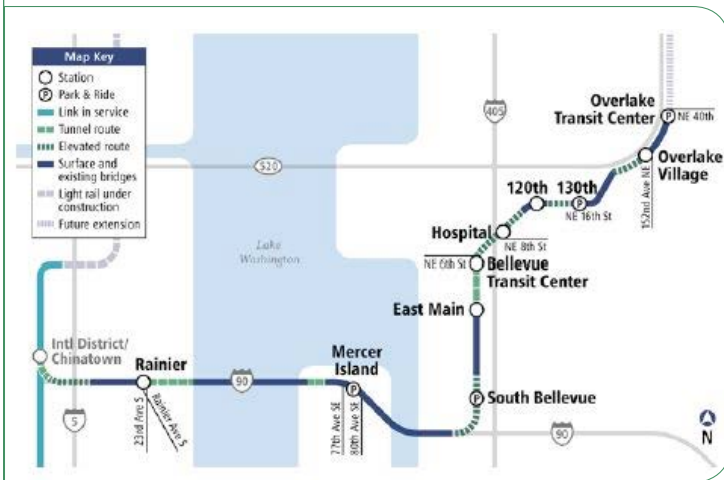
The project builds on the Link light rail system running between Sea-Tac Airport and downtown Seattle and the University Link and S. 200th Link Extensions that are scheduled to open in 2016. East Link is part of the new light rail extensions being built north, south and east from Seattle. When East Link opens around 2023, 10 stations, serving Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, South Bellevue and Overlake in Redmond will become a part of a regional light rail system stretching more than 50 miles. By 2030, about 50,000 riders will use East Link every day.

Final design has been a collaborative effort between Sound Transit and project stakeholders including:

- The community, including impacted property owners
- City of Bellevue
- City of Bellevue Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee
- Other jurisdictional authorities, such as, Washington State Department of Transportation, emergency service providers, King County, and transit providers.

During final design, project architects and engineers define the light rail system, determining the technical specifications for the stations and track. To keep stakeholders informed and empowered to provide input throughout this project phase, Sound Transit hosted three public meetings, multiple briefings with nearby businesses and property owners, and additional in-person and electronic outreach.

The East Link Extension project team actively sought public feedback at key design milestones. Public input was shared with the project team and considered with attention to feasibility, design guidelines and jurisdictional requirements. The Bel-Red Segment final design is the result of ongoing community conversations and stakeholder input since the segment final design kickoff in March 2013. Visit the East Link document archive for a summary of outreach at each final design milestone: [soundtransit.org/projects-and-plans/east-link-extension/east-link-extension-document-archive](http://soundtransit.org/projects-and-plans/east-link-extension/east-link-extension-document-archive).



## East Link Timeline



# Overview

On Sept. 16, 2014, Sound Transit hosted an open house to share the East Link Extension completed final design plans for the Bel-Red Segment, including the 130th station. The meeting provided an opportunity for community members to view design plans, meet and talk with the project team in-person, provide input on the station name for the 130th station, and learn about how to stay involved as the project moves towards early construction in 2015. The open house was held at the Highland Park Community Center in Bel-Red, Bellevue from 5 to 7 p.m.

# Notification

The open house was widely publicized through the following channels:

- Display advertisements in the Bellevue Reporter, Korea Daily, La Raza, Phuong Dong Times, Russian World, Seattle Chinese News, Seattle Chinese Post, Seattle Transit Blog and The Facts
- Postcards mailed to over 17,000 residents and businesses
- Press release to local papers and blogs
- Email notification to approximately 6,000 subscribers of the East Link Extension listserv
- Announcements on the Sound Transit project web page
- Announcement on the Sound Transit Facebook page
- Announcement through Sound Transit's Twitter feed
- Flyers distributed to businesses situated near the future 130th station and along the Bel-Red segment alignment

## 130th Station

Located between 130th and 132nd avenues NE at NE 16th St., this at-grade station includes a park-and-ride lot with capacity for approximately 300 vehicles.



## Open house overview

Approximately 65 people attended the open house to learn about final design plans for the Bel-Red segment. Attendees were greeted by project staff, asked to sign in and provided with a Community Guide to Final Design, Community Guide to Construction, segment fact sheet and comment forms. Display boards and roll plots featured information about East Link, the light rail construction process and updated design plans for the Bel-Red segment, including the 130th station.

An overview presentation was held at 5:30 p.m. Project staff were available throughout the meeting to answer questions and explain design details to the public. All meeting materials and electronic versions of the comment forms were made available on the East Link project website following the open house.



# Comment summary

Sound Transit accepted public comments in person at the open house, and by mail, email and electronically on the East Link website. The following section is a summary of comments received at the open house, during pre-open house outreach and through the online comment form between Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, 2014.

## Bel-Red segment design

- **General comments on the Bel-Red segment and light rail alignment:**
  - *Change the line routing to run more/less north from the 120th Ave station to the south side of SR 520, then parallel SR 520 to the Overlake Village station. Eliminate the 130th Ave. station; it is too close to the 120th Ave station and is not needed.*
- **Comments on station design, features and amenities:**
  - *130th station needs lots of benches and covered areas for older riders to be protected in the winter.*
  - *Interest in hiring local artists to develop station artwork.*
- **Interest in safety at and around the station:**
  - *Will there be any surveillance cameras on the platform?*
- **Interest in pedestrian and bicycle amenities:**
  - *I question why the bike cage is on the 132nd side, when 130th is the spot with the actual connection to the SR 520 trail, as well as the road with bike lanes. There should at least be racks on both sides.*
  - *I would like to see a bigger picture consideration of pedestrian and bicycle and bus access to the stations. A quarter of a mile out doesn't reflect users.*
- **Interest in parking amenities around the station:**
  - *Eliminate the park and ride facility on 130th Avenue; relocate it to the 120th Ave station.*
  - *Parking lot needs to have covered walkways and benches for older and special needs riders.*
  - *\*The plans suggests 130th Station is a walking station. This station is located in a minimally developed residential area and a low density business area... no information as to how parking requirements are determined for the station.*
- **Interest in the start of construction and construction impacts:**
  - *\*\*[Concern about how] businesses will be affected by disruptions.*
  - *Will there be construction at night?*
  - *I am worried about link rail...creating traffic backups.*

\* Summarized comment

\*\* Comment received verbally

## Tell us about yourself! How do you plan to use East Link?

Do you live or work near a station?

Yes - 5



How often do you anticipate using the station?

More than two times a week - 2



2-3 times a week - n/a



2-5 times a week - n/a



2-3 times a year - 1



Zero - 1



Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Daily commuting - 2



Special events - 3



Both - n/a



How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk - n/a



Drive - 2



Bus - n/a



Bike - 2



Passenger drop off - n/a



No plans - 1



# Permanent station naming comment summary

A separate comment form was provided to gather input on permanent station names for the 130th station. Sound Transit requested that station names reflect the neighborhood environment, avoid commercial references, comply with ADA guidelines, and follow Sound Transit Board policy requirements for station naming. Following the meeting, an online survey was posted to the project website. A total of 15 responses were submitted.

What is your preference for the 130th station name?

Bel-Red Station - 9



130th Station - 4



Goff Creek Station - 2



- **Comments received about permanent station names:**
  - If a 130th St. station is built in Seattle (which I strongly advocate), I suggest it be named after the more established neighborhood there, and this be called the 130th Ave- the only neighborhood names here would be too confusing, as they'd equally to 124th Ave station.
  - Bel-Red Station would be the most sensible choice, but I think naming it something else would serve two purposes: 1) lessen the confusion of using "Bel-Red" as shorthand for Bel-Red Road and Bel-Red Station, and 2) Give a new name to an area that is intended to be completely transformed from an existing warehouse district to a new mixed use area.





# Next steps

## Early construction work in Bel-Red anticipated in 2015 and 2016

**What will happen?** Utility infrastructure owners will relocate outside the Sound Transit work zone.

**Duration:** Intermittent work occurring over a 2-year window.

### Typical impacts:

- Temporary utility service disruptions
- Traffic circulation and access impacts
- Blocked off work areas
- Trucks hauling materials
- Noise, vibration, dust and debris
- Changes to mail, transit operations and other services
- Storage of work materials and equipment

**Keeping you informed:** Sound Transit will hold community meetings and briefings during construction to keep the public informed.

Sound Transit will keep you informed early and often throughout construction. Sound Transit will notify neighboring residents and businesses in advance of upcoming work. Subscribe to the East Link email listserv (listed below) to stay engaged and receive project and construction-specific updates. Stay tuned for an opportunity to learn about construction before it begins, anticipated in the second half of 2015.



## Stay involved

- Visit the project website for the latest news: [soundtransit.org/eastlink](http://soundtransit.org/eastlink)
- Request a briefing for yourself or your organization: Contact Sound Transit Community Outreach staff at [eastlink@soundtransit.org](mailto:eastlink@soundtransit.org) or 206-398-LINK
- Subscribe to the construction notification listserv: [soundtransit.org/subscribe-to-alerts](http://soundtransit.org/subscribe-to-alerts)

