

Appendix B  
**Public Involvement and  
Agency Coordination**

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# Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) emphasize the importance of public and agency engagement early in the environmental review process. Sound Transit is committed to early agency and public engagement, and it has been working with local public transportation agencies, local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and the public to create an open public and agency involvement process with ample opportunities to inform and involve others in the project.

## B.1 Outreach Goals and Objectives

Community members and groups have numerous opportunities to interact with and receive a response from Sound Transit on issues of interest or concern in the development and evaluation of the Federal Way Link Extension (FWLE). Sound Transit has established the following goals and objectives to guide the FWLE process:

**Goal 1:** Promote an understanding of the purpose and need for the project and the process leading to final decisions.

- Objective A: The public outreach process will adequately inform and engage all likely stakeholders, including low-income, minority, and limited-English-proficiency (LEP) stakeholders.
- Objective B: Project milestones and decision points will drive the timing, format, and content of public involvement activities.
- Objective C: Sound Transit Community Outreach staff and consultants will coordinate closely with the engineering and environmental staff and consultants to ensure that they are hearing, considering, and addressing input from the community in project planning, design, and environmental review. Close coordination will also ensure that Sound Transit Community Outreach staff and consultants have relevant, timely, and accurate information to share with the public.
- Objective D: Sound Transit and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) decision-makers will receive regular and frequent updates about what the FWLE project team is hearing from the public and how that input is being considered and incorporated into the decision-making process.

**Goal 2:** The public, Sound Transit, FTA, corridor jurisdictions, and other stakeholders will be satisfied that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process was clear, accessible, fair, and met the requirements of NEPA and SEPA.

- Objective A: Public outreach strategies and tactics will be convenient and accessible to a broad and diverse range of stakeholders and community members, including low-income, minority, and LEP populations.

- Objective B: Involve new and existing stakeholders by providing a range of public input opportunities early and often.
- Objective C: The FWLE project team will publicize all FWLE public outreach activities through multiple and diverse communication tools.
- Objective D: All public materials and talking points will clearly explain the EIS process and when, where, and how stakeholders can provide their input.

**Goal 3:** Sound Transit will build informed consent for the project amongst community members, corridor jurisdictions, and other stakeholders.

- Objective A: All public materials and talking points will clearly communicate the purpose of and need for this project.
- Objective B: The FWLE project team will use data and evidence to demonstrate that the FWLE is an important investment for the corridor and the region.
- Objective C: The FWLE project team will ensure that clear, honest, timely, and thorough information about the FWLE and environmental review process is available to the public, corridor jurisdictions, stakeholders, and the media.
- Objective D: The public will receive frequent updates on what the FWLE project team is hearing from them and how public input will be considered and addressed in the decision-making process.
- Objective E: The FWLE project team will research and respond to public inquiries, ideas, and concerns in a timely manner.
- Objective F: The public will have an opportunity to provide input on major decisions before they are finalized.
- Objective G: The FWLE project team will ensure that all project documents are clearly written and understandable to a non-technical audience.

**Goal 4:** The FWLE project team will manage risk and ensure smooth, cost-effective project delivery.

- Objective A: The FWLE project team will identify and acknowledge public involvement risks early in the project and take a proactive approach to addressing, avoiding, or mitigating for those risks.
- Objective B: Sound Transit staff and consultants – including Community Outreach, Government and Community Relations, engineering, and environmental staff and consultants will work together to ensure that public involvement, government, and Tribal engagement is coordinated.
- Objective C: The FWLE project team will keep Sound Transit Government and Community Relations and Media Relations staff informed of on-going public involvement activities; what the FWLE project team is hearing from the public; and how public input is being considered and addressed in project decision-making. Sound Transit Government and Community Relations staff will update corridor jurisdictions and elected officials about this information on a regular and frequent basis.

- Objective D: When there are conflicts between what the public or corridor jurisdictions want and technical or financial constraints, all project materials and talking point will clearly communicate the criteria that the FWLE project team used to make recommendations to decision-makers.
- Objective E: The FWLE project team will document all contacts with the public, including follow-up activities and responses.

## B.2 Agency Coordination

Consistent with the Agency Coordination Plan, Sound Transit has coordinated periodic interagency meetings and other activities to collect input from interested agencies. This coordination informed the development of project alternatives and technical analysis methodologies. Agency involvement was also encouraged during the NEPA/SEPA scoping process. Three categories of interagency participation were established to facilitate agency cooperation and input for the FWLE: co-lead, cooperating, and participating agencies. At the beginning of the environmental review process prior to scoping, Sound Transit invited agencies to participate, where appropriate, as described below. Correspondence about the FWLE with these agencies is located in the following appendices:

- The *Historical and Archaeological Technical Report* (Appendix G4) contains correspondence between FTA and the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and between FTA and potentially interested tribes, on the presence and eligibility of cultural resources for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Appendix E, Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation, contains correspondence between FTA and the Federal Way School District regarding impacts to the playfield at Mark Twain Elementary School.

### B.2.1 Lead Agencies

The FTA is the federal lead agency for NEPA purposes. Sound Transit is the lead agency for SEPA purposes. These two co-lead agencies are responsible for coordinating with the cooperating and participating agencies as early as practicable in the environmental review process.

### B.2.2 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies are any other federal, state, and local public agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to any environmental issues that should be addressed through the NEPA process. Cooperating agencies are responsible for developing information, preparing environmental analyses, and making staff available to support interagency and interdisciplinary coordination.

Cooperating agencies for FWLE include the following:

- Federal Highway Administration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- City of SeaTac
- City of Des Moines
- City of Kent
- City of Federal Way

### **B.2.3 Participating Agencies**

Participating agencies are the federal and nonfederal agencies that may have an interest in the project. Such agencies are invited to participate in the environmental review process and agencies may choose not to participate. The following agencies are participating:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Highline College
- King County
- Seattle Public Utilities

Sound Transit staff worked with FTA to determine which tribes might have interests in the project vicinity and should be included as potentially affected agencies. The project vicinity does not include any tribal lands, but tribes have interests in natural and cultural resources. Because of the government-to-government consultation responsibilities associated with federally recognized tribes, FTA initiated consultation with tribes and invited them to become participating agencies. The following tribes have been contacted via letter, telephone conversations, and, as needed, in-person meetings:

- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- Suquamish Tribe
- Duwamish Tribe (not federally recognized)
- Snohomish Tribe (not federally recognized)

FTA and Sound Transit will continue to consult with the tribes regarding potential natural and cultural resource impacts throughout project development.

### **B.2.4 Resources by Agency**

Federal, state, and local agencies have provided data collection, resource identification, determination of regulatory compliance requirements, and/or development of analysis methodologies. Table B-1 lists what resource information Sound Transit gathered by agency. Agencies also provided additional information and evaluation throughout the analysis process, which will continue through the completion of the Final EIS.

TABLE B-1  
List of Resources Provided by Agency

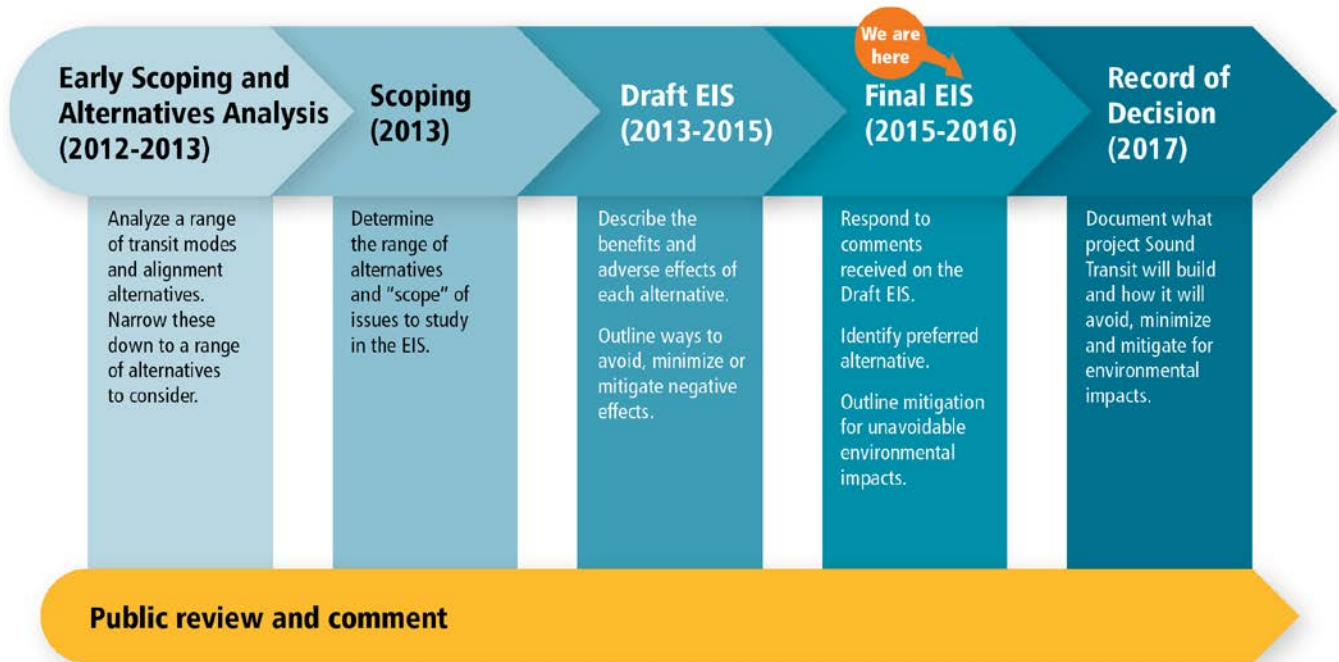
Agency	Resources Provided or Consulted On
<b>Federal</b>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Wetlands, Waters of the U.S.
Federal Highway Administration	Traffic; highway improvement plans
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Hazardous materials
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Threatened and endangered species
National Marine Fisheries Service	Threatened and endangered species
<b>Washington State</b>	
Department of Transportation	Traffic; highway improvement plans; utilities
Department of Fish and Wildlife	Threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife, wetlands, priority habitat
Department of Ecology	Hazardous materials, geology and soils
Department of Natural Resources	Threatened and endangered species (plant/animal), geology and soils
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Archaeological and historic resources
<b>Local/Regional Agencies</b>	
King County and cities of SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent, and Federal Way	Land use and economic activity; neighborhoods and population; transportation plans and traffic; archaeological and historic resources; wetlands; water quality; acquisitions, displacements, and relocations; noise and vibration; visual and aesthetic resources; parks and recreational resources; geology and soils; utilities; input on public outreach strategies
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	Air quality
Puget Sound Regional Council	Regional travel; land use and economic activity; population and employment growth projections
Puget Sound Energy	Energy
Highline Water District	Utilities
Midway Sewer District	Utilities
Lakehaven Utility District	Utilities
Tribes (listed above in Section B.2.3)	Cultural resources, fisheries

### B.3 Outreach Activities and Tools

Agency and public outreach efforts for the FWLE began in October 2012, with varied and broad-reaching methods. Sound Transit actively worked to reach agencies and the public by hosting public meetings and workshops, attending community events, providing briefings, and being available to discuss the project with business, neighborhood, affected property owners, and other interested groups.

Sound Transit has targeted outreach efforts to minority and low-income groups by reaching out to service providers and community groups where possible. All of Sound Transit's notices and literature for the FWLE have language blocks stating "Call us at 1-800-823-9230 to learn more about the Federal Way Link Extension and provide your feedback" translated into seven languages (Russian, Spanish,

Vietnamese, Korean, Somali, Simplified Chinese, and Tagalog). These languages were selected based on 2010 U.S. Census data for the project corridor and community input. When contacted by a member of the public with limited English proficiency, Sound Transit staff can use an immediate phone translation service that provides over-the-phone interpretation in 150 languages, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. In addition, Sound Transit developed a video for SomTV-Seattle, a local Somali television network and created videos posted to YouTube in English and Spanish. These videos have closed caption text as well.



Sound Transit translated FWLE fact sheets into four languages (Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Korean), as well as provided articles for newsletters, websites, or other communication tools used by service providers and community groups. Chapter 7, Environmental Justice, provides more information on the targeted outreach to and impacts on minority and low-income populations in the study area. Table B-2 demonstrates the tools used for each of the environmental review process milestones.

To make information about the FWLE as widely available as possible, Sound Transit created (and is continually updating) a variety of communication tools and materials. These include maintaining a comment database and project website and distributing fact sheets, press releases, and e-mail alerts. These materials and tools provide updated information on the FWLE and let community members know where and how to provide feedback.










### B.3.1 Database

Interested individuals can request project updates through mail or e-mail. Sound Transit maintains a database of people who wish to receive regular mailings about the agency's progress and about opportunities for public input. The database includes e-mail and/or physical addresses of attendees at FWLE open houses, correspondents, commenters, and others who have requested information on the FWLE. The database is used in addition to the list of approximately 25,000 addresses within a half mile of FWLE alternatives that Sound Transit uses for project-related mailings.



TABLE B-2

**Outreach Tools for FWLE**

Year	Environmental Review Process Milestone	 Briefings	 Public Meetings	 Public Hearing	 Mailings	 Fact Sheets/ Handouts	 Community Events	 Comment Database	 Web Page	 News Media
2012	Early Scoping, Preliminary Stakeholder Meetings and Community Briefings	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2013	EIS Scoping/ Comment on Project Purpose and Need and Alternatives	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2015	Draft EIS Publication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2016	Final EIS Publication	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2017	Record of Decision					✓			✓	

**B.3.2 Briefings**

Sound Transit actively seeks to provide briefings to interested neighborhood groups, organizations, and businesses in the vicinity of the FWLE. The purpose of these briefings is for project staff to reach members of the public at their neighborhood, civic, or business meetings to provide project information and answer questions. In some instances, project staff met one-on-one to brief individual stakeholders and obtain input. A full list of community briefings that have been held since the environmental review process began can be found in Table B-5 at the end of this appendix. In addition, Sound Transit provided jurisdictional briefings to city council members and staff in SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent, and Federal Way.

**B.3.3 Open Houses and Workshops**

Sound Transit is holding public open houses and workshops as the project progresses to share information, answer questions, and obtain input. In addition, Sound Transit has participated in open houses and workshops organized by local jurisdictions and organizations, such as the Des Moines City Council and the Kent West Hill Neighborhood Council. Typically the format includes time for the public to view project information and to speak with project team members about the project alternatives.

**B.3.4 Public Hearings**

During the 45-day comment period for the Draft EIS, Sound Transit held two public hearings, one in Des Moines and one in Federal Way (see Section B.4.4, Draft EIS, for additional information). The public hearings occurred 27 and 28 days after the Draft EIS was released to allow the public time to review the Draft EIS.

### B.3.5 Fact Sheets and Brochures

Fact sheets and brochures for the FWLE have been developed and shared at workshops and community events. The fact sheets and brochures describe the status of the FWLE, the alternatives being studied in the environmental analysis, and the contact information for team members to contact for more information or with comments.

### B.3.6 Community Events

Project staff attend a variety of community events planned by other organizations to reach a broad group of community members who might not otherwise seek out information on the project. Sound Transit's presence at these community events gives people the opportunity to pick up information, sign up on the project mailing/e-mail list, and talk with project staff. Examples of the community events Sound Transit has attended include:

- Des Moines Farmers Market
- Federal Way Farmers Market
- SeaTac Music in the Park Concerts

Sound Transit has also conducted neighborhood drop-in sessions in the study area at the following locations:

- Des Moines Food Bank
- Des Moines Activity Center
- Woodmont Library
- Highline College
- Federal Way Library
- Lowe's (State Route [SR] 99 and S 240th Street)

A complete list of neighborhood drop-in sessions is provided in Section B.5.

### B.3.7 Project Webpage

Sound Transit developed a website, <http://www.soundtransit.org/FWExtension>, which provides information on the FWLE. Individuals can sign up online to receive e-mail updates on the FWLE. Sound Transit has also developed a microsite (an individual webpage with more detailed information) for the FWLE that includes information that can be translated into at least 144 different languages.

The FWLE website includes an overview of the project, project maps and images, conceptual graphics of the project alternatives, and links to frequently asked questions. The project website also contains a document library with links to a variety of project-related documents. Some of the documents posted on the FWLE website include the following:

- *FWTE Early Scoping Information Report*



**Information booth at Federal Way Farmers Market**

- *Federal Way Transit Extension (FWTE)<sup>1</sup> Plan Review for HCT in the Project Corridor*
- *FWTE Early Scoping Summary Report*
- *FWTE Alternatives Analysis Summary*
- *FWTE Alternatives Analysis Level 1 and Level 2 screening reports*
- *Potential Alignments and Station Locations Fact Sheet*
- *FWTE Scoping Summary Report*
- *FWTE Alternatives Analysis and EIS Scoping Briefing Booklet*
- FWLE Draft EIS
- FWLE Draft EIS Summary Booklet
- *FWLE Draft EIS Comment Summary Report*

### **B.3.8 News Media**

The project team uses local newspapers to inform, educate, and involve the public in the FWLE. Sound Transit sent periodic news releases to newspapers in SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent, and Federal Way, and at Highline College. Public meetings and events were advertised in local publications and on community boards and applicable blog sites.

### **B.3.9 Affected Property Notification**

Sound Transit mailed letters in the fall of 2014 to 1,104 property owners who could be affected by one or more of the FWLE alternatives. Sound Transit has held one-on-one meetings with any property owners interested in doing so since 2014.

### **B.3.10 Targeted Outreach**

Sound Transit recognizes the importance of reaching populations who are LEP, racial minorities, and low-income, and providing opportunities for them to be involved in the project planning, design, and environmental review process. Sound Transit included specific engagement strategies for these groups in the project Public Involvement Plan (PIP).

Early in project development, Sound Transit identified LEP populations and languages prevalent in the project area by conducting demographic analysis and interviewing stakeholder and social service providers. Based on the findings, project fact sheets were prepared in English, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Interpreters for the latter four languages were available at both public hearings, and Spanish interpreters were present at the neighborhoods meetings where this need was identified. The mailing to inform the public of the Draft EIS release also included project information translated in these languages. All project mailers and handouts have a notice about translation assistance for Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Targeted outreach has included other means to ensure effective communication with LEP, minority, and low-income populations, such as:

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Way Transit Extension (FWTE) is the previous name of the FWLE.

- Attending and presenting information at community meetings, gatherings, and classes, including two presentations to English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at Highline College
- Having interpreters available upon request at public meetings
- Advertising in ethnic media to invite input during early scoping and scoping, the July 2014 open house at the Federal Way Transit Center, and the Draft EIS public hearings
- Relaying information through community leaders and social service agencies
- Holding tabling events in the community at a variety of locations, including one with a Spanish interpreter

These efforts have allowed Sound Transit to better reach the various communities in the corridor and involve people representative of the population in the corridor. Chapter 7, Environmental Justice, provides more information on specific targeted outreach that Sound Transit has done to reach LEP, minority, and low-income populations.

## B.4 Outreach During EIS Process

Public input is an essential element of the alternatives development, environmental analysis, documentation, and review process depicted below. As described earlier, Sound Transit has used a variety of methods to reach out to the public, including briefings, open houses, and workshops. The NEPA process encourages lead agencies to make diligent efforts to involve the public in implementing projects. This includes providing public notice of public hearings, holding public meetings, and making environmental documents available. Sound Transit's outreach and coordination efforts for the preparation of the EIS are described in the following sections.

### B.4.1 Agency Involvement

Sound Transit has received early and continuous information and guidance from many agencies throughout the FWLE environmental process. Sound Transit is holding periodic interagency meetings and coordinating activities to collect input from interested agencies. Initial meetings and activities were designed to get suggestions regarding the development of project alternatives and analysis methodologies. Subsequent coordination occurred as design and analysis of FWLE alternatives progressed.

### B.4.2 Early Scoping

Sound Transit initiated the environmental review process by publishing notices of Early Scoping in the *Federal Register* on October 16, 2012, and in the *SEPA Register* on October 18, 2012. Early scoping initiated the alternatives analysis phase of



Early Scoping Meeting at Highline College

the FWLE and provided the first opportunity for the public to learn about the project and provide their comments at the early planning stage.

During early scoping, Sound Transit asked for comments from the public and agencies on:

- The range of alternatives to be considered
- The draft purpose and need statement
- The criteria that should be used to evaluate project alternatives

The early scoping notices provided information about the FWLE, dates and times of agency and public early scoping meetings, how to learn more about the project, and how to provide comments.

Advertisements for the meetings included a postcard mailed to approximately 24,900 residences and businesses within the 1/2-mile study area, print and online advertising, a media advisory, posters at community gathering places, notification on the Sound Transit FWLE website, and a legal notice in the *Seattle Times*. In addition, Sound Transit prepared an Early Scoping Information Report to provide details on the early scoping period, project background, ways to provide comments, and the draft purpose and need for the project. It also discussed next steps in the project timeline and the environmental process. Table B-3 lists the early scoping meeting dates and locations.

TABLE B-3

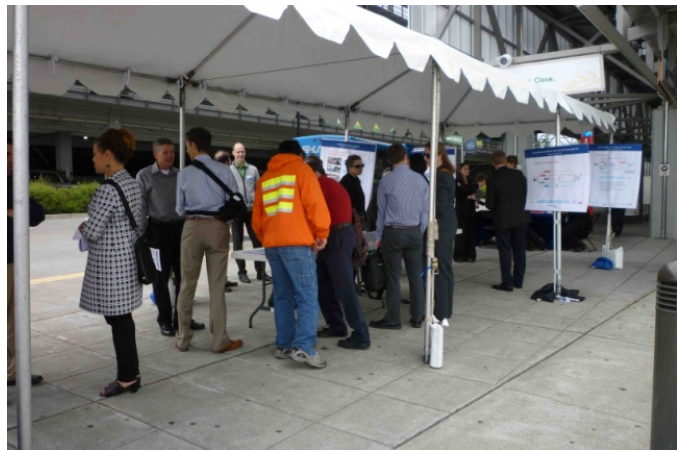
**FWLE Project Early Scoping Meetings**

Date	Location	Type of meeting
Wednesday, November 7, 2012	Online webinar	Agencies and tribes early scoping meeting
Thursday, November 8, 2012	Highline College, Des Moines, WA	Public early scoping open house
Tuesday, November 13, 2012	Truman High School, Federal Way, WA	Public early scoping open house

### B.4.3 Notice of Intent and Scoping

Sound Transit published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on June 17, 2013. A determination of significance was issued in the SEPA Register on June 12, 2013. The NOI informed the public that Sound Transit will prepare an EIS for the proposed FWLE and it also:

- Announced the beginning of the EIS scoping process
- Solicited input on the preliminary purpose and need of the project
- Described the project and its termini, length, and general location of the alternatives
- Provided information on the issues and potential impacts
- Anticipated federal approvals required
- Invited comments, questions, and suggestions on the scope of the EIS



**Scoping Meeting at Federal Way Transit Center**

The purpose of scoping is to share information about the public process, purpose and need, environmental resources, and potential alternatives with the public and agencies in the FWLE vicinity. During the scoping phase of the project, Sound Transit sought community input on routes and stations to study, the environmental resources to be evaluated, and the project’s preliminary purpose and need statement. Agencies and the public were asked to identify areas of concern, opportunities, and stakeholder interests to be further addressed in the EIS.

During the 30-day scoping comment period, Sound Transit hosted two public scoping meetings in Federal Way and Des Moines, and one scoping meeting for agencies and tribes in Seattle. Sound Transit accepted written comments at the meetings, by mail, by e-mail, and through an online survey/questionnaire. Table B-4 lists the scoping meeting dates and locations.

TABLE B-4  
FWLE Project Scoping Meetings

Date	Location	Type of meeting
Wednesday, June 19, 2013	Federal Way Transit Center, Federal Way, WA	Public scoping open house
Tuesday, June 25, 2013	Sound Transit, Union Station, Ruth Fisher Boardroom, Seattle, WA	Agencies and tribes scoping meeting
Wednesday, June 26, 2013	Parkside Elementary School, Des Moines, WA	Public scoping open house

Sound Transit performed the following outreach and communication activities to inform the public and gather input during the scoping process:

- Prepared and distributed a scoping information report prior to the start of the 30-day scoping period to provide a general understanding of the project to affected agencies. This report described the preliminary purpose and need statement, project planning history, proposed project alternatives, and environmental resources to be evaluated in the EIS, and the project schedule and public involvement process. The report was available at the public open houses, at the agency scoping meeting, and on the Sound Transit website for public review and input.
- Sent postcards to approximately 25,000 residents and businesses announcing the beginning of the scoping process, the public meetings, and the availability of the Environmental Scoping Information Report.
- Placed paid advertisements in five print publications (*Federal Way Mirror*, *Highline Times*, *Korea Daily*, *La Raza*, and *Ngou Viet Tay Bac*) and four online publications (Highline Times Blog, SeaTac Blog, Waterland Blog, and Seattle Transit Blog).



Scoping Meeting at Parkside Elementary

- Posted notifications of meetings on the project website and various community calendars.
- Placed legal notices in the *Seattle Times*.
- Met or corresponded with affected local, regional, state, and federal agencies, tribes, and other organizations about issues within their jurisdiction or concern.
- Reviewed comments made at the scoping meetings or received during the scoping period and, as appropriate, refined the proposed alternatives, issues, and public involvement program.
- Summarized the scoping process and comments in the *Federal Way Transit Extension Scoping Summary Report* (August 2013). This report is available to the public on the project website at <http://www.soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/Federal-Way-Link-Extension/Federal-Way-document-archive>.

Following the public scoping process, in September 2013 the Sound Transit Board identified the alternatives to be evaluated in the Draft EIS and changed the project name from Federal Way Transit Extension (FWTE) to Federal Way Link Extension (FWLE).

#### **B.4.4 Draft EIS**

The FWLE Draft EIS describes the project purpose and need, the alternatives analyzed, and the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives and their implementation. It also describes methodologies and assumptions used for the analyses and identifies potential mitigation for unavoidable impacts.

The Draft EIS was distributed to federal, state, and local agencies and parties of interest listed in Appendix A3 for comment. A Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the *Federal Register* and in the SEPA Register on April 10, 2015. The following notifications and advertisements were also used:

- Legal notices placed in the *Seattle Times* and *Tacoma News Tribune*
- Public notices placed in local newspapers
- Project mailer sent to approximately 25,000 residents and businesses in the corridor (all addresses one-half mile from the alternatives) as well as the individuals in the project database, announcing the availability of the Draft EIS, describing how to comment, announcing the public hearings, and providing information about the Draft EIS alternatives
- E-mail notification sent to e-mail addresses in the project database
- Notice posted on the Sound Transit FWLE website at <http://www.soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/Federal-Way-Link-Extension>
- Poster notices placed in station areas

The Draft EIS documents were available to the public at public meetings and at the following public libraries:

- King County libraries: Kent, Des Moines, Woodmont, Federal Way 320th, and Federal Way Regional

- Washington State Library in Tumwater

It was also available at Sound Transit offices and electronically on the Sound Transit FWLE website. The 45-day public comment period ran from April 10, 2015, to May 26, 2015. A special website focused on the Draft EIS results was set up for the comment period. This website allowed users to view a simulation of the FWLE alternatives, review impacts for different combinations of the FWLE alternatives and options, and provide comments on the Draft EIS.

Public meetings were held to present the Draft EIS findings. Table B-5 lists the dates and locations of the hearings. The meeting format was a combination of an open house, with project team members available to answer questions, and a formal public hearing. A court reporter transcribed verbal comments during the hearing and was available to record verbal comments during the open house. Written comments were also accepted at the meetings or via e-mail or postal mail throughout the comment period. Copies of all comments and responses to these comments are provided in Appendix I.

TABLE B-5

**FWLE Draft EIS Public Meetings**

Date	Location	Type of meeting
Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 4-7 pm	Federal Way Community Center, Federal Way, WA	Public hearing and open house
Thursday, May 7, 2015, 4-7 pm	Highline College Student Union Building, Des Moines, WA	Public hearing and open house

### B.4.5 Final EIS

After considering the Draft EIS findings and comments, the Sound Transit Board identified a Preferred Alternative for evaluation in the Final EIS in July 2015. The Preferred Alternative was identified as the I-5 Alternative with the Kent/Des Moines SR 99 East Station Option. The Sound Transit Board also directed the Sound Transit staff to work with stakeholders regarding the specific location for the Kent/Des Moines and Federal Way Transit Center stations.

Sound Transit notified the public of the Preferred Alternative through listserv e-mails, website updates, circulation of a press release, and at community events from August to October 2015.

Sound Transit conducted stakeholder workshops to refine the preferred location and configuration of the Kent/Des Moines Station in the fall of 2015. Participants in the workshops included state and local agencies, Highline College students and administration, and community organizations. Sound Transit staff presented the Kent/Des Moines stakeholder workshop results to the Sound Transit Board in October, with the 30th Avenue West Station Option identified by the stakeholder group as the preferred location. Workshops for the S 272nd Star Lake and Federal Way Transit Center stations were held in the winter and spring of 2016. Outreach following this stakeholder process has focused on the design and timeline of the Preferred Alternative. Outreach strategies included updated project materials, neighborhood briefings, tabling events, visual simulations, and social media coverage.

The Final EIS analyzes the effects of the Preferred Alternative, three other light rail alternatives, and the No Build Alternative, and responds to comments on the Draft EIS. A Notice of Availability was



posted in the *Federal Register* and the SEPA Register on November 18, 2016, along with notices in local newspapers and on the Sound Transit website. Notification of the Final EIS was sent to the project's distribution list of interested parties and agencies, Sound Transit's mailing lists, and addresses in the project vicinity. FTA will accept comments on the Final EIS for 30 days.

The Executive Summary and a CD of the Final EIS were distributed to everyone who commented on the Draft EIS and provided a mailing or email address. The Final EIS documents are also available for review at Sound Transit and the same public libraries as the Draft EIS (see Section B.4.4), and on the Sound Transit website. Following publication of this Final EIS, the Sound Transit Board will review the Final EIS and is expected to select the project alternative to build. FTA will subsequently issue a Record of Decision that will document how Sound Transit will build the project and avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts. If a build alternative is selected by the Sound Transit Board, Sound Transit will continue to coordinate throughout final design and construction with affected agencies and local communities.

## B.5 Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings

While preparing and issuing the Draft EIS and Final EIS, Sound Transit has hosted and/or participated in numerous public meetings, workshops, and stakeholder meetings. Table B-6 lists the public and stakeholder outreach meetings held to date for the FWLE.

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
<b>Interagency Work Groups</b>	
Cites of SeaTac, Des Moines, Kent, Federal Way, King County Metro, Highline College, WSDOT	9/10/2012, 10/8/2012, 11/13/2012, 12/10/2012, 1/21/2013, 2/18/2013, 3/18/2013, 4/15/2013, 5/20/2013, 7/15/2013, 8/9/2013, 9/16/2013, 10/21/2013, 1/27/2014, 2/24/2014, 4/28/2014, 6/2/2014, 7/28/2014, 8/25/2014, 9/22/2014, 10/27/2014, 11/17/2014, 12/15/2014, 1/26/2015, 2/23/2015, 3/23/2015, 6/22/2015, 7/27/2015, 8/24/2015, 2/22/2016, 3/28/2016, 4/25/2016, 6/27/2016, 7/25/2016, 8/22/2016, 9/26/2016, 10/24/2016
<b>Station Workshops</b>	
<b>Kent/Des Moines Station Workshops</b>	9/15/ 2015, 9/22/2015, 9/29/2015, 10/13/2015, 4/5/2016
<b>S 272nd Station Workshop</b>	3/8/2016
<b>FWTC Station Workshop</b>	12/10/2015
<b>Pre-application Meeting</b>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	5/8/2013, 12/9/2015
<b>Stakeholder Interviews</b>	
City of Des Moines	8/14/2012
King County Department of Transportation	8/14/2012
Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce	8/17/2012

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Highline College	8/23/2012
Federal Way Community and Economic Development	8/27/2012
Kent Chamber of Commerce	8/27/2012
City of SeaTac	8/29/2012
<b>Coordination Meetings</b>	
Federal Transit Administration	7/10/2012, 7/17/2012, 8/22/2012, 9/11/2012, 10/9/2012, 11/20/2012, 12/11/2012, 1/8/2013, 2/12/2013, 3/12/2013, 4/9/2013, 5/14/2013, 5/21/2013, 6/11/2013, 8/3/2013, 9/10/2013, 8/13/2013, 9/10/2013, 11/12/2013, 12/10/2013, 12/16/2013, 1/14/2014, 2/7/2014, 2/11/2014, 2/21/2014, 3/12/2014, 4/22/2014, 6/18/2014, 7/16/2014, 8/11/2014, 9/19/2014, 9/23/2014, 10/14/2014, 11/18/2014, 12/3/2014, 12/17/2014, 1/12/2015, 2/17/2015, 3/12/2015, 5/6/2015, 5/12/2015, 6/9/2015, 8/4/2015, 9/3/2015, 9/30/2015, 10/8/2015, 11/4/2015, 12/2/2015, 12/3/2015, 1/6/2016, 1/7/2016, 2/3/2016, 2/4/2016, 3/2/2016, 3/3/2016, 5/4/2016, 5/5/2016, 6/1/2016, 7/6/2016, 7/7/2016, 8/4/2016, 8/17/2016, 9/7/2016, 9/8/2016, 9/23/2016, 10/5/2016, 10/6/2016
Washington State Department of Transportation	7/9/2012, 7/17/2012, 8/16/2012, 10/26/2012, 12/5/2012, 1/9/2013, 2/6/2013, 2/27/2013, 4/3/2013, 4/10/2013, 5/1/2013, 5/16/2013, 5/21/2013, 6/5/2013, 7/2/2013, 7/10/2013, 8/6/2013, 8/9/2013, 9/4/2013, 9/17/2013, 10/1/2013, 10/2/2013, 10/8/2013, 10/15/2013, 10/18/2013, 11/1/2013, 11/6/2013, 11/15/2013, 12/4/2013, 12/11/2013, 12/19/2013, 1/8/2014, 2/5/2014, 2/7/2014, 2/18/2014, 2/21/2014, 3/12/2014, 3/19/2014, 4/23/2014, 6/5/2014, 6/19/2014, 7/9/2014, 8/6/2014, 9/3/2014, 9/17/2014, 9/19/2014, 1/15/2015, 2/4/2015, 3/4/2015, 3/12/2015, 3/26/2015, 4/1/2015, 4/23/2015, 4/30/2015, 5/27/2015, 6/3/2015, 6/6/2015, 7/1/2015, 8/5/2015, 8/25/2015, 8/26/2015, 9/2/2015, 9/3/2015, 10/7/2015, 10/8/2015, 11/5/2015, 11/23/2015, 12/3/2015, 1/7/2016, 1/14/2016, 1/19/2016, 1/20/2016, 2/3/2016, 2/4/2016, 2/10/2016, 2/18/2016, 2/25/2016, 3/2/2016, 3/3/2016, 5/4/2016, 5/5/2016, 6/1/2016, 7/6/2016, 7/7/2016, 8/4/2016, 8/9/2016, 8/17/2016, 8/18/2016, 8/23/2016, 9/8/2016, 9/14/2016, 10/5/2016, 10/6/2016
Federal Highway Administration	7/17/2012, 5/21/2013, 8/6/2013, 11/1/2013, 11/15/2013, 12/19/2013, 2/7/2014, 2/21/2014, 3/12/2014, 9/3/2015, 9/19/2015, 10/8/2015, 12/3/2015, 12/8/2015, 1/7/2016, 2/4/2016, 2/25/2016, 3/3/2016, 5/5/2016, 7/7/2016, 8/4/2016, 8/17/2016, 9/8/2016, 10/6/2016
Highline College	8/6/2012, 12/20/2012, 4/2/2013, 7/10/2013, 8/29/2013, 10/31/2013, 12/18/2013, 1/15/2014, 2/19/2014, 3/26/2014, 1/15/2015, 3/9/2015, 3/18/2015, 10/12/2015, 12/7/2015, 3/24/2016, 4/4/2016, 5/11/2016
City of SeaTac	8/14/2012, 12/18/2012, 4/9/2013, 6/3/2013, 10/4/2013, 10/29/2013, 11/12/2013, 11/26/2013, 3/26/2014, 6/26/2015, 11/24/2015, 12/30/2015, 5/24/2016, 10/11/2016
City of Des Moines	8/15/2012, 12/19/2012, 2/7/2013, 3/21/2013, 4/2/2013, 6/6/2013, 10/10/2013, 10/29/2013, 11/14/2013, 12/5/2013, 3/27/2014, 5/13/2014, 1/22/2015, 6/18/2015, 10/15/2015, 11/9/2015, 12/7/2015, 1/11/2016, 1/20/2016, 6/16/2016, 8/31/2016, 9/7/2016, 10/6/2016
City of Kent	8/21/2012, 12/17/2012, 4/4/2013, 4/30/2013, 5/13/2013, 6/7/2013, 10/10/2013, 10/29/2013, 11/12/2013, 11/26/2013, 3/27/2014, 9/18/2014, 10/13/2014, 2/11/2015, 2/24/2015, 3/2/2015, 3/30/2015, 4/9/2015, 6/17/2015, 10/12/2015, 11/9/2015, 12/3/2015, 2/10/2016, 3/15/2016, 3/28/2016, 5/23/2016, 6/9/2016, 6/27/2016, 7/14/2016, 7/19/2016, 9/20/2016, 10/4/2016
City of Federal Way	8/22/2012, 12/18/2012, 2/7/2013, 4/4/2013, 5/29/2013, 10/11/2013, 10/28/2013, 10/29/2013, 11/12/2013, 11/26/2013, 3/27/2014, 6/17/2015, 9/2/2015, 9/30/2015, 10/7/2015, 11/4/2015, 11/18/2015, 1/27/2016, 5/26/2016, 7/8/2016, 8/9/2016, 10/18/2016
King County Metro	9/6/2012, 10/3/2012, 12/12/2012, 3/21/2013, 4/12/2013, 6/11/2013, 9/13/2013, 10/7/2013, 10/30/2013, 11/13/2013, 12/2/2013, 3/25/2014, 6/18/2014, 7/23/2014, 1/8/2015, 4/8/2015, 7/13/2015, 7/17/2015, 9/17/2015, 9/25/2015, 9/30/2015, 10/14/2015, 10/16/2015, 11/5/2015, 11/12/2015, 11/19/2015, 2/25/2016, 5/3/2016, 5/25/2016, 6/7/2016, 7/21/2016, 7/28/2016, 8/3/2016, 10/12/2016

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Highline Water District	9/30/2015, 10/17/2012, 9/24/2013, 10/28/2013, 3/30/2015, 9/16/2015, 3/17/2016, 4/22/2016, 8/25/2016
Puget Sound Energy	10/22/2012, 9/26/2013, 10/31/2013, 3/14/2014, 4/24/2014, 5/29/2014, 3/26/2015, 9/23/2015, 9/29/2015, 10/28/2015, 7/19/2016, 8/16/2016, 9/7/2016
Seattle Public Utilities	10/25/2012, 4/25/2013, 5/13/2013, 10/8/2013, 3/20/2015, 6/12/2015, 8/21/2015
Lakehaven Utility District	10/20/2015
Midway Sewer District	10/14/2015
Bonneville Power Administration	4/30/2015
South King Fire and Rescue	5/21/2015
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	6/11/14, 2/25/2016, 10/6/2016
Puget Sound Regional Council	12/21/2012, 6/10/2013, 2/13/2014, 4/1/2015, 4/20/2016
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	5/8/2013, 5/13/2013, 6/11/2014, 9/10/2014, 7/21/2015, 10/3/2016
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	6/11/2014
Washington Department of Ecology	5/13/2013, 6/11/2014
Federal Way Public Schools	5/2/2014, 5/12/2015, 10/30/2015, 1/15/2016, 2/24/2016, 3/16/2016, 8/1/2016
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	9/23/2014
Port of Seattle	1/7/2016
Transportation Choices Coalition	5/5/2015
North Hill Community Club	5/12/2015
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	2/25/2016
<b>Study Sessions</b>	
Des Moines City Council	10/18/2012
SeaTac City Council	10/23/2012
<b>Briefings</b>	
King County Mobility Coalition	1/8/2014
Federal Way Chamber of Commerce	1/22/2012, 6/18/2013, 5/13/2014, 3/17/2015, 5/12/2015, 9/21/2016
South County Area Transportation Board	9/28/2012, 4/16/2013
Kent Economic and Community Development Committee	10/8/2012, 3/11/2013, 4/14/2014, 10/13/2014
Kent Public Works Committee	10/22/2012, 12/12/2012, 3/18/2013
Federal Way City Council	11/20/2012, 3/19/2013, 6/18/2013, 4/28/2014, 7/15/2014, 3/17/2015, 5/5/2015
SeaTac City Council	12/11/2012, 3/26/2013, 6/25/2013, 3/12/2015, 4/14/2015
Des Moines City Council	3/28/2013, 6/27/2013, 7/24/2014
Kent City Council	7/2/2013, 4/7/2015
Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines	9/15/2013
South King County Good Eggs breakfast	9/18/2013

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Community Network Council Community Transportation Forum	9/28/2013
West Hill Neighborhood Council, Kent	6/19/2013, 12/18/2013, 4/15/2015
Saltair Neighborhood Council, Kent	6/20/2013, 2/20/2014, 3/19/2015
Federal Way Chamber of Commerce Membership Luncheon	12/4/2013
Community Neighborhood Council Community Leaders Training	12/7/2013
King County Mobility Coalition	2/18/2014
South King County Human Services Coalition monthly meeting	3/25/2014
South King County Human Services Coalition meet and greet	3/26/2014
FWLE Citizen's Oversight Panel	4/17/2014
Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) Network meetings	9/18/2013, 9/19/2013, 2/25/2014, 11/10/2015, 11/12/2015
FWLE Mayors Meeting	7/14/2014, 10/23/2014, 1/30/2015, 4/17/2015, 6/15/2016
Kent/Des Moines Station Area	6/25/2014
S 216th Station Area	7/1/2014
SR 99/S 260th and S 272nd Station Area	7/9/2014
I-5/272nd Station Area	7/17/2014
S. 272nd/ Redondo Station area	7/23/2014
Greenfield Neighborhood Homeowners Association	4/16/2015, 2/18/16, 3/3/2016, 8/23/2016
28th Ave S Neighborhood (Des Moines)	6/1/2014, 12/10/2014, 4/21/2015, 9/29/2016
Kent Rotary	4/28/2015
Access Condominiums, Des Moines	5/9/2015
Green Acres Mobile Park, Kent	5/20/2015, 3/3/2016
Highline College ESL classes	6/26/2014
S 224th Neighborhood	2/24/2016, 10/10/2016
Jackson Mobile Home Park	3/17/2016
S 285th Neighborhood	3/24/2016, 11/1/2016
Heritage Court Condominiums	7/27/2016
Crestwood Neighborhood	9/8/2016
Newport Village Condominiums	9/12/2016
Mansion Hill Neighborhood	9/20/2016
Federal Way Downtown Merchants	9/21/2016
Highline College Board	9/29/2016
28th Avenue S Neighborhood (Federal Way)	9/29/2016

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
S 216th to S 220th Neighborhood (East of 30th Avenue S)	10/18/2016
Pembrook Apartments	10/25/2016
<b>Information Tables</b>	
Woodmont Library	3/4/2013, 3/11/2014
Des Moines Library	3/6/2013
Kent Commons Community Center	3/7/2013
Kent Library	3/12/2013
Highline College	3/13/2013, 6/5/2013, 3/13/2014
Des Moines Activity Center	3/18/2013, 6/18/2013
Kent Senior Activity Center	3/19/2013
SeaTac Community Center	3/21/2013
Valley View Library	3/25/2013
Federal Way Library	3/27/2013, 5/7/2014
Des Moines Food Bank	4/3/2013, 3/7/2014
Federal Way Transit Center	4/8/2013
Tukwila Light Rail Station	4/10/2013
Federal Way Community Center	4/30/2013
Tukwila International Blvd. Station	5/1/2013
Starbucks at the Commons, Federal Way	5/8/2013
Federal Way Farmer's Market	5/11/2013, 7/26/2014, 8/9/2015, 8/6/2016
Puget Sound Equity Network Summit	11/8/2013
Des Moines Farmer's Market	6/15/2013, 7/19/2014, 9/13/2014, 10/18/2014, 10/10/15, 6/18/2016, 8/27/2016
Federal Way Library (848 S 320th location)	3/27/2013, 3/20/2014
City of Des Moines Pacific Highway South Subarea Planning Open House	3/26/2014
The Market at La Plaza (Spanish language interpreter provided)	4/8/2014
Lowe's (SR 99 and S 240th Street)	4/10/2014, 4/17/2014
Federal Way Library (34200 1st Way S location)	5/7/2014
City of SeaTac Council Meeting	4/14/2015
S 200th Extension Open House	5/22/2014
SR 509 Open House	12/17/2015
Angle Lake Music in the Park	8/8/2014, 6/24/2015, 7/29/2016
Federal Way Summer Sounds Concert Series	8/20/2014, 8/12/2015, 7/20/2016, 8/10/2016
SeaTac International Festival	9/12/2015

TABLE B-6  
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
<b>Project Public Meetings/Open Houses</b>	
Early Scoping Meeting	11/8/2012, 11/13/2012
Scoping Meeting	6/19/2013, 6/26/2013
FWLE Phase 2 Open House	7/31/2014
Draft EIS Public Hearing	5/6/15, 5/7/15