

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

ST3 project list

The Sound Transit Board has approved a list of projects to be considered in the development of a Sound Transit 3 System Plan that could come to voters in November 2016.

The Board directed staff to complete a detailed analysis of the projects that includes, but is not limited to extensions of the light rail spine to Everett, Tacoma and downtown Redmond; light rail extensions to Seattle's Ballard and West Seattle areas; and bus rapid transit on I-405. In addition to an array of other potential investments including additional light rail extensions and improvements to ST Express bus and Sounder commuter rail services and facilities.

Federal Way route identified

The Sound Transit Board identified a preferred alternative for extending light rail to Kent/Des Moines and when funding is available extend light rail to Federal Way. The route, including stations near Highline College, South 272nd Street, and the Federal Way Transit Center would travel along the west side of Interstate 5 between stations and would maximize future transit-oriented development around the stations.

The agency will now advance the design and complete environmental review as well as evaluate potential modifications to optimize the route and station options.



Current and future transit improvements

Going south:

South 200th elevated guideway reaches airport

Crews placed the final 35-ton concrete segments for the South 200th Link light rail extension, connecting the new elevated structure to the station at Sea-Tac Airport.

The 1.6-mile double-track elevated guideway connects the Airport light rail station to the new Angle Lake Station now under construction. Service will open next year.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...

Bridge over Montlake

The bike/pedestrian bridge over Montlake Boulevard is open. The bridge provides a new and important connection between the University of Washington light rail station at Husky Stadium and the UW campus and Burke-Gilman trail.

With the new bridge, people on foot or bikes can move directly from the light rail station to campus and the Burke-Gilman Trail without having to cross four lanes of heavy traffic. The University of Washington Station is part of the University Link light rail extension that will open early next year

Service change

A service change in September includes more frequent Link service and a new ST Express bus route 580 Puyallup to Lakewood. The change means that Link trains will depart every six minutes during peak commute hours, which helps the agency prepare for the launch of University Link light rail extension next year.

Regional Day Passes

Transit agencies across the region jointly announced the launch of Regional Day Passes, which will make it easier for tourists and visitors to use transit. The \$8 Regional Day Pass for adult riders is valid for unlimited rides on services with fares up to \$3.50. A \$4 Regional Day Pass for ORCA Regional Reduced Fare Permit cardholders is valid for unlimited rides on services with fares up to \$1.75.

Permit parking

Permit parking is coming to some of Sound Transit's busiest lots and garages. The Sound Transit Board approved the permit program, with 10 of the agency's parking facilities currently qualified to participate. The permits could be available to those who carpool to transit lots as early as fall of 2016 and available to solo drivers by late 2016 or early 2017. The Board approved a permit fee of \$5 a month for carpools of at least two transit riders. The fee for solo drivers will be

Sounder celebrates 15 years of commuter rail service

Fifteen years ago in September, passengers began riding Sounder commuter trains between Tacoma and Seattle. Service began modestly with two daily round trips, but it was popular from the start with more than 1,100 passengers that first day. A year later in 2001, the new service had already carried half a million passengers. Since Sounder began operating in 2000, more than 29 million people have used the commuter and game day service.

Wall of Fame honors Sound Transit

At the annual State Transit Association conference, CEO Joni Earl became a 2015 Wall of Fame honoree and Jim Edwards, Deputy Executive Director of Design and Engineering, earned the Lifetime Achievement Award. Also honored was the ORCA LIFT team, which includes Brian Brooke, Sound Transit's Research, and Policy & Business Development Manager.