

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

Peter Rogoff new CEO

The Sound Transit Board unanimously chose Peter Rogoff, former head of the Federal Transit Administration, as the next Sound Transit CEO.

He replaces longtime CEO Joni Earl, who is retiring following the launch of the University Link light rail extension. Besides FTA Administrator, Rogoff was Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, the federal government's third-highest transportation official.

Double-decker in service

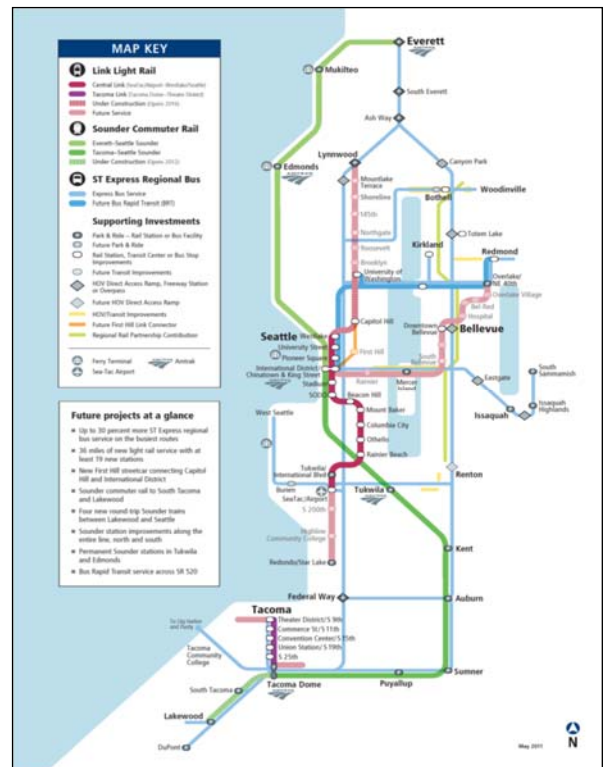
The first of five new ST Express double-decker buses began carrying passengers between Everett and Seattle. This is the first double-decker in the Sound Transit fleet, and all five will be in service in 2016. The buses are 42 feet long and nearly 14 feet tall and can carry 82 passengers. Standard buses can carry 56 passengers.

Additional bus hours

The Sound Transit Board approved the 2016 Service Implementation Plan, which includes 32,000 additional hours of ST Express bus hours in 2016, starting a new Sounder round-trip in the south line and launching service on the University Link and South 200th Link extensions.

Tacoma Link route and stations selected

The Sound Transit Board selected the route, stations, and expanded operation and maintenance facility for the Tacoma Link expansion. The 2.4-mile extension will serve riders traveling from the Theater District to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods.



Current and future transit improvements

Low-income fares on Sound Transit buses and trains

The low-income ORCA LIFT program is expanding to the entire Sound Transit system. To offset the revenue lost, Sounder fares will increase 50 cents for adult and youth riders. ST Express adult and youth fares will go up 25 cents. The changes start March 1, 2016.

ST3 candidate projects

The conversation over the future of mass transit in this region took a big step forward with the release of detailed studies for all the projects that could be part of a ST3 ballot measure in November 2016. The studies include cost and ridership estimates for each candidate project.

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2016-budget supports rail expansion, increased service

The Sound Transit Board approved the agency's \$1.2 billion budget for 2016. The budget includes \$40 million to complete University Link, \$23 million for the South 200th Link project, \$165 million for Northgate Link construction, \$203 million for East Link and \$70 million to complete preliminary engineering and begin final design for Lynnwood Link.

Red Wall comes down

The Red Wall, a fixture on Capitol Hill since 2010, came down recently. The familiar wall that surrounded the Capitol Hill light rail station site was removed in stages as construction wrapped up. Over the years, the wall was a space for artists to create large-scale work commissioned by the Sound Transit art program. The wall featured many temporary art projects and over time became part of the fabric of Capitol Hill life.