



Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

2015 Milestones

Sound Transit’s 2015 Milestones were unveiled to the Board in January. The Milestones include providing about 34 million boardings on Sound Transit trains and buses, the most ever.

Northgate Link light rail tunneling will reach the Roosevelt and U District stations in 2015, service testing will be underway in preparation for the University Link launch early next year and, at the same time, the agency will be preparing the South 200th Link Extension for launch in 2016.

Sound Transit will also be working on the agency System Plan in anticipation of a potential future ballot measure to extend the regional transit system.

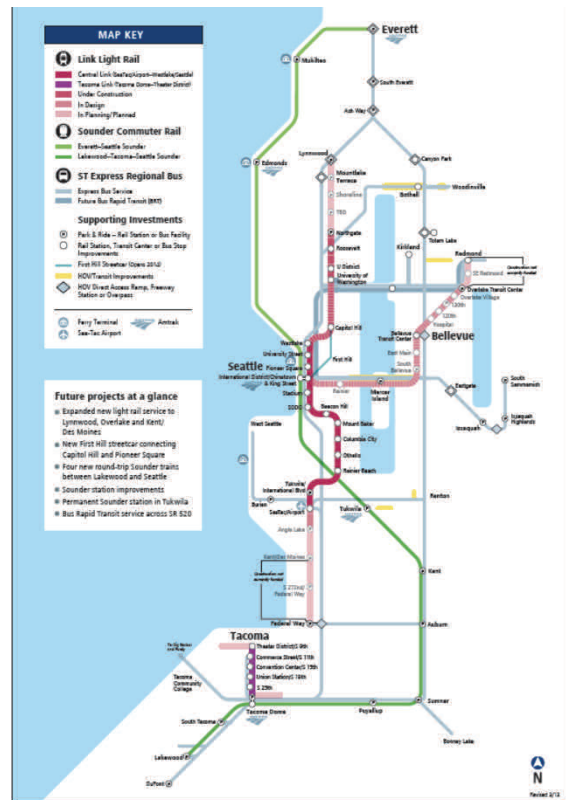
TIFIA Loan

Sound Transit received a \$1.3 billion federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan that will provide lower interest rates and allow the agency to expand its bonding capacity.

Tukwila Station renovation

The Tukwila Station renovation was completed early this year. The renovation included adding more parking, permanent platforms and shelters, a pedestrian plaza with public art along with bicycle lockers and a bike cage.

The work also includes a new access road to Strander Boulevard/Southwest 27th Street in Renton. The station is served by Sounder commuter rail, King County Metro, Amtrak Cascades and vanpools.



Current and future transit improvements

Trip Planning app

Sound Transit and King County Metro Transit launched a free regional smartphone app to help Puget Sound commuters plan their transit trips. The Puget Sound Trip Planner merges key features from other regional trip planners and includes map-based search features and real-time arrival information for Metro buses and Metro-operated Sound Transit routes.

The Puget Sound Trip Planner is part of an ongoing series of rider technology improvements coming in 2015. Later this year, Sound Transit will launch a new mobile website with regional real-time arrivals and better trip planning tools. The mobile site will use Open Transit Data, an open source set of data and suite of tools created to support the development of new transit applications in the Puget Sound region.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues (continued)

Tunneling to Roosevelt

The first of two tunnel boring machines mining the Northgate Link Extension arrived recently at the future Roosevelt Station. This is the first 1.5-mile segment of a 4.3-mile tunnel for trains running from Northgate Mall to the University of Washington starting in 2021.

The machine launched last July from the Maple Leaf Portal at Northeast 92nd Street just south of Northgate Mall. It will undergo maintenance at the site before continuing south and connecting later with the University of Washington Station, which opens for University Link service early next year. The second tunnel-boring machine that launched from the Maple Leaf Portal last November is expected to arrive at the Roosevelt site this summer.

Fuel efficiency training

Early this year, Sound Transit launched a pilot fuel efficiency driver-training program for the 61 ST Express buses that operate under contract with Community Transit.

The pilot program includes installation of GPS tracking equipment and Verizon Networkfleet software, technical support, and driver classroom training on how to efficiently operate a bus. The software will collect data on bus performance that will be used to tell drivers how they can reduce fuel use by improving their driving techniques.

The program is expected to cost about \$56,000, but could save about 3 percent a year in agency fuel costs, adding up to a savings of about \$72,000 and about 22,000 gallons of fuel a year. If it is successful, it may expand to the rest of our fleet, which is operated by Pierce Transit and King County Metro.

Fare changes

On March 1, Sound Transit began offering reduced fares of \$1.50 for low-income riders on Link trains. The new reduced fare is \$1.50. To offset the revenue loss from the new fare, and remain consistent with the King County fare rates, other Link fares increased by a quarter.

The reduced fare is available to adult riders with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The reduced fares do not apply to ST Express buses, Sounder trains, or Tacoma Link. Check [here](#) for more information.