

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

East Link’s scope, schedule, and budget adopted

The Sound Transit Board adopted a \$3.6 billion lifetime budget for the East Link Extension; the baseline budget includes a \$33 million contribution from Microsoft to fund a bike/pedestrian bridge over SR 520 at the Overlake Transit Center Station and a \$10 million contribution towards a bike/pedestrian bridge over SR 520 at the Overlake Village Station.

The new bridges creates a direct connection to the Microsoft campus and other businesses on the north side of SR 520. Construction for the East Link Extension to begin in 2016 with trains running in 2023.

Lynnwood Link route selected

The Sound Transit Board selected the route, profile, and stations for the Lynnwood Link Extension, which will run from Northgate to Lynnwood in Snohomish County.

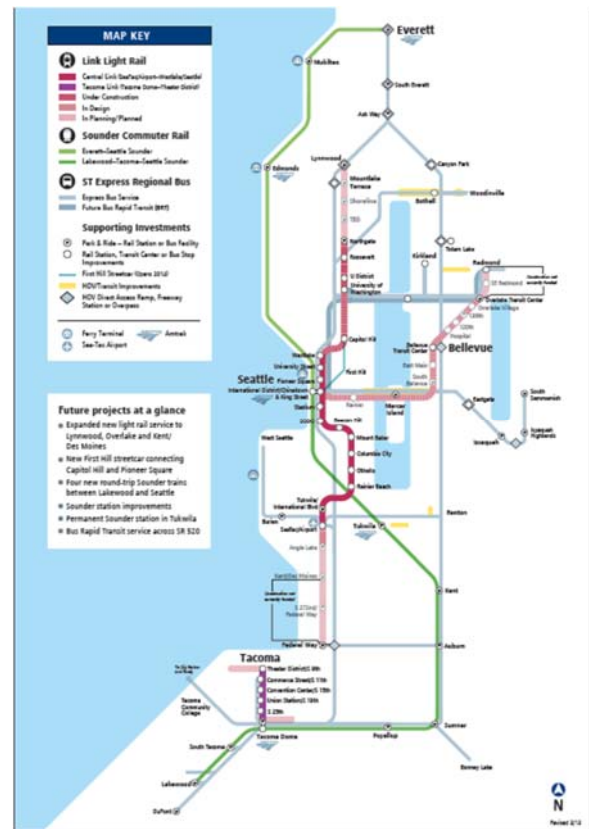
Trains will run along the Interstate 5 corridor from Northgate to the Lynnwood Transit Center with stations at Northeast 145th Street, Northeast 185th Street, and the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center at 236th Street Southwest. A trip from Lynnwood to downtown Seattle will take 28 minutes. The Board also directed staff to plan for future stations at Northeast 130th Street in Seattle and 220th Street Southwest in Mountlake Terrace.

Cost estimates for the 8.5-mile project range from \$1.5 billion to \$1.7 billion, a final budget establishing in 2017 with construction scheduled to begin in 2018. Trains will be operating in 2023.

Federal Way DEIS published

Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for extending Link light rail to Kent/Des Moines and will extend to Federal Way when funding is available.

The DEIS is a detailed analysis of the potential benefits and impacts of the project, which will extend light rail 7.6 miles south of the future Angle Lake Station in the City of SeaTac through a corridor that parallels Interstate 5 and State Route 99. The DEIS includes four alternatives with various station and route options.



Current and future transit improvements

Agreement with Bellevue

Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue leaders finalized agreements on an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows the agency to move forward with construction of the East Link Extension.

The MOU minimizes construction and operations impacts to neighborhoods; confirms Bellevue’s financial contribution to a downtown tunnel and promotes the city’s Bel-Red Corridor land use vision for transit-oriented development. The amended MOU and a proposed three-party agreement with King County and Bellevue also addresses the proposed Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility, should the Board select the BNSF site in Bellevue following publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement later this year.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...

Tunneling to Roosevelt

One of the two Link tunnel-boring machines digging the Northgate Link Extension tunnels arrived at the future Roosevelt Station. The machine launched last July from the Maple Leaf Portal at Northeast 92nd Street just south of Northgate Mall. A second tunnel-boring machine launched from the Maple Leaf Portal last November.

Capitol Hill TOD

The Sound Transit Board directed staff to begin negotiating agreements that will lead to developing more than two acres of housing and retail space at the Capitol Hill light rail station.

Sound Transit selected the Portland-based Gerding Edlen Development Company to develop four empty sites located above or adjacent to the station. The Gerding Edlen proposal includes 418 apartments in four buildings with 38 percent of units to rent for less than market rate, a provision of space and long-term lease agreement with the Broadway Farmers Market and the development of a community center and daycare on site with subsidized care available for low-income residents.

The Capitol Hill Station is part of the 3.1-mile University Link light rail extension that will open in early 2016.

Bus storage saves millions

One of Sound Transit's milestones for 2015 is opening a permanent Mid-day bus storage lot. Despite the modest name, the lot will save millions allowing the agency to store up to 30 buses that are used during peak-hour runs between Pierce County and Seattle. The lot, located across the street from the Link Operations & Maintenance Facility in the SODO area of Seattle, eliminates the need to run the buses empty to Pierce County in the morning and then back later for their afternoon runs starting in Seattle.

The buses were temporarily stored at the Link OMF employee parking area until the permanent lot was completed. The permanent lot allows Sound Transit to continue saving between \$300,000 and \$500,000 a year in fuel costs, plus mileage, and vehicle maintenance expenses.

ST3 website goes live

Sound Transit kicked off a public involvement process that will help shape a possible Sound Transit 3 ballot measure. The process includes a new soundtransit3.org interactive website with a survey, a draft list of priority projects, and ways which the public can join the conversation through social media.

Public input is important as the Sound Transit Board decides which projects should be studied for a ballot measure.

East Link station names

Judkins Park Station the first stop on the East Link Extension was one of the 10 East Link light rail station names officially adopted by the Sound Transit Board.

Heading from Seattle east, the stations are Judkins Park, Mercer Island, South Bellevue, East Main, Bellevue Downtown, Wilburton, Spring District/120th, Bel-Red/130th, Overlake Village, and Redmond Technology Center.

The names were selected following two years of community participation.

Sustainability Report

Yearly, Sound Transit submits a progress report that shows how the agency is improving its environmental and sustainability performance.

The 2014 Sustainability Progress report shows how Sound Transit helped reduce the region's environmental footprint by increasing transit ridership and efficiency. For example, the agency provided nearly 33 million rides on its trains and buses and used fewer natural resources to move each passenger.

Also in 2014, Sound Transit maintained its clean environmental record with no permit violations across its construction projects for a third straight year. In addition, Sound Transit started planning four solar power projects for Angle Lake and East Link light rail stations, planted over 600 native plants in the agency's wetland mitigation areas and integrated sustainable infrastructure and design principles into the East Link and Lynnwood Link extensions.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...

Canoe raised at Mukilteo Station

The third and final canoe by Whidbey Island artist Linda Beaumont was suspended from the ceiling of the nearly completed Mukilteo Sounder station pedestrian bridge.

Beaumont's artwork is her personal interpretation of the Nookan canoe, or family canoe that was used for centuries throughout the Northwest. Her artwork, which is suspended from the pedestrian bridge, is made of translucent fiberglass embedded with local eelgrass handpicked by the artist.

The second and final phase of work at the Mukilteo Station includes adding a second platform, pedestrian bridge and permanent passenger shelters. The station will be finished this summer.