

### Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

#### Angle Lake Station opens

On September 24, trains began carrying riders to the new Angle Lake light rail station. The 1.6-mile line from Angle Lake connects to the existing 18.8-mile Link system operating between Sea-Tac Airport and the University of Washington. The new station includes a 1,050 parking garage and 70 surface parking spaces, which will relieve demand for transit user parking in a congested corridor.

The ride from Angle Lake Station to Sea-Tac Airport is four minutes, Westlake Station is 41 minutes and the University of Washington Station at Husky Stadium is 48 minutes.

The light rail extension to Angle Lake was about \$40 million under its \$383 million budget.



Current and future transit improvements

#### New light rail vehicles ordered

Sound Transit ordered 122 new light rail vehicles. The vehicles feature a spacious interior with more passenger room than the current fleet of 62 cars. The new vehicles also have more hooks to hang bikes and more room under the seats for luggage.

Sound Transit needs to triple the size of its current fleet as it expands the light rail network to the north, east, and south over the next seven years. The contract for the new vehicles is approximately \$554 million. The new vehicles will begin arriving in 2019 for testing ahead of the 2021 opening of light rail between the University of Washington and Northgate.

#### New mid-day south line Sounder train

Sound Transit added a new mid-day Sounder train to its popular weekday south line service. The mid-day train leaves Lakewood at 10:18 a.m. and stops at all south line stations before arriving in Seattle at 11:31 a.m. The return train departs King Street Station at 2:32 p.m. and arrives in Lakewood at 3:45 p.m. This is the eleventh weekday run on the Sounder south line.

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### **More Wi-Fi on Sounder trains**

Wireless routers were installed recently on 58 Sounder train coaches, allowing passengers to access Wi-Fi coverage on all Sounder trains. The additional routers also provide for faster download speeds.

Sound Transit began offering Wi-Fi on Sounder trains in 2009, but technology and funding at the time restricted installation of modems to 18 cab cars.

The agency began testing new Wi-Fi routers this spring after receiving rider requests to improve Sounder Wi-Fi connections. Tests showed improved functionality with upgraded equipment that included replacing interior antennas with external ones.

### **Last tunnel segment for Northgate Link**

Sound Transit contractors completed mining the last segment of the Northgate Link twin tunnels in early September when the tunnel-boring machine holed through the wall of a retrieval shaft at the University of Washington Station.

Since work began in 2014, the two Northgate Link tunnel-boring machines excavated more than 500,000 cubic yards of soil and installed 7,352 concrete tunnel liner rings. Contractors continue digging 23 cross passages between the tunnels that will serve as emergency evacuation routes. Future tunnel work includes installation of track beds, rails and communications systems.

The \$1.9 billion Northgate Link project extends light rail 4.3 miles north from the University of Washington to a station near Northgate Mall.

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### Capitol Hill Station land sold

Land adjacent to the Capitol Hill light rail station has been sold for use as affordable housing. A parcel just east of the station was sold to Gerding Edlen Development Company, who also won the right to develop three other sites adjacent to the station. Under an agreement with Gerding Edlen, Capitol Hill Housing will own and operate the affordable housing portion of the development.

The purchase price is \$2.6 million. The project will deliver between 82-86 apartments that will permanently be available for people or families making at or below 60 percent of the area median income.

Construction could begin in the spring of 2018 and be ready to occupy in late 2019. The overall development surrounding the station will also include space for a community center and daycare.

### Reserved HOV parking rolls out

Carpoolers sharing a ride to the new Angle Lake light rail station can reserve their parking spots ahead of time under a new program aimed at making the most of limited parking at Sound Transit facilities. The new carpool permits are also available at the Tukwila International Boulevard light rail station, which often fills by 7 a.m. on weekdays.

The goal of the program is to make limited parking more efficient while guaranteeing availability to riders who carpool to the park-and-ride lots. By the end of the year, the program will be in place for carpoolers at seven other Sound Transit park-and-ride lots.

### More double-deckers coming

Thirty-two more double-deck buses will someday be rolling out on Snohomish County routes. The recent purchase of 32 buses brings Sound Transit's total double-decker fleet up to 37 buses. Last year, Sound Transit added five double-decker buses to its fleet.

Double-decker buses provide 81 seats compared to the 56-seat articulated buses they will replace. Production of the 32 buses is scheduled to begin in November 2016 with delivery expected to begin in April 2017. By late 2018, Sound Transit expects to operate double-decker buses on all its Snohomish County-based routes.

Sound Transit is also reserving an option to purchase 43 more double-decker buses in the future, making the entire Snohomish County bus fleet double-deckers.