

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

Sound Transit applies for key Lynnwood Link grant

Sound Transit is requesting a \$1.17 billion federal grant for the Lynnwood Link project, which is moving toward breaking ground in 2018.

The Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) request comes after Sound Transit successfully completed a series of steps required by the Federal Transit Administration to establish funding eligibility for the project. While working to secure the grant, Sound Transit is continuing with a comprehensive value engineering effort to reduce earlier design project cost estimates.

Trains on the 8.5-mile light rail extension from Northgate to Lynnwood will serve four stations along the route at Northeast 145th Street, Northeast 185th Street, the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center at 236th Street Southwest, and the Lynnwood Transit Center at 48th Avenue West.

Demolition and utility relocation work is scheduled to begin mid-2018, with major construction activities beginning in 2019. Trains are scheduled to begin running in 2024.

Running buses on I-5 shoulders

The Sound Transit Board approved funding to speed up buses by operating them on the shoulder of a segment of southbound I-5 between the Lynnwood Park-and-Ride, and the Mountlake Terrace Freeway Station.

The project is the first to move forward under a new bus-on-shoulder program funded by voter approval of the Sound Transit 3 ballot measure. Community Transit, whose riders will also benefit from the project, worked with WSDOT and Sound Transit. Under the program, Sound Transit and the state Department of Transportation will work together to identify other locations where it is feasible to allow buses to use highway shoulders.



Current and future transit improvements

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...**Sound Transit orders five additional light rail vehicles for Tacoma Link Extension**

Sound Transit ordered five additional light rail vehicles from Brookville Equipment Corporation to be used in the Tacoma Link Extension. The new cars will begin arriving in the third quarter of 2020 with complete delivery by the first quarter of 2021.

The five new light rail vehicles will supplement the existing fleet of three vehicles that now operate on a 1.6-mile, six-station line between the Tacoma Dome and Theater District. The 2.4-mile extension expands service to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods, serves six new stations and one relocated station and includes an expanded Operations and Maintenance facility. Construction begins next fall, with service starting in 2022.

The Sound Transit Board also approved the following station names for the Tacoma Link Extension: Theater District (formerly the Commerce Street Station), Old City Hall, S. 4th, Stadium District, Tacoma General, 6th Avenue, Hilltop District, and St. Joseph.

Agreement reached to bring more affordable housing to Capitol Hill

Seattle residents seeking affordable housing in the Capitol Hill Station area will have a new option thanks to an agreement between Sound Transit, Seattle Central College and Capitol Hill Housing. The move will also enable Seattle Central to expand its education and training opportunities in high demand fields.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sound Transit and Seattle Central will exchange land on Broadway between John Street and Denny Way that remains from construction of the Capitol Hill light rail station. Capitol Hill Housing will develop Land owned by Seattle Central College on Broadway between East Pine and East Pike streets into affordable housing.

In the exchange, Seattle Central will take ownership of Sound Transit's Site D directly north of the campus and adjacent to the Capitol Hill Link light rail station. The project will be funded using a combination of low-income housing credits, public funding and private debt.

Sound Transit moves forward with Tacoma Dome light rail project

The Sound Transit Board approved the Tacoma Dome Link light rail extension, establishing a \$125.7 million budget for preliminary engineering for the project. The Board also approved a \$10.3 million consultant contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. to begin project development services.

The Tacoma Dome extension is part of the major system expansion plan approved by voters in 2016. The project extends light rail 9.7 miles to the cities of Federal Way, Milton, Fife, Tacoma and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians Reservation, with service beginning by 2030.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...

Great Hall renamed to honor Earl

The Sound Transit Board honored former Sound Transit CEO Joni Earl by naming the Great Hall of the agency's Union Station headquarters the Joni Earl Great Hall.

"This is a very special honor to me," Earl said. "Over the years the Great Hall has not only been part of our region's transportation history but hosted numerous wedding receptions, high school proms and other events. It's a wonderful people place, and it is amazing to me that my name will be part of Union Station's future history."

A Puget Sound native and lifelong resident, Earl graduated from Washington State University, the University of Puget Sound and Harvard University's State and Local Government Executive Program. She retired in 2016 following a remarkable career in public service, capped off with the opening of the University Link light rail extension.

East Link's I-90 project wins Popular Science award

Sound Transit has received a Popular Science 2017 Best of What's New award in the engineering category for the technology that will enable light rail trains to travel across Lake Washington on the floating I-90 bridge.

Building light rail across a floating bridge is excellent achievement. It was made possible by innovative engineering to create a track bridge that will compensate for six ranges of lake motion. All segments of the East Link extension are now under construction with the entire line scheduled to open in 2023.