

Agency Activities

Sound Transit and Seattle Mariners partner for free game tickets

The Seattle Mariners and Sound Transit are partnering to make it easier for fans to get to and from Safeco Field on game days. From March 29 through June 3, fans with a valid Mariners game ticket can ride Link Light Rail on game days—courtesy of the Mariners.

This innovative partnership allows for new riders and families to have free light rail service from three hours before first pitch through the end of the service day. Ticket-holding fans need to only show their Mariners ticket on board the train if asked by a fare officer to present their ORCA car or Link ticket.

Fans can also take advantage of a new partnership with Uber that provides \$3.50 rides to/from Angle Lake and University of Washington stations.

Sound Transit earns highest accreditation for procurement practices

Sound Transit received the highest form of peer recognition and accreditation from the NIGP: The Institute for Public Procurement. Nationwide only three public agencies currently hold the organization's Pareto Award of Excellence in Public Procurement.

Established in 2003 and named for Vilfredo Pareto, considered the father of scientific procurement, the NIGP award recognizes agencies distinguished as "best-in-class" based on a performance review across six domains of practice: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer Service, Process Management, Information Management and Performance Improvement. Sound Transit qualified by earning an Outstanding Agency Achievement Accreditation Award and pursuing the NIGP's rigorous process of self-assessment, documentation review and on-site third party evaluation.

Early scoping begins on West Seattle and Ballard light rail extensions

Sound Transit has begun 'early scoping' for the West Seattle and Ballard light rail extensions, formally kicking off project development and the environmental process. As part of early scoping, members of the public are invited to comment on the representative project in the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Plan approved by voters, the project purpose and need, other alternatives, and the transportation and community impacts and benefits to consider.

During alternatives development, staff will assess the representative project and, based on additional public engagement and technical analysis, further refine the route, station locations, and other project elements. The representative project itself is based on extensive planning and public involvement work, including high-capacity transit studies, the process to update the agency's long-range plan, and the work to develop the ST3 Plan.

Through early 2019, staff will engage the public and stakeholder groups in an intensive public involvement process that will lead to the Sound Transit Board identifying a preferred alternative, as well as other alternatives to evaluate in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Public involvement begins on Tacoma Dome regional light rail extension

Sound Transit has also begun early scoping for the Tacoma Dome regional light rail extension. As part of early scoping, the agency invites members of the public to provide input on the proposed route and stations outlined in the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Plan approved by voters as well as potential alternatives, benefits and impacts. The public will also be able to provide feedback on a potential location for an Operations and Maintenance Facility in the south corridor.

Girders being set in Bel-Red for East Link

Light rail guideway construction has begun in the Bel-Red area of Bellevue. Crews are setting girders that will support light rail tracks near the future Bel-Red/130th station, located between 130th and 132nd Avenues NE at NE Spring Boulevard. When complete, this segment of the alignment will transition from the elevated section of track beginning in downtown Bellevue and spanning I-405, to the street-level section beginning at the Bel-Red/130th station.

After the girders are set, contractor crews will begin work constructing a bridge deck for the future rail line from 124th Avenue NE to 130th Avenue NE. This bridge will connect the Spring District with the Bel-Red neighborhood at the station at 130th Avenue NE.

The future Bel-Red/130th station will include a park-and-ride facility adjacent to the station to accommodate up to 300 vehicles for transit use as part of the City of Bellevue's transit oriented development (TOD) project north of the station, as well as bicycle parking and lockers.



Bel-Red girder set for aerial guideway.

Sound Transit breaks ground on new light rail base in Bellevue

Sound Transit has begun construction of its new Operations and Maintenance Facility: East (OMF East), which will service and house light rail vehicles for Link extensions to Northgate, Lynnwood, Federal Way and Redmond.

Sound Transit worked with the City of Bellevue and community partners to incorporate an opportunity for transit-oriented development (TOD) at the OMF East to integrate with new housing, office and retail projects occurring in the Spring District. Approximately 1.1 million square feet will be available for TOD when construction of the OMF East is complete at the end of 2020.

Sound Transit selected Hensel Phelps Construction Company and their design build team last May to design, permit and build the new light rail operations and maintenance facility. Hensel Phelps worked with the City of Bellevue on the Master Development Plan entitlements that includes planning for the site's surplus property. Sound Transit anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to seek a master developer for this future TOD opportunity by the end of 2018.

Beginning in 2019 and continuing through 2023 Sound Transit's light rail vehicle fleet will expand from its current 62 vehicles to 214. The OMF East will accommodate the inspection, service, maintenance, storage and deployment of up to 96 light rail vehicles on top of the 104-vehicle capacity of the existing Operations and Maintenance Facility located on Forest Street in Seattle. The OMF East will begin storing light rail vehicles in 2020, as the Seattle facility reaches capacity.

Sound Transit seeking public comment on proposed ST Express fare simplifications

Sound Transit has proposed fare changes for implementation in fall 2018. Sound Transit is reviewing options to simplify bus fares for riders throughout the region and lay the groundwork for developing the next generation ORCA fare card system.

Currently ST Express buses use a two-zone fare structure with each county representing a separate zone. Trips within one county incur a one-zone fare and trips crossing a county line incur a two-zone fare.

Sound Transit is considering two options for simplifying ST Express fares. Option 1 is a \$3.25 flat fare for adult riders. Option 2 is route-based and eliminates the lower one-zone fare for riders travelling within one county on two-county routes. Option 2 would keep the current \$2.75 adult fare for all trips on one-county routes. The adult fare for all trips on two-county routes would be \$3.75 under Option 2. Under both options, riders qualifying for ORCA LIFT, Youth, Senior or Disabled fares would see fares for all travel set at the current one-zone level.