

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

Sound Transit Board approves simplifying ST Express fares

The Sound Transit Board approved phasing in changes to ST Express Fares at their April board meeting. On July 1, bus commuters with an ORCA Lift or Youth pass will see a flat \$1.50 fare, while Senior or Disabled pass holders will pay a flat \$1.00 fare. On July 1, 2020, Adult riders will pay a flat fare of \$3.25 on all ST Express bus routes. The new fare structure eliminates the previous two-zone fare system in favor of one simple fare throughout the ST Express service area.

Public involvement begins on Tacoma Dome regional light rail extension

Sound Transit conducted an 'early scoping' period in April and May for the Tacoma Dome regional light rail extension, kicking off public involvement for the extension of light rail from Federal Way Transit Center, which opens in 2024, to Tacoma Dome, to open in 2030.

The early scoping process kicked off project development and the environmental process. As part of early scoping, members of the public were invited 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 was also able to provide feedback on a potential location for an Operations and Maintenance Facility in the south corridor.

Through mid-2019, staff will engage the public and stakeholder groups in an continued 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). An outline of the Community Engagement Plan is available at www.soundtransit.org/tmlink.



Current and future transit improvements

Development kicks off for Bus Rapid Transit on I-405, SR-522

Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff and Washington State Department of Transportation Secretary Roger Millar announced the start of planning for bus rapid transit (BRT) lines on SR 522 and NE 145th Street, and I-405 and SR-518. The two lines will serve 11 cities at 20 BRT stations, and will connect to the regional light rail system in Lynnwood, Shoreline, Bellevue and Tukwila.

Under the expansive project, the agencies and other local partners will collaborate on roadway improvements including new and extended managed lanes and new stations that will enable fast, frequent and reliable BRT connections for communities north, south and east of Lake Washington. Both BRT lines will open in 2024.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues continued...

Board adopts policy promoting equitable development near transit stations and facilities

The Sound Transit Board today completed an 18-month process to adopt an updated policy for equitable transit oriented development (TOD). The policy will guide the use of property that remains as surplus after voter-approved transit investments are complete for projects that provide housing for families of various sizes and income levels and increase access to social and economic opportunities.

Consistent with regional growth plans, the updated policy focuses urban growth at transit centers and commits Sound Transit to work with local communities and stakeholders to develop projects on surplus property, while also encouraging TOD in nearby areas.

Kimberly Farley joins Sound Transit as Deputy CEO

On June 20, Sound Transit announced Kimberly Farley's appointment as deputy chief executive officer (DCEO), a position that will play a vital role expanding regional transit services across the Central Puget Sound region. DCEO Farley will oversee major departments responsible for Sound Transit's capital program, including Design, Engineering and Construction Management, and Planning, Environment and Project Development. DCEO Farley will work alongside current DCEO Mike Harbour until his planned retirement late next year.

Capitol Hill Station transit-oriented development breaks ground

Transit-oriented development at Capitol Hill station broke ground on June 20, paving the way for 428 apartments, 178 of which will be affordable to households earning below area median income. The mixed-use development will include ground-floor retail, underground parking, and a public plaza and farmer's market. Gerding Edlen won a competitive procurement process to develop the site, which will open in 2020.

East Link tunnel excavation nears completion in downtown Bellevue

As of June 30, Sound Transit's East Link light rail tunnel work is more than 90 percent complete, with crews expected to break through to the site of the future Bellevue Downtown Station in mid-July. Crews are on track to complete the tunnel within 15 months – five months faster than forecast in the baseline construction schedule.

Tunnel construction has utilized a time-tested process known as the Sequential Excavation Method (SEM). SEM employs conventional equipment including an excavator and cutting equipment to remove soil in small sections or bites. The technique minimizes disruption to traffic while reducing noise and dust impacts to neighboring residents and businesses.

Once the tunnel is complete, crews will install rails and electrical systems and will construct two stations at each end of the tunnel, at East Main Station and Bellevue Downtown Station. East Link will open in 2023, serving 14 miles and 10 new stations between Seattle and the Overlake area of Redmond.