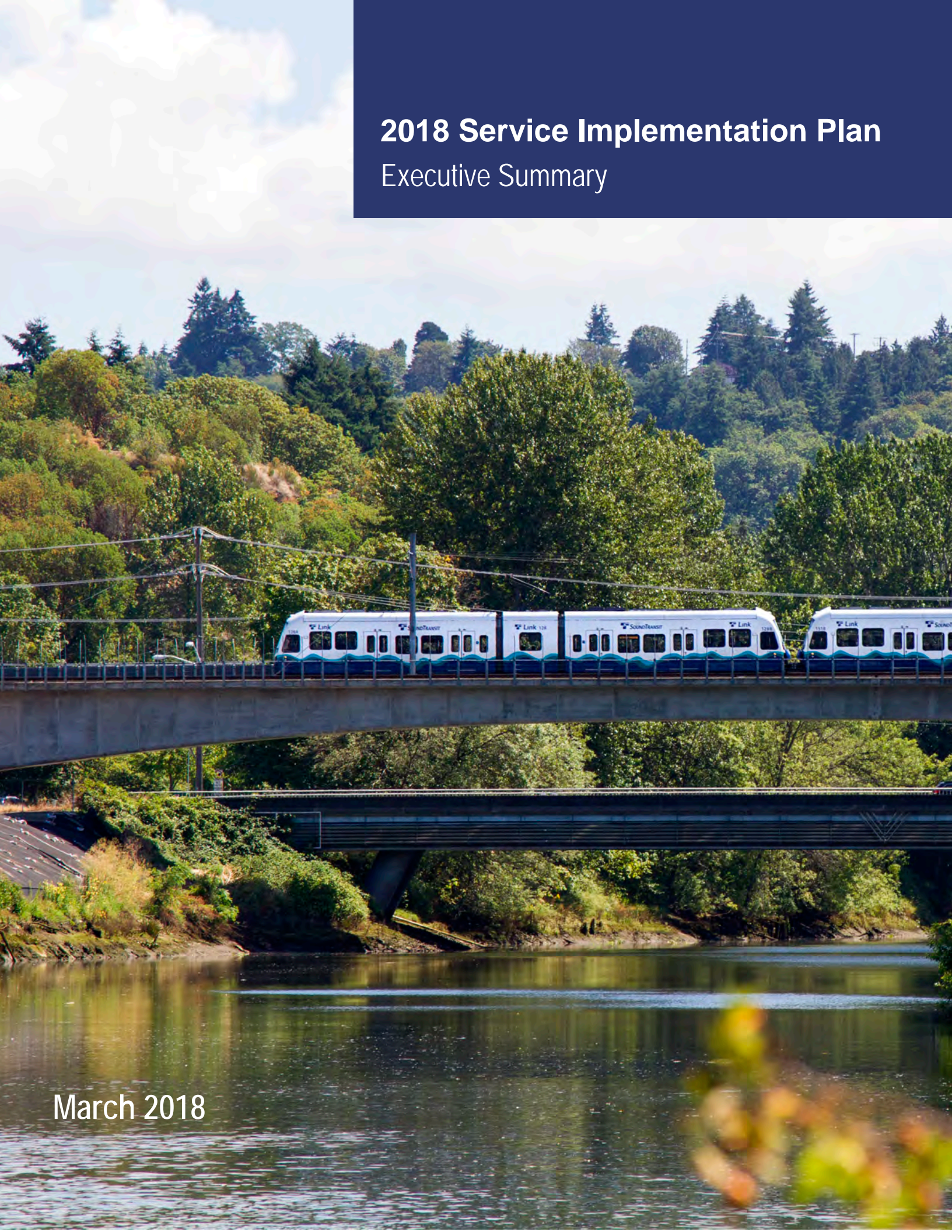


2018 Service Implementation Plan

Executive Summary



March 2018

Executive Summary

2018 Service Implementation Plan

Each year, Sound Transit prepares a Service Implementation Plan that guides delivery of ST Express bus, Sounder commuter rail, and Link light rail services. In coordination with the annual agency budget process, the Service Implementation Plan provides both a forward look at future service plans and a review of existing ridership and performance trends.

The 2018 Service Implementation Plan, initially approved in December 2017 and amended in March 2018, proposed changes to ST Express routes in the I-90 corridor beginning in September 2018. Service changes are necessary to accommodate construction related to the delivery of East Link. When Sound Transit opens East Link service will extend to 10 stations in Judkins Park, Mercer Island, Bellevue and Overlake by 2023 and to Redmond by 2024.

More Service Delivered in 2017

For Sound Transit, the conclusion of 2017 marks another year of increased delivery of regional transit service. Rapidly growing ridership on Link light rail drove the addition of more three-car trains to provide increased capacity. On Sounder four new round trips on the growing south line increased peak passenger capacity and offered customers more schedule flexibility. On ST Express approximately 17,000 additional hours of service were added since the end of 2016 to improve on-time performance.

Estimates indicate Sound Transit will serve over 47 million passengers by the end of 2017, nearly 159,000 on the average weekday.



Adopted 2018 Service Changes

The 2018 Service Implementation Plan was amended by the Sound Transit Board in March 2018 to reflect major service changes along the I-90 corridor for East Link construction. Construction of the new Judkins Park Link Station requires closure of the Rainier Freeway Station and the I-90 bus ramp that connects buses to the downtown tunnel. Routes 550 and 554 will no longer stop at the Rainier Freeway Station and will no longer use the I-90 bus ramp that connects buses to downtown Seattle beginning in September 2018. Service changes will be necessary to continue serving customers who use those routes to get to jobs, education, services and recreation around Seattle and the Eastside.

Since the Rainier Freeway Station provides important access to the Eastside and Downtown Seattle for communities in the Rainier Valley, Sound Transit determined that bus routes need to change when construction starts to maintain service to the Rainier Valley area. When East Link opens in 2023, the Rainier Freeway Station will reopen as the Judkins Park Station.

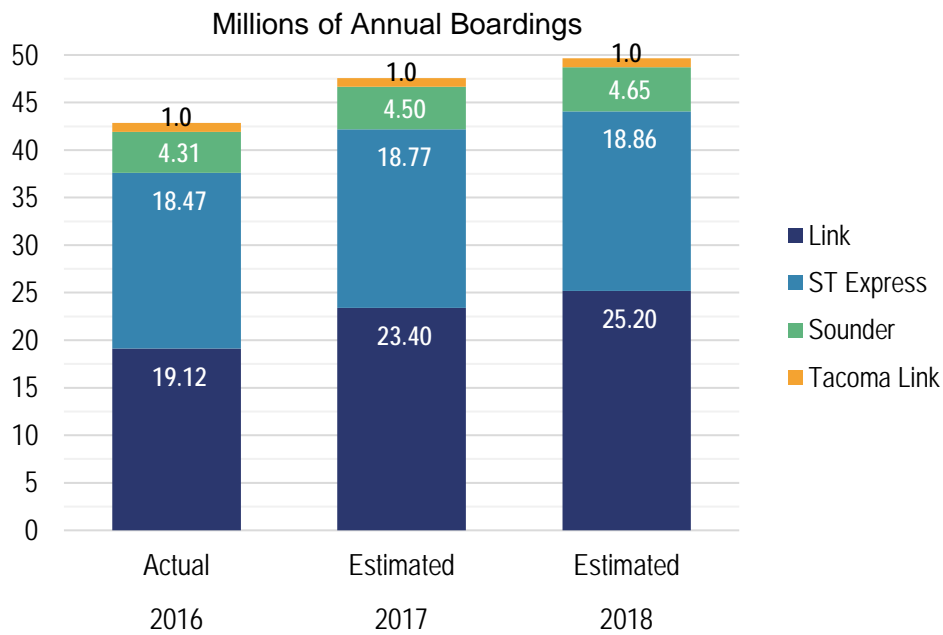
Changes Riders Will See Starting in September 2018

- Closing the Rainier Freeway Station
- Maintaining bus access to Rainier Avenue via two existing bus stops near Rainier Avenue South and South Charles Street
- Closing the I-90 bus ramp connecting buses to the Downtown Seattle transit tunnel
- Beginning Link light rail construction at the Rainier Freeway Station
- Changes to Sound Transit Routes 550 and 554
- Changes to King County Metro routes

Continued Ridership Growth Expected

Ridership on Sound Transit trains and buses is expected to continue to grow through 2018. System-wide ridership is estimated to increase by 16 percent over 2016, exceeding 49 million by the end of 2018. Link estimates show ridership growing to over 25 million by the end of 2018 as customers continue to embrace extensions to University of Washington and Angle Lake added in 2016. New trains on Sounder will drive ridership in 2018 to increase by an estimated eight percent over 2016. Modest estimated growth in ST Express ridership will add approximately two percent more riders over 2016. Tacoma Link estimates predict generally flat ridership trends into 2018. Figure 1 shows annual boardings by mode, with 2016 actuals and estimates for 2017 and 2018.

FIGURE 1 - ANNUAL BOARDINGS BY MODE 2016-2018





Light Rail Construction & Transit Integration Continues

Between 2017 and 2023, Sound Transit system ridership will grow by an estimated 62 percent, driven by regional growth and the benefits of fast, reliable high-capacity transit. Transit integration offers opportunities to maximize the efficient use of transit resources in the region, while also improving the customer experience. Sound Transit recognizes that coordination with partner agencies contributes to building an effective regional system. Sound Transit will engage partner agencies and the public to deliver an integrated transit network as build-out of the network continues. The Service Implementation Plan includes a preliminary service plan for the next five years to document upcoming system opportunities and challenges, informing customers and partner agencies of future service changes Sound Transit may consider.

Public Input

Customers and members of the public were encouraged to comment on the draft plan through email, letter, via telephone, or in-person at a public meeting held in the Joni Earl Great Hall on November 2nd. Opportunities for public comment to the Board of Directors were scheduled for the November 2nd and December 7th Operations & Administration Committee meetings and the Board meeting on December 21st.

Review the plan: soundtransit.org/sip

Comment: servicechanges@soundtransit.org

Call: 1-866-940-4387

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