
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

DRAFT Elected Leadership Group Charter

January 2018

Overview

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers throughout the region while the new downtown Seattle Light Rail Tunnel provides capacity for the entire regional system to operate efficiently.

The representative alignment for the West Seattle Link Extension builds light rail from West Seattle's Alaska Junction neighborhood to downtown Seattle primarily on an elevated guideway with a new rail-only fixed span crossing of the Duwamish River. The West Seattle Link Extension will connect to existing East Link service, continuing north to Lynnwood and Everett.

The representative alignment for the Ballard Link Extension and downtown Seattle Light Rail Tunnel builds light rail from Ballard's Market Street area through downtown Seattle with both tunneled and elevated alignments and a rail-only movable bridge over Salmon Bay. These connect to existing Link service, continuing south to Tacoma.

Sound Transit is committed to involving the public in the development of a preferred alternative for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions. As part of a comprehensive outreach strategy Sound Transit is convening an Elected Leadership Group. The group will provide elected leaders from the areas served by the corridor an opportunity to participate in the development and narrowing of alternatives.

Elected Leadership Group purpose

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Project Elected Leadership Group is a comprehensive group of elected officials that represent the service corridor and the Sound Transit Board. The purpose of this group is to reach consensus around key decisions and work through project issues as needed.

The Elected Leadership Group will:

- Appoint Stakeholder Advisory Group members
- Consider the needs of the extensions within the context of the greater transit system
- Work with project staff to understand and evaluate tradeoffs
- Represent the communities they serve and share community priorities
- Recommend a preferred alternative for consideration by the Sound Transit Board based on input of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, the public, and the voter-approved project scope, schedule and budget

Project guiding principles

1. **Expand rapid, reliable and efficient regional transit service** to the communities in the Ballard and West Seattle corridors.
2. **Increase transit capacity and connectivity in downtown** to meet growing demand and expand regional access and mobility.
3. **Create additional transit connections** between regional growth centers and downtown.
4. **Create solutions that are technically feasible and fiscally sustainable** to build, operate and maintain.
5. **Improve mobility and access** for all in the corridor and the region.

6. **Preserve and promote a healthy environment**, both built and natural, and encourage sustainable urban growth through transit oriented development and affordable housing.
7. Deliver the project **within the approved timelines and budget**.
8. **Consider input from stakeholders, communities** along the corridor, **regional transit riders and the public**.
9. **Support future transit system expansion** as outlined in Sound Transit's Long-Range Plan.

Elected Leadership Group Term

The group's effective start date is January 4, 2018. The group is expected to meet around key project milestones with the goal of making a recommendation on the preferred alternative by April 2019. The work plan and meeting frequency after the preferred alternative is identified by the Sound Transit Board is to be determined. Members are expected to attend all meetings and also participate in briefings and deliberations between meetings as needed.

Members

Elected Leadership Group participants have been identified to ensure that the entire service corridor and surrounding areas are represented. The Sound Transit Board Chair will appoint a new member if necessary. Participants are:

- Representing the project corridor:
 - Seattle Councilmember Lisa Herbold
 - Seattle Councilmember Bruce Harrell
 - Seattle Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
 - Seattle Councilmember Mike O'Brien
 - Seattle Councilmember Lorena Gonzalez
 - Port Commissioner Stephanie Bowman
- Representing Sound Transit
 - Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers
 - Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan
 - King County Executive Dow Constantine
 - Seattle Councilmember Rob Johnson
 - King County Councilmember Joe McDermott

Process framework

Below is a tentative schedule for the alternatives development process for the Elected Leadership Group. The dates are subject to change.

Meeting #1 Project Kick-off (January 2018)

Background and previous work

Work plan

Appoint Stakeholder Advisory Group

Review and discuss group charter

Meeting #2 Level 1 Screening (Late April/May 2018)

Summary of early scoping and public engagement

Review Level 1 recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Group

Make Level 1 recommendations

Meeting #3 (July 2018)

Summary of public engagement
Update on Level 2 screening

Meeting #4 (Late August/Early September 2018)

Summary of public engagement
Review Level 2 recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Group
Make Level 2 recommendations

Meeting #5 (December 2018)

Summary of public engagement
Update on Level 3 screening

Meeting #6 (March 2019)

Summary of public engagement
Review Level 3 recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Group
Make recommendations to the Sound Transit Board on the preferred alternative

Sound Transit and Seattle joint meeting

The meeting of the Elected Leadership Group will be a special joint meeting of Sound Transit board members and Seattle's Sustainability and Transportation committee. There is a quorum of Seattle councilmembers expected to participate and the meetings will comply with Seattle City Council rules. The meetings will be open to the public, recorded, videoed and include allowance for public comment. The agenda and meeting materials will be available and posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Operating guidelines

- Attend all meetings
- Meetings will be led by a facilitator and co-chairs
- Openly share observations and views
- Keep an open mind regarding others' opinions, ideas and viewpoints
- Listen to other members while they are speaking
- The co-chairs will be the primary media spokespeople for the group, individual members may represent their viewpoints but not speak on behalf of the group
- This group will strive for consensus; if consensus cannot be reached the group will share minority opinion(s) as part of its recommendation to the Sound Transit Board

Meeting documentation

The meetings will be documented through detailed meeting notes that will memorialize attendance, discussions and any actions or recommendations made by the group. Meeting notes will be sent out to members one week after the meeting.