



West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Stakeholder Advisory Group | 2.08.18

Agenda

- › *Project background*
- › *West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions*
- › *Alternatives development process*
- › *Community engagement*
- › *Early Scoping*
- › *Stakeholder Advisory Group Charter*

A woman with long, dark, wavy hair is seated on a train, looking out the window. She is wearing a dark blue sweater and holding a smartphone in her hands. The background shows a blurred landscape of trees and a clear sky. The text "Project background" is overlaid in white, bold, italicized font across the center of the image.

Project background

Sound Transit district





Sound Transit district

- 3 counties: King, Pierce, Snohomish
- More than 3 million residents
- 51 cities
- 800,000 more people by 2040

Meeting growing demand

Source: Sound Transit ridership reports, service implementation plan and financial plan.

Ridership (millions)





System expansion

Sound Transit’s system expansion means every few years new light rail, bus rapid transit and commuter rail stations open throughout the region, providing fast, reliable alternatives to congested roads

 [soundtransit.org/system](https://www.soundtransit.org/system)



2018

Light rail

- University of Washington, Capitol Hill, Downtown Seattle, Sea-Tac Airport, Angle Lake
- Tacoma Dome to Theater District

Sounder rail

- Everett to Seattle
- Lakewood/Tacoma to Seattle

ST Express bus

- 28 regional bus routes



2021

Light rail

- U District, Roosevelt, Northgate

Sounder rail

- Sumner and Puyallup stations parking and access improvements



2022

Light rail

- Tacoma Link Extension to Hilltop



2023

Light rail

- Mercer Island, Bellevue, Spring District, Redmond (Overlake)

Sounder rail

- Kent and Auburn stations parking and access improvements



2024

Light rail

- Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Lynnwood
- SE and Downtown Redmond
- Kent/Des Moines, Federal Way

Sounder rail

- Sounder north added parking and access improvements

ST Express bus

- I-405 BRT - Lynnwood to Burien
- SR 522 BRT – Shoreline to Bothell
- North Sammamish Park-and-Ride



2030

Light rail

- Alaska Junction, Avalon, Delridge
- South Federal Way, Fife, East Tacoma, Tacoma Dome



2031

Light rail infill stations

- NE 130th St.
- South Graham St.
- South Boeing Access Rd



2035

Light rail and new downtown tunnel

- Ballard, Interbay, Smith Cove, Seattle Center, South Lake Union, Denny, Midtown



2036

Light rail

- Everett, SR 526/Evergreen, SW Everett Industrial Center, Mariner, Ash Way, West Alderwood

Sounder rail

- DuPont and Tillicum
- Sounder south capacity and access improvements completed



2039

Light rail

- Tacoma Link Extension to Tacoma Community College



2041

Light rail

- South Kirkland, Richards Road, Eastgate/ Bellevue College, Issaquah



Regional light rail expansion

By 2040: 116+ miles | 80+ stations | 16 cities connected



Representative project

- Identifies mode, corridor, station areas
- Informs cost, schedule, operating needs

Previous studies

Forward Thrust
1968, 1970

ST2 Long Range Plan update
2005

ST3 Long Range Plan update
2014

Seattle Monorail Project
2005

HCT corridor studies
2013–2014

ST3 System Plan
2015–2016

Transit Expansion Study Ballard to Downtown

- City and Sound Transit partnership
- Supported Seattle Transit Master Plan
- Supported ST Long-Range Planning

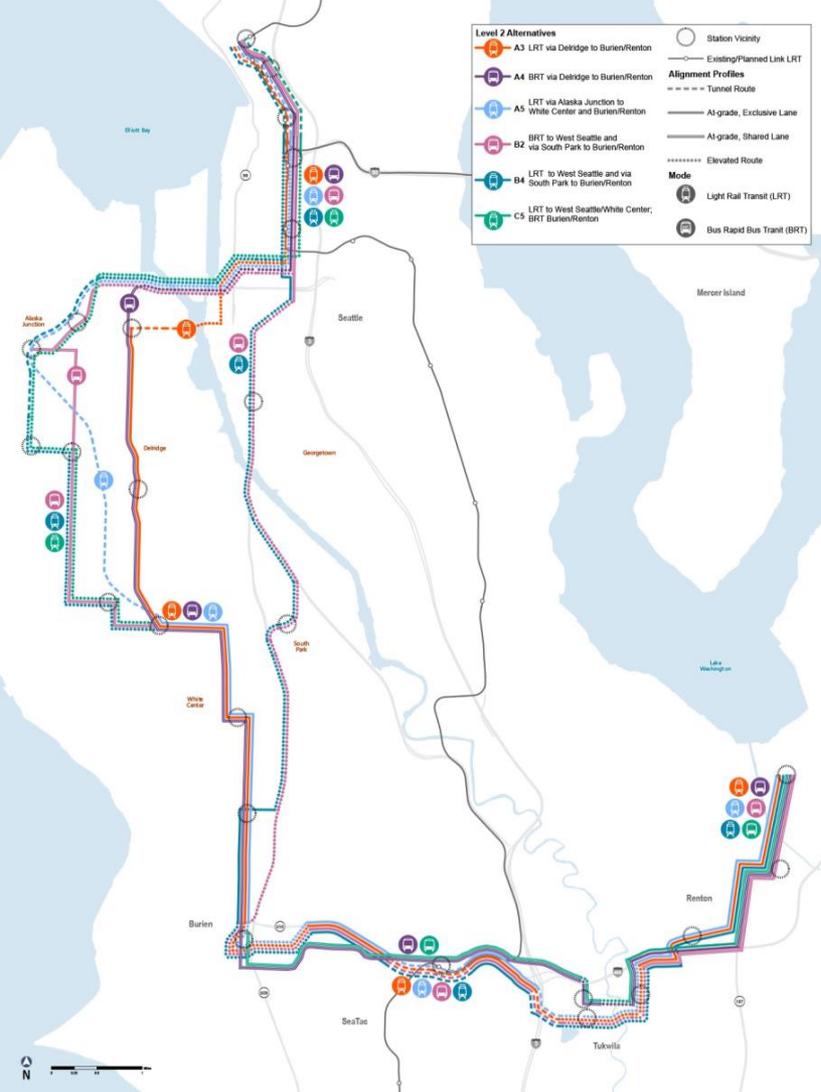


Transit Expansion Study Ballard to Downtown

- Studied five representative alignments
- Included Light rail and rapid streetcar



South King County HCT Corridor Study



- Studied six alternatives
- Considered options to the Junction, along Delridge and to Burien and Renton
- Included Light Rail and BRT

Long-Range Plan

➤ Regional Transit Long-Range Plan December 2014

2014 LONG-RANGE PLAN

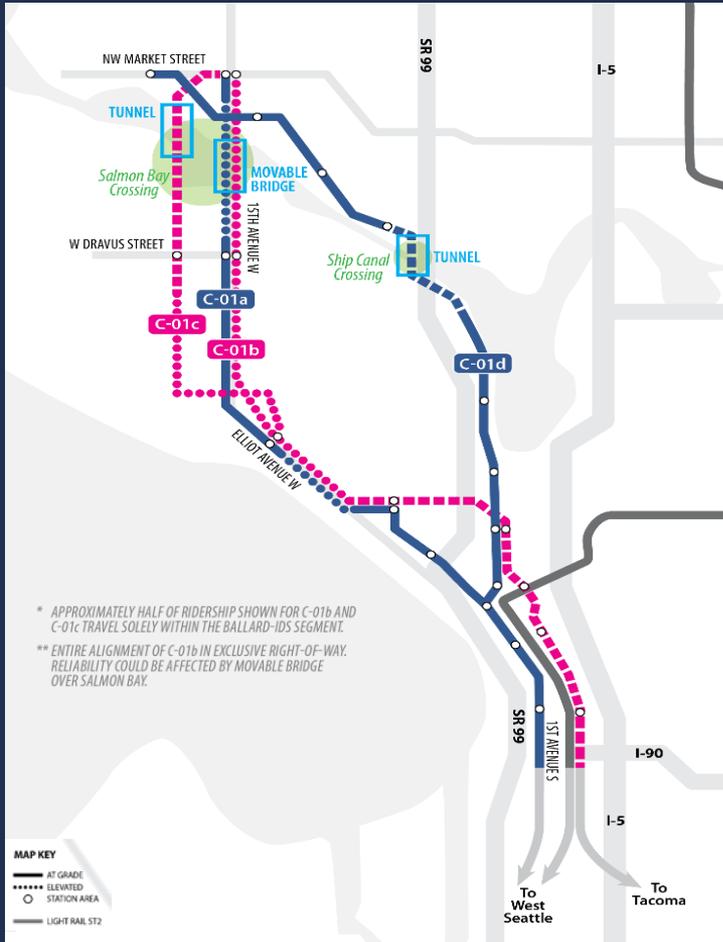


On December 18, 2014, the Sound Transit Board adopted the following changes to Sound Transit's Long-Range Plan, which was originally adopted in 1996, and updated in 2005:

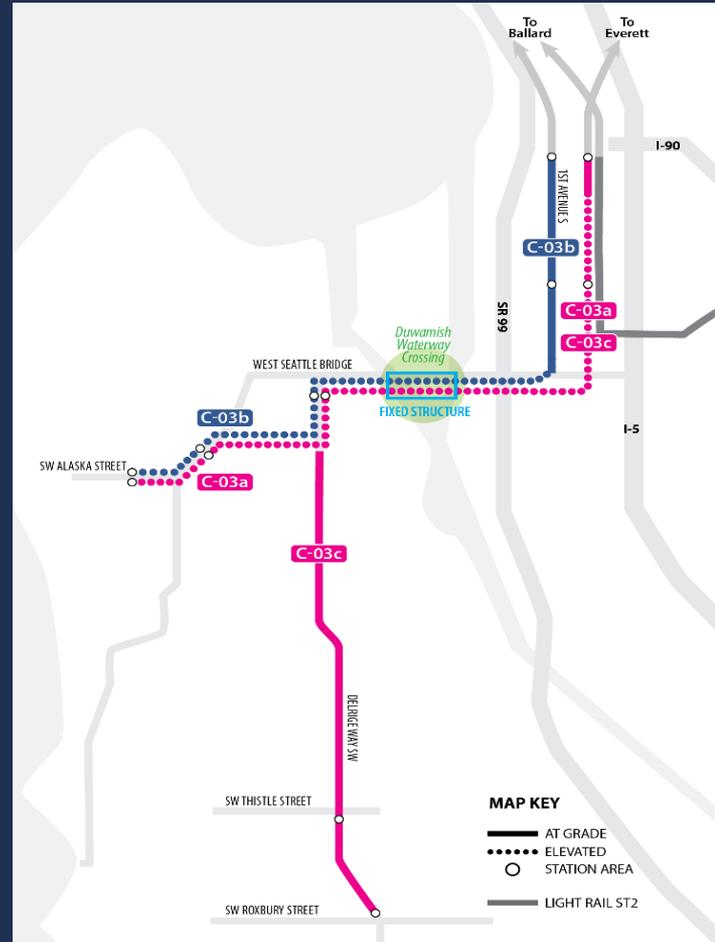
- 1 Added a potential light rail corridor from Downtown Seattle to West Seattle/Burien.
- 2 Added a potential light rail corridor from Everett to North Everett.
- 3 Added a potential light rail corridor from Downtown Tacoma to Tacoma Mall and DuPont, and defined the terminus of the light rail spine at Tacoma Mall.
- 4 Added a HCT corridor from Downtown Seattle along Madison Street.
- 5 Added a HCT corridor from SR 522 to SR 520, serving the Totem Lake Urban Center and the South Kirkland Park-and-Ride.
- 6 Added a potential light rail corridor from Lynnwood to Everett, serving the Southwest Everett Industrial Center (Paine Field).
- 7 Added a potential light rail corridor from Downtown Tacoma to Tacoma Community College.
- 8 Added a potential light rail corridor from Issaquah to Issaquah Highlands.
- 9 Added a HCT corridor from Puyallup/Sumner to Otting.
- 10 Added a HCT corridor from Downtown Tacoma to Parkland.
- 11 Added a BRT corridor to the Puyallup vicinity, along Meridian Avenue.
- 12 Added a Regional Express bus/BRT corridor along 145th Street from I-5 to SR 522, and a HCT corridor from I-5 to SR 522.
- 13 Added a Regional Express bus corridor from Woodinville to Bellevue.



Ballard to downtown

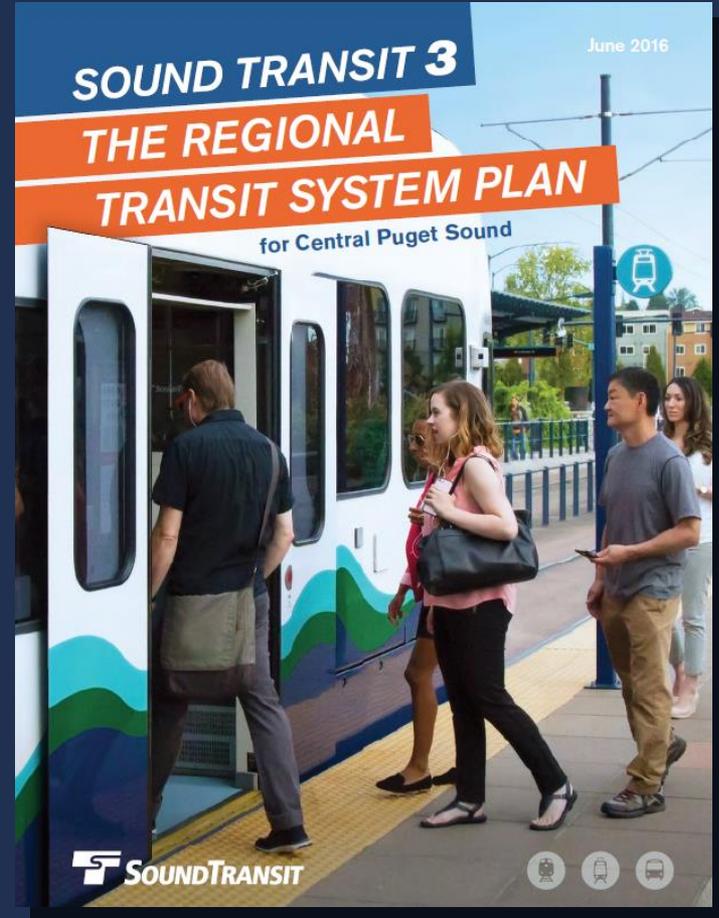


West Seattle to downtown



Final Plan

- Sound Transit 3 (ST3) Plan
June 2016



ST3 public input

- ✓ **2,320** written comments
- ✓ **1,250 attendees** at open houses
- ✓ **34,706 responses** to online survey
- ✓ **18,032** narrative “open-end” commentary
- ✓ **90+ comments** from local jurisdictions, agencies, stakeholder organizations

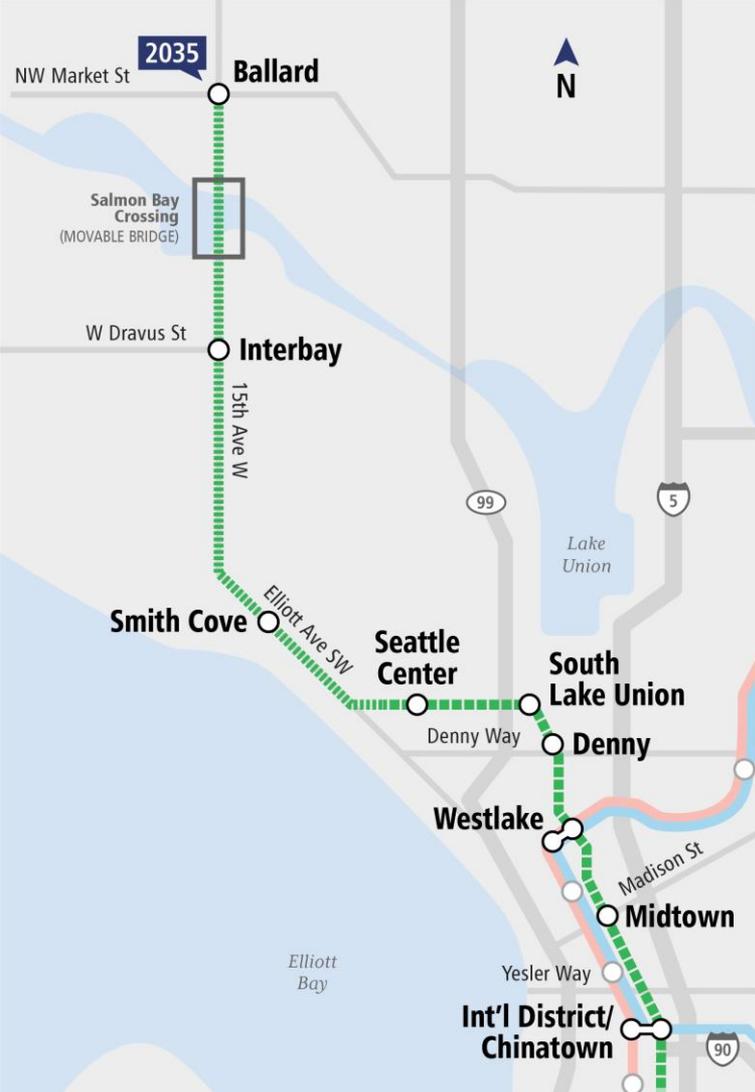
A young man with glasses and a backpack is standing on a train platform, smiling. He is holding a suitcase handle in his right hand and resting his left hand on the platform railing. The background shows a train track and a cityscape under a blue sky.

***West Seattle and Ballard
Link Extensions***

West Seattle Link Extension

- Opening 2030
- Four elevated stations at SODO, Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction; one at-grade station at Stadium
- New rail-only fixed span crossing of the Duwamish River
- Length: 4.7 miles



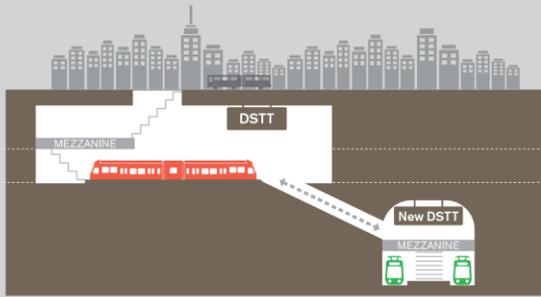


Ballard Link Extension

- Opening 2035
- Three elevated stations: Ballard, Interbay, Smith Cove
- Six tunnel stations: Seattle Center, South Lake Union, Denny, Westlake, Midtown, International District/Chinatown
- New rail-only movable bridge over Salmon Bay
- Length: 7.1 miles

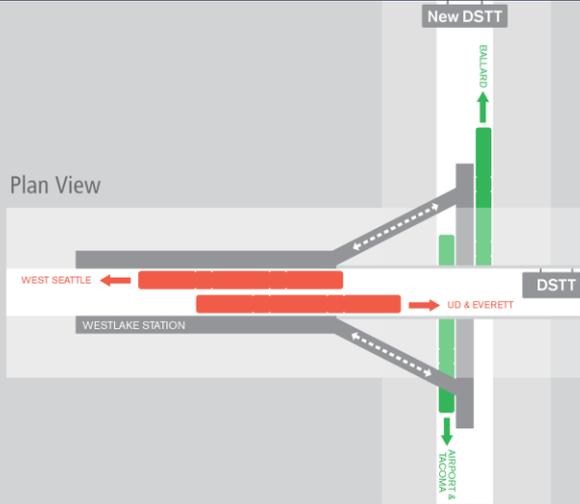
New Downtown Transit Tunnel

WESTLAKE/6TH AVE STATIONS

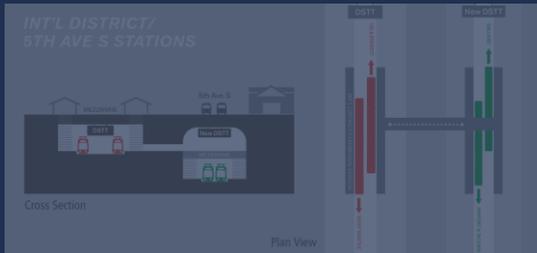


Cross Section

Plan View



INT'L DISTRICT/ 5TH AVE S STATIONS

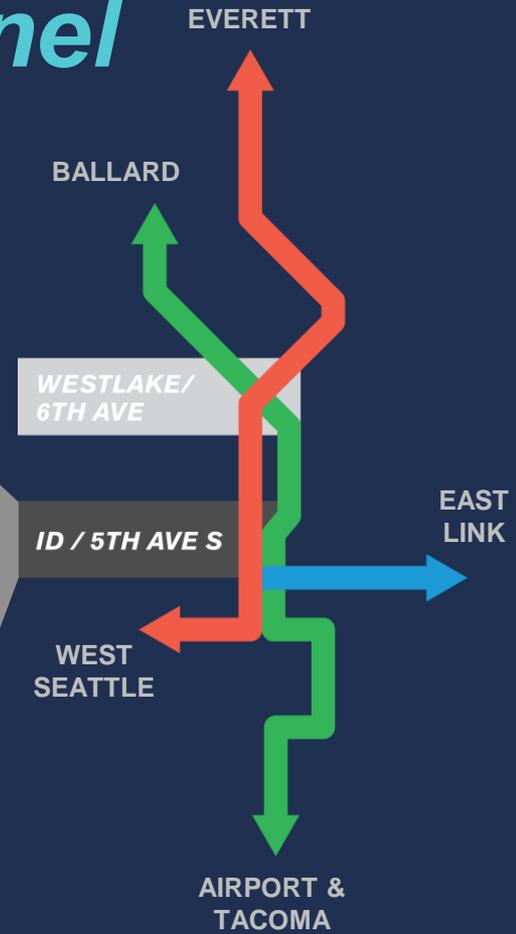
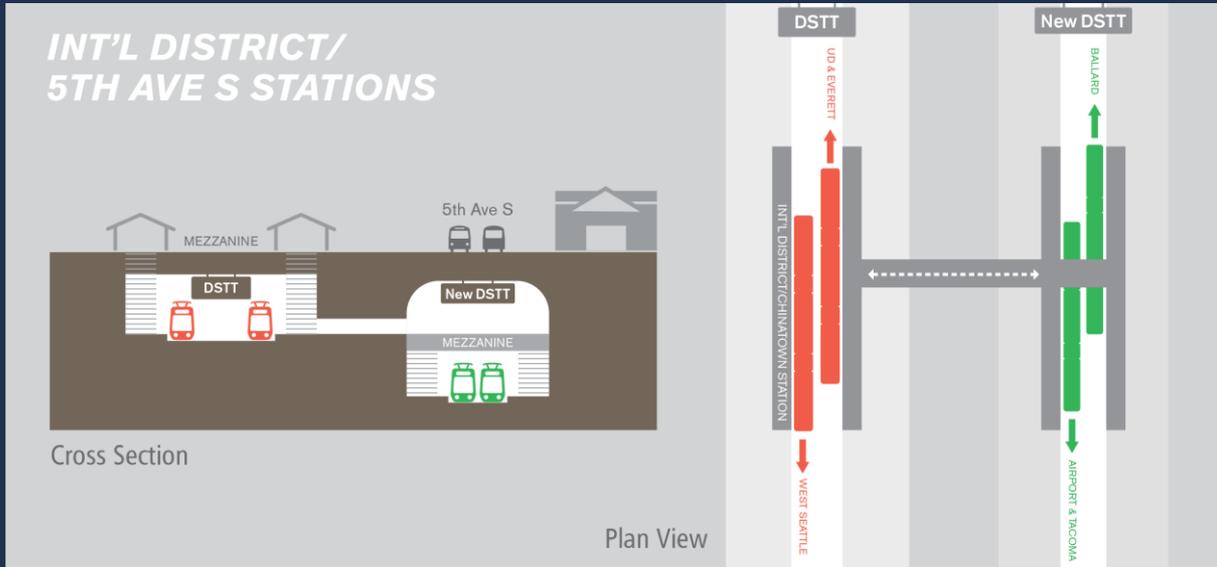


Cross Section

Plan View



New Downtown Transit Tunnel



Project Flyover

A woman with dark curly hair and glasses is smiling and looking out a window. She is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and a necklace with blue beads. The background outside the window shows a playground with colorful equipment. The image has a dark blue overlay.

Alternatives Development

New approach to project development

- Enhance commitment to partnership, community engagement, collaboration, transparency and accountability
- Apply innovative ideas and lessons learned to streamline project delivery

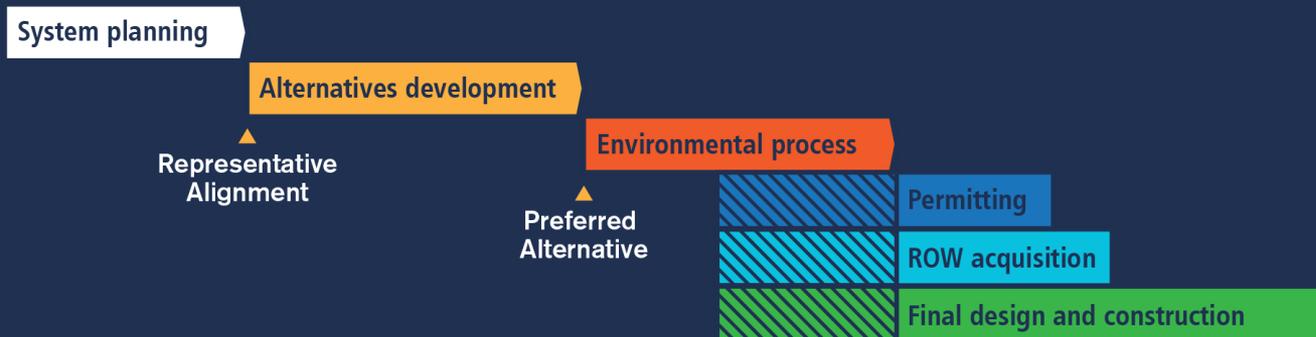


New approach to project development

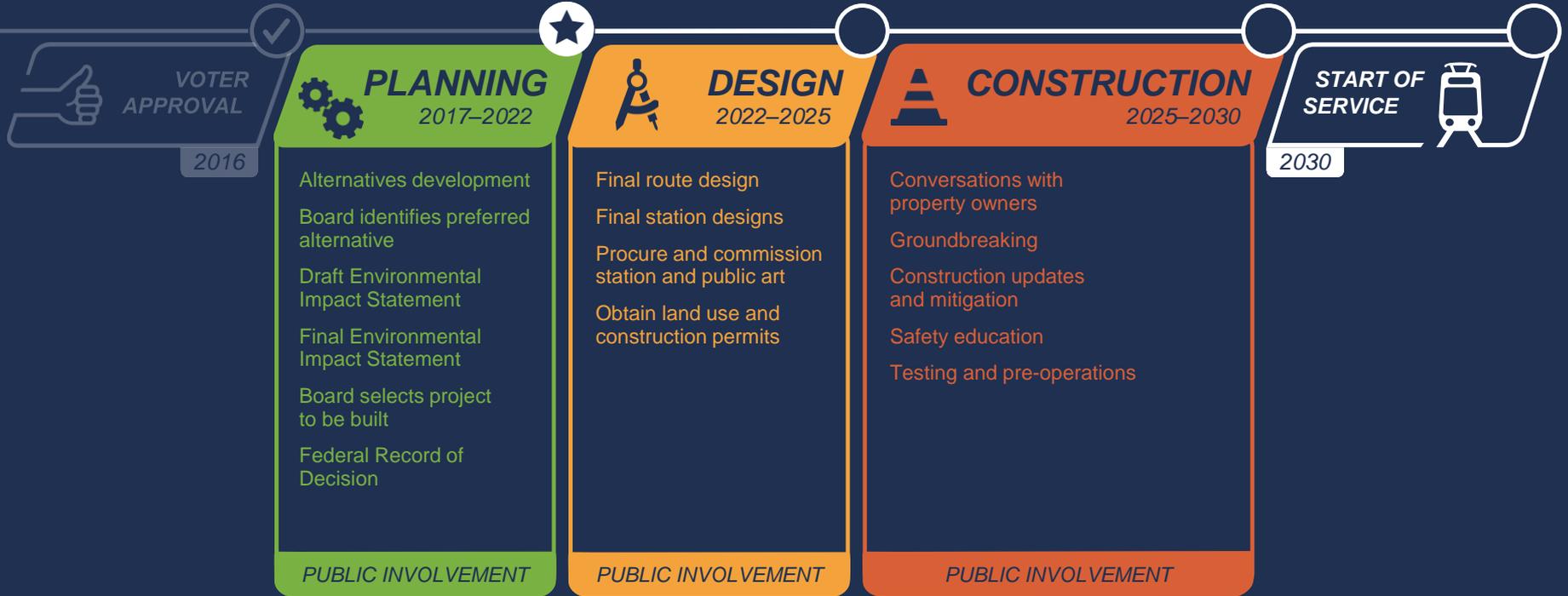
ST2 process



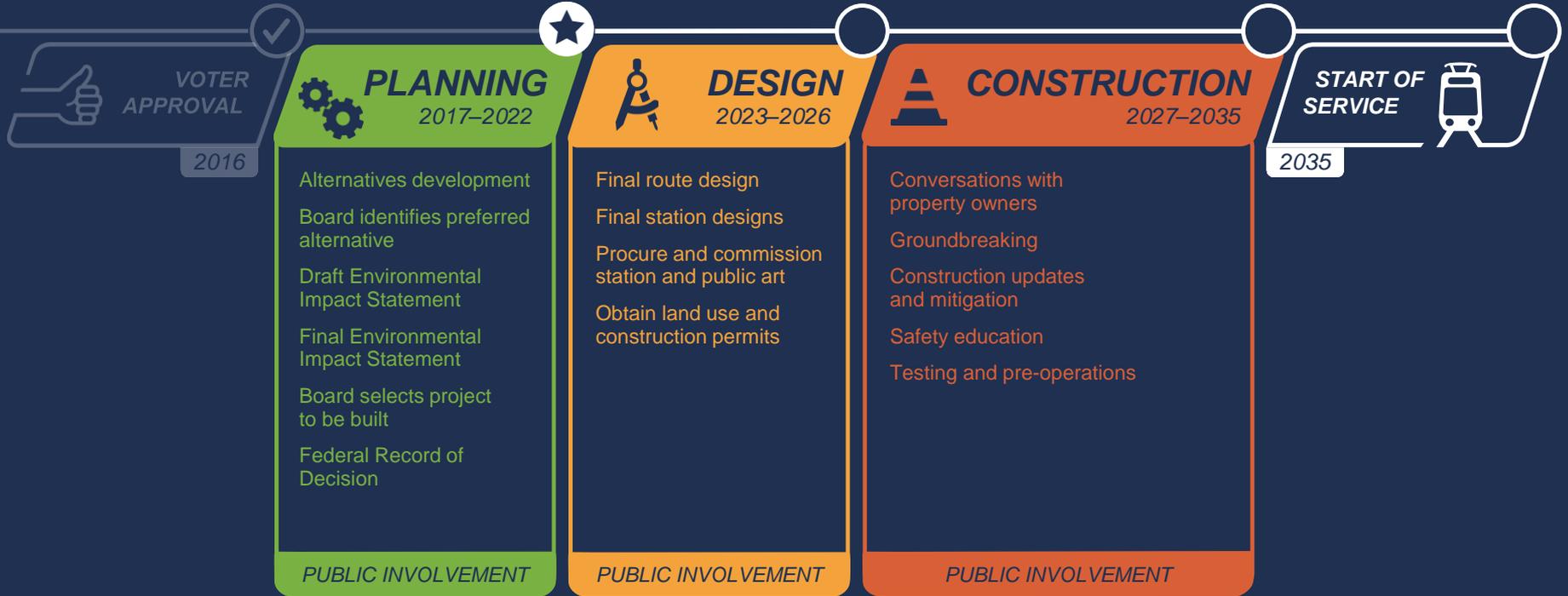
ST3 process



West Seattle project timeline



Ballard project timeline



VOTER
APPROVAL

2016



PLANNING



DESIGN

2017–2019

Alternatives
development

Board identifies
preferred alternative

2019–2022

Draft Environmental
Impact Statement

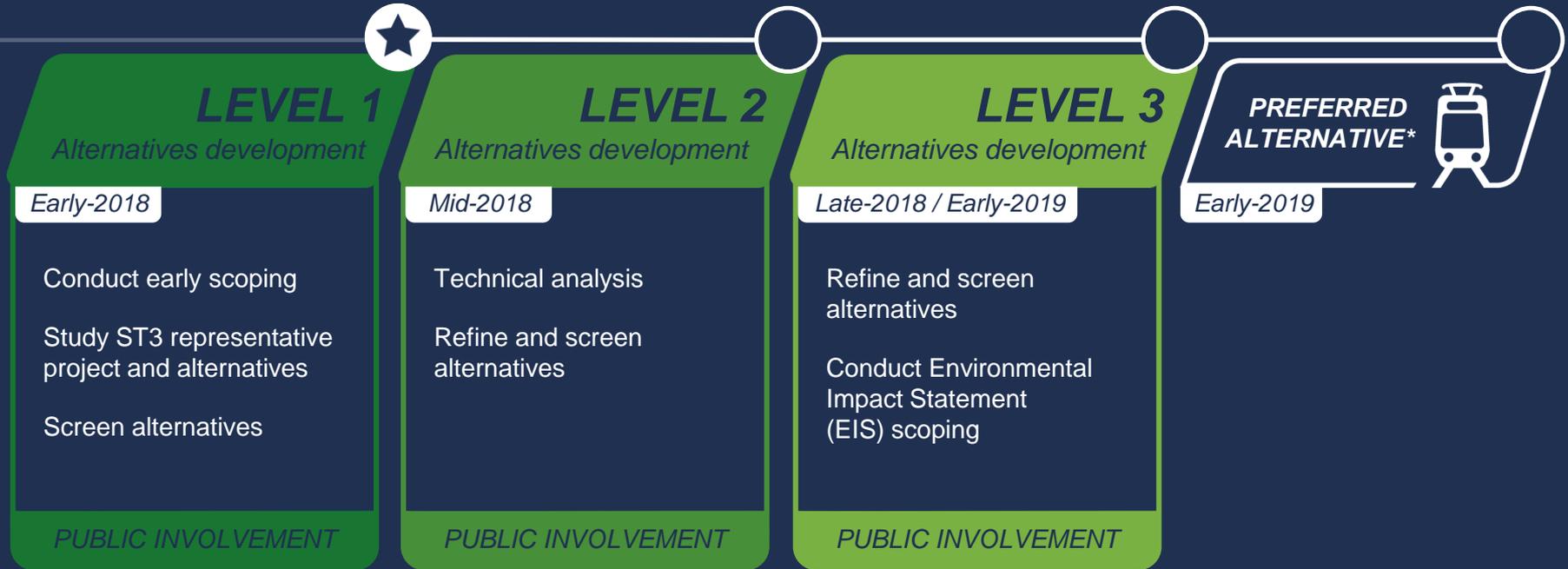
Final Environmental
Impact Statement

Board selects project
to be built

Federal Record of
Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Alternatives development process



*The Sound Transit Board identifies preferred alternatives and other alternatives to study.

Community engagement and collaboration

LEVEL 1 Alternatives Screening				LEVEL 2 Alternatives Screening				LEVEL 3 Alternatives Screening							
2018												2019			
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Community Updates															
Neighborhood Forums															
Stakeholder Advisory Group															
Elected Leadership Group															
Sound Transit Board															



Community Updates



Neighborhood Forums



Stakeholder Advisory Group



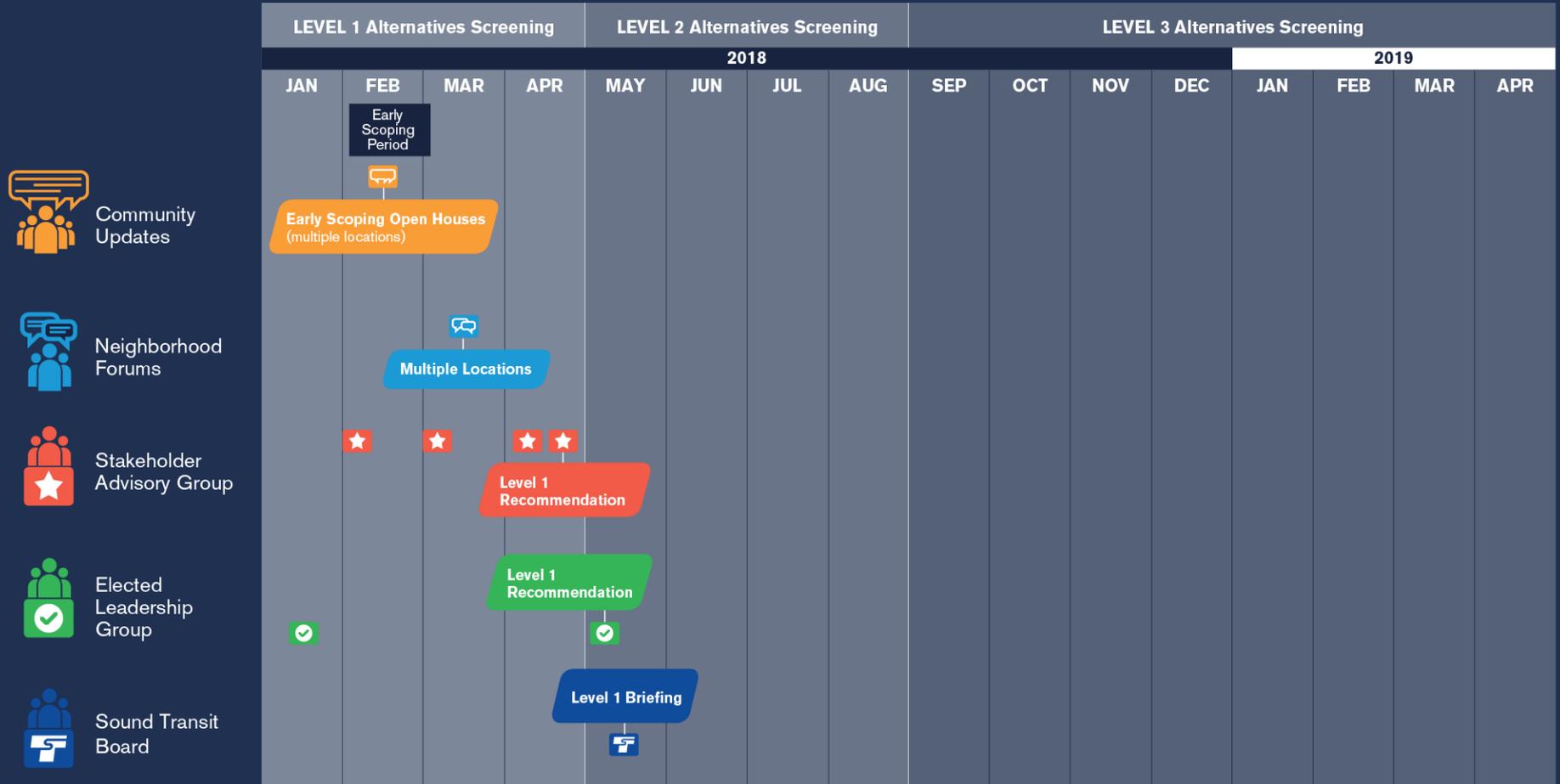
Elected Leadership Group



Sound Transit Board

Meeting dates subject to change.

Community engagement and collaboration



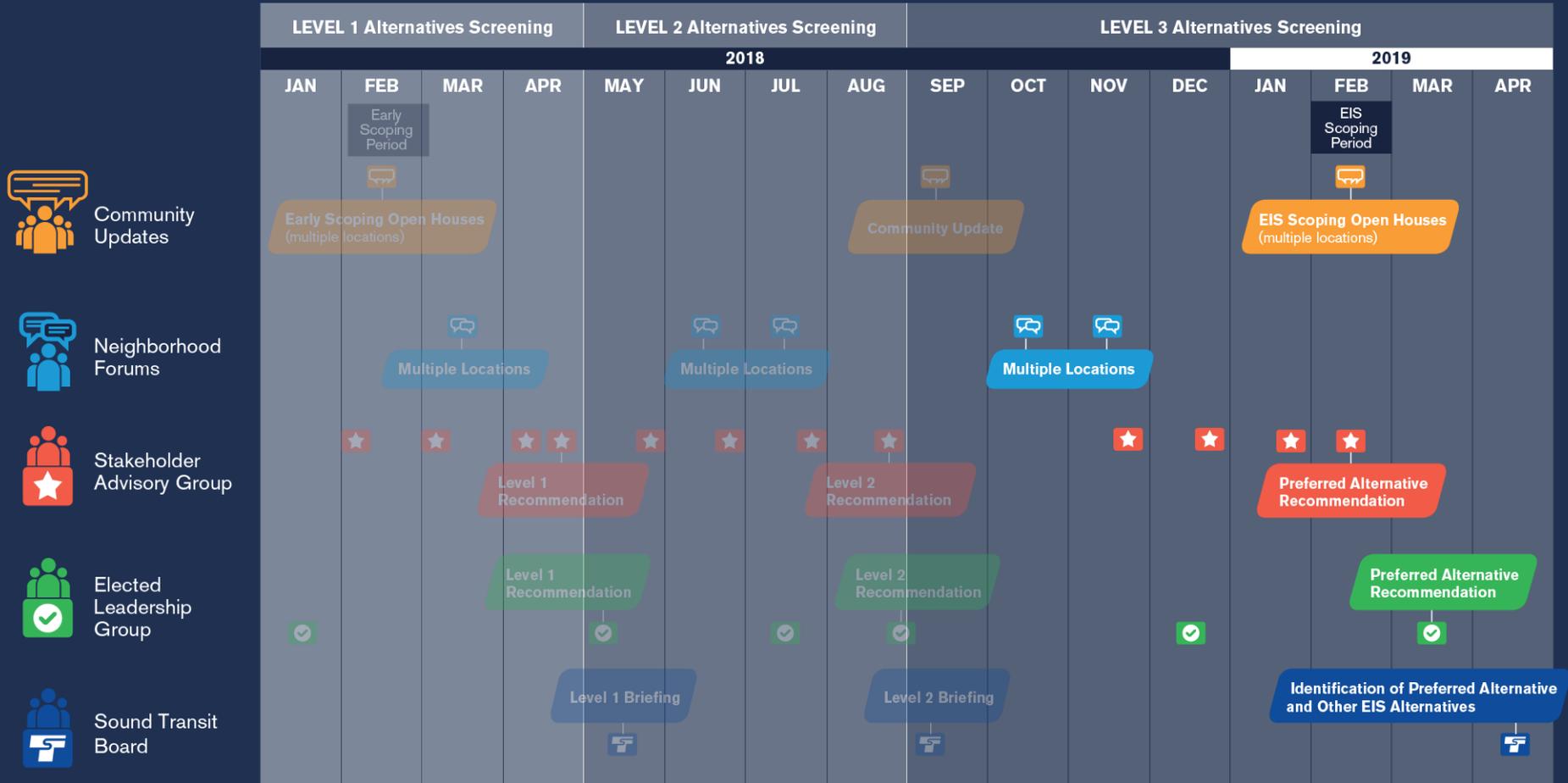
Meeting dates subject to change.

Community engagement and collaboration



Meeting dates subject to change.

Community engagement and collaboration



Meeting dates subject to change.

Project guiding principles

- ✓ **Expand rapid, reliable and efficient regional transit service** to the communities in the Ballard and West Seattle corridors, enhancing overall transit service for these communities.
- ✓ **Increase transit capacity and connectivity in downtown** to meet growing demand and expand regional access and mobility.
- ✓ **Create additional transit connections** between regional growth centers and downtown.
- ✓ **Create solutions that are technically feasible and fiscally sustainable** to build, operate and maintain.

Project guiding principles

- ✓ **Improve mobility and access for all** in the corridor and the region for all modes and users; including freight, bicyclists, pedestrians, those with limited mobility, and all ages.
- ✓ **Preserve and promote a healthy environment**, both built and natural, and encourage sustainable urban growth through **transit-oriented development** and affordable housing.
- ✓ Deliver the project **within the approved timelines and budget.**

Project guiding principles

- ✓ **Consider input** from stakeholders, communities along the corridor, regional transit riders and the public.
- ✓ **Support future transit system expansion** as outlined in Sound Transit's Long-Range Plan.
- ✓ Ensure emphasis on bringing **the project services and benefits to historically underserved communities** along the alignment, especially people of color and low-income populations.



Community engagement

Community Engagement Guide



**West Seattle
and Ballard**
Link Extensions

Community
Engagement Guide

January 2018 – April 2019

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

Engagement goals

➤ See **Page 5** of
**Community
Engagement Guide**

Engagement goals



Be proactive

Engage audiences, including the communities most affected by the project, in conversations that lead to an early agreement on a preferred alternative.



Be transparent

Foster public trust through transparent communication, meaningful and inclusive public engagement and timely responses to project questions and feedback.



Be accountable

Ensure accountability by clearly communicating when, where and how public feedback was used to make project decisions.



Ensure accessibility

Ensure accessibility by presenting project information in easy-to-read and understandable formats, including in-language documents, with an eye toward accessibility for all audiences.



Encourage awareness

Encourage local and regional awareness of the benefits, effects and progress of the project.

Engagement tools

Engagement tools

Online

Website

The project web page, within the Sound Transit website, provides the hub for all up-to-date project information. The web page will be updated frequently with the latest project information, opportunities to be involved, upcoming events and meetings, project materials and more.

[soundtransit.org/wsblink](https://www.soundtransit.org/wsblink)

Email updates

Email updates will be sent on a regular basis to the project's email subscriber list. Email updates will include up-to-date information on the project and be sent to people who have opted in. [Sign-up](#) on the project web page.

Social media

Sound Transit will utilize their existing social media platforms to share news and updates about the West Seattle and Ballard Extensions. You can find us at @SoundTransit.



Surveys

Sound Transit will conduct online surveys to collect ideas and understand preferences. This feedback will be used to help shape decisions and inform outreach efforts.

Email us

Send an email with questions, concerns or comments to wsblink@soundtransit.org.



In person

Open houses (in-person and online)

Open houses will be held at key milestones and decision points during the entirety of the project, especially when public feedback is sought to help inform key decisions during the alternatives development process. At these open houses, attendees can drop in at any time during the event to view information and discuss the project with Sound Transit. In-person open houses will be held in various locations along the project alignment, and will be accompanied by online open houses.

Neighborhood forums

Composed of neighborhood members and other interested members of the public, these forums will be used to engage and educate communities around key project milestones and to work through project issues as they arise. At these forums, participants will be able to spend more time delving into issues specific to their neighborhood, working together in small groups. The forums will be hosted in communities along the project alignment and will provide an opportunity for you to connect with your neighbors, follow the project's progress and voice your opinions at major decision points.

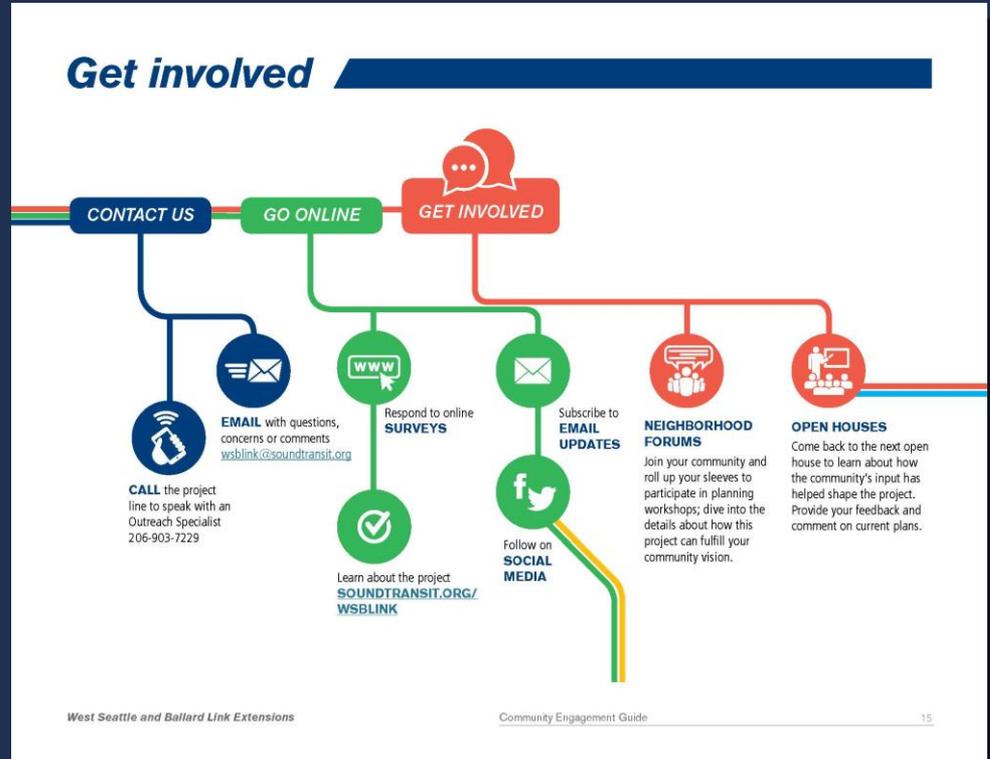
Briefings and meetings

Sound Transit will proactively reach out to groups to offer project updates. Any group may request a briefing from the project team by emailing wsblink@soundtransit.org or calling 206-903-7229. We will prioritize traditionally-underrepresented groups and can join you in your workplace or training events to provide project updates.

➤ See **Page 9** of
**Community
Engagement Guide**

Get involved

- See **Page 15** of **Community Engagement Guide**



A woman with curly hair and glasses is smiling and looking out a window. The background shows a playground with colorful equipment. The text "Early scoping" is overlaid in white, italicized font.

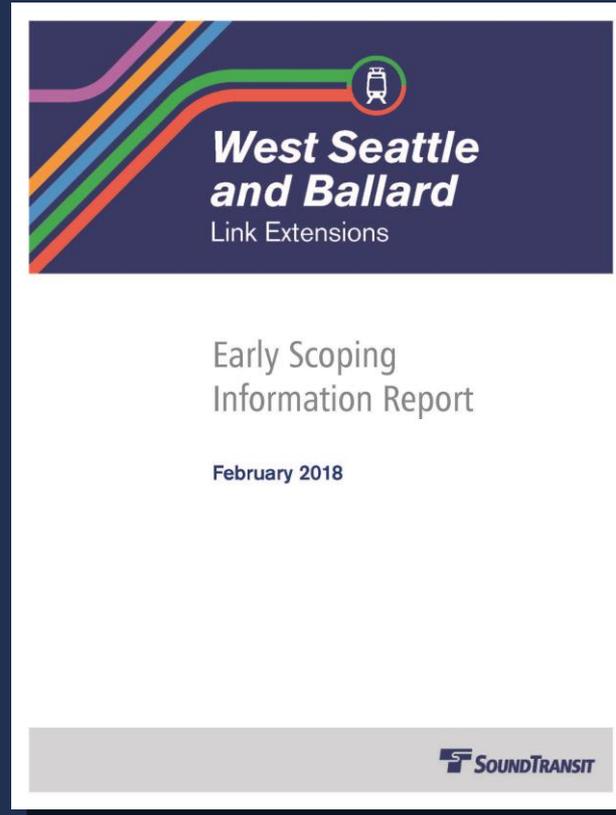
Early scoping

Early scoping

› Early scoping is an opportunity to:

- Learn about the **project background** and **timeline**
- Provide input on the **ST3 representative project** and **potential alternatives**
- Comment on the **purpose and need** of the project
- Help identify and provide feedback on **potential project benefits** and **impacts** on your community, the environment and transportation

Early Scoping Information Report



Early scoping comments

- Early scoping **comment period**: February 2 to March 5
- Ways to submit early scoping comments:
 - Fill out a comment card
 - Visit: ***wsblink.participate.online***
 - Email: ***wsblink@soundtransit.org***
 - Call: 206-903-7229
 - Mail to: West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
c/o Lauren Swift, 401 S. Jackson St. Seattle, WA 98104

Get involved!

Open Houses

Early Scoping

- **West Seattle:**
2/13, Alki Masonic Center
- **Ballard:**
2/15, Leif Erikson Lodge
- **Downtown:**
2/20, Union Station
- **Online:**
2/12 – 3/5

Elected Leadership and Stakeholder Advisory Groups

Open to Everyone

- Upcoming meetings
- More information online

Neighborhood Forums

Coming soon

- Early Spring
- ~3 hours
- All are welcome
- Deeper dive into more specific areas of study



wsblink.participate.online

Early scoping comments

- **Feedback received through early scoping will be:**
 - Documented in the Early Scoping Summary Report
 - Shared with the Stakeholder Advisory Group and Elected Leadership Group
 - Discussed in greater detail at upcoming neighborhood forums
 - Used to help inform and shape alternatives that will be reviewed later this year

A young man with glasses and a backpack is standing on a train platform, smiling. He is wearing a dark t-shirt and has his hand on the railing of the platform. The background shows a train track and some buildings in the distance. The image has a blue tint.

Stakeholder Advisory Group Charter

Stakeholder Advisory Group role

- Build consensus around key project decisions and work through project issues as needed
- Make recommendations at key milestones, including:
 - Identifying alternatives to study during environmental review
 - Identifying a preferred alternative
- Highlight specific issues and trade-offs in the corridor



✓ ***Present recommendations to Elected Leadership Group***

Stakeholder Advisory Group term

- Start: February 8, 2018
- Monthly meetings through Spring of 2019
- Members expected to review materials and do some “light homework” in advance of meetings
- Work plan and meeting frequency after the alternatives development phase is to be determined



SAG membership responsibilities

- ✓ Try to attend all meetings
- ✓ Represent your constituency or constituencies, as appropriate rather than personal opinions
- ✓ Communicate and update your constituencies regarding the work of the SAG in coordination with Sound Transit staff who can assist with your efforts by attending briefings and providing materials
- ✓ Commit to support a process that is open, iterative and transparent, but ultimately leading to a Sound Transit Board decision

SAG membership responsibilities

- ✓ Work toward a preferred alternative that can be broadly supported
- ✓ Publicly support the process, even if not in total agreement with certain outcomes
- ✓ Disclose any conflicts of interest with the meeting facilitator
- ✓ If approached by the media, please represent your constituency's perspective, not the perspective of the SAG. You may also direct media inquiries to Kimberly Reason at 206-689-3343 or kimberly.reason@soundtransit.org

SAG operating guidelines

- ✓ Meetings will be led by a facilitator
- ✓ Follow instructions given by the meeting facilitator
- ✓ Everyone gets their say
- ✓ Openly share observations and views
- ✓ Be respectful and keep an open mind regarding others' opinions, ideas and viewpoints

SAG operating guidelines, cont.

- ✓ Listen to other members while they are speaking
- ✓ Engage in thoughtful discourse
- ✓ This group will not be a voting body. The group will strive for consensus; if consensus cannot be reached the group will share minority opinion(s) as part of its recommendation to the Elected Leadership Group.

Stakeholder Advisory Group



Meeting dates subject to change.



soundtransit.org/wsblink 

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**