

Ballard Link Extension

Community Forum
Oct. 19, 2026 | 6-8 p.m.



*Ballard Link Extension is a **first-of-its-kind** project for Sound Transit and the City of Seattle*



*Constructed through
Seattle's dense downtown.*



*Longest tunnel ST has
delivered on a single project.*

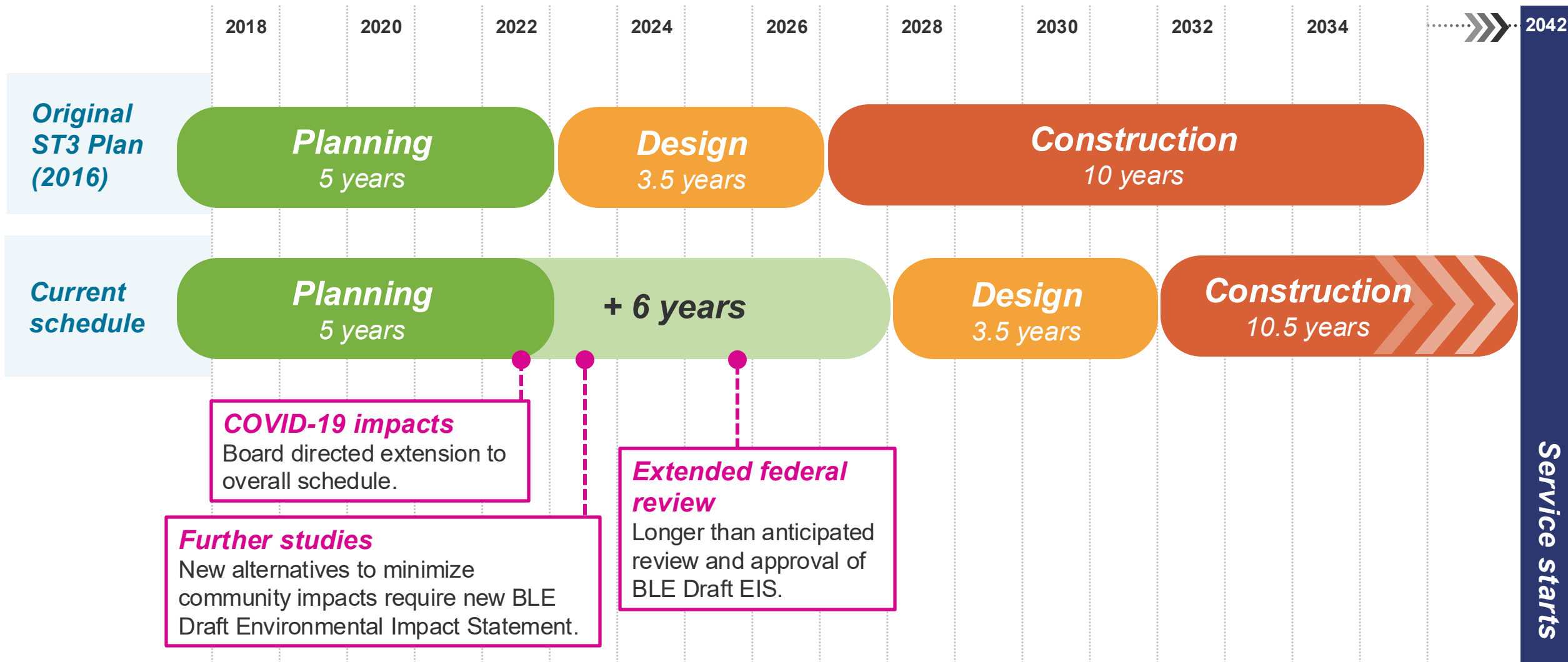


*First underground transfer
stations in ST's Link system.*

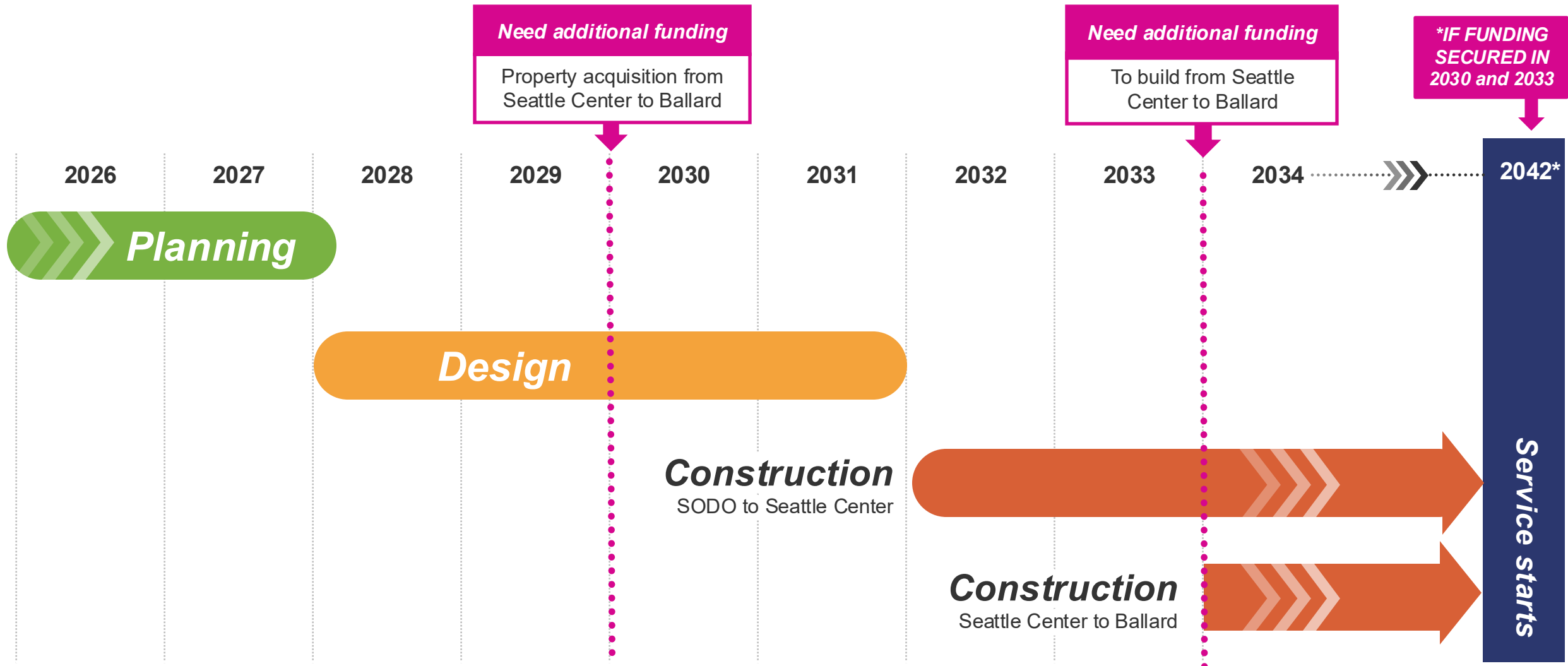
Bringing specialized experience to address unique context and complex challenges

We are bringing in experienced teams and lessons from major transit projects around the globe to help deliver the Ballard Link Extension project successfully.

Project schedule evolution



How to get to Ballard by 2042



Strategies for closing the funding gap

Cost savings

- Schedule refinements, including permitting and property acquisition.
- Design efficiencies and refinements.
- Innovative construction and delivery approaches.

Additional resources

- New financing tools and potential debt capacity changes.
- State and local partnerships (e.g., station-area value capture).
- Federal grants and other policy opportunities.

Driving optimization and cost savings

Past: Cost savings workplan

- Created an opportunity register with hundreds of potential cost-saving measures.
- Identified up to \$2-4B in cost savings during the Enterprise Initiative process.



What we're doing now: Design advancement

- Publishing the BLE Draft EIS.
- Targeting a range of cost saving opportunities in design.
- Streamlining permitting and property acquisition processes to optimize the project schedule.
- Reviewing innovative ideas received in response to Request for Information (RFI).
- Early procurement of an Engineering & Design Consultant.



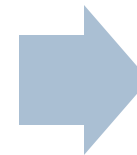
Seeking innovative ideas from industry

- **Issued a Request for Information (RFI)** to solicit innovative ideas and strategies to deliver Ballard Link sooner.
- Currently procuring an **Engineering & Design Services (EDS)** consultant.

Evaluate ideas
generated
through the RFI.



Identify new
cost saving
concepts.



Incorporate cost
savings and
advance to 30%
design milestone.

Financial tools and legislative priorities

- **Expand financial capacity:** Enable financing tools like 75-year, low-interest TIFIA loans.
- **Permitting reform:** Build on past streamlining efforts to simplify processes, reduce delays, and lower costs.
- **Additional tools:** Continue analyzing station-area value capture, federal funding, and financing opportunities.

Questions

Thank you for attending!

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