



Ballard Link Extension

Expanding light rail in Seattle

About the project

The Ballard Link Extension will provide fast, reliable light rail service to dense residential and job centers between SODO and Ballard. The project will add 7.7 miles of light rail, including up to nine new stations. It will also add a new light rail tunnel in downtown Seattle to expand regional transit system capacity and improve future operations.

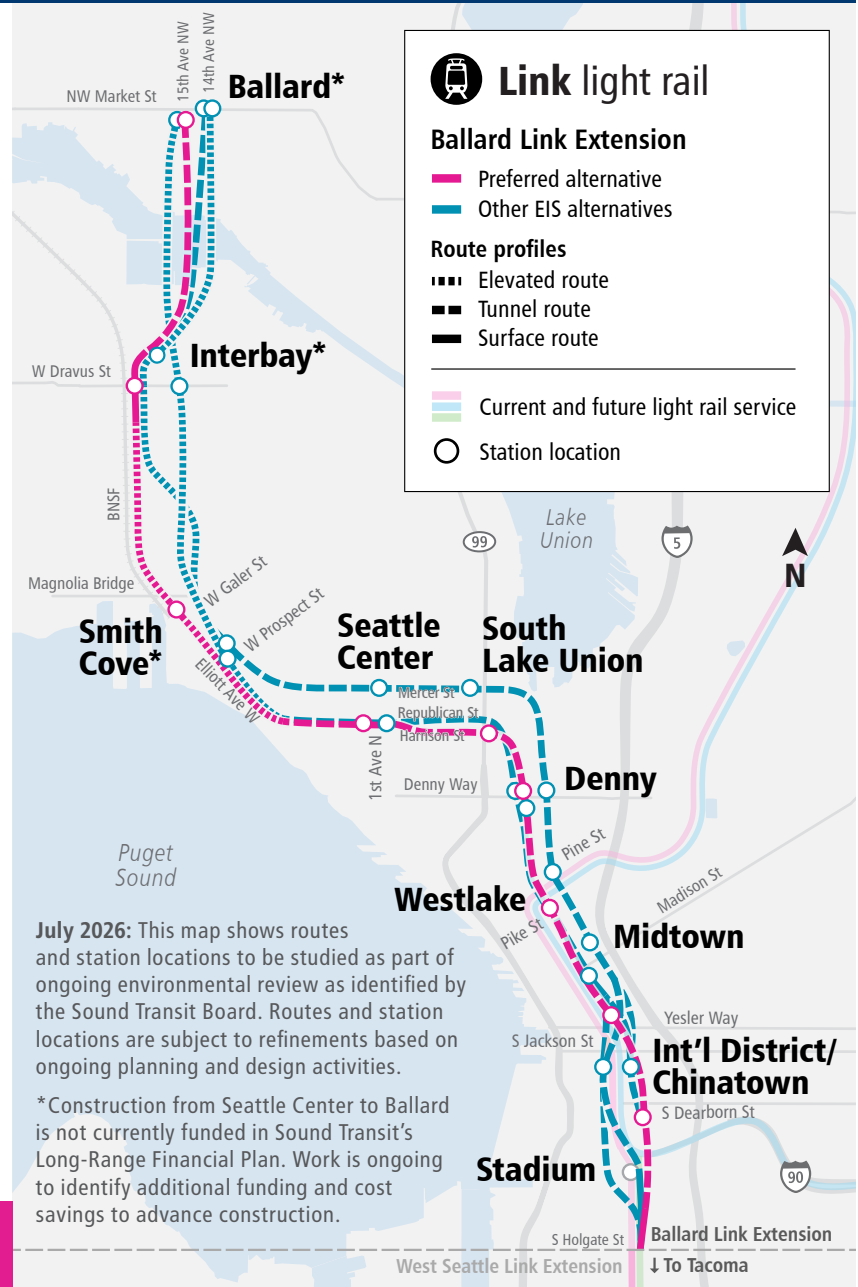
Project benefits

- **Faster, more frequent and reliable transit service** with trains operating on dedicated tracks, separate from car traffic.
- **Expanded mobility** by connecting people to local transit and destinations across the region.
- **Sustainable urban growth** with transit-oriented development promoting affordable housing and access for people walking, biking, and rolling.

Learn more, subscribe for email updates, and find out how to get involved:



soundtransit.org/ballardlink



Project timeline



*Service from SODO to Seattle Center Station is scheduled to open in 2042. Construction from Seattle Center to Ballard is currently not affordable but could open at the same time if Sound Transit can further reduce project costs, increase financial capacity, and secure the remaining construction funding.



Link passengers board and disembark a train at Roosevelt Station.

How did we get here?

Since 2017, we have been collecting feedback to help shape the Ballard Link Extension (BLE). We published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and held a public comment period for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions in 2022. Since then, the projects have moved onto separate timelines.

Because of feedback received during the 2022 Draft EIS comment period, the Sound Transit Board directed further study and additional community engagement. Following this work, the Board identified additional alternatives to be studied in the upcoming BLE Draft EIS.

What's next for Ballard Link?

The next major milestone in this phase is publication of the Draft EIS followed by a public comment period. The analysis in the Draft EIS and public feedback will help the Sound Transit Board understand community priorities for route and station locations. It will also help inform the Board's decision on modifying or confirming the preferred alternative for the project.

Questions?

Contact the Community Engagement team:
ballardlink@soundtransit.org or 206-903-7223.

The challenge ahead

Like many agencies nationwide, Sound Transit faces rapidly escalating costs in nearly every area of its work. In Sound Transit's recent ST3 System Plan update, light rail construction from SODO to Seattle Center is fully funded, with an anticipated opening date in 2042.

While construction funding from Seattle Center to Ballard is not yet secured, the updated plan keeps the full project moving forward and provides a path to completing the entire extension by 2042. We are committed to pursuing this path and will continue to advance the full extension through environmental review and final design while working to reduce costs, increase financial capacity, and secure the remaining funding needed to reach Ballard.

Stay involved

We are committed to meaningful public participation and strive to make it easier for people who have historically been excluded from public processes to participate. We offer in-person and virtual opportunities to engage and help shape this project. Reach out if you would like a project briefing or have other ideas on how we can engage more effectively. Community input will continue to play an important role in this project.



Interpreter 800-823-9230

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401 S Jackson St, Seattle, WA 98104 | main@soundtransit.org
[soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org) | 888-889-6368/TTY: 711 | To request information
in alternative formats call 800-201-4900/TTY: 711 or
email accessibility@soundtransit.org.

