



# Everett Link Extension

## Community Guide to NEPA scoping

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a public feedback period that provides an opportunity to learn about and comment on the Everett Link Extension project during the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. During this time, Sound Transit is seeking input from the public, Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies to determine what issues and alternatives will be included in the EIS. We will prepare the EIS in compliance with NEPA and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Sound Transit conducted public scoping under SEPA in 2023 to begin early work on the Draft EIS. Comments received during SEPA scoping are still valid, will be included in the EIS, and do not need to be submitted again.

After NEPA scoping, Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will review comments on topics, concerns, alternatives, and the purpose and need statement. **We invite you to share feedback with us through Aug. 28, 2025.** At the conclusion of the NEPA scoping process, we will prepare the Draft EIS in coordination with the FTA, with publication anticipated in early 2026.

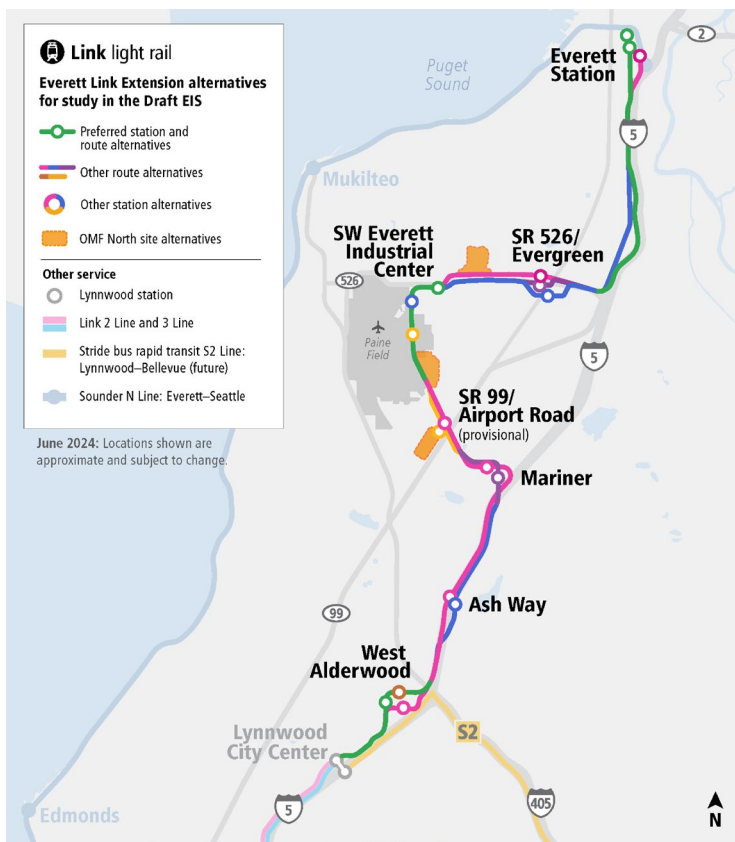


### Project purpose and need statement

A project's purpose and need is a statement of why the project is being proposed and the needs to be addressed. The purpose and need for the Everett Link Extension has been updated since SEPA scoping to reflect current federal regulations.

The purpose of the Everett Link Extension is to expand the Link light rail system from the Lynnwood City Center Link Station to the Everett Station area and provide an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) in order to:

- Provide high quality, rapid, reliable, accessible, and efficient light rail transit service to communities in the project corridor as defined through the local planning process and reflected in the ST3 Plan.
- Improve regional mobility by increasing connectivity and capacity in the Everett Link Extension corridor from the Lynnwood Transit Center to the Everett Station area to meet projected transit demand.
- Connect regional centers as described in adopted regional and local land use, transportation, and economic development plans, and Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.
- Implement a system that is technically and financially feasible to build, operate, and maintain.
- Expand mobility for the corridor and region's residents, including explicit consideration for those who use transit as a primary means of transportation.
- Encourage sustainable growth in station areas through support of transit-oriented development and multimodal integration in a manner that is consistent with local land use plans and policies.
- Encourage convenient and safe non-motorized access to stations, such as bicycle and pedestrian connections, consistent with Sound Transit's System Access Policy.
- Preserve and promote a healthy environment and economy by minimizing adverse effects on the natural, built, and socioeconomic environments through sustainable practices.
- Provide an operations and maintenance facility with the capacity to receive, test, commission, store, maintain, and deploy vehicles to support the intended level of service for system-wide light rail system expansion.
- Develop an operations and maintenance facility that supports efficient and reliable light rail service and minimizes system operating costs.



## The project is needed because:

- Chronic roadway congestion on Interstate 5 and State Route 99 – two primary highways connecting communities along the corridor – delays today's travelers, including those using transit, and degrades the reliability of bus service traversing the corridor, particularly during commute hours.
- These chronic, degraded conditions are expected to continue to worsen as the region's population and employment grow.
- Puget Sound Regional Council (the regional metropolitan planning organization) and local plans call for high-capacity transit in the corridor consistent with Puget Sound Regional Council's VISION 2050 and Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.
- Snohomish County residents and communities, including those who use transit as a primary means of transportation, need long-term regional mobility and multimodal connectivity, as called for in the Washington State Growth Management Act.
- Increased residential and/or employment density at and around high-capacity stations and increased options for multimodal access are called for by regional and local plans.
- Prioritizing transportation investments that decrease vehicle miles traveled, and their resulting environmental effects, is a goal of the state and region, as established in Washington state law and embodied in PSRC's VISION 2050 and Regional Transportation Plan.
- The current regional system lacks an operations and maintenance facility with sufficient capacity and suitable location to support the efficient and reliable long-term operations for system-wide light rail expansion, including the next phase of light rail expansion in Snohomish and King Counties.
- New light rail maintenance and storage capacity needs to be available with sufficient time to accept delivery of and commission new vehicles to meet fleet expansion needs and to store existing vehicles while new vehicles are tested and prepared.

## Scoping comments will be accepted through Aug. 28

Please provide feedback on:

- Project purpose and need.
- Potential topics to be studied in the EIS.
- Route, station, and OMF North alternatives we should keep studying.

Note that if you provide personal information in your comment, it may be published in the EIS, which is publicly circulated. You may choose to exclude personal information from comment forms, if desired.

## How to submit your feedback

**Online at [soundtransit.org/EverettLink-Plan](https://soundtransit.org/EverettLink-Plan)**

- Leave a voicemail at 425-243-6255
- By email [everettlinkcomments@soundtransit.org](mailto:everettlinkcomments@soundtransit.org)
- Comments can also be emailed to the Federal Transit Administration at [terence.plaskon@dot.gov](mailto:terence.plaskon@dot.gov)
- Send a letter to Everett Link Extension

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**Interpreter 800-823-9230**

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