



Everett Link Extension

NEPA Scoping Outreach Summary

July 29 – Aug. 28, 2025

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NEPA Scoping: Public Involvement Summary

NEPA Scoping Period: July 29 – Aug. 28, 2025

Project Phase: Environmental Review

1 OVERVIEW

The Everett Link Extension project will add 16 miles of light rail and six Snohomish County stations to the growing Link light rail network. We are also studying an additional provisional¹ station at SR 99/Airport Road. In addition, the project will include the essential Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) North that is needed to receive, store, and service a larger train fleet to support the light rail extension as well as overall system operation. The project will travel through the communities of Lynnwood, unincorporated Snohomish County, and Everett.

Until 2027, the project will be in the environmental review phase, which includes the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In preparation, Sound Transit conducted scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the Everett Link Extension project from **July 29 to Aug. 28, 2025**.

This report outlines public involvement efforts conducted throughout NEPA scoping, which provided opportunities to offer input on:

- The project's purpose and need statement.
- Which light rail route/stations and OMF North site alternatives to continue to study.
- Topics or issues to study in the EIS.

Participation by the Numbers

- **Over 1,603 users visited online engagement website**, which was available in English, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.
- **118 comments and questions** received from online comment forms, emails, and letters.
- **Two project email updates** sent to **6,295 subscribers**.

Scoping comments inform the ongoing environmental review process. The Draft EIS is scheduled for publication in 2026, with future opportunities for public comment.

1.1 Earlier scoping efforts

NEPA scoping followed two earlier outreach periods that also informed the EIS: Early scoping from Nov. 1 – Dec. 10, 2021, and SEPA scoping from Jan. 23 – March 10, 2023. During these outreach periods, the project:

- Held **two** virtual Early scoping public meetings in 2021.
- Held **two** virtual and one in-person SEPA scoping public meetings in 2023.
- Received **369** public comments and questions received from online comment forms, emails, and letters during Early scoping.

¹ Provisional stations are those with funding for planning, preliminary engineering and environmental review, but not for design and construction. Sound Transit will utilize the initial work if funds become available for design and construction.

- Received **1,208** public comments and questions received from online comment forms, emails, and letters during SEPA Scoping.

For more information, please see the [Early scoping](#) and [SEPA scoping](#) outreach summaries.

2 OUTREACH METHODS AND TOOLS

2.1 Notifications

Sound Transit advertised the scoping comment period and associated *Participate.Online* online open house (PO site) through various notifications starting July 29. This report is a summary of notifications (see **Appendices A-C** for examples of each notification) and outreach methods. For additional information, including a summary of comments received, please see the NEPA Scoping Summary Report. The NEPA Scoping Summary Report is part of the Draft EIS, which will be published in 2026.

2.1.1 GovDelivery project email updates

Two project listserv email updates were sent during the comment period on **July 29 and Aug. 26** to announce that the PO site was live and to encourage the public to submit NEPA scoping comments (**Appendix A**).

- **July 29** project email update:
 - 6,262 recipients
 - 42% open rate
 - 7% click-through rate
- **Aug. 26** email update:
 - 6,295 recipients
 - 42% open rate
 - 6% click-through rate

2.1.2 Email to partners

To continue building relationships with

community organizations and jurisdictional partners along the corridor, Sound Transit reached out to project partners via email. The emails invited recipients to submit NEPA scoping comments and spread the word with their communities about the public comment opportunity. Emails were sent to jurisdictional and agency partners as well as community organizations (**Appendix B**):

- **July 30** – Announcement of the beginning of the scoping comment period to agencies and jurisdictions.
- **Aug. 13** – Announcement of the scoping comment period to community partners.

2.1.3 News release

Sound Transit distributed a news release on July 29 to announce the comment period and invite NEPA scoping comments for the Everett Link Extension project (**Appendix C**).

2.1.4 Earned media

At least 10 items were published in local media about the NEPA scoping comment period. The articles announced the scoping comment period and encouraged readers to share feedback on the latest analysis of route, station, and OMF North alternatives (**Appendix D**).

2.2 *Participate.Online* site

Sound Transit hosted a PO site for the 30-day scoping comment period (July 29 – Aug. 28, 2025). The PO site provided information about the project's background and environmental review process, the project's purpose and need, early technical analysis of the current route, station, and OMF North location alternatives, as well as an online comment form for submitting scoping comments (**Appendix E**).

The PO site was available in English,

Korean, Russian, and Spanish. The site was accessible with screen readers, including descriptions of all maps, figures, and images available in the four languages.

The project team used the PO site's survey tool to collect NEPA scoping comments, in addition to comments received via email, mail, and voicemail.

2.2.1 PO Site Engagement

Most of the visitors to the English site sought it out through a link on the Everett Post's website (29.3%), directly through the URL (27.9%), or through a GovDelivery listserv email (23.7%), whereas over three-quarters of the visitors to the Spanish site and two-thirds of the visitors to the Russian site did so through a listserv email. By contrast, most visitors accessed the Korean site through a direct link (62.5%).

PO Site analytics by language	Number of users visited	Average visit length	Bounce Rate
English	1,585	2 min, 47 sec	43%
Spanish	4	3 min, 34 sec	16%
Russian	6	0 min, 49 sec	34%
Korean	8	1 min, 51 sec	23%

Full PO site analytics reports are available in [Appendix F](#).

2.3 Materials

The following materials were linked as community resources on the PO site:

- **Level 1 Evaluation Report:** A [detailed report](#) outlining Level 1 technical analysis of potential route, station, and

OMF North alternatives.

- **Level 2 Evaluation Report:** A [detailed report](#) covering Level 2 technical analysis of potential route, station, and OMF North alternatives. Technical analysis grew progressively more detailed from Level 1 to Level 2.
- **SEPA EIS Scoping Information Report:** A [detailed report](#) providing an overview of the SEPA EIS scoping process, the project's purpose and need, alternatives to be evaluated, and topics to study in the EIS.
- **Project Fact Sheet:** A high-level project fact sheet highlighting project background, the project map, and project schedule. Available in English, Korean, Russian, and Spanish ([Appendix G](#)).
- **Community Engagement Fact Sheet:** A one-page fact sheet underscoring the community engagement process, community engagement's importance, and project partners ([Appendix H](#)).
- **Community Engagement Guide:** A comprehensive guide underlining Sound Transit's commitment to equitable public engagement as well as the various outreach tools being used during the environmental review process ([Appendix I](#)).
- **Frequently Asked Questions:** A document sharing high-level responses to frequently asked questions related to the project ([Appendix J](#)).
- **Project Schedule:** A brief overview of the [project timeline](#), highlighting important milestones and the various phases of the project.
- **Property Owner Guide:** A handout providing information regarding how Sound Transit works with owners of

potentially affected properties (Appendix K).

- **Community Guide to NEPA Scoping:** A one-page handout explaining NEPA scoping. Available in English, Korean, Russian, and Spanish (Appendix L).
- **Fieldwork Fact Sheet:** A handout providing information about fieldwork, how it informs project planning and design, and the various activities involved in this process (Appendix M).

2.4 Comment collection

All materials advertising the NEPA scoping comment period encouraged the community to submit scoping comments and offered multiple formats for doing so:

- **PO site comment form:** Site visitors were able to submit comments online at <https://everettlink.participate.online>.
- **Email:** Comments could be sent to everettlinkcomments@soundtransit.org.
- **Phone:** Comments could be left in any language on the project's voicemail line, set up specifically for comment collection.
- **Mail:** Comments could be mailed to the Sound Transit office.

3 WHAT WE HEARD

A total number of 118 NEPA scoping comments were received:

- 32 emails
- 9 letters
- 1 voicemail
- 76 online responses

For a detailed summary of all scoping comments and feedback themes, refer to the NEPA Scoping Summary Report, part of the Draft EIS, which will be published in 2026.

4 NEXT STEPS

All NEPA Scoping comments gathered from the public were reviewed as part of developing the Draft EIS. There will be ongoing opportunities for the public to share feedback as design advances and as environmental evaluation work continues. When the Draft EIS is published, anticipated in 2026, a formal public review and comment period will take place. Public input on the Draft EIS will be considered as the Sound Transit Board identifies a preferred alternative and also in preparation of a Final EIS, anticipated in or around 2027.

4.1 How to stay engaged

Get involved



Request a briefing or meeting.



Participate in future outreach opportunities.

Contact us



Call the project line at 206-370-5533 to speak with a community engagement specialist.



Email: everettlink@soundtransit.org.

Go online



Learn about the project: soundtransit.org/everettlink.



Respond to online surveys.



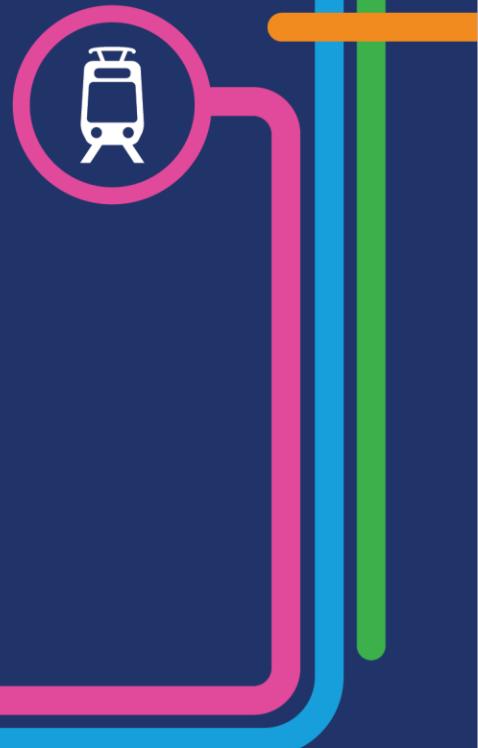
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