

At-grade Crossings Program

Updated Draft Master Plan

Board of Directors
5/22/2025



Why we're here today

In alignment with Motion No. M2024-45

"...(4) deliver a Rainier Valley Safety Master Plan of potential at-grade crossing safety improvements to the Board... followed by a systemwide at-grade crossing safety plan in November 2024..."

- **Updated Draft Master Plan**
- **Summary of Program Projects**
- **Budget Amendment**
- **Regional & internal coordination**
- **Engagement**
- **Next steps**



At-Grade Crossings Program

Created in 2021 to enhance safety at designated at-grade crossings.

- Includes all current and future operating Link light lines and the Sound Transit-owned Lakewood subdivision on which Sounder operates.
- Focused on near and mid-term projects.
- Initial focus has been the Rainier Valley.



Completed Projects



Link Light Rail



Sounder



Pedestrian



Vehicle

- + (Preliminary results indicate positive findings)
- (Not included in data analysis)

Project Type	Project Name	Safety Focus Area	Completion Date
Signage Enhancement	+ LED flashing no left turn signs		Mar 2022
Signage Enhancement	+ LED flashing another train coming signs at station intersections		Sep 2023
Signage Enhancement	+ Other signage updates		Jan 2024
Pavement Markings	+ R X R pavement markings in left turn pockets		Jun 2021
Pavement Markings	+ “LOOK” pavement markings		Sep 2023
Pavement Markings	+ Corridor pavement marking refresh		Sep 2023
Traffic Signal Enhancements	+ Leading pedestrian intervals		Aug 2023
Traffic Signal Enhancements	+ Retroreflective tape added to signal heads		May 2024
Traffic Signal Enhancements	• Signal reprioritization pilot		Jun 2024
Train Enhancements	+ Light Rail Vehicle Audible Warning Bells Pilot		Dec 2024

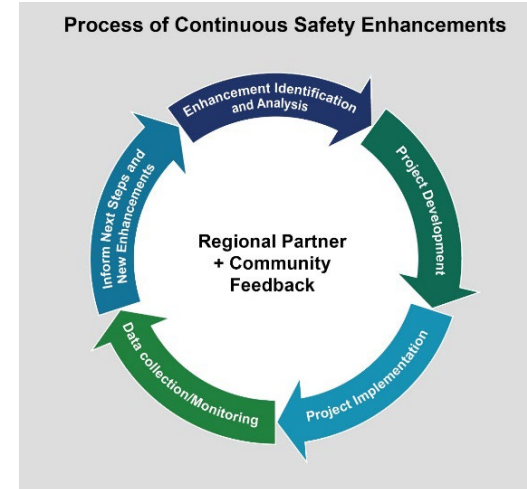
Program Master Plan

In alignment with Motion No. M2024-45

“...(4) deliver a Rainier Valley Safety Master Plan of potential at-grade crossing safety improvements to the Board... followed by a systemwide at-grade crossing safety plan in November 2024...”

The Master Plan establishes criteria and processes to identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential safety enhancements, while supporting the continuous development and implementation of projects.

- Outlines near and mid-term projects currently in the Program.
- Provides a transparent process for program and project decisions.
- Highlights engagement with the public and collaboration with regional partners.



Updated Draft Master Plan



Section 2 (Results)

- New Enhancements Maps
- Updated Project Table – optimized and repackaged

Section 3 (Phase 2)

- Updated to reflect process details

Appendices

- Updated data information (Appendix B)
- New enhancement toolbox (Appendix D)
- Updated project pages (Appendix E)

Current Projects



Link Light Rail



Pedestrian



Sounder



Vehicle

Note: All projects require coordination and a level of approval with authority having jurisdiction; the two Pedestrian Gate Pilots () require a more detailed review and approval.*

Project Type	Mode	Project Name (Near-term 2025-2026)	Safety Focus Area	Estimated Cost Range	Target Completion Date
Pavement Marking	Link	Dynamic Envelope Pavement Markings		\$800k - \$1M	Q3 2025
Planning	Sounder	Crossing Evaluation and safety analysis at Bridgeport Way S, S 74 th St, S 56 th St (Sounder Lakewood Subdivision)		\$200k - \$250k	Q1 2026
Planning	Sounder	Crossing Evaluation and safety analysis on 16 at-grade crossings (Sounder Lakewood Subdivision)		\$700K - \$1M	Q1 2026
Technology	Link	SMART Grant: Rainier Valley Safe Project Pilot, Phases 1 & 2		\$2.5M (Ph 1) \$15M (Ph 2)	Q4 2025 (Ph 1) Q3 2027 (Ph 2)
Planning	T-Line	Data collection, inventory, and input on new standards		\$500k - \$750k	Q4 2026
Train Enhancement	Link	Alternating (Wig Wag) Train Headlights		\$5M	Q4 2026
Project Type	Mode	Project Name (Mid-term 2027-2029)	Safety Focus Area	Estimated Cost Range	Target Completion Date
Infrastructure	Link	Automatic Pedestrian Gates, Stadium Station		\$6M - \$9M	Q1 2028 – Q2 2028
Infrastructure	Link	1-Line Enhancements		\$7M - \$16M	Q1 2028 – Q2 2028
Infrastructure	Link	Automatic Pedestrian Gate Pilot, Columbia City & Othello*		\$10M - \$14M	Q2 2028 – Q4 2029
Infrastructure	Link	Automatic Pedestrian Gate Pilot, Rainier Beach*		\$8M - \$15M	Q3 2028 – Q2 2029

Highlighted boxes indicate Rainier Valley focused projects.

Budget amendment – At-Grade work

- ***Request Board approval of budget amendment in June***
- ***Streamline projects (6) and combine into one At-Grade program***
- ***Increase 2025 budget and lifetime program allocation***
 - 2025 annual program budget: increase to \$13.1M (+\$3.3M)
 - Total lifetime program allocation: increase to \$89.2M (+\$70.8M)
- ***Long-term service delivery projects forecast has sufficient funding for system enhancements***

Budget amendment – At-Grade work

- Creates new “At-grade Crossings Program”
- Increases lifetime allocation by \$70.8M

At-grade Crossings Program

(in thousands)

Project Phase	Annual Project Budget		
	Adopted 2025 Annual Project Budget	Budget Revision	Revised 2025 Annual Project Budget
Operations + Maintenance	1,329	-	1,329
Agency Administration	2,382	200	2,582
Preliminary Engineering	605	180	785
Final Design	1,343	420	1,763
Third Party Agreements	-	450	450
Right of Way	-	-	-
Construction	4,115	1,580	5,695
Construction Services	33	470	503
Vehicles	-	-	-
Contingency	-	-	-
Total	\$9,806	\$3,300	\$13,106

Authorized Project Allocation		
Authorized Project Allocation (Current)	Allocation Change	Authorized Project Allocation (New)
2,816	-	2,816
3,466	5,134	8,600
4,437	4,934	9,371
1,946	7,656	9,602
-	2,155	2,155
-	-	-
5,651	40,179	45,830
63	10,742	10,805
-	-	-
-	-	-
\$18,380	\$70,800	\$89,180

Regional & Internal Coordination

Regional Partners

- Regional partners are responsible for implementing significant changes to their roadways and the operation of traffic signal systems, including:
 - Vehicle speed limit changes
 - Lane reductions
 - Vehicle & pedestrian gates
 - Restricted movements, closing or consolidating intersections
- Permitting
- Maintenance & Operations Agreements

Other Sound Transit Projects

- Share lessons learned and project updates and strategies
- Collaborate on safety enhancement projects to identify project efficiencies and streamline processes
- Develop design requirements

3-Year Communications and Engagement Plan

Three Focus Areas

Master Plan Engagement

Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

Ongoing Safety Education and Awareness

Began Fall 2024

Project Development and Construction

Beginning Spring 2025

Tailored, Equity-Focused Engagement

*Connecting with communities where
they are*



Winter 2024/25 Engagement

Crossing Safety Online Forum and Other Activities

- Communicated commitment to at-grade safety
- Connected with the community on the Master Plan and current projects
- Paid social media notifications in multiple languages

BY THE NUMBERS



Residences visited

~800



Businesses visited

79



Postcards mailed

13,816



Comments received

272



Community events attended

3



Briefings hosted

9



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Jan. 13 - Feb. 6

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SOUNDTRANSIT

Enhancing crossing safety At-Grade Crossing Program Overview

Link light rail and Sounder trains

What is the At-Grade Crossing Program?

The At-Grade Crossing (AGC) Program is a comprehensive safety initiative launched in 2021 to reduce incidents at locations where tracks and trains intersect with vehicles and people walking, rolling, and biking.

The Program includes safety enhancements and increased safety awareness and education efforts.

Why At-Grade Crossings?

- At grade crossings are critical points where safety, mobility, and community connectivity intersect.
- Safer crossings mean improved access for those interacting with tracks and trains, with fewer disruptions to daily life.

Our Mission

Achieve zero safety incidents and enhance the reliability of regional transit.

Our Focus

At-grade crossings on Link light rail, and Sounder trains, prioritizing enhancements in the Rainier Valley due to a high concentration of incidents in the area.

SOUNDTRANSIT

Spring 2025 Engagement

Community Safety Fair

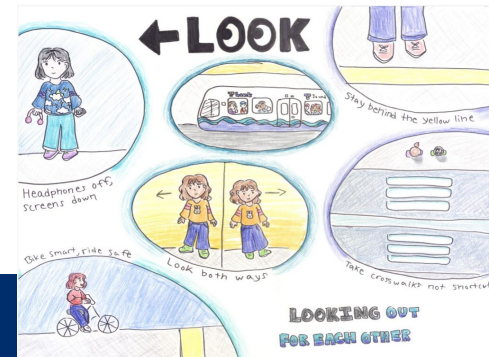
Over 200 attendees

6 community partners and 2 ST teams



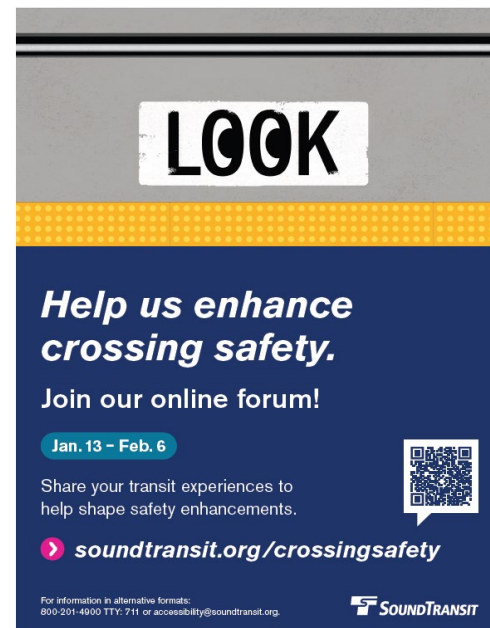
Youth Poster Contest

60 design submissions



Major Themes We're Hearing

- Positive or neutral responses to most presented enhancements, except for train bell volume.
- Physical barriers would help support safe behavior (e.g., bollards, vehicle gates, pedestrian gates).
- Traffic calming measures along MLK corridor would improve pedestrian experience.
- Grade separation of the train or the pedestrian walkways would improve safety.
- Preference for improvements/changes that would prioritize pedestrian and train movements.

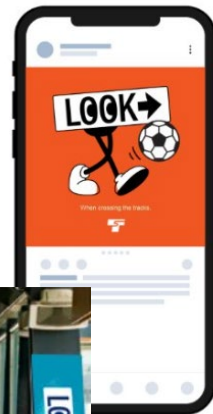
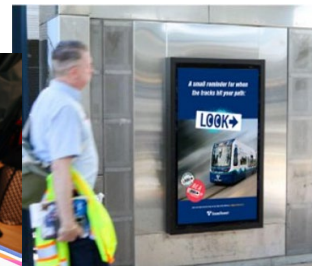


Sample online forum promotion

Summer – Winter 2025 Engagement

Continue **LOOK** safety education + awareness campaign and project communications

- Web + Social content
- Fairs and Festivals
- Stadium station domination (coinciding w/ Rail Safety Week)



Next Steps

Seek Adoption of the Program Master Plan and Approval of a Budget Amendment

- **June** – Formal request for a Board Resolution to:
 - Adopt the 2025-2029 At-Grade Crossings Program Master Plan and merge existing TIP projects to create one program.
 - Amend the programs authorized allocation to increase by \$70.8M.
 - Amend the programs 2025 annual spend to allow the At-Grade Crossings Program to continue progressing current project work through implementation.



Thank you.



 [*soundtransit.org*](https://soundtransit.org)

