



Ballard Link Extension

BALLARD LINK EXTENSION Q2 2026 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Ballard Link Extension outreach and engagement activities snapshot



Ballard Link booth staffers during World Cup K-Fest at Seattle Center on June 18, 2026.



Ballard Link booth staffer discusses system expansion with community members at CID Summer Kickoff on June 18, 2026.

From April through June 2026, our team...



Attended **2 festivals**, engaging **1,750+ community members**.



Sent **1 email update** to **12,500+ subscribers**.



Responded to **19 comments and questions** from inbox and voicemail.



Held **11 briefings and meetings** with property owners, tenants, and community.



Continued ongoing **fieldwork activities** throughout the project corridor.



Ballard Link Extension project overview

The [Ballard Link Extension project](#) (BLE) will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers in the Chinatown-International District (CID), Downtown, Interbay, and Ballard neighborhoods. In addition, a new downtown Seattle light rail tunnel will provide capacity for the entire regional system to operate efficiently.

Sign up for our email list to get project updates:

👉 soundtransit.org/ballardupdates



Fairs and festivals

We attended **two events** where we hosted booths and shared project information with the community. We engaged with more than 1,750 residents and visitors.

Events included:

- **World Cup K-Fest**
 - June 18, 2026 | Visitors: 1,169
- **CID Summer Kickoff**
 - June 18, 2026 | Visitors: 611



Ballard Link booth staffers chat with community members at World Cup K-Fest on June 18, 2026.



Email updates

During the reporting period, the project team sent **one email update** to more than **12,500 subscribers**. The message shared that the Sound Transit Board adopted an updated ST3 System Plan on May 28 and explained what the plan means for the Ballard Link Extension project moving forward.

The email also included an overview of next steps for the upcoming Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and invited subscribers to connect with the project team at community events over the summer.



Common questions and comments

The following is a summary of questions and comments received through meetings with property owners and tenants, community briefings, emails, and voicemails.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), alternatives, and station options

- Questions about how the Ballard Link Extension will connect with the system.
- Questions about how the Preferred Alternative process works and how station and design options may change as the project moves forward.
- Questions about the Draft EIS and Final EIS timelines, including how delays may affect the timing of the Record of Decision.
- Questions about the Draft EIS comment period timeline.
- Questions about whether certain station locations remain under consideration.
- Questions about how station consolidation concepts may factor into the Draft EIS.
- Questions about station connectivity, access, and future bus connections, including interest in planning around Westlake Station and the South Lake Union neighborhood.
- Questions about how community input and ridership factor into station decisions.
- Questions about how construction will be coordinated and sequenced across downtown, including how Sound Transit will minimize disruptions to businesses and residents.
- Questions about whether the Draft EIS will address transit-oriented development and station overbuild, and how that work would be funded.

Property questions and fieldwork

- Questions about how specific properties would potentially be affected by eminent domain or acquisition.
- Questions and comments about the property acquisition process, including timing, early acquisition criteria, appraisals, how business income is considered, and potential impacts on businesses.
- Interest from property owners to stay informed and engaged as project decisions evolve.
- Questions about options and assistance available to property owners who may need to relocate.
- Questions about property acquisition, relocation, and compensation.
- Comments and concerns about the condition and management of nearby properties already acquired by Sound Transit.
- Questions about how nearby property and land use changes could affect station siting and construction staging.

South Downtown Hub

- Questions and comments about coordination with the Sounder project at King Street Station, including current and future service levels.
- Questions about pedestrian lighting and crossing improvements in the area, including along the path between Stadium to Weller Street.

Enterprise Initiative and system affordability

- Suggestions for cost-savings measures and alternative approaches, such as Bus Rapid Transit or elevated guideway options, in response to affordability and budget concerns.
- Comments expressing support for completing the Ballard Link Extension amid affordability and Enterprise Initiative discussions.
- Concerns and rumors about potential project delay or cancellation, including how the updated ST3 System Plan and affordability gap may affect the timeline for extending service to Ballard.
- Concerns from property owners about how a deferred or phased construction timeline under the updated ST3 System Plan could continue to leave them in limbo, impacting their property values and ability to sell.
- Questions about permitting coordination between Sound Transit and the City of Seattle under the Enterprise Initiative.
- Questions about how the Enterprise Initiative may affect project timing, funding, and future Board decisions.
- Questions about how affordability considerations may affect property acquisition and station scope downtown.

Language access and equitable outreach

- Questions about how the project team is reaching people who speak languages other than English and providing translated information.
- Questions about how Sound Transit considers changes in population, demographics, and future land use when planning the project.
- Questions about what direct outreach the project team has conducted with communities along the project corridor.