



Sounder Rail Track and Signal Improvements

Project Description

As part of the ST3 ballot measure in 2016, voters approved improvements to the rail corridor between Tacoma and DuPont to enhance capacity and reliability for Sounder South operations. In response to the voter-approved measure, Sound Transit was awarded a Federal Railroad Administration grant in 2022 to begin initial design work for double-tracking rail lines on three segments of our track:

- **Segment A** - Near Tacoma Dome Station and Portland Avenue
- **Segment B** - Between South Pine Street and South 66th Street in South Tacoma
- **Segment C** - Between Lakewood and DuPont

Adding a second set of railroad tracks and improving rail signals in these segments will increase reliability for passenger and freight rail. These improvements will reduce chokepoints, allowing carriers more flexibility with their schedules.

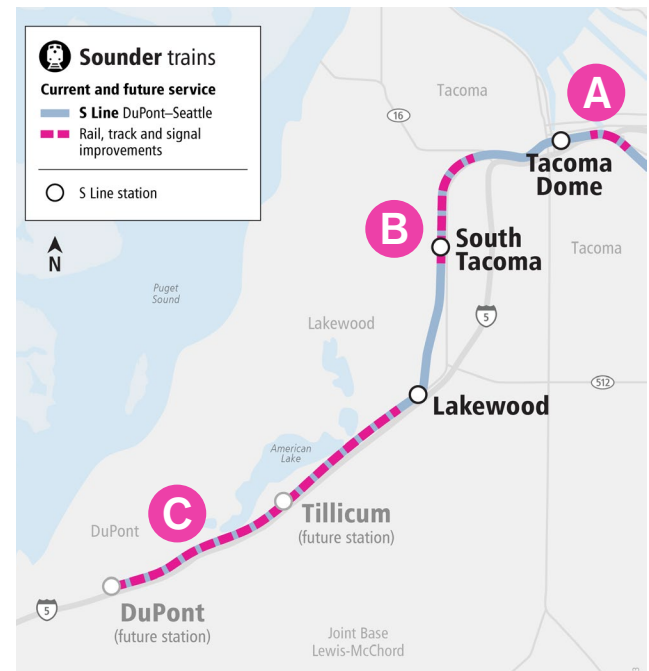
Benefits

Adding a second set of railroad tracks and improving rail signals in these segments will increase reliability for passenger and freight rail by helping to eliminate chokepoints.

Completing early work through this project will put Sound Transit in a position to seek additional federal grants in the future. Double tracking these segments opens the door for possible additional Sounder service along the South Corridor.

Community Engagement

Community engagement for this project focuses on informing the public about the project's components, such as the double-track planning and design, environmental review, and funding. During the current phase of the project, we will share general information to raise awareness about the project, its scope, timeline and objectives. This phase of engagement does not include detailed designs for public comment or formal opportunities for community feedback regarding future parts of the project. Subsequent phases of engagement may include more in-depth information, opportunities for direct input and venues for collaboration regarding design and construction plans.



The current phase of the Sounder Rail Track and Signal Improvements project involves initial design work to add a second track along three segments of our rail corridor.



Improvements to the rail corridor between Tacoma and DuPont will improve reliability for Sounder South operations and provide greater scheduling flexibility.

Current Phase

In 2022, Sound Transit received a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to begin early design work for adding a second track in three locations along the Sounder South corridor. This funding supports the following work:

- **Conceptual engineering** – This early design work includes evaluating alternatives, comparing costs, and identifying potential impacts. The goal is to select a general design option that we can use as a foundation for when the project moves into more detailed phases.
- **Environmental review** – This process examines how the project could affect the environment and nearby communities. It includes the analysis of potential effects to the built and natural resources in the project area such as transportation, noise, streams and wetlands. Environmental review findings inform project design and measures to avoid and/or minimize potential effects.
- **Preliminary engineering** – This phase consists of more advanced design work focused on the option selected during conceptual engineering. It includes refining cost estimates, identifying technical requirements, and developing mitigation measures that address the impacts identified in environmental review. During this phase, Sound Transit also works closely with partner agencies and stakeholders to prepare for final design.

This phase of the project is fully funded and is on track to be completed in 2027. After that, Sound Transit will be ready to move into the next phase of work as additional funding, such as federal grants, becomes available.

Current funding supports only the double-track portion of the project. Planning station improvements and overall project construction remains consistent with voter-approved plans.



Sounder South train passing through Lakewood.

Schedule

