



External Engagement Report

Mid-May – December 2025 (Q2 – Q4)

This engagement summary report highlights Sound Transit's community outreach for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) during Q2 – Q4 2025 (mid-May through December). This period followed the [Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) comment period](#) and includes community events, property owner and tenant briefings, and ongoing communications via website updates, project emails, and phone calls. Going forward, engagement summary reports will be published twice per year.

Engagement by the numbers



800+

Exchanges via the project inbox



1,755

Community members engaged at 11 fairs and festivals



14

Property owner briefings



5,970

Subscribers received 3 project email updates



50

Business tenants of an affected property briefed



Fairs and festivals

Attending local fairs and festivals is an integral way the project team connects with community members, supports local organizations, and shares information about the project. At these events, we answer questions, share project materials, provide fun giveaways (“swag”), and connect people to resources such as ORCA information and the Youth Ride Free program. This year, the project team staffed information booths at **eleven** community fairs and festivals, engaging with approximately **1,755** community members at the following events:

Date (2025)	Event
June 19	Tacoma Juneteenth Celebration
July 12	Tacoma Pride
July 19	Puyallup Tribe Pride
Aug. 3	Downtown Tacoma Block Party
Aug. 5	Salishan National Night Out
Aug. 9	Federal Way Community Festival
Aug. 16	Milton Days
Sept. 20	Federal Way Info Fair at El Centro de la Raza
Sept. 27	Taste of Federal Way
Oct. 4	Fife Harvest Fest
Oct. 4	Chuseok Festival



Project staff engaging with community members at Milton Days Festival in August.

We hope to see you at an event in 2026!



Community briefings and property owner meetings

The project team hosted **fourteen** briefings or meetings with stakeholders whose properties may be impacted by the project. These meetings help inform property owners about the project design and timeline and give them a chance to have their questions answered by subject matter experts. The briefings during this period often included conversations about the Preferred Alternative and related property impacts.

Sound Transit is continuing to refine project design and study potential benefits and impacts as part of the Final EIS. Sound Transit will not make final decisions about specific property needs or acquisitions until after publishing the Final EIS and the Sound Transit Board action to select the project to be built (expected in 2027). To learn more:

- Review our property acquisition and relocation handbooks
- [Property Acquisition and Residential Relocation Handbook](#)
- [Property Acquisition and Business Relocation Handbook](#)
- Email tdlink@soundtransit.org
- Call [206-398-5453](tel:206-398-5453)



Freighthouse Square tenant engagement

Freighthouse Square is a community destination in Tacoma that includes more than 25 independent businesses. The Board identified Preferred Alternative in Tacoma would require Sound Transit to purchase Freighthouse Square and relocate its tenants to construct a new station and guideway. This is not a final decision; Sound Transit will continue advancing design and will publish the Final EIS before the Board selects the project to be built (expected in 2027).

Sound Transit hosted a tenant briefing on Aug. 28 at Freighthouse Square to share project information, explain the business relocation process and benefits, and answer questions. Spanish interpreters were also in attendance for language access support. Participants included about 50 business tenants and family members, along with four City of Tacoma staff. After a short presentation, tenants participated in a live Q&A and then spoke one-on-one with project team members.



Project staff briefing tenants of Freighthouse Square about the project and answering questions.



Email updates

During this reporting period, the project team sent **three** email updates to project subscribers, reaching more than **5,900** people. Topics included:

- [Sharing next steps](#) including upcoming board meetings (May 5, 2025).
- [Announcing the Preferred Alternative](#) identified by the Sound Transit Board (June 27, 2025).
- [Updates on summer events](#), project maps, and Freighthouse Square (August 8, 2025).



Communications

The project team exchanged over **800** communications via the project inbox and phone line, with over 340 incoming and 460 outgoing communications.

Key feedback

The following is a summary of questions and feedback the project team received from community members through fairs and festivals, property owner meetings, community briefings, emails, and voicemails to the project inbox.

- Questions about the June 26 Board Action, the Preferred Alternative, and what selecting a Preferred Alternative means.
- Questions about the project timeline and feedback that people want the project built sooner.
- Questions from businesses and property owners potentially impacted by the Preferred Alternative.
- Questions about relocation support, who qualifies, and how assistance is provided.
- Questions and concerns about Freighthouse Square, its tenants, and how people can stay involved.
- Excitement about other Sound Transit projects, including the Federal Way Link Extension and the cross-lake connection to the East Link.
- Questions about station access, parking, transit connections, and walking and biking routes.
- Questions about ORCA cards, including the Youth Ride Free program for riders 18 and younger.
- Questions about other Sound Transit services, including Sounder and ST Express.

Next steps

Sound Transit will continue to advance project design and fieldwork activities in preparation for the Final EIS. The team will also continue coordinating with partner agencies, Tribes, property owners, businesses, and community groups throughout the project corridor.

In 2026, the project team plans to host focus groups to gather input from key communities on how we can encourage more people to use transit and how best to engage their communities. We'll use this feedback to plan station planning engagement activities and collect feedback from the public. Stay tuned for more information about these engagement and feedback opportunities soon.



A Sound Transit light rail train crossing a bridge over a body of water.