

# *West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions*

*CID/SODO*

*Community Advisory Group*

*4/13/2022*

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**



# *Agenda*

- Welcome and review CAG progress
- Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
- City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review
- Potential cost savings and refinements ideas
- Next steps and next meeting

# *Why we're here today*


- Engage with fellow CAG members in small groups to begin to identify issues and tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
- Preview draft City of Seattle comments on the Draft EIS
- Learn about the potential cost savings and refinement concepts that Sound Transit has been exploring


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# Community engagement and collaboration

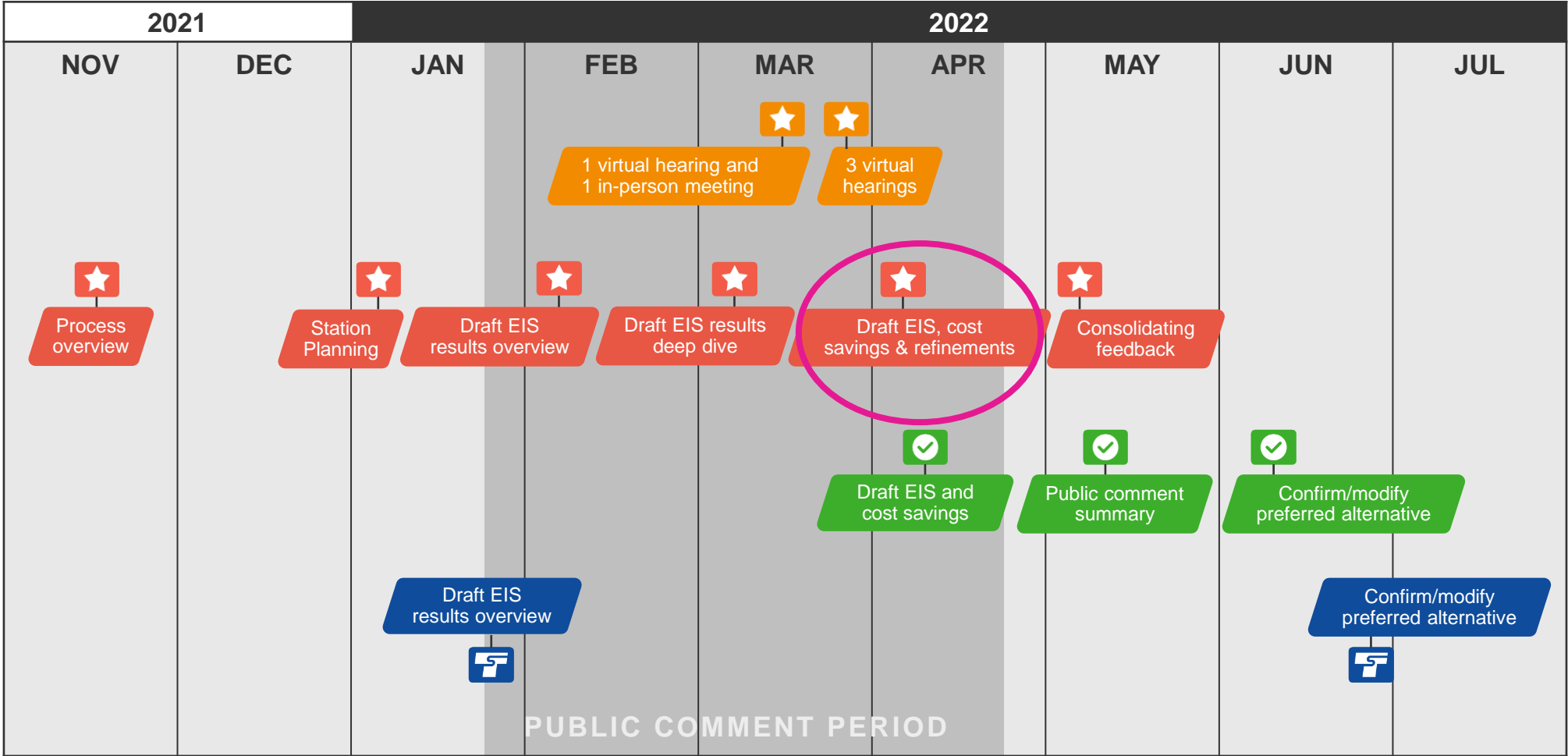
## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

 Draft EIS Public Meetings

 Community Advisory Groups

 Sound Transit System Expansion Committee

 Sound Transit Board



# *November CAG*

## *Process Overview*

- Introduction to **project timeline, environmental review, and alternatives**
- Overview of **CAG timeline and expectations**

# *January CAG*

## *Station Planning*

- Presentation of **co-planning partnership and roles** between Sound Transit and City of Seattle and **Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) outcomes**
- Presentation and discussion on **station planning** for the CID and SODO stations

# *February CAG*

## *Draft EIS results overview*

- Presentation and discussion of **Draft EIS findings** for the CID and SODO segments
- Introduction to the **City's role in engaging in the Draft EIS process**



# *March CAG*

## *Draft EIS results deep dive*

- Presentation and discussion of **Draft EIS deep dive topics** based on CAG feedback in February
- Presentation and discussion of **City review of the Draft EIS and potential tradeoffs**

# *April CAG*

## *Draft EIS, cost savings and refinements*

- Breakout group discussions to identify and discuss **key tradeoffs** between alternatives
- Preview of draft City comments on the Draft EIS
- Staff presentation on potential **cost saving and refinement ideas**

# *May CAG*

## *Consolidating feedback*

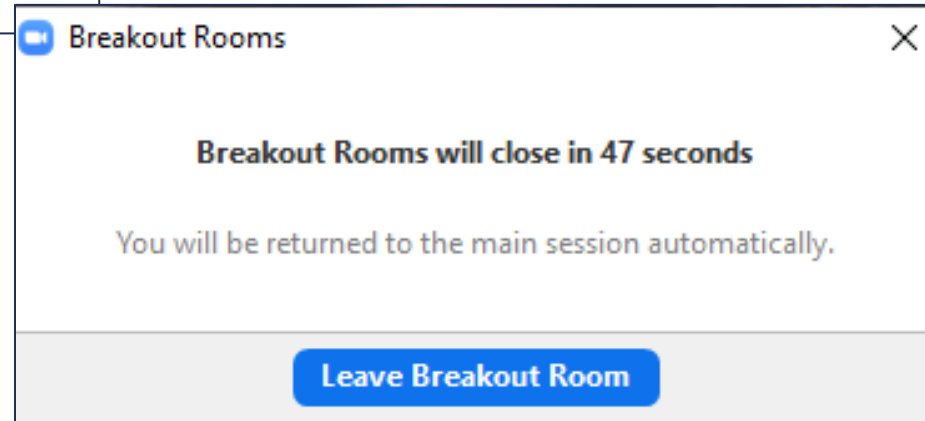
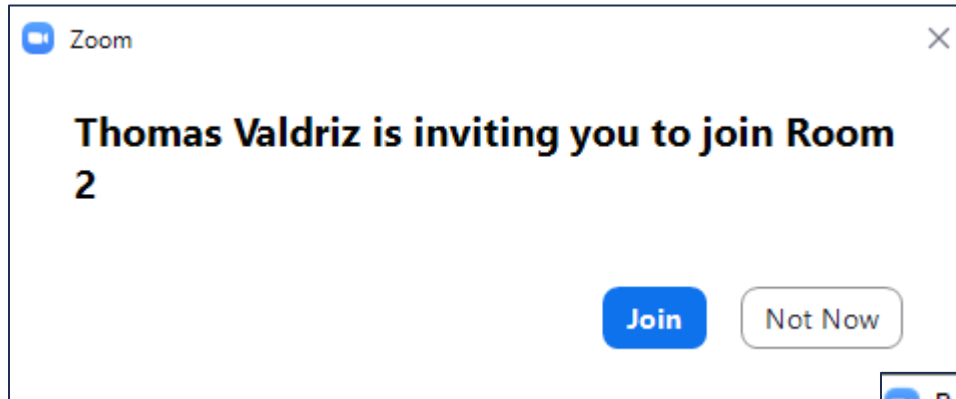
We will invite you to answer the following:

- What are your thoughts on **issues** and **tradeoffs** between the alternatives?
- What are your thoughts on a **preferred alternative**?
- What are your thoughts on the **cost saving and refinement ideas**?

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# *Small Group Discussions*



# ***Small Group Discussions***

***CAG members are currently participating in breakout groups and will return at 6:00pm to report out on their discussions.***

***Please stay tuned!***

# ***Report Back to Full Group***

***What issues and tradeoffs did your group begin to identify as you compare the Draft EIS alternatives?***

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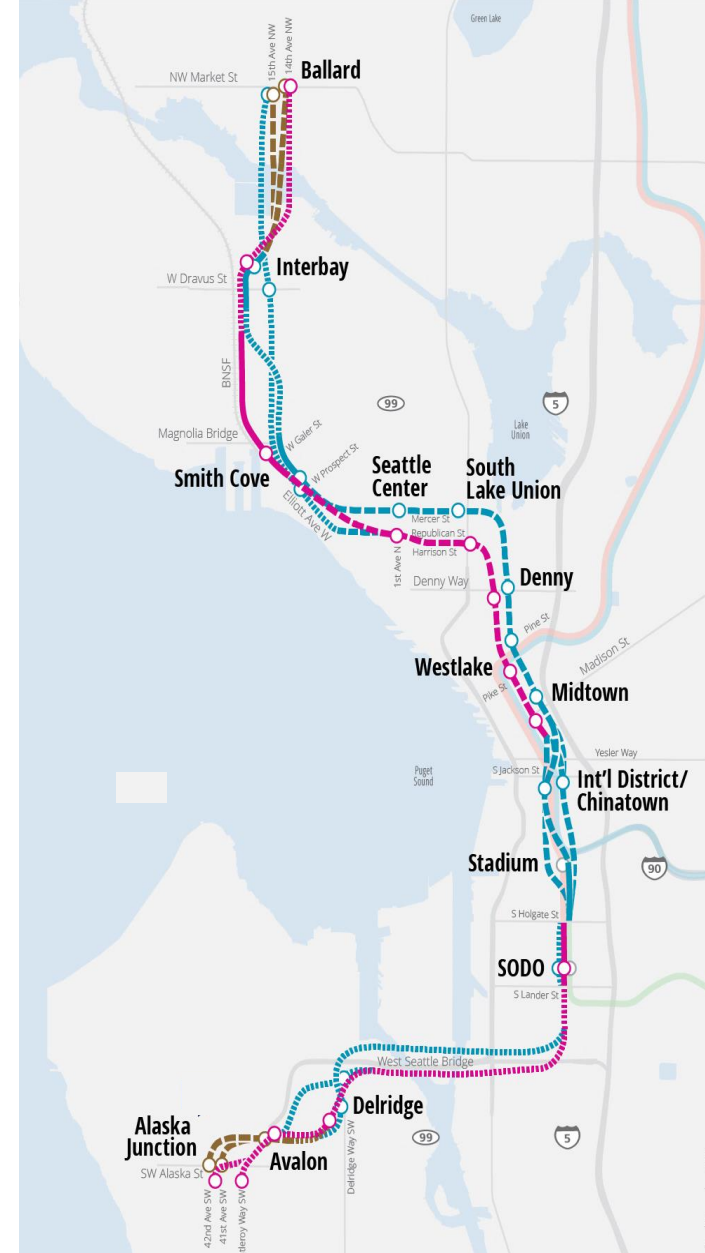
# West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions City of Seattle DEIS Review

CID/SODO Community Advisory Group Meetings | April 2022

# WSBLE DEIS + City Partnership

WSBLE is the **biggest infrastructure project** in our City's history—bringing both **transformative opportunity** and **significant impacts**.

The DEIS is a **critical early juncture** for the City to uphold our Partnering Agreement with Sound Transit “...to ensure that **environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures** are identified during the environmental review process...[and]...to work together to ensure that there are **no surprises later** in project permitting...”



# Context for City Comments

The City is both a **reviewer** and **regulator**. Our aim is to:

- Help advance the best project to meet community and City interests.
- Facilitate the streamlined permitting and construction of the eventual project. ***Critiquing the DEIS now is normal and necessary to facilitate permitting and construction later.***

In April, the City is sharing **draft** comments with community members and stakeholders—we want your feedback to help shape the City DEIS comments and eventual position on a preferred alternative.

The City is a **committed partner** to Sound Transit to support WSBLE and will work collaboratively to resolve outstanding DEIS issues in the coming months.

# City Scope of WSBLE DEIS Review

## **Review for compliance and adequacy:**

1. Does the DEIS demonstrate compliance with City Codes/Director's Rules?
2. Does the DEIS adequately identify and evaluate project impacts and include appropriate mitigation?
3. Does the DEIS meaningfully compare alternatives?

## **Review for additional strategic questions for the City:**

4. Does the DEIS adequately analyze impacts to BIPOC communities, propose mitigation, and further the joint Racial Equity Toolkit outcomes?
5. How does the DEIS information shape City position on alternatives?



# 1. Does the DEIS demonstrate compliance with City Codes/Director's Rules?

*More analysis is needed to ensure compliance with:*

- Guideway Impacts (SODO)
  - Noise regulations related to elevated and at-grade guideway sections
  - City stormwater regulations
  - Height bulk and scale
  - Light, glare and shading
- Cultural and Historic Resources
  - There is much narrative in the DEIS and technical appendix; but it isn't adequately supported by visual representation which would clearly explain their impacts
  - Impacts to historic districts; incomplete disclosure of impacts to landmarked facilities (e.g. Fire Station 14); and insufficient disclosure of community facility impacts (e.g. Summit Sierra School, Puget Sound Community School, etc)

## 2. Does the DEIS adequately identify and evaluate project impacts and include appropriate mitigation?

*More analysis is needed to fully assess impacts and propose mitigation for:*

- Construction impacts to traffic and transit
- Permanent parking removal
- Business and residential displacements—particularly temporary and permanent impacts to Chinatown/International District businesses
- City structures, including 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue S bridge
- Hing Hay Park (access, noise, staging, detour traffic)

### **3. Does the DEIS meaningfully compare alternatives?**

***More information is needed to support the comparison between alternatives at Chinatown-International District...***

The City does not find that it is possible to fully understand and compare the alternatives without more information on how the impacts would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated, especially:

- Construction management plan that demonstrates traffic and transit reroutes and detours during years of construction and road closures
- Mitigation plan for community impacts, including business and residential displacement and relocations
- Broader community benefits discussion to address cumulative impacts and historic harm

## 4. Does the DEIS adequately analyze impacts to BIPOC communities, propose mitigation, and further the joint Racial Equity Toolkit outcomes?

***More analysis is needed.*** There are several instances where the City finds additional analysis of impacts to BIPOC communities is needed. *Examples:*

- **Methodology:** Need additional analysis of BIPOC displacements and affordable housing, especially in CID (which is a regional hub) and Delridge
- **Methodology:** Need additional analysis of small business displacements; cumulative impacts seem under-represented
- **Mitigation proposed:** Need updates to the RET report, and coordination with the City to identify tools to reduce residential and economic displacement, such as providing support to small businesses during construction



# What do these comments mean?

The City is a **strong supporter of the WSBLE project** and intends to support eventual project permitting and construction. Between the Draft EIS and Final EIS, the City is committed to work with Sound Transit to ensure that the project:

- Complies with codes and regulations through additional analysis or modifications.
- Avoids/minimizes/mitigates impacts through modifications or a Mitigation Plan.

**We look forward to working with Sound Transit on the additional analysis and mitigation flagged here and in our detailed comments.**

The City Team will **continue our work with community** throughout this time. We aim to ensure that City decisions on WSBLE are centered in racial equity and co-created and truth-checked with community. City staff listen through a range of engagement opportunities: briefings, one-on-one conversations, letters, and workshops.

# Next Steps

## City DEIS Review Comments

- Continue internal staff review of DEIS.
- Share staff review comments at 4/19 City Council T+SPU Committee meeting and community meetings through April.
- Transmit comments to Sound Transit by 4/28.

## City position on a Preferred Alternative

- Joint Council Resolution on WSBLE alternatives in May/June.
- Mayor Harrell and CP Juarez engage in Sound Transit Board discussions in June.





Additional questions please contact  
**Nicole Kistler, *Neighborhoods***  
**[Nicole.Kistler@Seattle.gov](mailto:Nicole.Kistler@Seattle.gov)**

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***Cost saving and refinement  
concepts***

# *Context for looking at cost savings*

- In response to steep rise in **real estate** and **construction** costs, Board adopted a realignment plan in August 2021

# Realignment plan

- Board identified affordable program schedule, as well as **affordability gaps** to **target schedules**
  - WSBLE has an estimated project-level affordability gap of \$1.8B, based on current financial projections and cost estimates
  - Smith Cove to Ballard: Target delivery 2037; affordable delivery 2039
- Includes Board direction to intensively pursue additional financial capacity and identify **opportunities to reduce cost**

# *Work purpose and limitations*

- Initial assessment of **feasibility** and **potential cost savings**
- Based on limited engineering design
- Would require **further study** of environmental, passenger experience and other implications



# *Concepts we'll discuss today*

## Cost savings

- Potentially help address **affordability gap**

## Other refinements

- Potentially address **other risks or opportunities**

# *Desired feedback*

- Seeking Board direction on **whether to study any of these ideas further**
- Not seeking Board direction to adopt these ideas now

# *Cost savings concepts*

# *Concepts we'll discuss today*

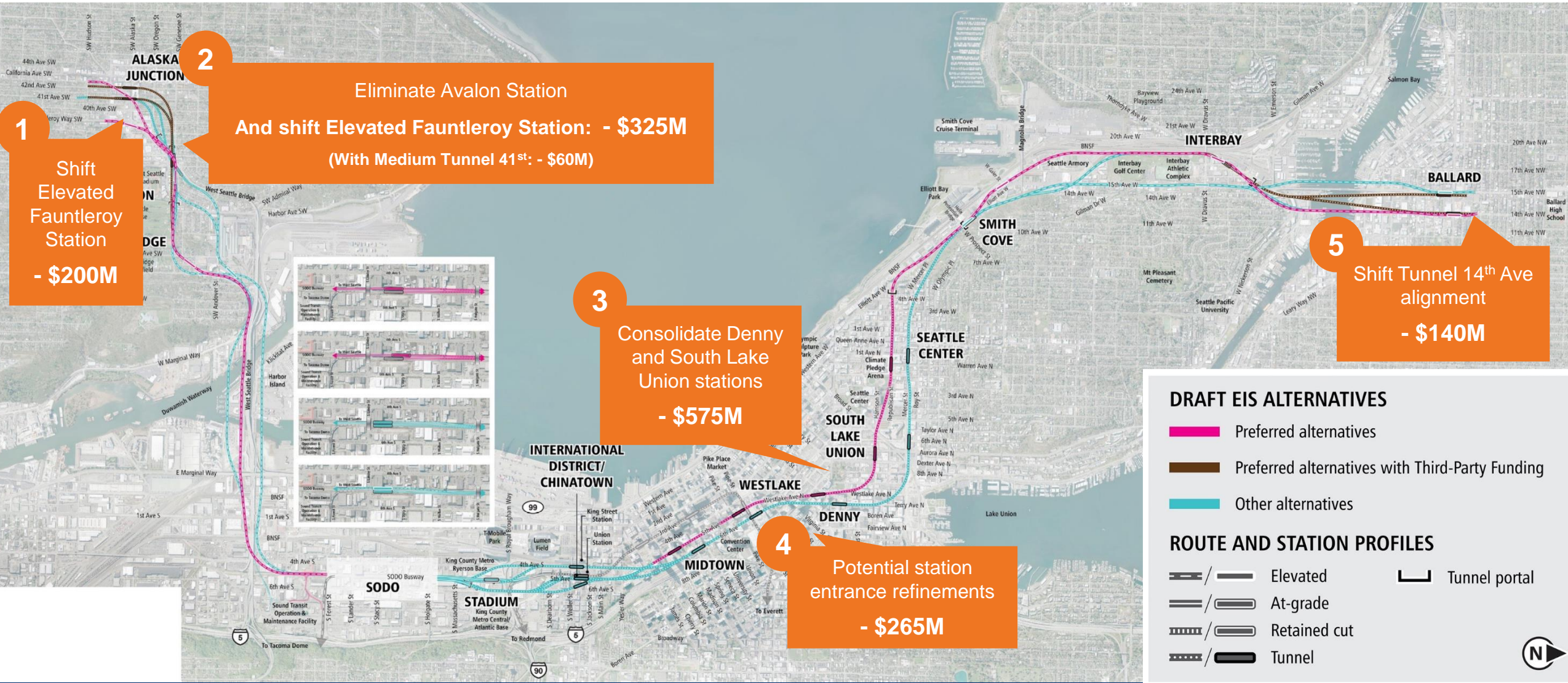
## Cost savings

- Potentially help address **affordability gap**

## Other refinements

- Potentially address **other risks or opportunities**

# Cost savings concepts summary



***Other refinement concepts***

# *Concepts we'll discuss today*

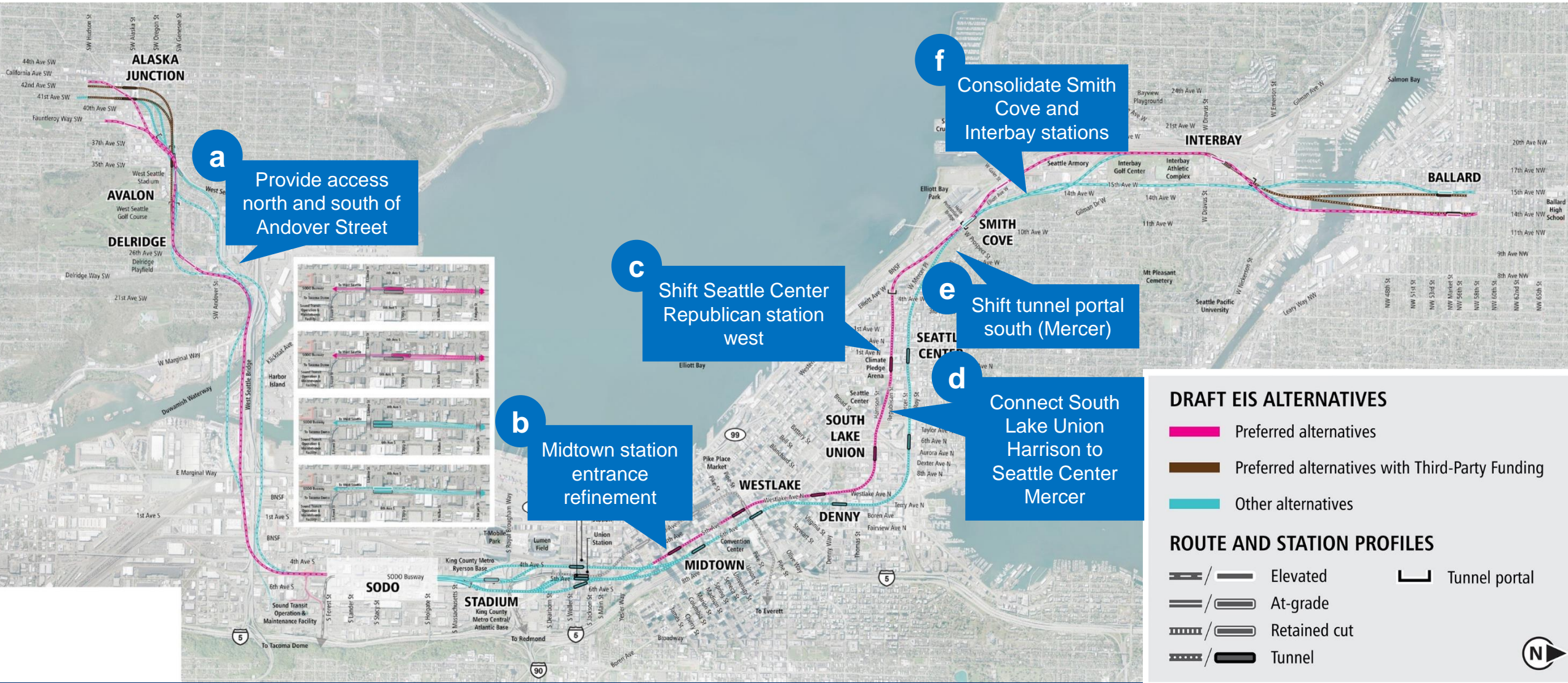
## Cost savings

- Potentially help address **affordability gap**

## Other refinements

- Potentially address **other risks or opportunities**

# Other refinement concepts summary



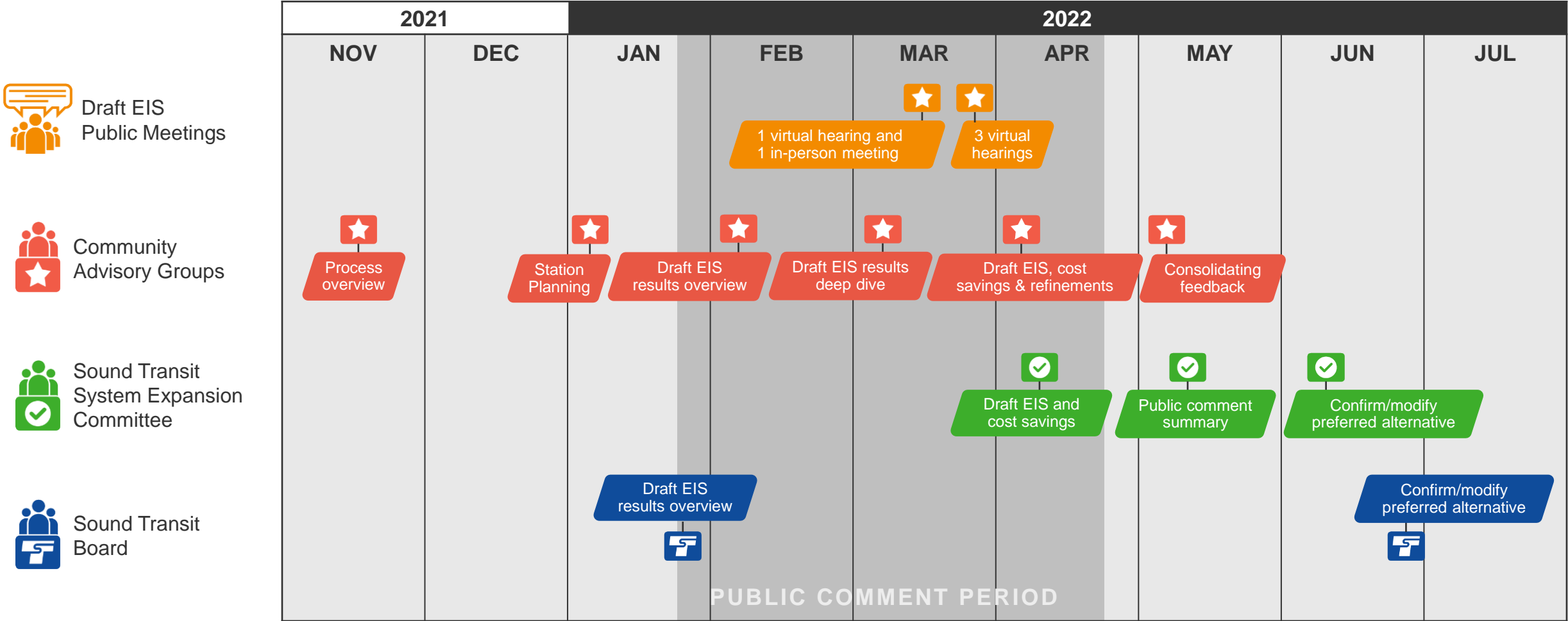


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# Community engagement and collaboration

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



# **Upcoming Community Advisory Groups**

## **Consolidating Feedback**



### **Interbay/Ballard Community Advisory Group**

Tuesday, May 4, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

### **Downtown Community Advisory Group**

Thursday, May 5, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

### **West Seattle/Duwamish Community Advisory Group**

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

### **CID/SODO Community Advisory Group**

Thursday, May 12, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

*Advisory group meetings are livestreamed and recorded.*

*For more information and meeting links, visit: [wsblink.participate.online](https://wsblink.participate.online)*

# *Looking ahead to our final meeting*

## *Please consider these questions:*

- What are your thoughts on *issues and tradeoffs* between the alternatives?
- What are your thoughts on a *preferred alternative*?
- What are your thoughts on the *cost saving and refinement ideas*?

 *wsblink.participate.online*

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