West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Community Advisory Groups

November 16, 2021
Welcome and introductions
Sound Transit and System Expansion
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
City of Seattle and Sound Transit partnership
Community engagement and collaboration
Next steps and next meeting
Meeting etiquette and accessibility

Upon joining the meeting, please mute your line when you are not speaking to minimize audio feedback. Unmute before talking.

Please raise your “hand” if you have a question or comment. Facilitator will call on you to speak.

One person speaks at a time. Please reference a slide number if referencing something on the screen and/or indicate who question or comment is directed to as appropriate.
Agenda

• Welcome and introductions
• Sound Transit and System Expansion
• West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
• City of Seattle and Sound Transit partnership
• Community engagement and collaboration
• Next steps and next meeting
Introductions

Please share in the chat:

1) Your name,
2) Pronouns, and
3) Your favorite destination near light rail
Agenda

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• Sound Transit and System Expansion
• West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
• City of Seattle and Sound Transit partnership
• Community engagement and collaboration
• Next steps and next meeting
Sound Transit District
Serving a region of over 3 million

40% of the state’s population
Approved by voters

Sound Move
- 21 Link stations
- 82 miles of Sounder commuter rail
- 18 ST Express bus routes

ST2
- 25 new Link stations
- More Sounder trips
- Sounder south stations parking and access
- Express bus expansion

ST3
- 37 new Link stations
- Three bus rapid transit routes
- Sounder north stations parking and access improvements
- Sounder south track, signal and platform improvements for more service, longer trains
- Two new Sounder stations
**Sounder trains**

- Service from Lakewood and Everett to Seattle.
- High capacity, peak-hour service.
- Speeds up to 79mph free from traffic.
ST Express regional bus

- 24 routes from Everett to DuPont to Issaquah.
Link light rail

• Fast, reliable service free from traffic.
• 25 new stations opening by 2024.
System expansion

Sound Transit’s system expansion means every few years new light rail, bus rapid transit and commuter rail stations open throughout the region, providing fast, reliable alternatives to congested roads.

soundtransit.org/system
Currently under construction

Link light rail extensions

• Hilltop Tacoma Link (6 stations, 2022).
• East Link (10 stations, 2023).
• Lynnwood (4 stations, 2024).
• Federal Way (3 stations, 2024).
• Downtown Redmond (2 stations, 2024).

Sounder

• Puyallup Station garage (2022).
Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Sound Transit and System Expansion
- **West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions**
- City of Seattle and Sound Transit partnership
- Community engagement and collaboration
- Next steps and next meeting
Project Background
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project (WSBLE)

- Included in Sound Transit 3 (ST3) plan.
- Two light rail extensions and new, light rail-only downtown tunnel.
- 12 miles of light rail service that will serve 14 stations.
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Project timeline

*Smith Cove to Ballard* Target delivery: 2037 // Affordable delivery: 2039
Learn more at [soundtransit.org/realignment]
2017–2019
Alternatives development

- Feb–March 2018: Early scoping
- Feb–April 2019: Scoping
- May–Oct 2019: Board identified preferred alternatives and other DEIS alternatives

2019–2023
Environmental review

- Early 2022: Publish Draft EIS
- Public comment period
- Board confirms or modifies preferred alternatives
- 2023: Publish Final EIS
- Board selects projects to be built
- Federal Record of Decision
Alternatives development screening process

- Broad range of initial alternatives
- Refine remaining alternatives
- Further evaluation
- Preferred alternative(s) and other EIS alternatives
Public outreach and involvement
Alternatives development phase: Jan 2018 – April 2019

5,600+ responses to your comments and questions

189 presentations to local community groups

26 neighborhood fairs and festivals visited

25 email updates sent to our subscribers

21 stakeholder and elected leadership group meetings facilitated

17 open houses and workshops held in your neighborhoods
Draft EIS alternatives

What we’re studying in this phase

- Preferred Alternatives
- Preferred Alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other Draft EIS alternatives

*Dates reflect an affordable schedule based on current financial projections and cost estimates, and a target schedule.
2017–2019
Alternatives development

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2019–2023
Environmental review

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Environmental Review
So, what’s an Environmental Impact Statement?

Or, “EIS” for short.

Provides agencies and the public an understanding of environmental consequences and assists in decision-making.

- Scope
- Range of alternatives
- Potential impacts
- Potential mitigation
What is typically studied in an EIS?

How a project affects…

Transportation

Natural Environment

Built Environment
What is typically studied in an EIS?

**Transportation**
- Regional transportation
- Transit services
- Arterial and local street systems
- Parking
- Non-motorized facilities
- Navigation
- Freight

**Natural environment**
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Ecosystems
- Water resources
- Geology and soils

**Built environment**
- Acquisitions, displacements and relocations
- Noise and vibration
- Economic effect
- Visual resources
- Parks and recreation
- Land use
- Energy
- Hazardous materials
- Public services
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Social resources, community facilities and neighborhoods
- Electromagnetic fields
- Utilities
Equity and inclusion

Environmental justice focus within each area of the EIS
EIS studies:

Environmental justice

- Describes demographics
- Evaluates whether project disproportionately impacts minority and low-income communities
- Considers potential project benefits such as improved access to opportunity
- Documents what we hear from outreach efforts
Alternatives
Interbay/Ballard segment
Draft EIS alternatives  Interbay, Ballard 

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives Interbay, Ballard

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only. This height could be adjusted through coordination with the United States Coast Guard.
Tunnel 15th Avenue Station Option (IBB-2b)

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives  Interbay, Ballard

Tunnel 14th Avenue Alternative (IBB-2a)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Interbay, Ballard

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Draft EIS alternatives  Interbay, Ballard

Elevated 14th Avenue Alignment Option (from Prospect Street Station/15th Avenue) (IBB-1b)

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South Interbay segment
Draft EIS alternatives  South Interbay

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- / Elevated
- / Tunnel portal
- / At-grade
- / Retained cut
- / Tunnel

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives  South Interbay

Galer Street Station/Central Interbay (SIB-1)

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Draft EIS alternatives  South Interbay

Prospect Street Station/15th Avenue (SIB-2)

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Draft EIS alternatives  South Interbay

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Downtown segment
Draft EIS alternatives **Downtown**

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Draft EIS alternatives

Downtown

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CID segment
Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

Note: The International District/Chinatown Station 4th Avenue Shallow Alternative would necessitate reconstruction of the existing Stadium Station.

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES

Other alternatives
Existing LINK

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

Note: The International District/Chinatown Station 4th Avenue Shallow Alternative would necessitate reconstruction of the existing Stadium Station.

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5th Avenue Shallow (CID-2a)

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

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5th Avenue Deep Station Option (CID-2b)

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SODO segment
Draft EIS alternatives

**At-Grade (SODO-1a)**

**At-Grade (SODO-1a Staggered Configuration)**

**At-Grade South Station Option (SODO-1b)**

**Mixed Profile (SODO-2)**

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Draft EIS alternatives  SODO

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Draft EIS alternatives  SODO

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Draft EIS alternatives  SODO

At-Grade South Station Option (SODO-1b)

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Draft EIS alternatives  SODO

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Duwamish segment
Draft EIS alternatives  Duwamish
Draft EIS alternatives  Duwamish

South Crossing Alternative (DUW-1a)

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This height could be adjusted through coordination with the United States Coast Guard.
Draft EIS alternatives  Duwamish

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Draft EIS alternatives  Duwamish

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Delridge segment
Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- Elevated
- Tunnel portal
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Dakota Street Station (DEL-1a)

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Dakota Street Station Lower Height (DEL-2a)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Dakota Street Station North Alignment Option (DEL-1b)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Dakota Street Station North Alignment Option (DEL-1b)

Dakota Street Station Lower Height North Alignment Option (DEL-2b)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Delridge Way Station (DEL-3)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Delridge Way Station (DEL-3)

Delridge Way Station Lower Height (DEL-4)

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Andover Street Station Alternative (DEL-5)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Delridge

Andover Street Station Alternative (DEL-5)

Andover Street Station Lower Height Alternative (DEL-6)

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West Seattle Junction segment
Draft EIS alternatives  Junction

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- Elevated
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel

Diagrams are not to scale. All measurements are approximate and are for discussion purposes only.
Draft EIS alternatives  Junction

Elevated 41st/42nd Avenue Station (WSJ-1)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Junction

Elevated 41st/42nd Avenue Station (WSJ-1)

Elevated Fauntleroy Way Station (WSJ-2)

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Draft EIS alternatives  Junction

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Draft EIS alternatives  Junction
Draft EIS alternatives  Junction

Short Tunnel 41st Avenue Station (WSJ-4)

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Draft EIS Alternatives  Junction

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Welcome and introductions

Sound Transit and System Expansion

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

City of Seattle and Sound Transit partnership

Community engagement and collaboration

Next steps and next meeting
Roles

- Evaluate potential alignment and station locations.
- Conduct planning, environmental review, and design of the light rail system.
- Build and operate new light rail system.

- Elected officials from the City of Seattle on the ST Board that will make final decisions.
- Plan streets, housing, businesses, & open spaces to make great neighborhoods around stations.
- Issue permits to Sound Transit to build stations and track.

Center racial equity for better outcomes
+ Co-planning stations with communities
Co-planning partnership

Station
Station context
Station area
Snapshot: Current City Work to Support Communities

• Engaging community in imagining the potential for different station locations and alternatives
• Preparing to make formal comments on the DEIS based on racial equity outcomes, neighborhood planning goals, research, and community feedback
• Listening to communities to guide decision-making toward a City position on a preferred alternative
Guiding Principles

- Equity
- Dependable Transit
- Vibrant Communities
- Climate Action

Community Survey Results: seattle.gov/lightrail

What is racial equity?
When social, economic and political opportunities are not determined by a person’s race.
1. Advance environmental and economic justice to improve economic and health outcomes for communities of color

2. Enhance mobility and access for communities of color and low-income populations

3. Create opportunities for equitable development that include expanding housing and community assets for communities of color

4. Avoid disproportionate impacts on communities of color and low-income populations

5. Create a sense of belonging for communities of color at all stations, making spaces where everyone sees themselves as belonging, feeling safe, and welcome.

6. Meaningfully involve low-income populations and communities of color in the project.
Sense of Belonging

What kinds of things give you a sense of belonging or make you feel welcome and safe in a place?
Agenda

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Current community engagement

Preparing for upcoming Draft EIS publication

- Online engagement platform: wsblink.participate.online
- Community briefings
- Fairs, festivals and tabling
- Equitable engagement approaches
- Outreach to property owners
Equitable engagement

Capacity building and reaching more people

• Exploring partnerships with community-based organizations
• Partnership with City of Seattle’s Department of Neighborhood’s Community Liaison program
Upcoming engagement

Publish Draft EIS

Collect public feedback
# Community Engagement and collaboration

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOV</strong></td>
<td><strong>DEC</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DEIS Public Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Advisory Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Transit System Expansion Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound Transit Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Process overview</td>
<td>Station Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 virtual meetings</td>
<td>2 virtual and 1 in-person meeting</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Updated November 2021. Meeting dates subject to change.*
Community Advisory Groups
Build understanding and common ground around key project decisions.

Highlight specific issues and trade-offs as Sound Transit works to deliver a project on the target schedule and within scope.

Share feedback with the Sound Transit Board before they confirm or modify the preferred alternative.
Structure

Start: November 16, 2021

Four community advisory groups (CAGs), by geographic segment:

• West Seattle/ Duwamish
• Chinatown-International District/ SODO
• Downtown
• Interbay/ Ballard

Monthly meetings of each group through Spring 2022 (schedule forthcoming).
Membership expectations

Act as a community ambassador, willing to share information with community members and bring forth community values, concerns, and ideas.

Consider the community as a whole and go beyond personal interests.

Participate collaboratively with group members whose views may be different from their own.

Attend and participate in approximately six-monthly meetings from fall 2021 through Spring 2022.
Try to attend all meetings.

Communicate with and update your communities regarding the work of the CAG in coordination with Sound Transit staff who can assist with your efforts by attending briefings and providing materials.

Commit to support a process that is open, iterative and transparent, and builds toward common ground.

Be respectful and keep an open mind regarding others’ opinions, ideas and viewpoints.
Operating guidelines

Meetings will be led by a facilitator.

Follow instructions given by the meeting facilitator.

Everyone gets their say.

Openly share observations and views.

Disclose any conflicts of interest with the meeting facilitator.

If approached by the media, please represent your perspective, not the perspective of the CAGs.

Or, direct media inquiries to Rachelle Cunningham: rachelle.cunningham@soundtransit.org.
Questions?
Agenda

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- Sound Transit and System Expansion
- West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
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- Next steps and next meeting
# Community Engagement and collaboration

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

### 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>DEIS Public Meetings (Process overview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Community Advisory Groups (Station Planning)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Sound Transit System Expansion Committee (Process overview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Sound Transit Board (DEIS results overview)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (DEIS results deep dive, Cost savings/refinements)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (Consolidating feedback)</td>
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### 2022

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Events</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (2 virtual meetings, 2 virtual and 1 in-person meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (Cost savings/refinements)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (Confirm/modify preferred alternative)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>CONSULTATIVE PROCESS (Confirm/modify preferred alternative)</td>
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**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

*Updated November 2021. Meeting dates subject to change.*
## December 2021 schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed. Dec. 8th</td>
<td>Interbay/ Ballard CAG</td>
<td>5pm – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 9th</td>
<td>CID/ SODO CAG</td>
<td>5pm – 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. Dec. 14th</td>
<td>West Seattle/ Duwamish CAG</td>
<td>5pm – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. Dec. 16th</td>
<td>Downtown CAG</td>
<td>5pm – 7pm</td>
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*Updated November 16, 2021. Meeting dates subject to change. Please check wsblink.participate.online for latest schedule.*
Questions?
Contact Leda Chahim:
leda.chahim@soundtransit.org

wsblink.participate.online