



West Seattle Link Extension

Q1 2026 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

January / February / March



West Seattle Link Extension



Where are we now?

During the first quarter of 2026, the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) team continued to conduct cost saving analysis and design validation in alignment with Sound Transit's Enterprise Initiative. This effort supports the project's goal of maintaining affordability while working to meet growing regional mobility needs. The WSLE team presented an updated cost savings workplan to the Sound Transit Board's System Expansion Committee in March.

The engagement team continued to focus on information sharing this quarter as design refinements progressed. While no decisions on these cost-savings measures have been made, the team ensured impacted community members were aware of potential design changes and answered questions through the project inbox and hotline, and continued to conduct briefings with individuals and community groups. The Board is expected to consider whether to include cost-saving measures into the project's final design in the second quarter of 2026.



Engagement highlights

- Responded to **41 community member** calls and emails.
- Attended **8 briefings with community members** and community groups.
- Conducted fieldwork engagement by reaching out through **email and door-to-door visits**, notifying residents and businesses for **3 fieldwork events**.
- Shared **cost savings workplan updates** with impacted community members.



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Community briefings and property owner meetings

The project team held eight briefings with businesses and property owners along the corridor from SODO to Alaska Junction. These meetings, conducted through both in-person and virtual formats, provided staff with the opportunity to connect directly with impacted community members. Briefings throughout this quarter focused on providing updates on the cost savings workplan and potential design refinements. Staff shared presentation materials and answered questions about property acquisition, individual property impacts, and what cost savings work means for the project timeline and final design. Staff also held briefings with businesses on Harbor Island to provide information on upcoming fieldwork and bi-directional load testing.



West Seattle Link Extension cost savings update

On March 12, WSLE project staff briefed the Board's System Expansion Committee on key cost-saving opportunities that would meaningfully reduce the project's cost estimate and reduce effects on the community.



Questions and feedback summary

The following is a summary of questions and topics most frequently brought up by community members through property owner meetings, community briefings, emails, and voicemails to the project inbox:

- **General project questions and feedback:**
 - Timeline for upcoming project milestones.
 - Concern over project timeline and financial feasibility.
 - Questions about transit connectivity when WSLE opens for service.
- **Construction timeline and impacts:**
 - Inquiries about ongoing fieldwork activities.
 - Anticipated construction schedule.
 - Upcoming bi-directional load testing on Harbor Island.
 - General questions about construction-related impacts to nearby homes and businesses.
- **Property acquisition and relocation:**
 - Timeline for the start of property acquisition and relocation activities.
 - Acquisition and relocation process for businesses, including eligibility and next steps.
 - Timeline for finalizing the list of impacted properties.
 - Requests for briefings from potentially impacted residents and business owners.
 - Questions about specific property impacts.
 - Questions about how the Enterprise Initiative will affect the final list of property acquisitions.
- **Cost savings work:**
 - Timeline for the Board decision on cost savings options.
 - Questions about how cost savings analysis will impact project design.
 - Questions and comments about the elimination of the Avalon Station.
 - Questions about the project design presented in the cost savings workplan.