



# *West Seattle Link Extension*

## **Q2 2025 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

April / May / June 2025



# West Seattle Link Extension



## Where are we now on the road to the West Seattle Link Extension?

On April 29, 2025, the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) reached a major milestone with the Federal Transit Administration's issuance of the project's Record of Decision (ROD). This is the final step in wrapping up the planning and environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Sound Transit will now advance the West Seattle Link Extension Project final design.

Jacobs Engineering has been selected as the final designer for the WSLE and is kicking off the effort with a six-month design validation and cost-saving analysis period. During this phase, Jacobs will closely evaluate the preliminary design, confirm construction feasibility, and validate opportunities to reduce overall project costs. Potential adjustments may include exploring innovative construction methods, updated contracting strategies, and refinements to station designs—all aimed at delivering a high-quality light rail system that meets community needs.



### Engagement highlights

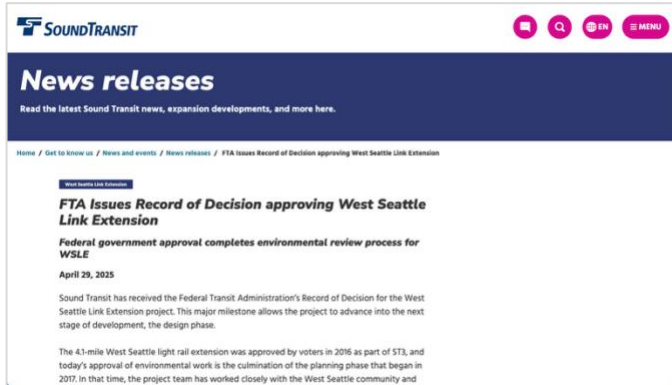
- **Responded to 38 community member** calls and emails.
- **Attended 5 briefings** with community members and community groups.
- **Shared key information** about the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Record of Decision, officially wrapping up the environmental review process.
- Conducted door-to-door fieldwork engagement **providing notifications to 22 residents and businesses.**



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## Federal Record of Decision



The Federal Transit Administration issued a Record of Decision (ROD) for the West Seattle Link Extension on April 29, 2025. The ROD marks the end of the project’s environmental review phase and authorizes Sound Transit to move into final design and construction. To help the public understand what the ROD means for the project, Sound

Transit shared the announcement through a press release and the project’s online open house. Community engagement activities in Q2 focused on keeping community members and potentially impacted property owners informed about the timeline ahead, including a six-month phase dedicated to design validation and cost-saving opportunities in 2025.



## Community briefings and property owner meetings

The project team held five briefings with community groups and property owners along the corridor from SODO to the Alaska Junction. These meetings - conducted through a mix of in-person and virtual formats - provided updates on the anticipated timing of property acquisition and construction, as well as the scope of the design validation phase. Staff shared a project factsheet and presentation materials and answered questions about what the transition into final design means for individual properties, neighborhoods, and the broader project.



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## Questions and feedback summary

The following is a summary of questions and feedback the project team received from 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.
  - Confirmation of the final route and station locations.
  - Questions about project financial feasibility and funding.
  - How transit connections will function once the line is open.
- **Construction timeline and impacts:**
  - Anticipated construction schedule.
  - Impacts to traffic in West Seattle during and after construction.
  - Effects and timing of the 230kV transmission line relocation.
  - General questions about construction-related impacts to nearby homes and businesses.
- **Questions and feedback about routes and design:**
  - Route alignment through the Duwamish segment.
  - Timeline for finalizing the list of impacted properties.
  - Requests for updated project maps and visual materials.
- **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.
  - Compensation and support available to property owners and tenants impacted by property acquisition.
  - Timeline for the first package of properties to be acquired.
  - Requests for briefings from potentially impacted residents and business owners.
  - Questions about specific property impacts, including Jefferson Square and the West Seattle Health Club