Enhancing crossing safety

At-Grade Crossing Program



What is the At-Grade Crossing Program?

The At-Grade Crossing Program is a comprehensive safety initiative launched in 2021 to reduce incidents at locations where tracks and trains intersect with vehicles and people walking, rolling, and biking. The Program includes safety enhancements and increased safety awareness and education efforts.

Our Mission

Achieve zero safety incidents and enhance the reliability of regional transit.



Sound Transit system map as of March 2026 highlighting at-grade segments.

Why At-Grade Crossings?

- At-grade crossings are critical points where safety, mobility, and community connectivity intersect.
- Safer crossings mean improved experiences for those interacting with tracks and trains.



Our Focus

At-grade crossings on Link light rail, and Sounder trains, prioritizing enhancements in the Rainier Valley due to a high concentration of incidents in the area.

Key Highlights

Completed Projects

11 enhancements, including:



Dynamic LED "Another Train Coming" signs



Pavement marking refresh for better visibility



Traffic signal upgrades with leading pedestrian intervals

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Here's what to expect:

In partnership with other regional transportation agencies, the Program is implementing safety enhancements at at-grade crossings systemwide, but the Rainier Valley, with its history of the most safety incidents, is an early priority. Planned enhancements like automatic pedestrian gates, smarter safety systems, and enhanced signage aim to create safer, more reliable crossings, addressing the area's unique challenges.

The 2025–2029 At-Grade Crossing Program Master Plan establishes Program projects and processes to identify, evaluate, and prioritize potential safety enhancements, allowing for the ongoing development and implementation of projects throughout its duration. More information about current near- and mid-term projects can be found in the Program Master Plan.



Below is a summary of our projects:

ACTIVE PROJECTS

PROJECT TYPE	SAFETY FOCUS AREA			PROJECT DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	Train	Pedestrian	Vehicle		
Train Enhancements	✓			Increase volume of train bells pilot	Monitoring
	✓	✓	✓	Alternating headlights on trains	Installing/Design
Pavement Markings		✓	✓	Pavement markings to enhance trackway visibility	Monitoring
Technology	✓	✓	✓	SMART Grant Phase 1 Rainier Valley Safe project pilot	Monitoring
Infrastructure Projects		✓	✓	Potential enhancements include static and LED signage, fencing upgrades, pavement markings, and tactile warning strips in the Rainier Valley	Design
		✓		Pedestrian gates/arms at Stadium, Columbia City*, Othello*, and Rainier Beach* Stations **Pilot, pending final partner approval*	Design

Contact us

If you have a question or comment, please contact:

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