



## Fall 2018 Open House Outreach Summary

### Overview

Sound Transit is building a new garage and improving access at Auburn Station so more people can conveniently access the Sounder train and local bus service. In 2017, Sound Transit worked closely with the City of Auburn and collected community feedback to help identify a site for the new parking garage. In November 2017, the Sound Transit Board identified the site at 1st Street NW and A Street NW as the preferred site for a new parking garage with approximately 535 new spaces.

In fall 2018, Sound Transit held an online open house from Oct. 15 – Nov. 2 and an in-person open house on Oct. 30 to share updated early concepts for the new garage as well as potential bike, bus and pedestrian improvements and gather community feedback. Overall, more than 175 people participated in-person or through the online open house, resulting in more than 80 written comments. The outreach was publicized through a mailing to over 1,800 residents and businesses, promotion on social media, handouts and signs at Auburn Station, posters at local businesses, and other methods.

The following summary includes common themes from the community feedback with responses from Sound Transit.



Oct.,30, 2018: Open house participants talk to Sound Transit staff at Auburn City Hall.

### Outreach by the numbers



Over 175 people participated online or in-person resulting in 80+ written comments



Over 160 users visited the online open house from Oct. 15 – Nov. 2



More than 15 people attended the Oct. 30 open house at Auburn City Council Chambers



Interactions with over 200 people at tabling events and community presentations since summer 2018



More than 1,800 postcards mailed to homes and businesses within a half mile of the station



Over 300 postcards distributed to station users at Auburn Station



Two project email updates sent to over 800 recipients



Two posts on Facebook and Twitter that reached over 7,000 people

# Auburn Station Parking and Access Improvements

## Summary of comments received

Visitors to the online and in-person open house were asked for feedback about the early garage concept and potential options for improving pedestrian, bicycle and bus access to Auburn Station. Participants completed more than 80 comments between the online and in-person open house options.

## Parking garage

Respondents were asked if they had questions or concerns about the garage concept. Common themes and example comments are listed below.

- Requests for **additional parking**, beyond the planned 535 new parking spaces.
  - *"Think FUTURE! By the 2023 opening date, we will need even more parking!"*
  - *"Make it twice as big."*
- Questions about **how the spaces will be allocated** (including spaces for retail, permit parking, city employees, etc.).
  - *"What percentage of spots in both garages will be reserved for permits or retail only?"*
  - *"Will this garage be shared with City Hall or Auburn MultiCare employees?"*
- Questions about **garage location**.
  - *"Why not build a garage over the existing surface parking?"*
  - *"It seems a bit far away but I would still use it."*
- Questions about **traffic or needs for new road infrastructure** near the garage.
  - *"Are you working with the City of Auburn on improving roadways leading in/out of the new garage?"*
- Questions about **lighting, safety and security**.
  - *"Will the pedestrian walkways to the garage be lighted?"*
  - *"Will there be increased security along the walk from the garage to the platform/station?"*



## Sound Transit response

**Garage size** – The amount of new parking is based on funding levels approved by voters. Sound Transit is also building new voter-approved new garages at Kent, Sumner, and Puyallup stations. By 2024, there will be a total of 8,400 Sounder South parking stalls.

**Garage location** – In 2017, Sound Transit evaluated four potential sites for the garage based on criteria including improved access, feasibility and cost. The site at 1st Street NW and A Street NW was chosen as the preferred option as it

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best met all the criteria. The Sound Transit surface lot west of the tracks was not selected due to the size and constraints of the site. Information about the site selection process can be viewed in the [September 2017 open house materials](#).

**Allocation of spaces** – The new garage will serve transit users with approximately 535 new parking spaces. Some of these spaces may be reserved for transit commuters who arrive by carpool or single-occupancy vehicle permit parking. At least half of the 535 spaces will remain free and first-come, first-served for commuters; see [permit parking FAQ](#) for more details. There may be additional spaces in the new garage reserved for non-transit riders. Sound Transit and the City of Auburn will determine a parking agreement as design for the garage progresses. We do not anticipate any stalls will be reserved for customers of local businesses.

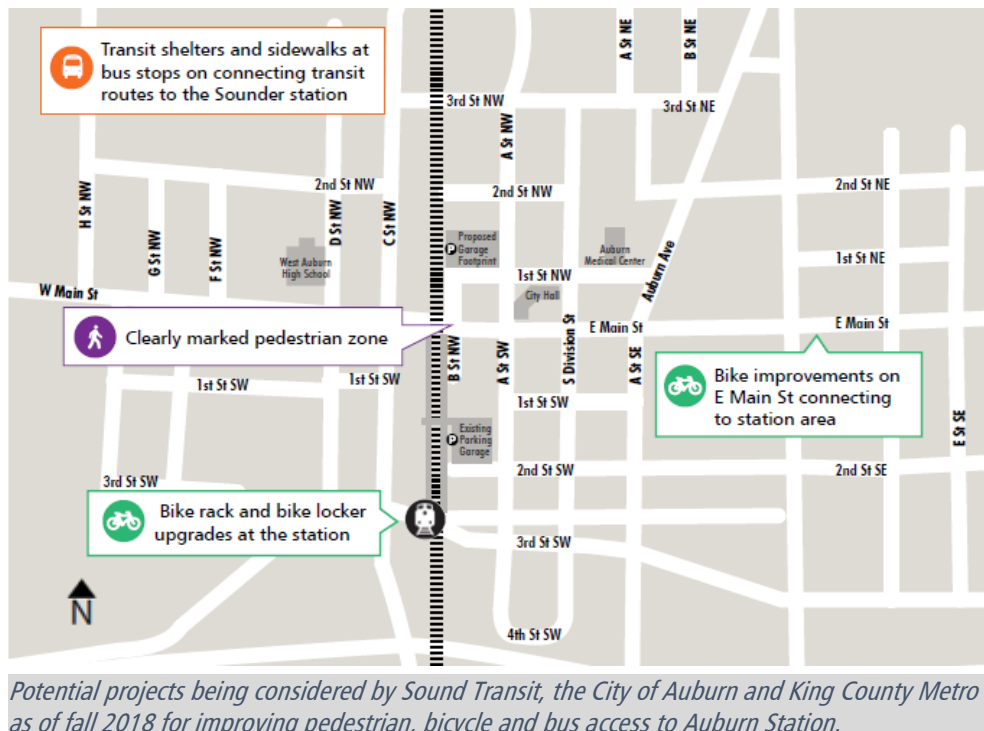
**Traffic impacts** – Sound Transit is currently studying potential environmental impacts of the project, including traffic congestion and possible mitigation measures. We will release the results of this evaluation for public review and comment in spring 2019.

**Safety and security** – Sound Transit implements industry best practices to ensure our facilities are safe. Measures include placing security cameras outside of the garage, landscaping that preserves open sight lines, lighting on the garage exterior and surrounding areas to ensure a visible and well-lit area for pedestrians and others, 24-hour lighting inside the garage, visibility for stairwells and elevator shafts—such as using glass or other transparent materials, monitoring of garages by security staff and encouraging customers to report any suspicious activity.

**Lighting** – Additional lighting on the pedestrian route between the garage and the station platform will be considered with the City of Auburn as the project moves forward.

## Improving pedestrian, bicycle and bus access to Auburn Station

Respondents were asked about their priorities for potential projects to improve other modes of access to the station.



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Themes included:

- A need for **clearly marked pedestrian zones** to keep people safe.
  - *"Having clearly marked pedestrian zones should be a priority as traffic laws are not obeyed in the area."*
  - *"Clearly marked and PRORITIZED pedestrian zones (compared to motor vehicles) should be top priority considering the major increase of pedestrians given the proposed location of the new garage."*
- Requests for **transit shelters at connecting bus stops** and other improvements to bus access.
  - *"Transit connections and shelters – only makes sense and affords benefit to the most number of people."*
  - *"Bus access is key to reducing the number of cars parking on site at Auburn station."*
- Interest in **increased bike racks and lockers and better bike connections** to the station.
  - *"Bike improvements at the station... Dedicated commuters can rent lockers, but people wanting to give it a try must lock their bikes to substandard racks exposed to the weather and hope they come back to find their bike hasn't been stolen or vandalized."*
  - *"E Main bike improvements. I bike through here every day. Also, I've almost been hit by cars in this section as well."*

## Sound Transit response

We are continuing to work with the City of Auburn to refine potential pedestrian, bicycle, and bus improvements for accessing Auburn Station. More information will be available in spring 2019.

## Other comment themes

- Questions about how the project is funded and when it will be completed
- Requests for more frequent Sounder service, including weekends, evenings, and special events
- Suggestions to make the garage appearance pleasant and fit into downtown
- Requests for and comments about other station amenities, including restrooms, scooter parking and real-time parking availability

For more information on these and other topics, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the Sound Transit website.

## Respondent characteristics

The goal of the outreach was to reach a variety of audiences, including current Auburn Station users, potential users and people who live or work near the station. Close to 85 percent of respondents take transit to or from Auburn Station, and over 30 percent live nearby. Of respondents who use the station, over 65 percent access it by driving a car alone, with smaller numbers riding a bus, carpooling, walking, or biking to the station.

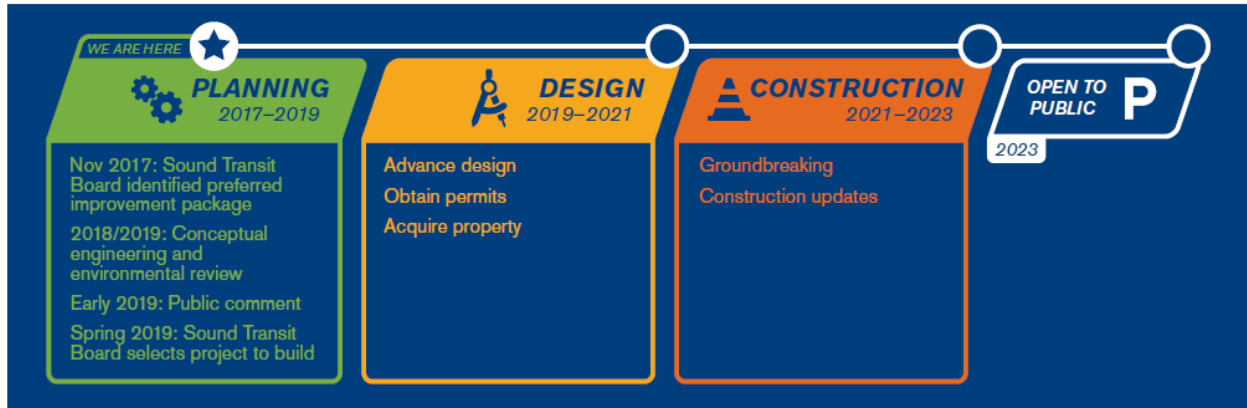
## Next steps

Sound Transit will consider this community feedback as we continue design for the garage and potential pedestrian, bicycle and transit improvements. We are also evaluating potential environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures and will share the results for public review and comment. Stay tuned for this information and updated designs in spring 2019.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2021, and the garage will be open for public use in 2023.

# Auburn Station Parking and Access Improvements

## Project schedule



### To stay informed about the project:

- Contact Melanie Mayock, Community Outreach Specialist: [melanie.mayock@soundtransit.org](mailto:melanie.mayock@soundtransit.org) or 206-689-4877
- Visit the project website: [soundtransit.org/auburn-access-improvements](https://soundtransit.org/auburn-access-improvements)
- Sign-up for project updates by email: [soundtransit.org/subscribe](https://soundtransit.org/subscribe)