



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Why isn't Sound Transit building more parking?**

Sound Transit is building parking based on funding approved by voters. In addition to the new Auburn garage, this includes new garages at Kent, Sumner, and Puyallup Stations; by 2024 there will be a total of 8,400 Sounder south parking stalls. The new parking will supplement alternative options, such as local bus transit, drop-off, biking and walking. Sound Transit also has reserved parking for transit riders in a registered carpool, and may institute reserved solo-driver parking permits in 2019.

### **Why was this site chosen for the new garage?**

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 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](#).

### **Will there be real-time signage about the number of available spaces?**

Sound Transit is currently researching technology for real-time parking information. We will have updated information in advance of the garage opening.

### **Will all the stalls in the new garage be for transit users?**

The new garage will serve transit users with approximately 535 new parking spaces. There may be additional spaces in the new garage for other uses – this will be decided in the upcoming months. We do not anticipate any stalls reserved for customers of local businesses.

### **Will parking in the new garage be free?**

At least half of the 535 commuter parking spaces would remain free and first-come, first-served. Other commuter spaces may become part of Sound Transit's permit parking program - if Sound Transit projects garage utilization to be over 90% in the first year, the garage will be eligible for the new solo-driver permit parking program where up to half the spaces could be reserved for holders of monthly permits. For more information: <https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/ST-SOV-Permits-FAQ.pdf>.

### **Why are stalls at the current garage reserved for carpools?**

The current garage has 44 stalls reserved for carpools, and the vast majority of these are used several days a week. Many of these commuters arrive later in the morning, to take advantage of the reservation time that lasts until 8am. Promoting carpooling to stations is one of Sound Transit's priorities, as a way to make more efficient use of the space we have and get more people access to transit. If you're interested in carpooling and would like to find a potential rideshare partners, try the [Waze](#) app.

### **Why are stalls at the current garage reserved for local business customers?**

There are 42 stalls at the current garage that are leased to the City of Auburn for use by customers of local businesses. This was part of an agreement between Sound Transit and the City in exchange for the city's financial contribution to the garage.

## **Would the new garage introduce more traffic to the area?**

Sound Transit is currently evaluating potential environmental impacts of the project, including traffic impacts, and possible mitigation measures. We will issue the results of this evaluation for public review and comment in spring 2019.

## **What measures will Sound Transit take to ensure safety for the garage?**

Sound Transit implements industry best practices to ensure our facilities are safe. Tactics include:

- Placing security cameras outside garages.
- 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.
- Ensuring 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.

## **How are Sound Transit garages cleaned and maintained?**

Sound Transit regularly cleans and maintains all garages; this includes daily trash pick-up and janitorial cleaning and bi-weekly sweeping. Stairwells are checked daily during the janitorial rounds. In facilities with restrooms, such as the current Auburn garage, they are cleaned daily.

## **Will there be new bicycle parking at the station, or in the new garage?**

Sound Transit is planning to upgrade the bicycle lockers at the station so that they can serve more customers through short-term rentals. Bicycle parking is not anticipated in the new garage, as parking closer to the platform is preferred.

## **What is the budget for this project?**

The estimated budget for the Auburn parking and access project is \$60 million. This includes all phases – planning, administration, design, and construction.

## **Will Sound Transit add additional trains?**

As ridership on the Sounder South continues to grow, Sound Transit is working to increase train and platform capacity from seven cars to 10, accommodating 40 percent more passengers. Sound Transit will also negotiate with BNSF Railway (the railway owns the tracks used by Sounder) to run more daily trips. Planning for Sounder South capacity expansion will get under way in late 2018, with improvements completed by 2036.

## **What is happening with King County Metro service in Auburn?**

King County Metro is planning on implementing the RapidRide I Line, connecting Kent, Renton and Auburn, in 2023. To prepare for the implementation of this line, Metro will be looking at current service and developing a plan for future service needs in the Kent, Renton and Auburn areas. This plan will lead to service changes in fall 2020. Metro plans to begin this planning phase, including community and stakeholder engagement, in early 2019.

## **Have other questions?**

Contact Community Outreach Specialist Melanie Mayock, 206-689-4877 or [Melanie.Mayock@soundtransit.org](mailto:Melanie.Mayock@soundtransit.org).