



Ballard Link Extension

Q2 2025 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

April through June 2025

Ballard Link Extension (BLE) outreach and engagement activities snapshot



Between April and June 2025, our team...



Responded to **20+ comments and questions** from inbox and voicemail



Held **15 briefings** with property owners, tenants, and community groups



Hosted public events engaging **170+ community members** and an online survey engaging **200+ community members**



Sent **3 email updates** to **12,200+ subscribers**



Continued ongoing **fieldwork activities** throughout the project corridor



Ballard Link Extension project overview

The Ballard Link Extension will (BLE) provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers in the Chinatown-International District (CID), Downtown, Interbay, and Ballard neighborhoods. The extension includes a new transit-only light rail tunnel in downtown Seattle.

Stations include Chinatown-International District, Midtown, Westlake, Denny, South Lake Union, Seattle Center, Smith Cove, Interbay, and Ballard.



Public events

South Downtown Hub Open House

Sound Transit hosted an in-person open house to share a progress update on concepts for the South Downtown Hub project, as part of an interagency collaboration with the community to support connections to current and future transit options, including the planned BLE stations.

The event focused on sharing refined concepts for connections and gathering places in the Chinatown-International District, Pioneer Square, and surrounding neighborhoods, building on previous South Downtown Hub community workshops, past community planning, and partnerships with the City of Seattle, King County, and local communities.

Community members were welcomed with opening remarks, explored an informational exhibition, and shared feedback to help shape next steps. This event also marked the beginning of a six-week exhibition at Union Station showcasing updated South Downtown Hub concepts shaped by community input, technical analysis, and interagency coordination. To gather additional feedback, the project team launched an online survey, which was translated into multiple languages to invite broad community participation. A summary of the key themes from the feedback is available on our [South Downtown Hub webpage](#).



Event highlights:

- Held **April 2, 2025**, at Union Station Great Hall.
- Provided bilingual display boards in **Traditional Chinese** and **English**, translated materials in **Simplified Chinese** and **Vietnamese**, and on-site interpretation in **Mandarin** and **Cantonese** through Sound Transit staff and Community Liaisons.
- Welcomed about **150** attendees.
- Received over **200** responses to the multilingual online survey, which was available in **English**, **Traditional Chinese**, **Simplified Chinese**, and **Vietnamese** from April 8 - May 5.

South Downtown Hub Senior Tour

The project team partnered with InterimCDA to host a special guided tour of the South Downtown Hub open house exhibit tailored for Cantonese- and Mandarin-speaking senior residents living in the Chinatown-International District (CID).

The tour was conducted in Cantonese and Mandarin, creating a more accessible opportunity for participants to view design concepts, ask questions, and share feedback. This community-focused workshop supported ongoing efforts to reach impacted neighbors and gather ideas for neighborhood improvements.



Tour highlights:

- Held **April 26, 2025**, at Union Station Great Hall.
- Sound Transit staff and Community Liaisons conducted the tour in **Mandarin** and **Cantonese**.
- Showcased exhibition displays in **Traditional Chinese**.
- Hosted **26** local senior residents.



Email updates

During the reporting period, the project team sent **three email updates** to more than **12,200 subscribers**. These emails included an invitation to the South Downtown Hub open house exhibit and a reminder to view the South Downtown Hub exhibition and take the survey before it closed. Subscribers were encouraged to explore the updated design concepts, share feedback through an online survey, and stay involved as the project team works with partners and the community to refine ideas and shape future improvements.



Common questions and comments

The following is a summary of questions and comments obtained through property owner and tenant meetings, community briefings, emails, and voicemails to the project inbox.

- Questions about the BLE Draft EIS timeline.
- Questions about the South Downtown Hub survey, including its online availability.
- Questions about fieldwork impacts and timing.
- Feedback on the South Downtown Hub planning process and concepts.
- Questions about station locations.
- Questions about anticipated impacts to the Interbay Golf Course.
- Questions about the BLE project alternatives, timeline, and next steps.

- Questions about vacant properties near the project area (not part of the BLE project).
- Question about other organizations and agencies Sound Transit works with for South Downtown Hub work.
- Questions about construction impacts, mitigation, property access, and neighborhood involvement in Uptown.
- Question about plans for Union Station and the plaza area, festival street ideas, and how the South Downtown Hub survey results will guide next steps.
- Questions from potentially affected property owners and tenants about the timeline for property acquisition and tenant relocation.