



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why doesn't Sounder run more often? Will Sound Transit add trains at additional times?

The Sounder north line makes four weekday roundtrips between Everett and Seattle, and also serves select special events on weekends. People often ask why Sounder doesn't run all day and every weekend, similar to light rail. The reason is that the railroad tracks Sounder uses are owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and are heavily used by freight trains as well as Amtrak. At this time, Sound Transit does not have the ability to add additional trips on this busy corridor.

However, Sound Transit is extending Link light rail north to Everett along the I-5 corridor, which will provide frequent, all-day service. Construction for Lynnwood Link is beginning in 2019, and service will open in 2024 with four new stations in Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood. Learn more at [www.soundtransit.org/LLE](http://www.soundtransit.org/LLE). Planning for Everett Link will begin in 2020.

### Can I take a weekend special event train if I'm not going to a game?

Yes! Sound Transit runs trains to many weekend day games when the Mariners, Sounders FC or Seahawks are in town. You don't have to attend the game to ride the train – take the opportunity to explore Seattle for a few hours!

Go to [www.soundtransit.org/calendar](http://www.soundtransit.org/calendar) to see when weekend trains are running. The calendar will tell you what time the train leaves Edmonds and Mukilteo stations, and when it will return (generally 35 minutes after the game ends).

### How long is the trip to Seattle on Sounder?

It takes about 30 minutes from Edmonds Station and about 45 minutes from Mukilteo Station to [King Street Station](#) in Pioneer Square, which is a short distance from the International District/Chinatown light rail station and many bus routes.

### Why doesn't Sounder stop further north in downtown Seattle?

Voter-approved funding for the Sounder north and south lines has to date included one station in Seattle, King Street Station in Pioneer Square, which also serves Amtrak and has good connections with light rail and bus lines. There is currently no approved funding for an additional Sounder station in Seattle.

### How often is Sounder service disrupted by landslides?

Service disruptions caused by landslides have dropped dramatically thanks to work funded by WSDOT and performed by BNSF. During the 2018-2019 winter, there were zero canceled trains due to landslides. If there is a service disruption, Sound Transit provides direct and reliable bus service connecting Everett, Edmonds, Mukilteo, and Seattle.

### What are the railroad safety features in the Everett to Seattle corridor?

All Sounder trains operate today with a safety feature known as Positive Train Control (PTC). Under this system, should an engineer exceed the permitted speed or fail to brake on approach to a work zone or a signal, PTC will automatically apply the brakes and stop the train.

### **Why did Sound Transit institute permit parking at Edmonds & Mukilteo stations?**

Lack of available station parking and uncertainty about whether riders will be able to find parking are among the top complaints Sound Transit receives from our riders. Permit parking can provide riders with confidence they will find parking at the station when needed. It is also intended to make the best use of the limited parking at these stations by encouraging riders to carpool (carpool permits are available free of charge), or to use other access choices when and where they are available, freeing up parking spaces for riders who have few choices. Permit parking is now available at both Edmonds and Mukilteo stations, providing access to a reserved area on weekdays throughout the morning rush hours (4-8 a.m.). For more information, visit [www.soundtransit.org/permitparking](http://www.soundtransit.org/permitparking).

### **How does RailPlus work?**

The Rail Plus program allows riders with monthly ORCA Passes (including Business Passport) to ride four **weekday** Amtrak Cascades trains between Seattle, Edmonds and Everett free of charge. There are two southbound weekday Amtrak trains (arriving in Seattle at 11am and 10:10pm) and two northbound (departing Seattle at 7:45am and 7:00pm).

Rail Plus riders obtain a validation ticket from a Sound Transit ticket machine, then provide that to the Amtrak conductor when boarding. Rail Plus tickets are only available on weekdays at ticket machines at Everett, Edmonds, or Seattle-King Street stations. See additional information at [www.soundtransit.org/souderfares](http://www.soundtransit.org/souderfares).

### **Can I park in the Edmonds or Mukilteo Stations parking lot if I'm not taking transit?**

Sound Transit parking facilities are only for use by transit customers and other authorized individuals.

However, at Mukilteo Station, Sound Transit parking is available to the general public when no transit service is scheduled. (Weekday transit service runs from approximately 5:30am-6:30pm, and special event service runs for select weekend events - see [www.soundtransit.org/calendar](http://www.soundtransit.org/calendar).)

### **Have other questions?**

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