



Fieldwork 101

Sound Transit is in the early planning phase for the Everett Link Extension project, which will connect the communities of Lynnwood, unincorporated Snohomish County, and Everett to the regional light rail network. Everett Link is currently in the environmental review phase of planning. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is anticipated to be available for review and comment in early 2026.

As part of this process, Sound Transit is coordinating with property owners throughout the corridor to collect and analyze information necessary to further design and study light rail alignments, stations, and Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) alternatives. Crews will perform the fieldwork activities outlined below in various places in the project area after receiving the signed approval from and coordinating with property owners.

Geotechnical Drilling

To study soil and groundwater conditions, drilling or “borings” are necessary to collect soil samples for analysis and install groundwater monitoring equipment. There will be temporary traffic disruptions in these areas, but businesses will remain open and accessible through alternative traffic routes.

Crews will monitor water levels by visiting these sites every few months to take measurements. Each hole will be covered with a metal plate until they are refilled and patched to match previous conditions as closely as possible. In accordance with all local regulations, borings will be done carefully to avoid soil erosion and dirt or mud from leaking into surface waters, wetlands, and drainage systems. Drilling in each location may take about one week to complete.

Noise and Vibration Monitoring

Crews will install, monitor, and remove sound and vibration testing equipment to document ambient noise levels in both indoor and outdoor locations, as well as understand how vibration might travel from potential light rail alignments. Monitoring typically takes about one day to complete, which includes set-up, testing, and take down.



Example of geotechnical drilling equipment



Example of noise and vibration monitoring equipment

Utility Locates and Potholing

Utility companies will locate their subsurface utilities and mark the locations on the ground with small amounts of spray paint.

To determine the precise location and depth of existing utilities, crews will conduct utility “potholing” using steam and equipment to evacuate soil and investigate underground conditions. Equipment used for this work will sound similar to a large truck running. Noise typically lasts for two to four hours. Once the work is complete, crews will restore the ground to as close to its prior condition as possible.



Example of wetland delineation

Natural Resources Assessment

Crews will visually assess wildlife habitat and vegetation conditions using computers, cameras, and other hand-held equipment. Work typically takes about one to three days to complete and may require follow-up visits, as needed.

To create wetland and stream delineation reports, biologists will analyze plants, water conditions, and soil. Crews will dig small holes (less than 2 feet deep) and refill them once analysis is complete. Generally, the assessments will be done visually. Light vegetation cutting may be required if there are thick brush or blackberries in the area. Some small flags may be placed to identify boundaries and study sites.

Design/Site Reconnaissance Activities

Crews will use computers, measurements, and sketch pads to gather site-specific information to prepare and verify data. Traffic counts will be completed as part of these activities. Work will likely take one to three days per visit. Light cutting may be required if there is thick brush or blackberries in the area.

Civil Survey

Crews of two or three will use equipment mounted on small tripods or hand-held computers to gather information on a property such as topography, locations of trees, buildings, and utilities. Each surveying activity will typically take two to three days to complete and may require follow-up visits, as needed.

Historic Building Inventory

Historians will view properties from public right-of-way, take photos of structures, and take notes on features of structures. The work generally takes less than ten minutes per property. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires inventory of all properties 50 years or older in the vicinity of proposed projects that receive federal funding in order to identify potentially historic properties and to assess potential impacts to these properties.

Archaeological Investigations

Archaeologists will walk the site and excavate shovel probes, similar to a fence post hole. These holes measure approximately 1 foot in diameter, may reach up to 3 feet below surface, and will be dug using shovels. Additional auger exploration within these holes may reach up to 7 feet. Archaeologists will sift soils excavated from these probes to identify cultural and/or historical resources. No artifacts will be removed from the site. Any holes will be filled once investigation is complete. Work occurs in multiple steps and may take up to one week to complete.

Questions? Contact us

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 [soundtransit.org/everettlink](https://www.soundtransit.org/everettlink)

About the project

Sound Transit's Everett Link Extension project will provide fast, reliable connections to residential and job centers throughout Lynnwood, unincorporated Snohomish County, and Everett. The project will add 16 miles of light rail, six new stations, and an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) North to support Link light rail operations. An additional provisional (unfunded) station is also being studied in the planning process.

Get more project details at [soundtransit.org/everettlink](https://www.soundtransit.org/everettlink)

Information in other languages

For information about the project, call 1-800-823-9230.

Para información acerca del proyecto llame al: 1-800-823-9230.

Звоните 1-800-823-9230, чтобы получить информацию о проекте.

프로젝트에 관한 정보는 다음으로 연락하십시오: 1-800-823-9230