



Federal Way Link Extension

May 2020

More transit, more trees: Sound Transit's tree replanted program

Expansion helps us all breathe easier by creating alternatives to driving in gridlocked traffic. Though construction on our Federal Way Link Extension involves some tree removal, this reduction is only temporary. We'll plant thousands more trees than we remove for the project, in some cases replanting new trees even before construction begins. The specific removal/replacement ratio varies depending on the jurisdiction and the number, maturity and species of trees removed, as well as federal and state environmental regulations.

Working with the community

We recognize that our communities strongly value trees and the benefits they provide. That's why Sound Transit works with stakeholders to save as many trees as possible while meeting project needs. We're also partnering with cities along the route to create opportunities for early plantings and additional trees throughout neighborhoods, parks and open spaces.

The survivability of newly planted trees is an important aspect of the revegetation plan. Going beyond typical industry standards, Sound Transit is partnering with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to extend the standard three-year plant establishment and maintenance period—which provides for close, extended care of replanted trees—by an additional 10 years. Ultimately, this 13-year effort will greatly improve the survival rates of trees planted along the alignment.

Sustainability at Sound Transit

The entire transit system expansion will reduce greenhouse gas emissions annually by 793,000 metric tons. This is equal to:

- › Sequestering the carbon equivalent to growing more than 20.5 million tree seedlings for 10 years.
- › Burning more than 89 million gallons of gasoline.
- › Powering the electricity for more than 117,000 homes annually.

What to expect

Our contractors will remove vegetation along the future light rail route, primarily along the west side of Interstate I-5 in the WSDOT corridor, to ensure trees won't fall across the tracks or cause facility damage or injury once Link operations begin. They'll also remove invasive species like ivy and Scotch broom in select locations to create suitable areas for planting new vegetation.

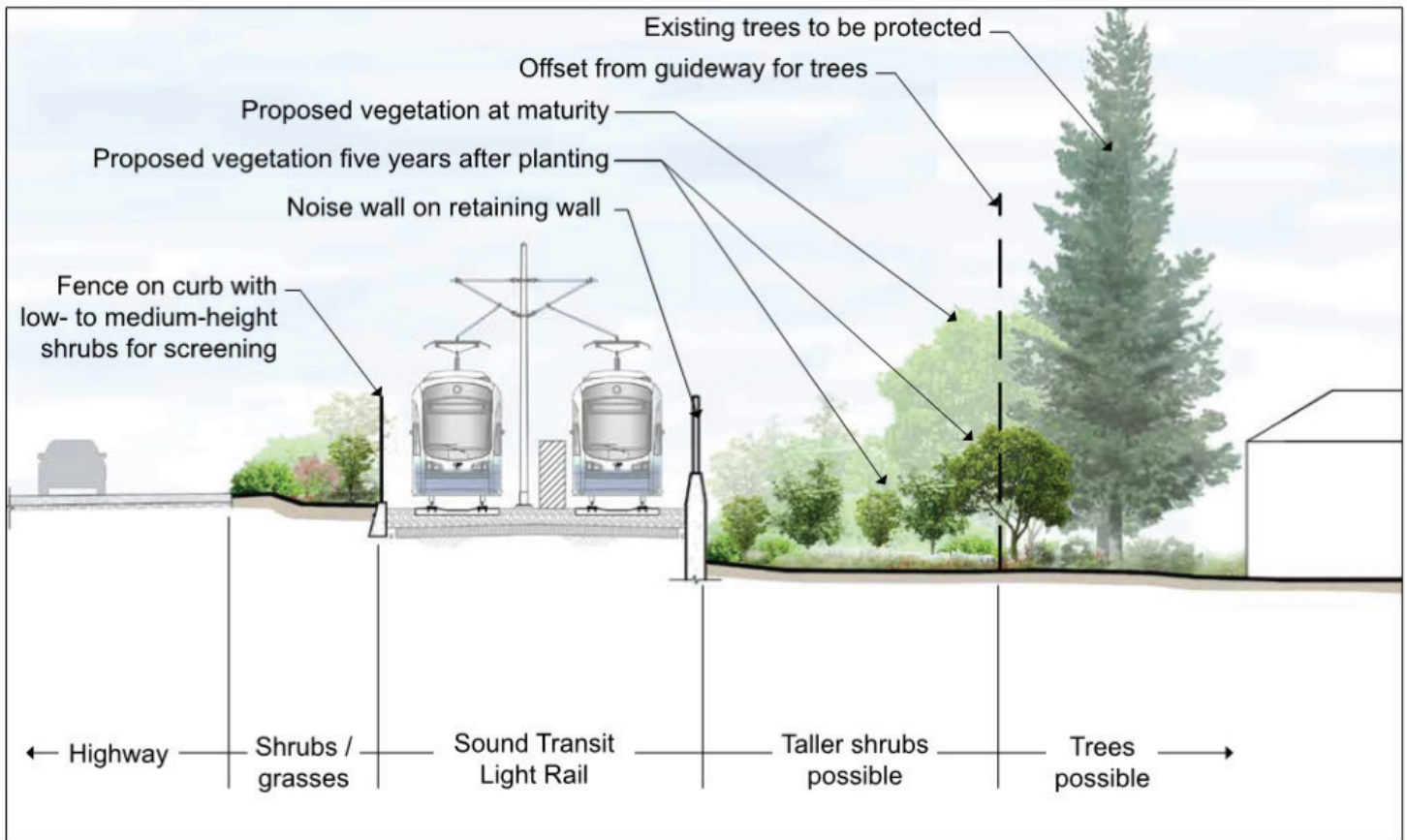
We'll use native, adaptive plant and tree species to the greatest extent feasible, and we'll plant larger trees, rather than saplings. With irrigation and our extended plant establishment period, these more developed trees show higher survival rates than the smaller trees used on past projects.

Any trees we cut for the Federal Way Link Extension will become timber and mulch; they won't end up in landfills.



Trees planted at Ronald Bog Park in Shoreline by Sound Transit contractors.

Vegetation clear zone



Trees around transit

In April 2020, our contractors began removing trees on land needed for Federal Way Link Extension track and guideway construction, or for construction staging.

The above diagram shows a cross section of a guideway. A proposed vegetation-clear zone on either side prevents branches and debris from structural interference.

Questions?

Contact Community Outreach Manager
Jefferson Rose at 206-370-5568
or jefferson.rose@soundtransit.org.

**Subscribe to project emails
and learn how to get involved:**

 soundtransit.org/fwlink

For more information about Sound Transit projects or services, visit soundtransit.org or call 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711.

For information in alternative formats, call 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711 or email accessibility@soundtransit.org.

Proposed plantings

| Jurisdiction | Trees removed* | Trees replanted* |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| SeaTac | 641 | 757 |
| Des Moines | 501 | 995 |
| Kent | 2,404 | 2,767 |
| Federal Way | 5,068 | 7,523 |
| Additional Mitigation (Donated by contractor) | | 4,000 |
| Total: | 8,614 | 16,042 |

**Estimated as of April 2020. Final numbers to be determined in Final Design, third quarter 2020.*

Approximately 64 percent of the trees to be removed are in the WSDOT right-of-way. This is where Sound Transit will plant 58 percent of the replacement trees.

Information in other languages

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

如果您需要此信息翻譯成中文 請致電 1-800-823-9230

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

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

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