April 2022



Community Engagement Report Kent/Des Moines Station Area TOD



Overview

This report provides a record of community engagement for our Kent/Des Moines transit-oriented development (TOD) site during 2020 and 2021. Under our Equitable Transit-Oriented Development policy, Sound Transit works to ensure that the processes to plan, develop, and implement TOD are inclusive and reflect the local community. Community feedback gathered through this engagement effort will inform our project goals for selecting a development partner or partners for this site.

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Notifications: 13,000+ postcards sent 6,000+ email notifications to community members and community-based organizations (86+)

Engagement snapshot

Activities: Briefings and conversations with agency, policy, technical, and community stakeholders; two rounds of public engagement

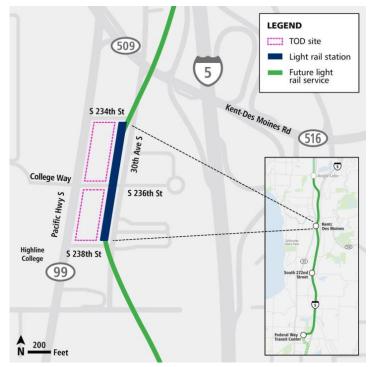
Public survey participation: 1,354 respondents 77% from Kent and Des Moines 42 languages represented

Project Overview and Key Findings

Project overview

Sound Transit purchased roughly four acres of land in the Midway area of Kent and Des Moines to store construction equipment and mobile offices used to build the future Federal Way Link Extension light rail and a new station in the Kent/Des Moines area. Much of that property, located near the intersection of State Route 99 and Kent-Des Moines Road, will be available for redevelopment when construction is complete. Adding new uses such as housing, retail, and other community-oriented activities can create new opportunities and help integrate the new station into the local community. In conjunction with the City of Kent, Sound Transit is leading the process to realize these new activities as part of our TOD program.

To inform our work to identify goals for development on this site, we met with stakeholders and reached out to the general public to understand community priorities.



Sound Transit TOD program overview

Transit-oriented development (TOD) is a term used to describe development strategies that integrate transit and land use while supporting community needs and development visions. These strategies focus on urban growth around facilities such as light rail stations to produce regional and local benefits, including increasing transit ridership, developing walkable communities, and improving access to jobs.

Sound Transit's TOD policy includes a priority to offer surplus property for the development of affordable housing. Washington state law requires Sound Transit to offer at least 80% of its surplus property that is suitable for housing to qualified entities to develop homes affordable to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income. In addition, Sound Transit has adopted an Equitable TOD Policy that commits the agency to "inclusive planning and decision-making processes, resulting in development outcomes that accommodate future residential and employment growth, increase opportunity and mobility for existing communities, and enhance public health for socially and economically diverse populations."

Key findings

This section provides a summary of the feedback we gathered over the course of the community engagement process. The sections that follow provide more detail and specific insights into the feedback received.

Offer new housing opportunities, including affordable units for a variety of household sizes

- Desire to see affordable housing delivered as part of this project
- Desire to see family-size units to meet local demand
- Interest in homeownership opportunities

Include small-scale retail/commercial uses along with new housing

- Desire to support, and offer spaces for, local small and emerging businesses
- D Interest in accommodating food-related businesses, such as food production and cafes/restaurants

Create community value

- Desire for uses that arise from, serve, and support the diverse local community
- Interest in flexible community gathering and meeting spaces
- Potential opportunity for uses such as childcare, a health clinic, and wrap-around support services (such as employment, mental health, and family counseling)

Reflect diversity of the local community

- Desire for the mix of uses in this project to meet the needs of the local community
- Desire for the project to meet the needs of folks of all abilities, including those living with disabilities
- Desire to see the racial and cultural diversity of the area reflected in development proposals

Site design should reinforce active and quieter zones and promote public safety

- Organize the 'heart' of activity around a public plaza, with programming and retail frontages
- Address public safety concerns in the design process
- Facilitate pedestrian and bicycle connections between the project, the light rail station, SR 99, and surrounding neighborhoods
- Offer a diversity of buildings, public spaces, and green spaces to create interest

Community Engagement Process

Overview

Sound Transit and the City of Kent are collaborating to plan TOD near the Kent/Des Moines station area, and engaged the community to:

- Build awareness about plans for the area and shared Sound Transit and City of Kent goals for a mixed-use, mixed-income project
- Gather community input on the potential mix of uses (including housing and/or commercial affordability), identify catalytic programs for neighborhood and economic development, and urban design elements (such as site layout)
- Work closely with community-based organizations and city partners to solicit community input on development of the site to encourage inclusive participation from a diverse audience, with a focus on race, income, and accessibility

To accomplish these goals, Sound Transit developed a multi-phase community engagement plan:

- Early engagement: meetings and roundtables with local and regional stakeholders to discuss the project and potential goals and needs
- Phase 1: an online survey to gauge baseline preferences and interests of community members
- Phase 2: an online open house to review key takeaways from phase 1 and ask additional survey questions to further explore community aspirations for the project, coupled with a live, virtual event
- Phase 3: a reporting back period for community members to see how their input will be used to inform the request for proposals for the development of the site, to be released in 2022

This report is the basis for phase 3 and provides a record of both the process and outcomes of this engagement effort. It describes the outreach activities and events, summarizes the feedback received, and discusses the project's next steps.

Early engagement

To inform the TOD planning process and our community engagement activities, Sound Transit and the City of Kent undertook early engagement activities beginning in spring 2020. This phase of work included one-on-one briefings and several roundtable discussions with a variety of stakeholders to provide information on the TOD opportunity and learn more about community goals and needs that could inform the development strategy.

Sound Transit and City of Kent staff also met with jurisdictional partners/public agencies, chambers of commerce, workforce development agencies, community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and affordable housing funders and policymakers. Participants were invited to provide feedback on community needs and how they could align with future development in the station area.

Sound Transit also met with several community-based organizations over the course of the engagement process to provide information on the project and gather feedback. Notably, we presented at two meetings of the Kent Cultural Diversity Initiative Group (KCDIG), a monthly meeting series hosted by the City of Kent that includes participation from service providers and nonprofit organizations in the area.

Phase 1 engagement process

Our first phase of broad public engagement took the form of an online survey inviting participants to offer their priorities for development on the site, including topics such as housing, businesses and services, community features, and public spaces. The survey was available in six languages with alternative text for individuals with visual impairments. The survey was promoted through a postcard sent to 6,400+ residences within one mile of the Kent/Des Moines station area; email notification to 6,000+ community members on the Federal Way Link Extension listserv; email notification to 86 community-based organizations; social media advertisements in English and Spanish to ZIP codes along the Federal Way Link Extension alignment; door-to-door outreach to businesses within one mile of the station area; promotion to 12 local media outlets; and communication with our city and local partners.

The survey was available online from May 10 to June 7, 2021, and generated 925 responses.

Participant demographics

Sound Transit asked demographic questions in the survey to gauge representation of potentially impacted and historically underrepresented communities. All demographic questions were optional.

Most participants identified as white or white and another race/ethnicity. Nearly half of respondents reported a household income of less than \$100,000. In terms of age, most participants were between 35 and 49 years old. While some English was spoken in most homes, 42 languages were spoken in the homes of participants overall. Participant ZIP codes represented Des Moines (46%), Kent (31%), Seattle (9%), Federal Way (8%), Tacoma (2%), and Renton (1%).

Phase 2 engagement process

The second phase of engagement built on the results of phase 1 and took a closer look at topics including public and activity space, green space (such as grass, trees, landscaping), affordable housing, retail and business space, and community space. We gathered input on these topics through activities that included an online open house in six languages and a virtual community conversation, simulcast in Spanish and American Sign Language.

Phase 1 survey results informed engagement strategies for phase 2, including:

- Additional demographic questions, such as household size
- An expanded geographic radius for postcard notification of the online open house
- Outreach to more renters, community groups, and speakers of languages other than English
- A social media promotional "toolkit" for community-based organizations to help share information about phase 2 with their networks (see Appendix G: Recruitment)
- Distribution of a Kent/Des Moines station area TOD factsheet in 10 languages

The online open house and virtual meeting were advertised through a postcard sent to 13,000+ residences and apartment complexes within 1.5 miles of the Kent/Des Moines station area; email notification 6,000+ community members on the Federal Way Link Extension listserv; email notification to 86 community-based organizations; social media advertisements in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese to ZIP codes along the Federal Way Link Extension alignment; promotion to four local media outlets; and ongoing communication with our city and local partners.

As part of the online open house, the survey was available from October 25 to November 15, 2021, and had 429 respondents.

Our community conversation (i.e., public meeting) was held virtually on November 3, 2021, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with 19 community participants.

Participant demographics

Most participants identified as white or white and another race/ethnicity. Around 40 percent of responses reported a household income of less than \$100,000. Most participants were 50-64 years old (31%) or 35-49 (30%). While some English was spoken in most homes, 26 languages were spoken in the homes of participants overall. Participant ZIP codes represented Des Moines (46%), Kent (27%), and Seattle (<2%). Some users represented Black Diamond, Federal Way, Auburn, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, Milton, Puyallup, Tacoma, and Olympia, each with less than 1% of total users.

Community Feedback Themes

Early engagement and stakeholder conversation key themes

Roundtable discussions

Themes from the roundtable discussions included:

- TOD sites present a significant opportunity for affordable housing, including larger apartment sizes to better accommodate multigenerational households
- TOD at the station presents an opportunity for sustainable economic development and potential workforce development in connection with neighboring educational institutions
- Affordable and/or flexible commercial space would help small businesses get started and grow, as would a business incubator
- Interest in a multi-use development that provides community gathering space and services that are currently lacking in the area (such as food, healthcare, and day care)

Conversations with community-based organizations

Themes from community-based organization and other stakeholder conversations reflected similar priorities, including:

- Interest in developing housing and services that meet the needs of families, such as:
 - Larger units to accommodate families/intergenerational housing
 - Homeownership opportunities
 - o Childcare and/or early learning
 - Healthcare facilities
- Interest in supporting small and emerging businesses, especially those that are food related
- Interest in community-serving uses, such as a community center, meeting space, green space, and recreation opportunities
- Interest in meeting the needs of a diverse community and people living with disabilities
- Interest in promoting safety around the station

Conversations also raised additional themes, including:

- Interest in wrap-around services for the community
- Consideration of environmental justice and climate change
- Hiring members of the local community for the project
- Ensuring historically marginalized communities are represented among the survey respondents
- Focus on racial equity in the project

Phase 1 key themes

Online survey

A few common community priorities emerged from participant responses, outlined below (see Appendix B for full results):

- A desire for a safe, accessible, and family-friendly Kent/Des Moines station area that celebrates the diversity of the surrounding community
- A desire to accommodate a range of affordable housing types on the site
- A preference to dedicate nonresidential spaces to cultural and/or community uses that are familyfriendly and include services like retail, small-scale food businesses, and grocery and drug stores
- A desire to increase pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, as well as adequate parking

Survey respondents placed a lower priority on uses such as a job training or educational center, office space, medical/health services, and childcare/pre-school.

Phase 2 key themes

Online open house

Themes from responses to the survey questions included in the online open house are outlined below (see Appendix F for full results):

- Create a great public space at the 'heart' of the project: Respondents were interested in a public space that accommodates a mix of active uses, like pop-up markets and shopping options. This space could be an off-street plaza that is lined with retail and including seating.
- Focus activity in selected areas: Respondents preferred to focus public-facing activities, such as retail and event space, on quieter plazas or interior streets, while also recognizing the value of having visibility at major street corners and proximity to the light rail station.
- Create variety on the site: Respondents were interested in a mix of uses, activities, and building shapes and sizes.
- Offer housing options for a range of household sizes: Respondents felt it was important to prioritize offering larger units for families as part of the project, rather than providing a greater number of smaller units.
- Offer community value: Respondents would like the project to offer spaces that support small businesses, as well as community spaces for recreation, meetings/gatherings, and childcare facilities.
- Offer retail and services for daily needs: Respondents could envision visiting the site for items that meet their daily needs, convenience items, and services, as well as for occasional special shopping trips or social visits.
- Provide a variety of green spaces throughout: Respondents were interested in seeing a variety of green spaces incorporated into the project, with an emphasis on landscaped areas, gardens, and trees.
- Design the site for pedestrians: Respondents saw value in creating pedestrian connections between residential uses and the light rail station.

Community conversation

The community conversation was held on November 3, 2021. It was led by members from the Sound Transit project team and City of Kent staff. The meeting format included a presentation with several survey questions, followed by a question-and-answer session. The content of the presentation was similar to the online open house. Questions and comments are listed in Appendix I.

Key themes we heard during the question-and-answer session include:

- Diverse communities and voices should be included in the process of selecting a developer or developers, and that the project reflects community priorities.
- Developer(s) should partner with local community organizations to help shape the project.
- Sound Transit should lead a more intentional effort to engage a diverse community and represent diverse voices.
- The community should have a chance to provide further/more detailed input on the uses incorporated into the project.
- The project should address safety, consider traffic impacts, and facilitate pedestrian connections in the neighborhood.

Next Steps

Implementing the feedback

Community feedback will inform Sound Transit's selection of a development partner or partners for our Kent/Des Moines station TOD site. We partner with nonprofit and private developers to build new uses on our TOD sites. With guidance and approval from the Sound Transit Board of Directors, we plan to use a competitive bidding process called a 'Request for Proposals' (RFP) to select a development partner or partners. In this process we will ask proposers to demonstrate not only their capacity and track record in delivering successful projects, but also their understanding and incorporation of the community's needs and vision—including local planning efforts and the community feedback collected through this outreach effort.

The next steps for this project include:

- Share the community engagement report on Sound Transit's website and with stakeholders
- Prepare development strategy
- Receive policy direction on strategy from the Board of Directors
- Select development partner(s) using a competitive bidding process (RFP)
- Development partner(s) finalizes planning, design, and permitting, and constructs the project

We will continue to provide updates on our progress using our project website and email list to demonstrate how community feedback is reflected in the process and outcomes of this project.

Visit our project website here to stay up-to-date: <u>https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/creating-vibrant-stations/transit-oriented-development/kent-des-moines</u>

Appendices

Appendix A: Phase 1 Online Survey Questions

The Kent Des/Moines TOD Phase 1 survey included the following questions. The survey was available in English, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. All questions were optional. The survey included a map of the station area for reference while completing the survey.

- 1. What's your connection to the Kent/Des Moines light rail station area? (Select all that apply)
 - a) I live nearby
 - b) I work nearby
 - c) I go to school nearby
 - d) I go to the businesses, restaurants, and services nearby
 - e) I own a business nearby
 - f) I pass through but don't spend time there
 - g) I do not have a connection to the station area
 - h) Other: (open answer)
- 2. Aside from jobs and housing, which of the following do you see as most important for this project? (Select up to 3)
 - a) Creating pleasant public space(s) between transportation corridors
 - b) Offering daily-needs retail and services near the station
 - c) Attracting visitors to a new regional destination
 - d) Connecting the station to the broader community
 - e) Prioritizing energy-efficient building types and reducing environmental impacts
 - f) Supporting a variety of educational and training opportunities
 - g) Creating temporary and/or permanent space for local businesses or community organizations
- 3. What types of businesses, services and community features would you most like to see in the neighborhood? (Select up to 3)
 - a) Multi-use work/retail spaces for smaller scale or emerging businesses
 - b) Larger format retailers (like a drug store)
 - c) Smaller scale food service spaces (such as marketplace stalls, food truck areas, etc.)
 - d) Childcare/pre-school
 - e) Arts and cultural space
 - f) Medical and health services
 - g) Community center, youth center and/or recreation facility
 - h) Individual or shared office space for community organizations
 - i) Job training or educational centers
 - j) Other: (open answer)
- 4. What types of public spaces would you be most interested in? (Select up to 3)
 - a) Plaza space with seating for markets, events, or performances
 - b) Lawns and space for informal gatherings
 - c) Playgrounds and open play areas
 - d) Natural features (such as landscaping, trees, and gardens)

- e) A "destination" public artwork or attraction (such as sculpture, interactive installation, etc.)
- 5. In developing housing near the Kent/Des Moines station area, which approaches do you think would be most beneficial for the community? (Select up to 3)
 - a) Maximizing the number of housing units that can be built
 - b) Prioritizing strategies to reduce the need for private vehicle ownership (such as robust onsite retail, services, recreation, and car-sharing)
 - c) Prioritizing housing that's affordable for people with a broad range of income levels
 - d) Prioritizing housing that's affordable for people with very low incomes
 - e) Considering a mix of housing styles, like apartments and townhomes
 - f) Providing opportunities for homeownership
- 6. What would make visiting the area around the Kent/Des Moines station area a memorable, enjoyable experience? (Open answer)
- 7. Is there anything else you'd like to share about transit-oriented development at the Kent/Des Moines station area? (Open answer)

Optional questions: Tell us more about yourself. Sound Transit is committed to equitable engagement, and we want to ensure we're hearing the full range of voices that represent our diverse communities. The questions below are optional, but by answering them you'll help us better understand who our survey is reaching. Your answers are confidential.

- 8. How do you identify? (Select all that apply)
 - a) American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - b) Asian or Asian American
 - c) Black or African American
 - d) Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins
 - e) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - f) White
 - g) Other: (open answer)
- 9. How old are you?
 - a) Under 18
 - b) 18-34
 - c) 35-49
 - d) 50-64
 - e) 65+
- 10. What is your household's total annual earnings?
 - a) Less than \$25,000
 - b) \$25,000 to \$49,999
 - c) \$50,000 to \$74,999
 - d) \$75,000 to \$99,999
 - e) \$100,000 or more
 - f) I don't know/prefer not to share
- 11. What language(s) are spoken at home? (Select all that apply)
 - a) Arabic
 - b) Cantonese

- c) English
- d) Korean
- e) Mandarin
- f) Russian
- g) Somali
- h) Spanish
- i) Tagalog
- j) Vietnamese
- k) Other: (open answer)

12. Do you rent or own your home?

- a) Rent
- b) Own
- c) Other: (open answer)

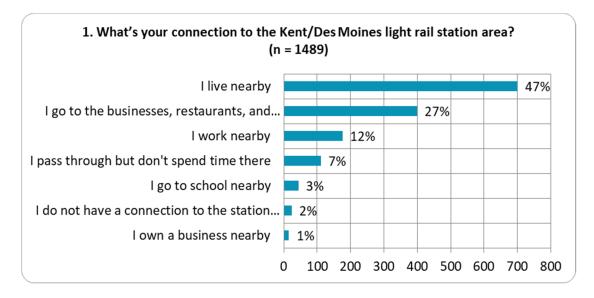
13. What ZIP code do you live in?

- a) 98032
- b) 98148
- c) 98198
- d) Other: (open answer)

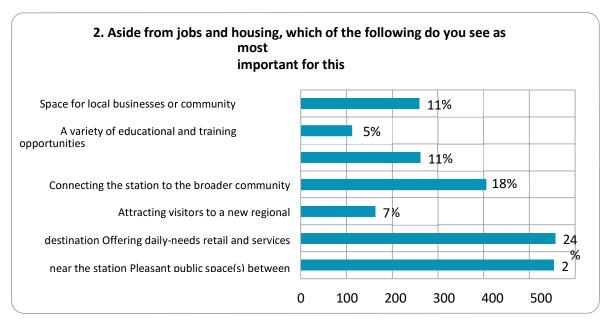
Appendix B: Detailed Phase 1 Online Survey Results

Phase 1 Multiple Choice Responses

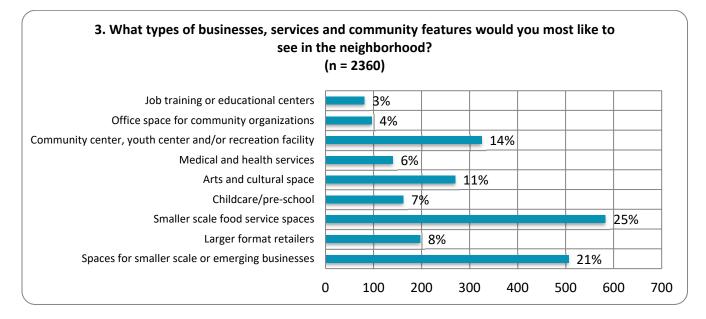
During the survey period, we received a total of 925 responses: 916 responses in English and nine responses in Spanish. The survey responses are summarized below. In the graphics that follow, the number of total answers is indicated in parentheses following the question. Not all participants responded to every question. Several of the questions allowed for the selection of multiple answers, such as selecting up to three options (see Appendix A). Questions 1-7 focused on community priorities for the Kent/Des Moines station area TOD land, and questions 8-13 are optional demographic questions.



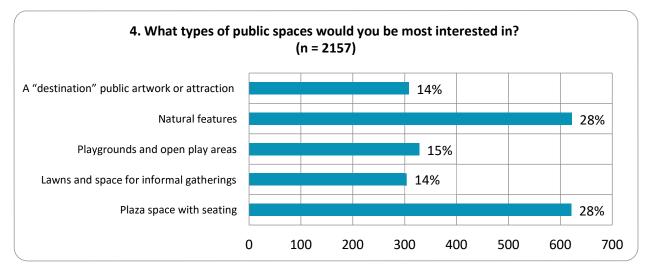
Most respondents live near the Kent/Des Moines light rail station area (47%) and visit businesses, restaurants, and services nearby (27%). Participants also serve communities near the station area, have family near the station area, or plan to use the future light rail station.



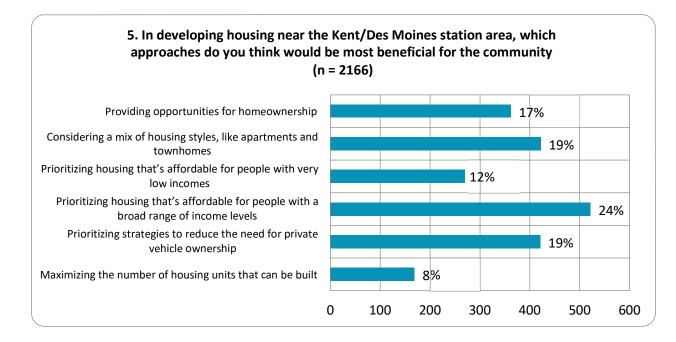
Aside from jobs and housing, most respondents would like community amenities like daily needs retail services and public space near the station (48%).



Most respondents want to focus on space for smaller or emerging business (46% total), especially those that serve food (25%). Centers for recreation and community (14%) and arts and cultural spaces (11%) were also popular among respondents. Other responses included grocery stores, mixed development facilities with housing options for community members across income levels, additional parking options, a police sub-station, and parks.



In terms of public spaces, participants are most interested in having natural features in the area (28%) and plaza-type areas with places to sit (28%). Overall, respondents indicated a strong desire for family-oriented or general gathering spaces of some kind.



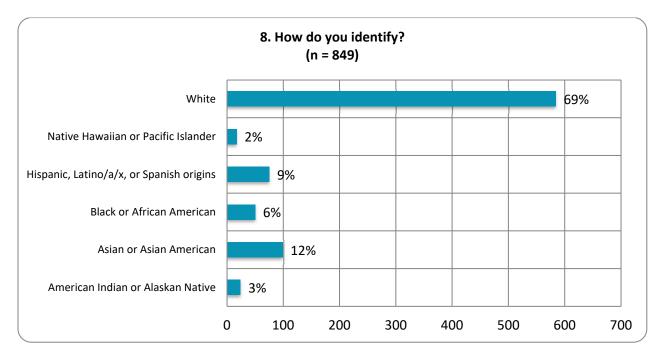
The community also indicated a desire to have affordable housing (24%) and a variety of housing styles (19%) in the area. Respondents are also interested in reducing the need for vehicle ownership (19%).

6) What would make visiting the area around the Kent/Des Moines station area a memorable, enjoyable experience? (Open response; n = 550)

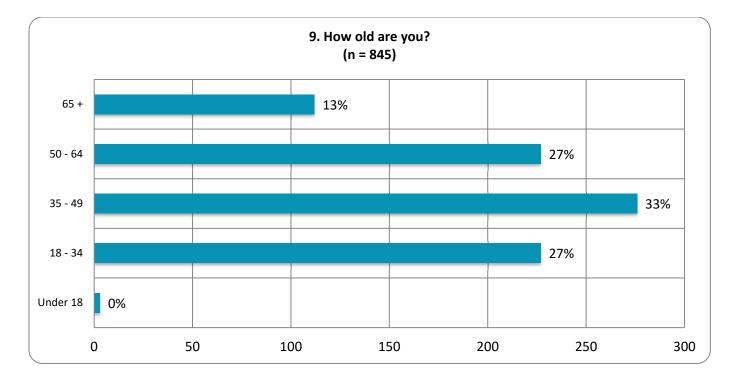
Key Themes	Count
Safety and security	191
Non-residential options	163
Aesthetic improvements	135
Multimodal improvements	101
Parks and green space	89
Diversity and community culture	76
Parking	44
Design	42
Housing affordability and job creation	33
Other	39

7) Is there anything else you'd like to share about transit-oriented development at the Kent/Des Moines station area? (Open response; n = 360)

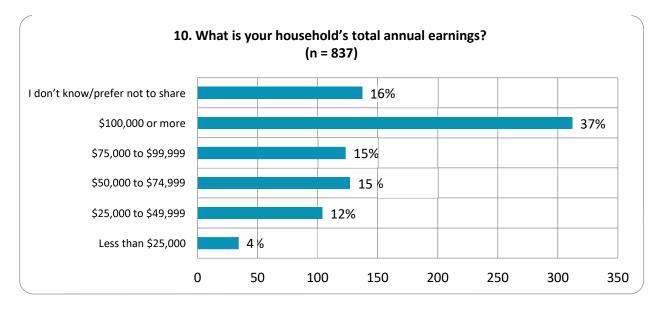
Key Themes	Count
Multimodal improvements	71
Safety and security	68
Parking	62
Diversity and community culture	55
Non-residential options	43
Aesthetic improvements	40
Housing affordability and job creation	35
Design	27
Parks and green space	15
Other	81



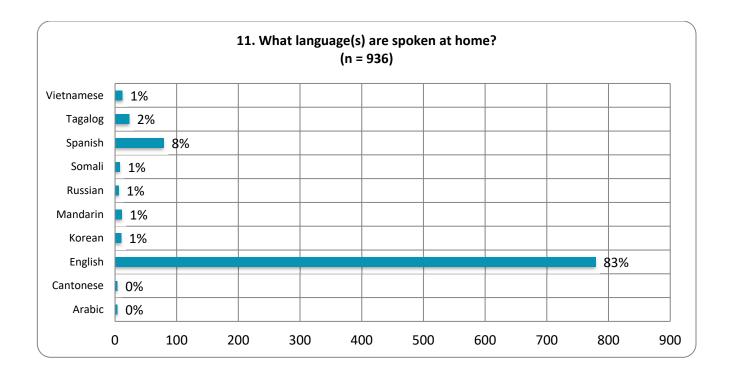
The racial/ethnic identification of participants was requested and allowed for the selection of all applicable categories. Participants identified White (69%), Asian/Asian American (12%), Hispanic/Latinx/Spanish (9%), Black/African American (6%), American Indian/Alaska Native (3%), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2%). A limitation of the survey tool is that we are unable to determine if and how many participants selected multiple response options to indicate their race or ethnicity (such as who identifying as Latino and White).



The plurality of participants were 35-49 years old (33%), though many respondents were also ages 50-64 (27%) and 18-34 (27%).

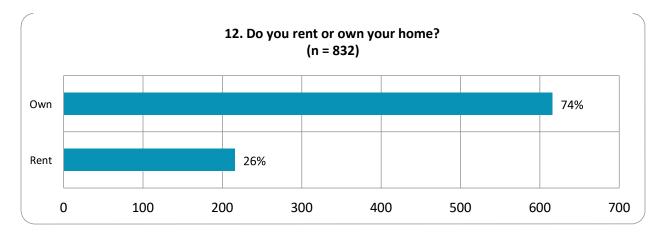


Almost half of participants indicated a household income of less than \$100,000 per year (46%). A substantial number of participants also chose not to disclose their income (16%).

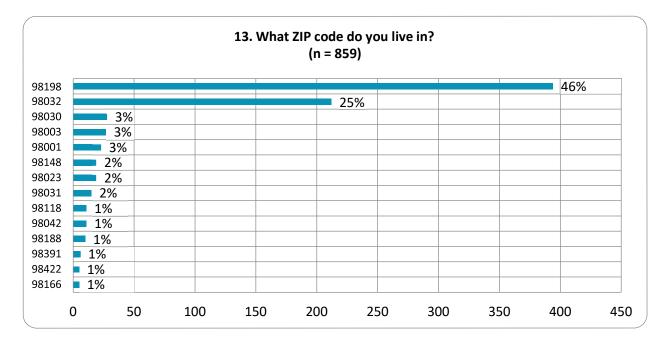


Participants were asked to indicate which languages were spoken in their home and could select all applicable responses. A limitation of the survey tool is that we are unable to determine if participants selected multiple response options (such as speaking Somali and English in the home).

Most participants indicated that English was spoken in their home (83%), and Spanish was the second most common language spoken in the home (8%). Respondents wrote in an additional 32 languages spoken in the home, including: Amharic, American Sign Language, Bengali, Bosnian, Cambodian, Chamorro, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Luganda, Malayalam, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Runyankole, Swahili, Swedish, Tigrinya, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, and Visayan.



Most participants owned their residences (74%). Other responses included living with family.



The ZIP codes above represent Des Moines (46%), Kent (31%), Seattle (9%), Federal Way (8%), Tacoma (2%), and Renton (1%). ZIP codes representing less than 1 percent of respondents were not included in the chart above. Respondents also participated from Bonnie Lake, Ruston, Issaquah, Port Orchard, and many other locations across Washington state.

Phase 1 Open-ended Responses

Aside from jobs and housing, most respondents (48%) want community amenities near the station like daily needs retail/services (e.g., grocery stores) and public spaces.

"There is a lot of traffic in the area. Making housing suited to those who use public transportation would not add to the congestion. Also there needs to be another grocery store in the area. There is only 1 Safeway on 216th St and Pac Hwy, a Fred Meyer on 252nd St,and a Safeway on 272nd. In Des Moines West towards the Marina District there is no grocery store and East towards Kent the closest grocery Store is Safeway on West Meeker St & 68th Ave S."

"We already have drug stores and grocery stores pretty close by if you add something in it would have to be a fancier type of grocery or market like a Metropolitan Market or Central Market. It would be nice to have some arts related stuff like a theater, concert venue, or art installation. It would be nice to have some restaurants, cafes, or a community center like the one in Federal Way."

"A mix of housing and retail/services would be great, especially services that could be used by people traveling to/from work in Seattle (cleaners, post office, etc.)."

Most respondents also want a focus on smaller or emerging business, especially those that serve food (45%). Other popular uses included a center for recreation/community (14%) and arts/cultural space (11%).

"The ideal area would be a mixed-use space similar to the Plaza Roberto Meastas in Beacon Hill, Seattle. A space that is community focused, contains high opportunity housing, local businesses (food and retail) and has space for community and cultural gatherings."

"Having open space with beautiful art that represents Des Moines/Kent and Sound Transit combined. Like history with artwork."

"It's important to have play spaces for kids. Many of the apartments we resettle refugees-- fine the parents if their kids are playing outside. We run an environmentally friendly Community Garden, where kids can come out and interact with the earth. These kind of spaces would be beneficial to the community that lives there."

Several respondents (15%) expressed a desire for a station that celebrates the diversity in the area and maintains the unique character of the local community.

"I would love to see a space that elevates the cultures and experiences of our community. A beautiful space that not only provides affordable housing & wraparound services, but also showcases culture through retail spaces that offer food, clothing, spices for sale. We could also provide a work hub, with the strategic placement of an industry where we can get refugees/immigrants employed close to where they live."

"Creating an inviting, safe, and interesting place to visit; hosting regular events; giving the area a personality and unique identity to make it appealing and differentiate it from other locations."

"Whatever is built needs to be accommodating and welcoming to the community as a whole. We are a very diverse community and should reflect that in all we do to encourage visitation to our area and economic and workforce development..."

"Being able to exemplify the diversity of the people of the area built into the design of the station."

Some respondents (19%) expressed a desire for multimodal improvements, increased accessibility and organizations for people of all abilities, and a sense of connectivity in the infrastructure around the station area.

"We need accessible options for disabled communities, especially in terms of housing and transit. If there could be an inclusive meeting space for people of all abilities and cultures, that would be ideal. Please establish disabled-friendly multicultural center or put aside space for local community-based organizations to fill the role!"

"An open area that helps the needs of those who may not have accessibility to get around or having more places for the community to go for resources for various things that they may need. Signs inmultiple languages and improving accessibility for different kinds of mobilities."

In terms of design, many respondents want the area to reflect nature (29%), with consideration for places to walk, sit, and ride bikes (29%).

"A beautiful park and playground for the community that lives nearby is important for all kids, especially those living with disabilities."

"Any green space. There's very little parks around the area, and a decent patch of nature would do wonders for the community."

"Being able to safely walk and BIKE between transportation hubs and the rest of the community. Well-lit walkways, plenty of crosswalks, protected bike lanes."

"Less pavement. More cultural, artistic, and natural open space interactive areas."

Providing a mix of housing styles (20%) to people with a range of incomes (24%) were the top priorities. It is important to note that most respondents live nearby (47%).

"Ultimately, I want this to be a community where I can afford to live and where there are interesting things to do. I want spaces where I can meet with people, sheltered from the rain, and to have access to new and exciting housing and restaurant options."

"Kent is a very diverse neighborhood, with people from all kinds of backgrounds. We need more affordable housing options if we want to continue to grow our economy and community."

"People with Disabilities need Housing opportunities. Affordable Housing is greatly needed for our disability community."

Lastly, over a third of respondents want improved safety measures (29%) and more parking (12%) near the station area. Many respondents desire more parking areas to support commuters and students who livefurther than walking distance from the station area, though it should be noted that connectivity for pedestrians, cyclists, and others without vehicles in the area was also a priority.

"Hope security will catch up with busier district, not only develop the area but also make it a better place to live. "

"Safety is key, as large public spaces sometimes end up unsafe, especially in that area. Some areas around there ended up run down I, specifically around Ia plaza and the Lowe's. It would be great if a new development energizes the neighborhood. There are a lot of new apartment buildings along 99 and nearby recently built."

"Safety. Again, safety. Please keep well-lit."

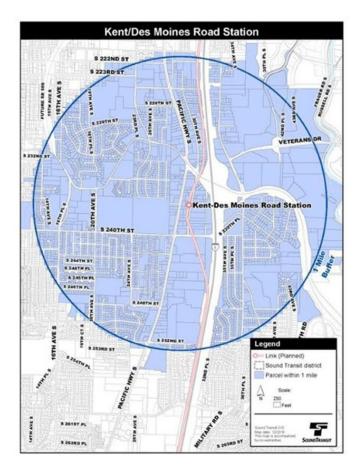
"Parking needs to be ample for people using light rail and businesses nearby."

"Parking, ease of entry and exit, pay stations conveniently located, with our diverse community in the forefront of all planning."

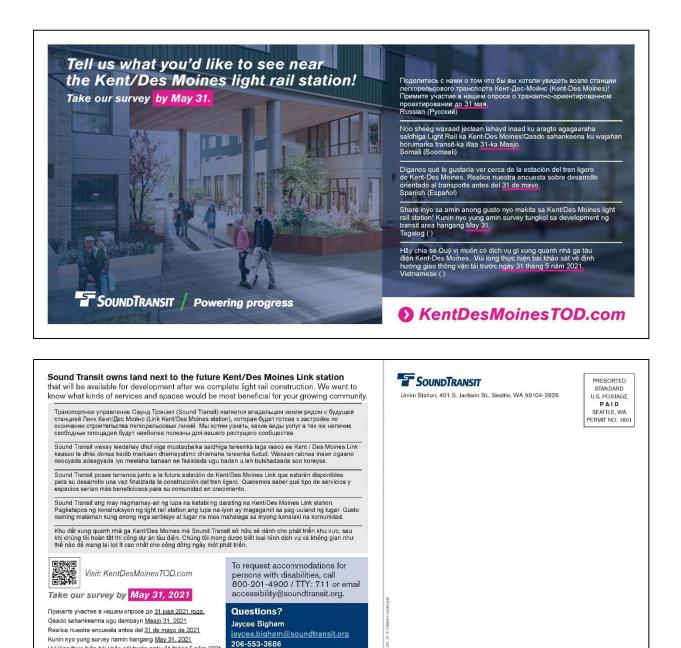
Appendix C: Phase 1 Recruitment

For the phase 1 online survey, Sound Transit notified the public of the feedback opportunity through a postcard distributed to residences within a one-mile radius of the Kent/Des Moines station area. To continue to strengthen relationships with local businesses, the postcard was also handdelivered to businesses located near the station area. The postcard featured information in the six languages in which Sound Transit provided the survey (English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese). Digital survey promotion included banner ads on local news sites (e.g., Kent Reporter) and newsfeed ads through Sound Transit's Facebook account. Facebook ads were provided in English and Spanish, focusing on zip codes along the Federal Way Link Extension alignment. Advertisements were also run in Spanish and Vietnamese in relevant regional media outlets.

Community-based organizations were also engaged through presentations to groups (e.g., Kent Cultural Diversity Initiative Group) and email notifications (86 organizations). Service providers working with communities in the area were encouraged take the survey themselves in addition to sharing the survey with their networks.



Community-based organizations will receive a social media "toolkit" to simplify the process of sharing the online open house and community conversation with their networks (see "Next Steps"). They will also receive a factsheet on the Kent/Des Moines station area TOD work for additional context. The factsheet is available in 10 languages (English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese Korean, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese and Arabic).





Vui lòng thực hiện bài khảo sát trước ngày 31 tháng 5 năm 2021

Appendix D: Phase 1 Data Collection

The postcards, social media advertisements, outreach presentations, and other strategies used for recruitment directed participants to the online survey instrument (Appendix A). The survey was fielded through Social Pinpoint, an online engagement platform.

Open-ended comments were organized using the following themes:

- Safety and security
- Non-residential options
- Aesthetic improvements/design
- Multi-model improvements
- Parks and green space
- Diversity and community culture
- Parking
- Housing affordability and job creating
- Other

These themes were derived from the open-ended responses themselves and were created through the data analysis process.

Appendix E: Phase 2 Online Open House Questions

The Kent Des/Moines TOD phase 2 survey included the following questions, organized by topic, and presented with concept images or example photos for reference. The survey was available in English, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. All questions were optional. The survey included:

Where should most of the activity take place at the site?

The 'heart' of the site is where public activity will be centered. This could include activities such as park space, retail, restaurants, or temporary events such as farmers markets.

- 1. Think about a public place that you enjoy spending time in. What makes it a great place or space? (Choose up to 3)
 - Activities for kids
 - Shopping options
 - Outdoor seating
 - Plaza space paved public square
 - \circ Green space grass, trees, landscaping
 - Pop-up markets and seasonal festivals

What types of public spaces are you interested in?

Public space is open and accessible to all who walk and gather. Public space will occur along the sidewalks of the Pacific Highway, South 236th Street, and at the station plazas. The developed sites will have public spaces that tie in/connect with these areas to form a pedestrian network. We heard community feedback that the following are important to the future Kent-Des Moines station area:

- Pleasant public spaces between transportation corridors
- Natural features (like grassy areas and playgrounds)
- Plaza space with seating
- 1. For green spaces on the site, which of the following features and activities would you like to see most? (Choose one)
 - Smaller grassy areas/lawns for sitting
 - o Larger recreational space for activities like frisbee and lawn games
 - Playground/structured play area
 - Landscaped areas/gardens/trees
 - Off-leash area for dogs
- 2. For plazas and hardscape areas (i.e., concrete or paved areas) on the site, which of the following features and activities would you like to see most? (Choose one)
 - Retail that faces onto plazas
 - o Pop up events such as farmers' markets
 - o Public art
 - o Seating areas such as tables and benches

What types of housing should we prioritize?

We learned that the community would like to see a mix of housing styles, affordable to a range of incomes at this site. We are studying a variety of housing building types and would like your input.

- 1. Which of the following do you think is most important for future residents of the site? (Choose one)
 - o Create units with views of the surrounding area
 - Offer a variety of active ground-floor residential units (units with entrances, patios, stoops)
 - Create smaller, semi-private open spaces for residents (e.g., courtyards)
 - Minimize exposure to traffic noise on SR-99

- Create multiple pedestrian pathways to connect to the new station
- 2. Housing unit size: What should we prioritize? (Choose one)
 - Maximize the total number of housing units by building smaller units (more studios and onebedroom units)
 - Include more units with room for families, but fewer overall units (more two- and threebedroom units)
- 3. Mix of uses: What should we prioritize? (Choose one)
 - Maximize the number of housing units that can be built, and include a smaller amount of retail and office uses
 - o Include more retail and office space in a building with fewer new housing units

What kinds of retail, business, and community uses would you like to see on the site?

We learned that shops that offer goods and services—like pharmacies—and space for small business activities, especially food service, are important to the community. We would like to better understand how you would use these businesses.

- 1. When would you use the shops and services at this site?
 - Occasionally, on the way to and from work
 - Occasionally, to meet friends and family in the area
 - Occasionally, for specialty needs (such as every other week, monthly)
 - Occasionally, on the way to and from the station
 - Daily for needs, conveniences, and services (such as pharmacies and restaurants)
- 2. Where would you prefer to access services and business in the area?
 - Indoor retail, like a food hall
 - Retail along major transit transfer areas
 - Highly visible retail on street corners
 - Retail along quieter plazas or interior streets
- 3. Additionally, what type of community space would you like to see here? Community space is one that people who live nearby can access.
 - o Youth center
 - Childcare/daycare facilities
 - o Community center, meeting space
 - Recreation center
 - Small business support space community kitchens and other services

How should we organize the site to create community value?

The site is located between Pacific Highway and the station area. It is long and narrow and creates opportunities to organize for access, open space, and buildings that support the activities desired by the community.

- 1. For the size and orientation of the public spaces, which concept would you prefer (choose one):
 - Have one larger green space for both residents and the public (concept 1)
 - Have smaller neighborhood "mini parks" connected to the buildings (concept 2)
 - Have several East-West open passageways that have shared streets and plazas connected to retail spaces (concept 3)
- 2. There are different ways to arrange open space, access, and buildings on this narrow site. Which of the following do you think is most important? (Choose one)
 - Larger but fewer buildings with consolidated open space and visual buffer from Pacific Highway (concept 1)
 - Buildings that have a variety of shapes, heights, outdoor spaces, and unit types (concept 2)
 - Buildings that have windows that face quieter interior streets and plazas and more

connections through the blocks (concept 3)

- 3. The heart of activity could be centered in different areas on the TOD site. Where do you prefer these activities take place?
 - a. On the south site, near the station entrance (concept 1)
 - b. In the middle of the site, near the intersection of the station (concept 2)
 - c. Off-street, surrounded by ground-level retail services (concept 3)

Optional questions: Tell us more about yourself

Sound Transit wants to hear from a full range of voices that represent the diverse communities we serve. The questions below are optional, but your answers help us understand who we're reaching. Answers are anonymous and confidential.

- 1. How do you identify?
 - American Indian or Alaskan Native
 - Black, African American, or African
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
 - Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins
 - o Asian, Asian American, Middle Eastern, or Indian
 - Two or more races
 - o White
 - o Other

Select all that apply (two or more races)

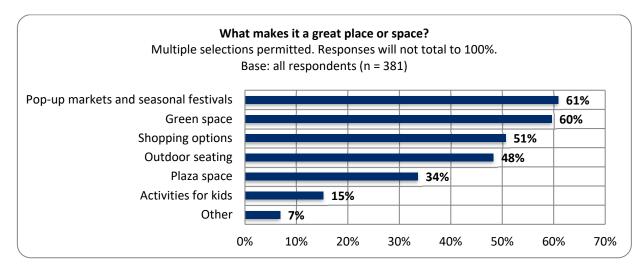
- o American Indian or Alaskan Native
- o Black, African American, or African
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins
- Asian, Asian American, Middle Eastern, or Indian
- o White
- o Other
- 2. How old are you?
 - o Under 18
 - o **18-34**
 - o **35-49**
 - o **50-64**
 - o **65+**
- 3. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?
 - o **1**
 - o **2-4**
 - o **4-6**
 - o 7 or more
- 4. What is your household's total annual earnings?
 - Less than \$25,000
 - o \$25,000 to \$49,999
 - \$50,000 to \$74,999
 - \$75,000 to \$99,999
 - \$100,000 to \$149,999
 - \$150,000 to \$199,999
 - \$200,000 or more
 - o I don't know/prefer not to share
- 5. Does anyone in your family speak any languages other than English?
 - o Yes
 - No (skip to question 7)
- 6. What language(s) are spoken at home? (Select all that apply)
 - o English
 - o Spanish

- o Tagalog
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- o Korean
- o Somali
- o Russian
- Cantonese
- Arabic
- \circ Other
- 7. Do you rent or own your home?
 - Rent

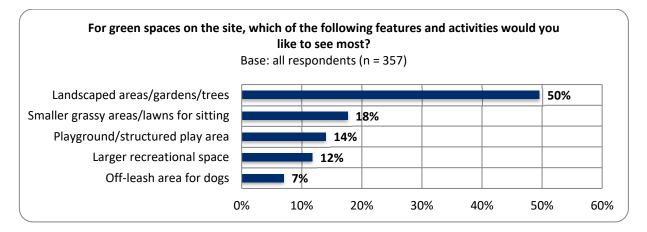
 - OwnOther
- 8. What ZIP code do you live in?
 - o **98148**
 - o **98032**
 - o **98198**
 - o Other

Appendix F: Detailed Phase 2 Online Open House Results

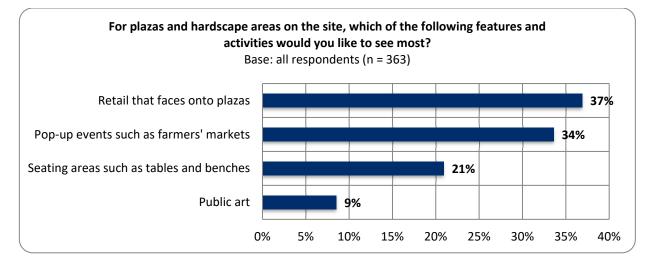
During the survey period, we received a total of 2,164 responses from 429 participants: 2,125 responses in English, 23 responses in Spanish, 5 in Tagalog, and 11 in Vietnamese. The survey responses are summarized below. In the graphics that follow, the number of total answers is indicated in parentheses following the question. Several of the questions allowed for the selection of multiple answers, such as selecting up to three options (see Appendix E).



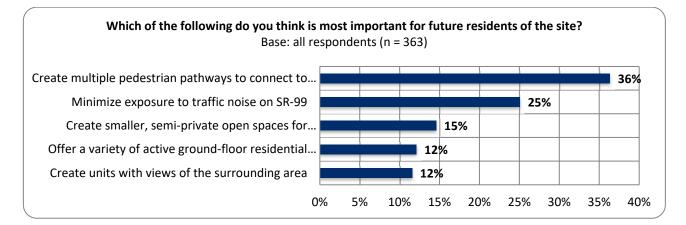
More than half respondents said that they enjoyed spending time in public places that had popup markets, seasonal festivities, and green space (60%).



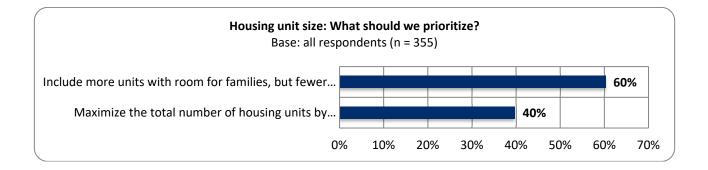
For green spaces on the site, most respondents would like to see landscaped areas, gardens, and trees (50%). Smaller grassy areas and lawns for sitting were also popular among respondents (18%).



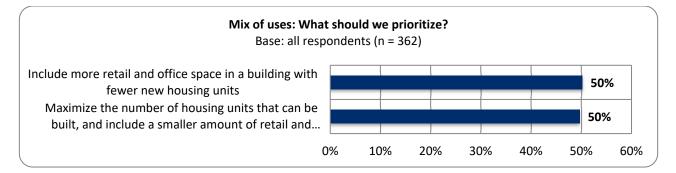
For plazas and hardscape areas on the site, most respondents would like to see retail that faces onto the plazas and pop-up events such as farmers' markets (71%). Seating areas such as tables and benches were also popular among residents (21%).



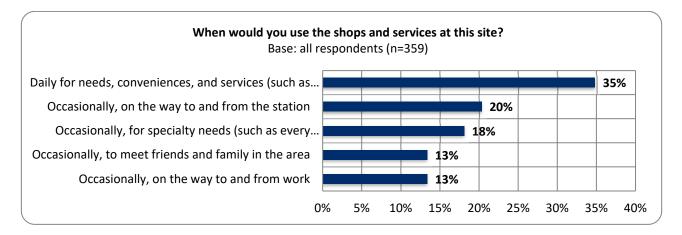
Most respondents would like to focus on creating multiple pedestrian pathways to connect to the new station (36%). Respondents are also interested in minimizing exposure to traffic noise on SR-99 (25%)



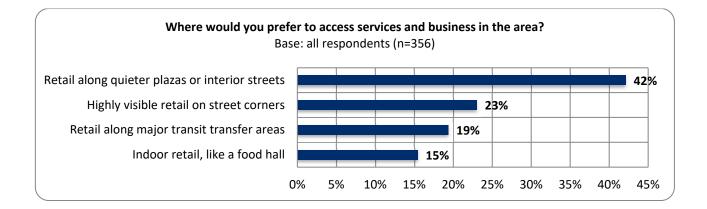
Rather than maximizing the absolute number of housing units delivered, respondents were interested in including more units for families (e.g., two- and three-bedroom units) in the mix, not all studio and one-bedroom units.



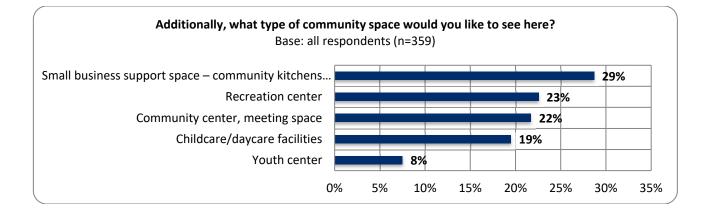
Respondents were divided between those interested in providing some retail and office space in a building, and those who wanted to maximize the number of housing units that can be built.



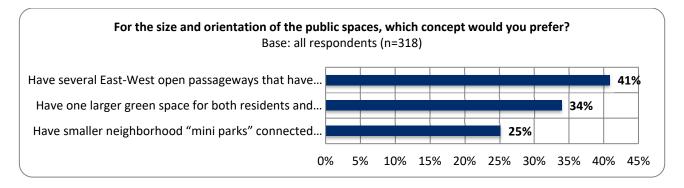
Most respondents plan to use the shops and services at this site daily for needs, conveniences, and services (35%). Another 20% of respondents plan to use the shops and services occasionally, when they are on the way to and from the station.



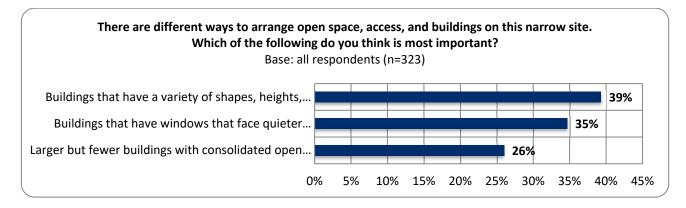
When accessing services and businesses in the area, most respondents would prefer to access them through retail along quieter plazas or interior streets (42%).



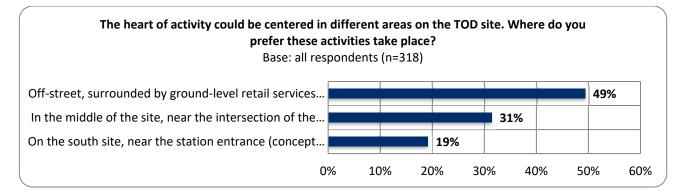
Respondents were interested in a variety of community-serving uses on the site, with strong interest in a recreation and/or community center (45% combined), and spaces that support small business (29%).



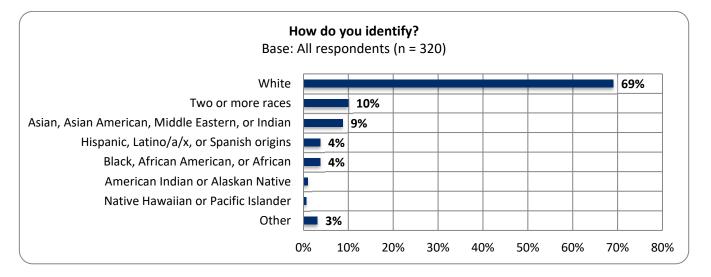
In terms of size and orientation of the public spaces, most respondents would prefer to have several East-West open passageways that have shared streets and plazas connected to retail spaces (41%). Respondents were also interested in having one larger green space for both residents and the public (34%).



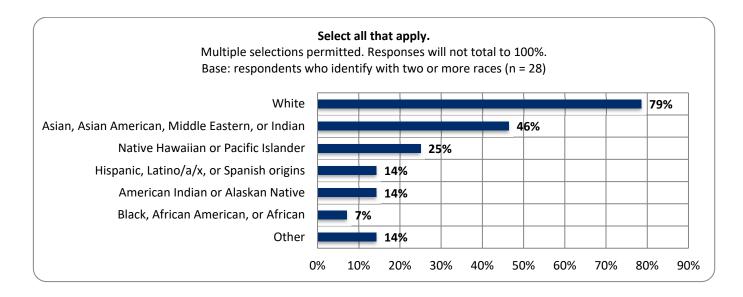
Respondents indicated a desire to have buildings that have a variety of shapes, heights, outdoor spaces, and unit types (39%). Respondents are also interested in buildings that have windows that face quieter interior streets and plazas and more connections through blocks (35%).



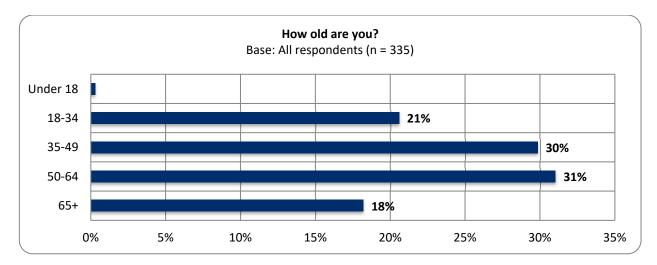
Most respondents would like to see activities take place off street, surrounded by ground-level retail services (49%).



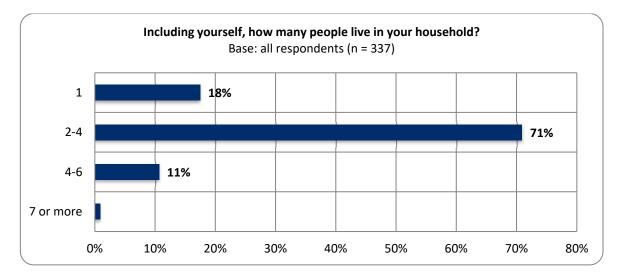
The racial/ethnic identification of participants was requested and allowed for selection of one applicable category. Participants identified as White (69%), two or more races (10%), Asian, Asian American, Middle Eastern, or Indian (9%), Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins (4%), Black, African American, or African (4%), Other (3%), American Indian or Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (<1%).



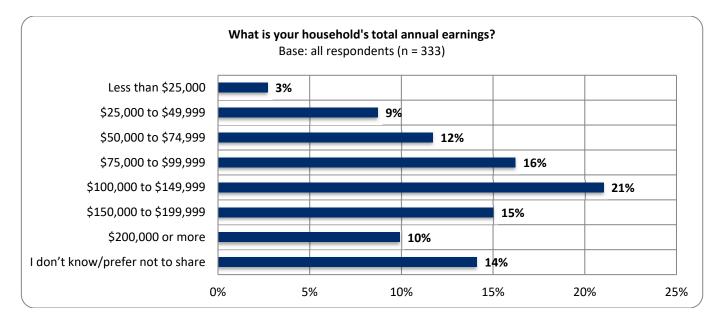
Respondents who identified as two or more races were asked to select all races they identified with. Participants identified as White (79%); Asian, Asian American, Middle Eastern, or Indian (46%); Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (25%); Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origins (14%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (14%); Black, African American, or African (7%); and Other (14%).



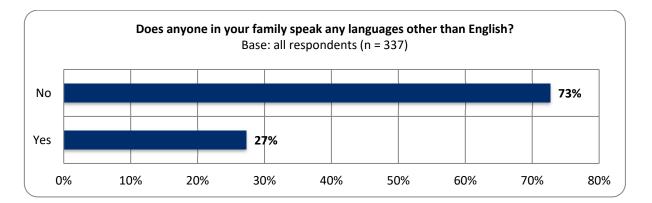
Most participants were 50-64 (31%) or 35-49 years old (30%).



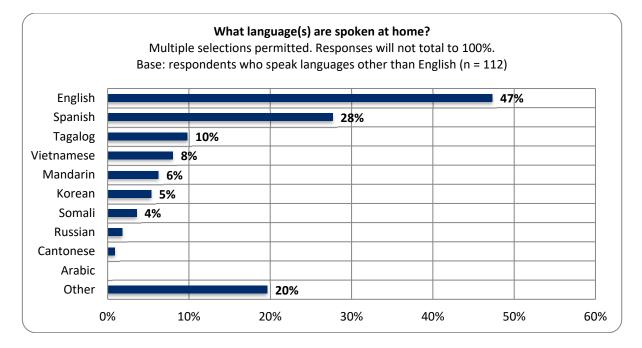
Most participants indicated that they have 2-4 people that live in their household (71%).



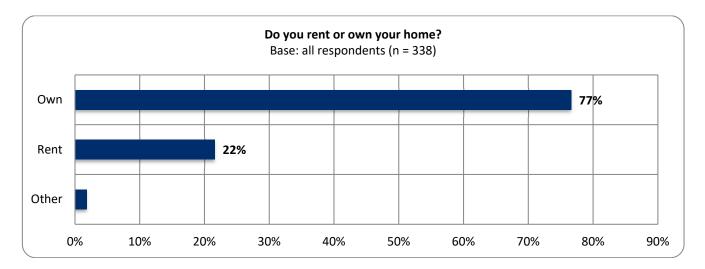
About 40% of participants indicated a household income of less than \$100,000 per year. A substantial number of participants also indicated that they made more than \$150,000 per year (25%) or chose not to disclose their income (14%).



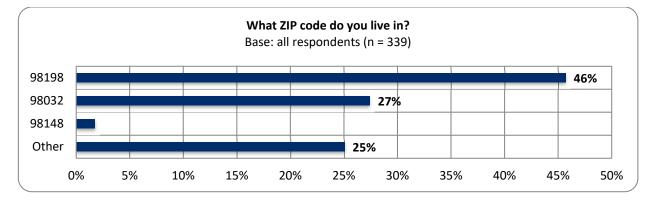
Most respondents indicated that their household consisted of only English speakers (73%) while some indicated that their household spoke languages other than English (27%).



Respondents who indicated that languages other than English were spoken at home were asked what languages were spoken. Respondents were able to select multiple or all options. Languages other than English that were spoken at home were Spanish (28%), Tagalog (10%), Vietnamese (8%), Mandarin (6%), Korean (5%), Somali (4%), Russian (2%), Cantonese (<1%), and Other (20%). Respondents wrote in an additional 16 languages spoken in the home, including Afrikaans, Zulu, German, American Sign Language (ASL), Dutch, French, Ilocano, Ebonics, Bysia, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Norsk, Polynesian, Samoan, and Thai.



Most participants owned their residences (77%). Other responses included living with family and living in permanent retirement communities.



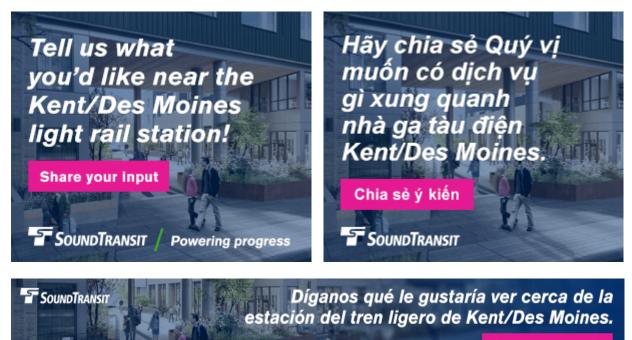
The ZIP codes above represent Des Moines (46%), Kent (27%), and Burien (2%). Respondents listed an additional 32 ZIP codes under other, most popular being 98003, 98031, 98030, 98023, and 98188.

Appendix G: Phase 2 Recruitment

For the Phase 2 online survey, Sound Transit notified the public of the feedback opportunity through a postcard distributed to residences within 1.5 miles of the Kent/Des Moines station area. To continue to strengthen relationships with local businesses, the postcard was also hand-delivered to businesses located near the station area. The postcard featured information in the six languages in which Sound Transit provided the survey (English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese). Digital survey promotion included banner ads on local publication sites (e.g., Kent Reporter and Federal Way Reporter) and newsfeed ads through Sound Transit's Facebook account. Facebook ads were provided in English and Spanish, focusing on zip codes along the Federal Way Link Extension alignment. Advertisements were also run in Spanish and Vietnamese in relevant regional media outlets.







Comparta su opinión

Appendix H: Phase 2 Data Collection

The postcards, social media advertisements, outreach presentations, and other strategies used for recruitment directed participants to the online survey instrument (Appendix E). Like Phase 1, the survey was fielded through Social Pinpoint, an online engagement platform.

Questions were organized using the following themes:

- Public and activity space
- Green space
- Affordable housing
- Retail and business space
- Community space

Appendix I: November 3 Community Conversation

Questions and comments received during the virtual public meeting were specific to site development, program uses, developer RFP process, equitable community engagement, project timeline, and traffic operations.

The following questions and comments were shared by meeting participants:

- All options have about the same amount of development capacity, why is option 1 mostly affordable? The massing of that could be market rate as well.
- If all options have about the same amount of development capacity, why is option 1 mostly affordable? The massing of that could be market rate as well.
- For "programmable space" in question #4, does the City of Kent and City of Des Moines plan to administer and fund those activations?
- How do we ensure the RFP process is diverse and reflects community priorities?
- Are you addressing the community's safety concerns?
- Will the community get to provide more detailed input on types of site program uses, e.g., the types or retail services, community amenities, and disability services?
- Do you intend to select one developer for developing the 2 parcels, or several developers to work on different parcels?
- We would like to recommend Sound Transit work with multiple developers and require developers to work with nonprofit organizations that are led and serve communities that are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- Based on the demographics reported and knowing the diversity in south King County, there should be more intentional effort to engage with diverse communities, so that diverse voices can be proportionally incorporated into this project's findings and recommendations given to the Sound Transit Board.
- Designing for people living with disabilities, not just meeting ADA requirements, can benefit everyone.
- Has there been thought to how this TOD project will affect traffic on Pacific Highway?
- Are there plans to address increased pedestrian traffic across Pacific Highway due to the station. This is an area where there are many pedestrians involved in accidents due to people trying to cross Pacific Highway from the crosswalks.