



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **Why isn't Sound Transit building more parking?**

Sound Transit is building parking based on funding approved by voters. In addition to the new Kent garage, this includes new garages at Auburn, Sumner, and Puyallup Stations; by 2024 there will be a total of 8,400 Sounder south parking stalls. The new parking will supplement alternative options, such as local bus transit, drop-off, biking and walking. Sound Transit also has reserved parking for transit riders in a registered carpool, and may institute reserved solo-driver parking permits in 2019.

### **Why is the garage only three levels? Why not build higher with a smaller footprint?**

The design currently envisioned is a wide, open 3-bay garage, level with a single ramp bay sloped for parking. This typically provides more stalls per floor and better visibility across each level, thus making it quicker and easier to get in and out of the garage.

### **Will there be real-time signage about the number of available spaces?**

Sound Transit is currently researching technology for real-time parking information. We will have updated information in advance of the garage opening.

### **Will parking in the new garage be free?**

Before the garage opens in 2023, Sound Transit will study parking availability in the area and make a projection about how full the garage is expected to be. If utilization is expected to be over 90% in the first year, the garage will be eligible for Sound Transit's new solo-driver permit parking program, where up to half the spaces could be reserved for holders of monthly permits. At least half of the parking spaces would remain free and first-come, first-served. For more information:

<https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/ST-SOV-Permits-FAQ.pdf>.

### **Would the new garage introduce more traffic to the area?**

Sound Transit is current evaluating potential environmental impacts of the project, including traffic impacts, and possible mitigation measures. We will issue the results of this evaluation for public review and comment in spring 2019.

### **What measures will Sound Transit take to ensure safety for the garage?**

Sound Transit implements industry best practices to ensure our facilities are safe. Tactics include:

- Placing security cameras outside garages.
- Landscaping that preserves open sight lines.
- Lighting on the garage exterior and surrounding areas to ensure a visible and well-lit area for pedestrians and others.
- 24-hour lighting inside all areas of the garage.
- Ensuring visibility for stairwells and elevator shafts, such as using glass or other transparent materials.
- Monitoring of garages by security staff, and encouraging customers to report any suspicious activity.

### **Will there be new bicycle parking at the station, or in the new garage?**

Sound Transit is planning to upgrade the bicycle lockers at the station so that they can serve more customers through short-term rentals. Bicycle parking is not anticipated in the new garage, as parking closer to the platform is preferred.

### **What is the budget for this project?**

The estimated budget for the Kent Station parking and access project is \$65 million. This includes all phases – planning, administration, design, and construction.

### **Will Sound Transit add additional trains?**

As ridership on the Sounder South continues to grow, Sound Transit is working to increase train and platform capacity from seven cars to 10, accommodating 40 percent more passengers. Sound Transit will also negotiate with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway (the railway owns the tracks used by Sounder) to run more daily trips. Planning for Sounder South capacity expansion will get under way in late 2018, with improvements completed by 2036.

### **Why do trains block the intersection at Smith Street?**

The Sound Transit platform at Kent station is located close to Smith Street. When trains stop on the platform, a safety railroad signal circuit is activated, causing the crossing arms on Smith Street to go down and halt traffic to ensure public safety. The crossing arms are usually down for less than a minute. Moving the platform further north to prevent circuit activation would be an extensive capital improvement undertaking. Sound Transit may consider moving the platform north when we examine lengthening the platform to accommodate longer trains.

### **What will happen with the Sound Transit lot at Railroad Ave North and East Smith Street?**

The future of this parcel, which was originally used for construction staging for the original Kent Station parking garage, is being considered for construction staging when the second garage is built.

### **What is happening with King County Metro service in Kent?**

King County Metro is planning on implementing the RapidRide I Line, connecting Kent, Renton and Auburn, in 2023. To prepare for the implementation of this line, Metro will be looking at current service and developing a plan for future service needs in the Kent, Renton and Auburn areas. This plan will lead to service changes in fall 2020. Metro plans to begin this planning phase, including community and stakeholder engagement, in early 2019.

### **Have other questions?**

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