

WELCOME

Sound Transit is expanding access to Kent Station for people who walk, drive, bike and take transit. The project includes construction of a new garage at East James Street and Railroad Avenue North and improvements to pedestrian, bicycle and bus connections to the station to provide better options for Sounder and bus riders.

Today you can learn about project updates, results of the environmental analysis and next steps.

What has happened on the project so far?

Project Planning: 2017-2020



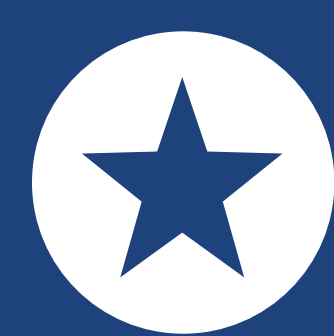
Spring–fall 2017: Sound Transit worked closely with the City of Kent and collected community feedback to help identify a site for a new parking garage and other improvements.



November 2017: Sound Transit Board identified a preferred improvement package, including East James Street and Railroad Avenue North as the site for a new parking garage with approximately 500 stalls.



2018-2019: Conceptual design and environmental review



October 2019: Project update

**WE ARE
HERE**



Early 2020: Sound Transit Board selects project to build



September 2019

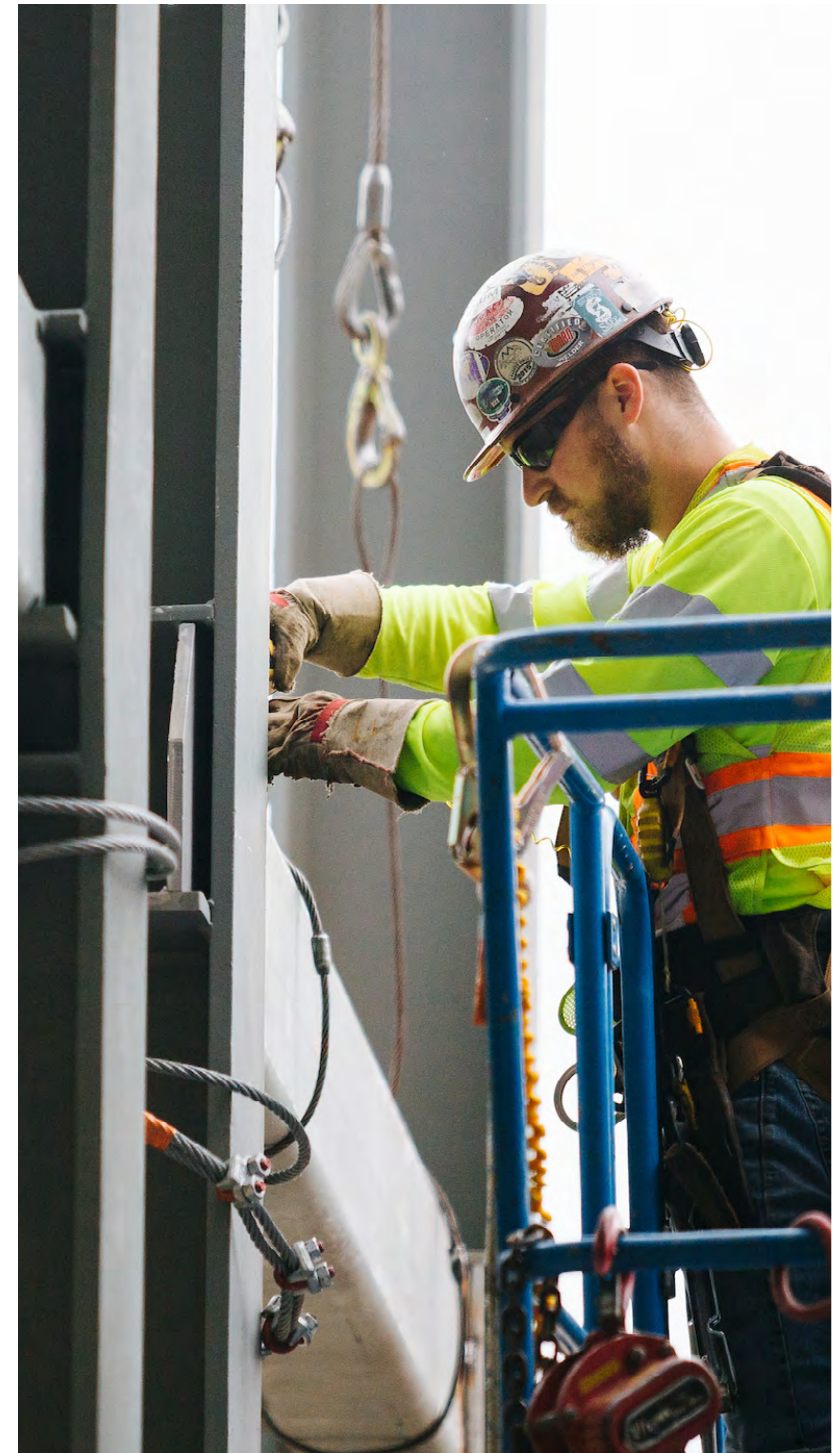
DESIGN-BUILD CONTRACTING

This project will be delivered through a design-build method of contracting. Rather than two separate contracts for final design and construction, a single contractor takes the project through both phases. This practice helps to streamline the development and completion of the project.

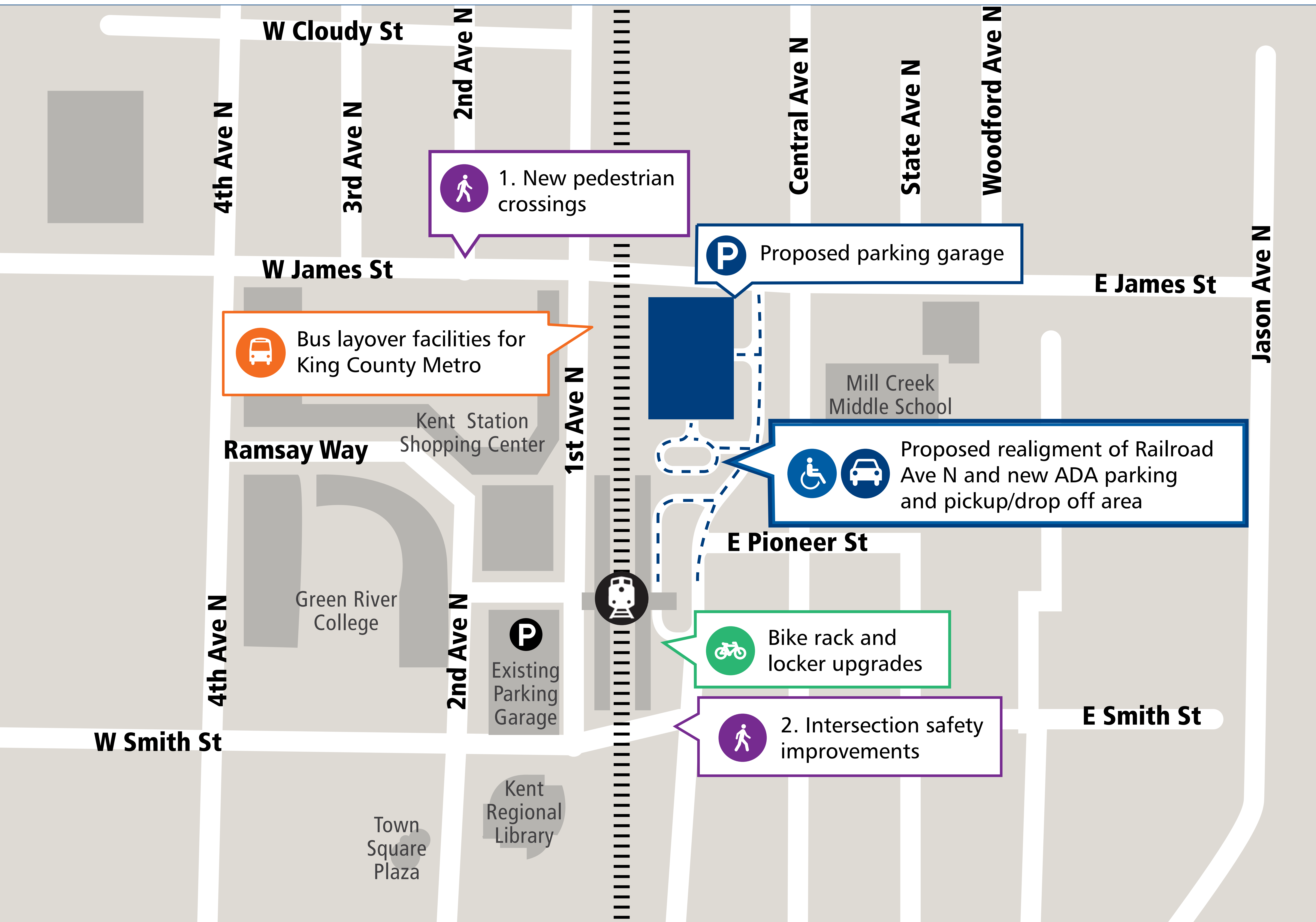
Design-build also means the project design will not be finalized until after a contractor is hired. Sound Transit provides a list of requirements when advertising the contract, and firms can come up with creative ways to meet requirements, including modified design elements.

Public input next year will play a role in identifying the “look and feel” of the garage, and the resulting community priorities will be included in project requirements.





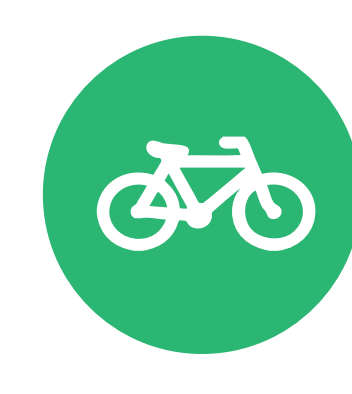

After a contractor is selected, updated designs will be shared with the public. Some stages of construction can begin while the design process is still underway.



PROJECT OVERVIEW



Proposed project components

-  3-story parking garage with approximately 500 Stalls
-  1. W James Street and 2nd Avenue N: painted curb extension, new crosswalks, curbs that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and flashing light to alert drivers to crossing pedestrians; this project will be funded in coordination with the System Access Fund
-  Realigned Railroad Ave N with traffic enhancements to improve vehicular flow
-  2. Railroad Avenue N and W Smith Street: painted curb extension, flashing light to alert drivers to crossing pedestrians, a hardscape median with pedestrian refuge, restriping of crosswalks, and curbs that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act
-  Upgraded bike racks and lockers: planned bicycle improvements include adding smart lockers (reservable by the hour) and bike racks
-  Converted parking lot to a King County Metro bus layover area (8 buses) on 1st Ave N

NEW BUS LAYOVER FOR KING COUNTY METRO

Bus layover

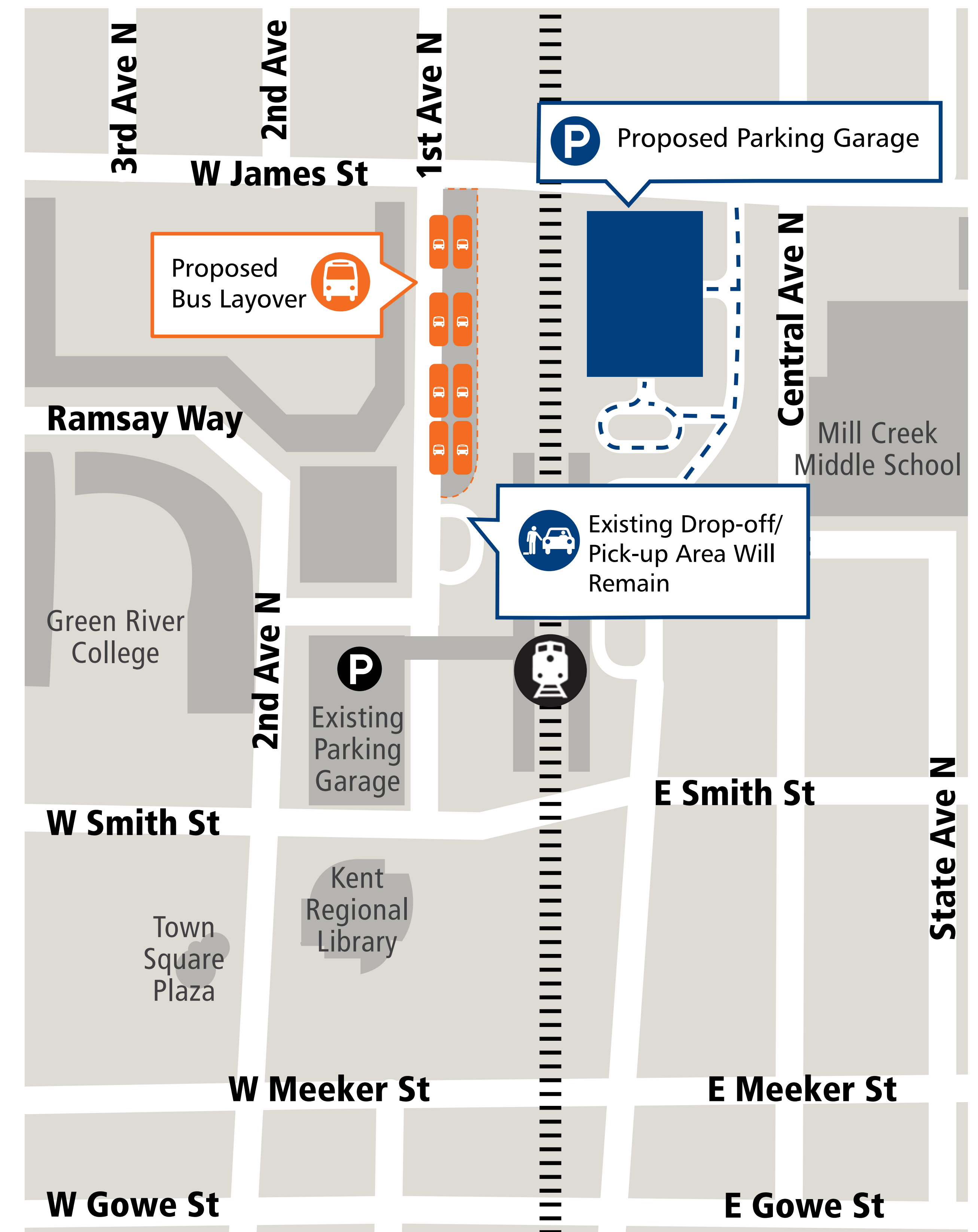
On 1st Avenue N, west of the proposed garage and adjacent to the railroad, the Sound Transit-owned parking lot would be converted to a bus layover area for King County Metro buses. The layover area would include approximately 8 bus bays and a bus operator rest stop.

Why are bus facilities at Kent station important?

King County Metro and Sound Transit operate more than 700 daily bus trips at Kent Station, with over 4,500 passengers boarding a bus each weekday. Metro has plans to significantly expand bus service throughout South King County, with improvements beginning in fall 2020. And by 2023 the Metro RapidRide “I” Line will connect Renton, Kent and Auburn.

Even with the new parking garage, more bus service at Kent Station will be needed, both to connect to Sounder and to provide all-day transit connections. The increased bus service will require additional space for buses to park between trips, which is why new layover space is being included as part of this project.

For more information on the I Line or the Renton-Kent-Auburn Area Mobility Plan, visit: kingcounty.gov/metro/iline.



DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

To evaluate potential impacts and benefits from the project, Sound Transit completed a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist. Sound Transit has determined that the Kent Station Parking and Access Improvements Project does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment (pursuant to the SEPA Act. WAC 197-11-340(2)).

Availability of documents:

The SEPA checklist and technical reports are available for review at [**soundtransit.org/kent-access-improvements**](https://soundtransit.org/kent-access-improvements)

What potential impacts and benefits did we study in the sepa checklist?

- Earth (soils)
- Air quality / greenhouse gas
- Water
- Plants
- Animals
- Energy
- Environmental health (includes hazardous materials, noise, vibration)
- Land and shoreline use (includes temporary and permanent property acquisition)
- Housing
- Aesthetics
- Light and glare
- Recreation
- Historic and cultural preservation
- Transportation
- Public services
- Utilities
- Construction impacts



HIGHLIGHTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Aesthetics

The proposed garage location and size would be compatible with the character of the surrounding area, as depicted by these existing and conceptual views of the proposed garage site. Sound Transit will design the garage with exterior architectural screening and landscaping consistent with the City of Kent's requirements and with consideration for community comments.

West James Street (looking east)



Existing view



Conceptual view

East James Street (looking west)

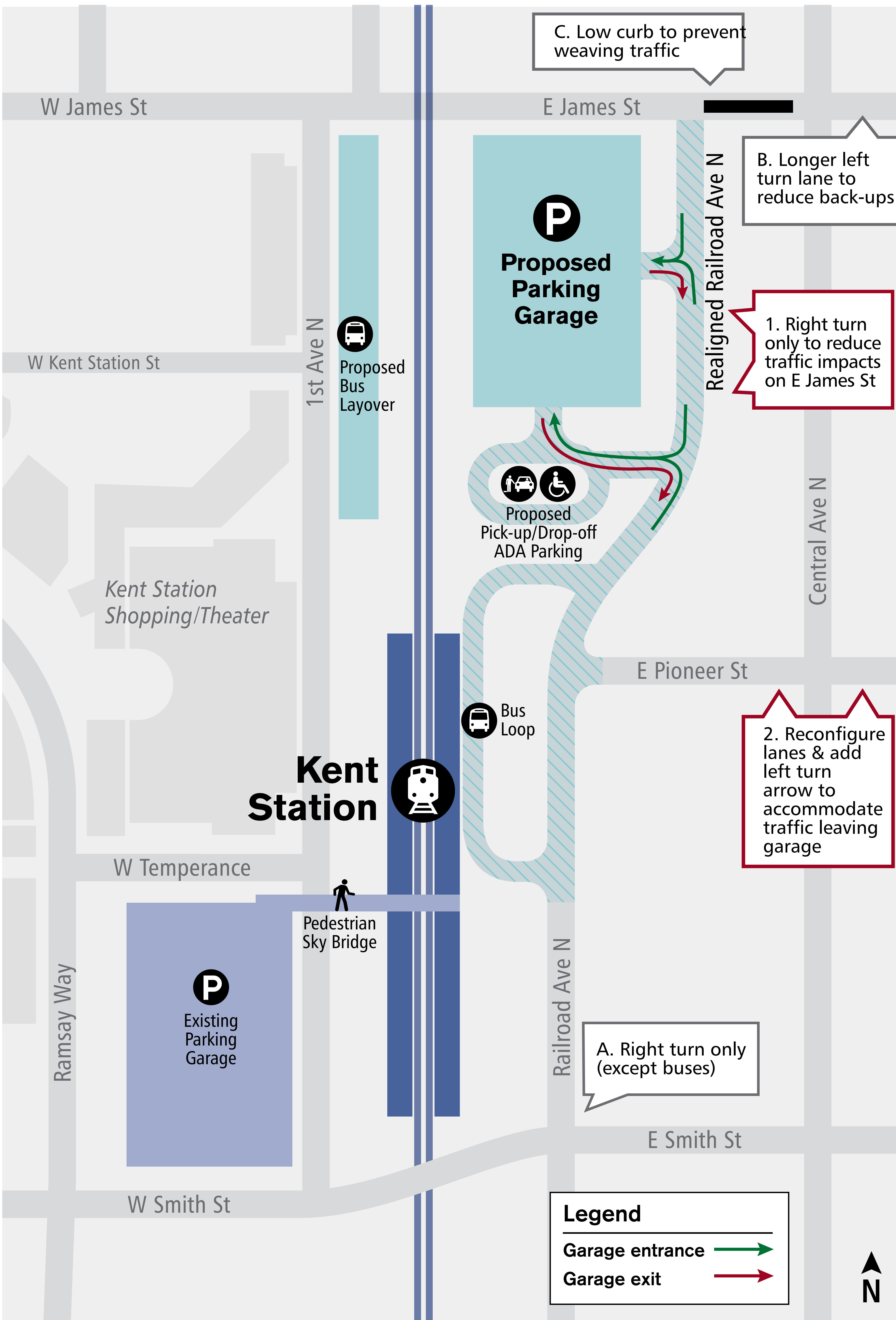


Existing view



Conceptual view

HIGHLIGHTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS



Transportation

Traffic analysis shows that only one intersection (Railroad Ave N and E James St) is impacted by the project. Mitigation measures to reduce this impact include:

1. Prohibiting left turns from the parking garage to reroute flow to E Pioneer St /Central Ave N
2. Provide a left-turn lane for eastbound vehicles and shared through/right-turn lane at E Pioneer St and Central Ave N. Also, revise traffic signal phasing to protect and permit eastbound and westbound traffic along E Pioneer St

Additional improvements are also proposed to improve traffic flow:

- A. At Railroad Ave N & E Smith St, prohibit southbound through and southbound left-turn movements
- B. At Central Ave N & E James St (east leg), extend the westbound left turn lane
- C. At Central Ave N & E James St (west leg), install a protective curb median between eastbound left-turn lane and the adjacent through lane

HIGHLIGHTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Construction impacts

Sound Transit has identified the following mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts from construction:

- **Outreach** - Sound Transit will prepare a construction outreach plan to encourage communication between Sound Transit, the contractor and community members.
- **Noise** - Sound Transit will maintain a noise and vibration control plan, which may include:
 - Locating stationary equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive land uses
 - Vehicles using broadband back-up alarms instead of tonal alarms
 - Limit vehicle idling
- **Traffic** - To address potential traffic impacts during construction, Sound Transit will prepare a traffic maintenance plan.
- **Parking** - There is an expected temporary parking loss during construction (119 Sounder parking spaces). Mitigation may include directing transit riders to nearby park-and-rides, leasing parking lots near Kent Station or other measures.



GIVE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE SEPA CHECKLIST



There are many ways to
comment by Oct. 21:



TODAY Fill out a comment form



EMAIL kentstation@soundtransit.org

Please include your name and mailing address.

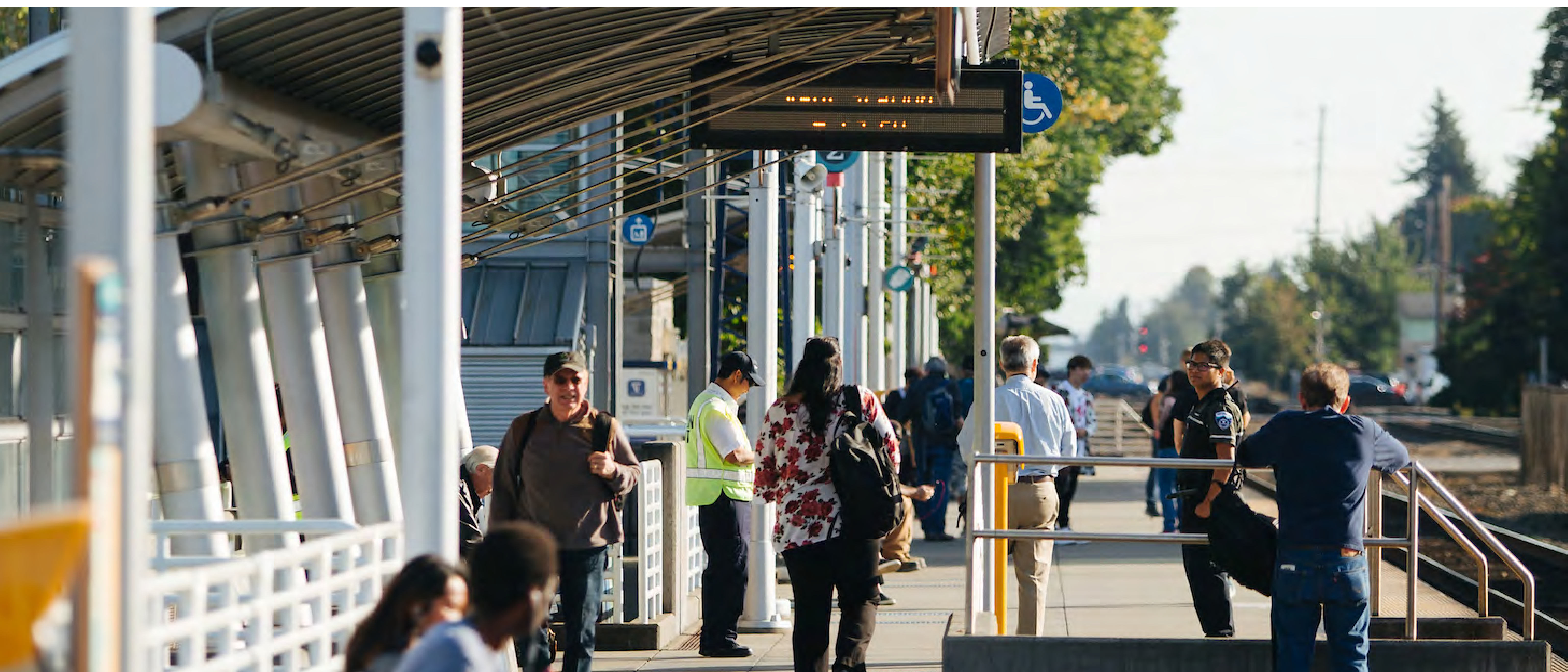


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Based on the comments received, Sound Transit may retain, modify, or, if significant adverse impacts are likely, withdraw the Determination of Nonsignificance.



Stay engaged



Sign up to receive project emails:

soundtransit.org/subscribe



Learn more about the project:

soundtransit.org/kent-access-improvements

Contact Community Outreach Specialist

Melanie Mayock

206-689-4877 or Melanie.Mayock@soundtransit.org.

NEXT STEPS

What comes next

- After the comment period ends Oct. 21, we'll summarize public comments and post the summary online.
- In early 2020, the Sound Transit Board will select the project to be built.
- The project will progress into more advanced design and permitting before a contractor is identified for a design-build method of project delivery.
 - Sound Transit will collect community input on the visual design of the garage in 2020.
 - Construction is expected to begin in 2021.
- The garage and other improvements are trending toward opening in 2024.

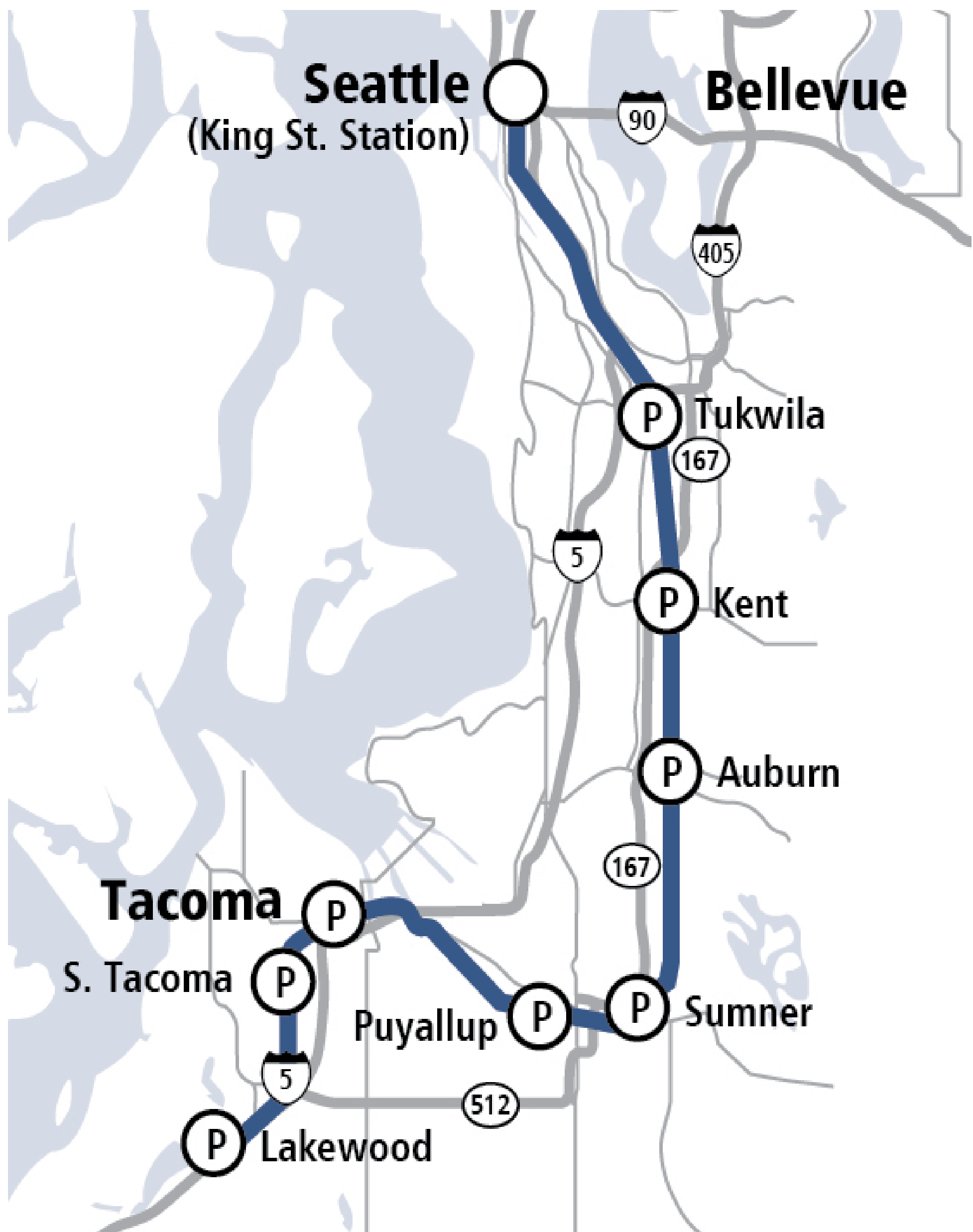


Why do design-build?

By integrating the design and construction of the garage and other access projects, Sound Transit will use best practices to streamline the development and completion of the project. With a design-build approach, some stages of construction can begin while the design process is still underway. Sound Transit looks forward to continued community engagement during design and construction.



OTHER SOUND TRANSIT PROJECTS IN THE KENT AREA



Sounder South Capacity Expansion

Sounder trains have provided reliable and traffic-free service for South King County and Pierce County residents for nearly 20 years. With funding approved by voters in 2016, Sound Transit is considering options to expand Sounder South capacity in the coming years so more people can ride Sounder. Improvements could include additional daily trips and station updates to accommodate longer trains and more riders. After initial analysis and public engagement in 2019, Sound Transit will release a draft plan for Sounder South Capacity Expansion in early 2020. We will implement the improvements on a rolling basis through 2036.



Federal Way Link Extension

The Federal Way Link Extension project will extend light rail from the Angle Lake Station in SeaTac to Federal Way. The 7.8-mile light rail extension will serve three stations along the route in Kent/Des Moines, at South 272nd Street and at the Federal Way Transit Center. All three stations add parking for a total of 3,200 spaces along the route. Construction is set to begin in spring 2020, with service scheduled to begin in 2024.



Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) South

An OMF is where trains go for cleaning, storage and maintenance and operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Expanding the Sound Transit voter-approved light rail system requires the building of an Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) South by 2026 to receive, store and service a larger fleet of trains. In May 2019, the Sound Transit Board of Directors identified three sites to study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, including one potential site in Kent.