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Glossary

accessibility	The ease by which an individual can reach desired activities in any location by use of the transportation system.
action alternative (Potential Plan Modifications Alternative)	Additional HCT corridors and services that are potential modifications to the Current Plan Alternative. It represents a menu of options that the Sound Transit Board could choose from when updating the Long-Range Plan. It assumes implementation of committed system elements contained in the Current Plan Alternative.
adverse impact	Any undesirable or harmful effect to a person or to any natural or man-made resource.
air pollutant	Smoke, dust, fumes, or odors in the ambient air that have potential for harmful effects.
alignment	Horizontal and vertical geometric elements, which define the location of the transit alignment or roadway.
ambient air	Surrounding air.
annexation	A process of incorporating territory into a city, county, or other designated area.
aquifer	A subsurface formation of rock, glacial material, or other deposits that contains water and is capable of storing and yielding water to a well or spring.
aquifer recharge areas	Areas defined as having a critical effect on recharging groundwater used for potable water supplies. These groundwater areas could also be at risk of contamination from land use activities.
archaeological resource	An artifact, feature, or site that helps in understanding the human past. Past activities can include prehistoric, historic, and contemporary activities.
arterial	A street with partial control of access, some intersections at-grade, and intended to move high volumes of traffic over long distances at high speed.
at-grade crossing	Any intersection of two or more flows of traffic at the same elevation (possibly involving more than one mode of transportation), such as light rail/road crossing.
average daily traffic	The total volume of traffic during a given time period divided by the number of days in that time period, representative of average traffic in a 1-day time period.
A-weighted sound level (dBA)	To approximate the way humans interpret sound, a filter circuit with frequency characteristics similar to the human hearing system is built into sound measurement equipment. Measurements with this filter enacted are referred to as A-weighted sound levels, expressed in dBA.
best management practices (BMP), permanent	A BMP is an action or structure that reduces or prevents pollutants from entering stormwater or treats stormwater to reduce possible degradation of water quality. Examples of permanent BMPs include stormwater filtration devices, detention basins, and landscaping areas.
best management practices (BMP), temporary	A BMP is an action or structure that reduces or prevents pollutants from entering stormwater or treats stormwater to reduce possible degradation of water quality. Examples of temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs include cover measures, perimeter protection, and sediment ponds.
British thermal unit (Btu)	An energy unit equal to the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit.
bus rapid transit (BRT)	A high-speed bus system that can range in a spectrum of improvements from low-cost priority treatments for buses to fully grade-separated busways.
carbon monoxide (CO)	A colorless, odorless, tasteless gas, and one of the criteria air pollutants released from automobile exhaust.

catenary	A catenary is a system of overhead wires used to supply electricity to a train, streetcar, or light rail vehicle.
Clean Air Act of 1970 (CAA), as amended	Under this law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets limits on how much of a pollutant can be in the air anywhere in the United States. This law also requires states to develop state implementation plans to describe how the state will attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (42 USC 7401 et seq.).
commuter rail	Passenger train service in established railroad right of way for travel operating between cities in a region or between a central city and adjacent suburbs. See Sounder.
concentration (also, level)	A measure of an air pollutant in the ambient air, having the units of mass per volume.
construction staging area	A site temporarily used for materials or equipment storage, assembly, or other temporary, construction-related activities.
criteria air pollutants	Those air pollutants which have been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as potentially harmful and for which standards have been set to protect the public health and welfare. The criteria air pollutants are carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, particulates, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, hydrocarbons, and lead.
crustal fault zones	Areas where sections or layers of rock are moving past each other
cultural (or historic) resource	Any site, building, structure object, district, traditional cultural place, or cultural landscape that has historical significance at the local, state, or federal level that is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, including buildings, districts, sites, structures, or objects.
cumulative impact	The impact on the environment resulting from the addition of the incremental impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions occurring over time.
day/night sound level (L _{dn})	L _{dn} is a 24-hour L _{eq} , but with a 10-dB penalty assessed to noise events occurring at night. Nighttime is defined as 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This strongly weights L _{dn} toward nighttime noise to reflect most people being more easily annoyed by noise during the nighttime hours when background noise is lower and most people are sleeping.
dBA	The sound level obtained through the use of A-weighting characteristics specified by the American National Standards Institute Standard S1.4-1971. The unit of measure is the decibel (dB), commonly referred to as dBA when A-weighting is used. The A-weighting scale closely resembles human response to noise.
decibel (dB)	The unit used to measure the loudness of noise.
<i>de minimis</i>	A <i>de minimis</i> impact is one that will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the property.
demand-responsive service	A transportation service with flexible routing and scheduling of relatively small vehicles to provide door-to-door or point-to-point transportation at the user's demand. Also referred to as paratransit.
dewatering	Pumping groundwater to lower the water table in an area, usually in preparation for excavation or construction.
diesel multiple unit (DMU)	A DMU is a train that is powered by diesel engines that are incorporated into one or more of the train carriages. They do not require a separate locomotive for propulsion.
displacement	A property acquisition that would require removing an existing use in order to build and operate any element of the transit system.
dissolved oxygen	Oxygen dissolved in water and readily available to fish and other aquatic organisms.

disturbed habitat	A habitat in which naturally occurring ecological processes and species interactions have been significantly disrupted by the direct or indirect results of human presence and activity.
ecosystem	A functional unit consisting of all the living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in a given area and their physical and chemical environment.
efficiency	In energy systems, the quotient of energy outputs to energy inputs, being in the range from zero to one (e.g., the energy efficiency of U.S. electric power generation plants is approximately 0.3). In transportation systems, it is the degree of goal attainment measured relative to cost, indicative of the productivity of a given level of investment.
electromagnetic fields (EMF)	Electromagnetic fields are the regions around electrical conductors in which effects can be felt or measured. Electric fields are produced by voltage, the pressure behind the flow of electricity. Magnetic fields are produced by current, which is the flow of electricity.
elevated guideway	A guideway that is positioned above the normal activity level (e.g., an elevated structure for light rail to cross over a street).
emission	Particulate, gaseous, noise, or electromagnetic by-products of a transit system or motor vehicle.
emission control	Method by which emissions are governed in an effort to minimize the pollutants and/or noise emitted.
emission standards	A limitation on the release of an air contaminant into the ambient air; for example, the federal government limits carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxide emissions per mile of travel in new automobiles.
endangered species	According to the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, an endangered species is any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, other than an insect determined by the Secretary of the Interior to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of this act would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.
environmental impact statement (EIS)	A comprehensive study of environmental impacts resulting from major actions.
epicenter	The point on the Earth's surface that is located directly above the focus of an earthquake.
equivalent sound level (L_{eq})	L_{eq} is a measure of sound energy over a period of time. It is referred to as the equivalent sound level because it is equivalent to the level of a steady sound which, over a referenced duration and location, has the same A-weighted sound energy as the fluctuating sound.
erosion	Wearing away and removal of soil particles by wind, water, gravity, and ice.
express service	Transit service where a very limited number of stops are made.
fault zone	A zone of fractures in the Earth's crust where rock sections or layers move past each other. Abrupt movement on faults causes many earthquakes.
fecal coliform	A bacteria found in the intestinal tracts of warm-blooded animals. A high coliform count in a water body indicates that human or animal waste is present and may pose a health risk.
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	An agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation, FTA administers the federal program of financial assistance to public transit.
feeder service	Local transit service which feeds trunkline (usually faster and at higher capacity) transit service.
fill	Sediment deposited by humans or by natural processes (such as flowing water) so as to fill or partly fill a channel, valley, or other depression.

geographic information system (GIS)	An information processing technology to input, store, manipulate, analyze, and display data; a system of computer maps with corresponding site-specific information that can be combined electronically to provide reports and maps.
glacial drift	A load of rock material transported and deposited by a glacier, usually when the glacier begins to melt.
glacial till	Very dense, unsorted sediment (a mixture of gravel, sand, silt, and clay) deposited by a glacier.
glaciation	A period of time during an ice age when glaciers advance because of colder temperatures.
grade -separated	Parallel or crossing lines of traffic that are vertically or horizontally physically separated from each other and do not share a common intersection.
greenbelt	An extensive area of largely undeveloped or sparsely occupied land associated with a community set aside to contain development, preserve the character of the countryside and community, and provide open space.
greenhouse gas	A gas that absorbs and traps heat in the Earth's atmosphere.
ground-borne noise	Low-frequency noise that is generated when a structure is excited by vibration energy traveling through the ground.
ground-borne vibration	A small but rapidly fluctuating motion transmitted through the ground, typically reported as velocity or acceleration.
grouting	Various materials (such as a mixture of cement and water or chemicals that solidify) used to fill in spaces and provide additional load-bearing capacity.
Growth Management Act (GMA)	A law passed by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 and amended in 1991 which addresses the negative consequences of unmanaged population growth and suburban sprawl in Washington State. Its requirements include guaranteeing the consistency of transportation and capital facilities plans with land use plans. (Chapter 36.70A RCW)
guideway	A groove or track along which something moves.
habitat fragmentation	The separation of habitats by penetrable barriers. Habitat fragmentation occurs when a barrier (e.g., road, building, fence) is placed into the environment where a species normally lives, but the species can move around, over, or through the barrier.
hazardous materials	Wastes that could pose risks to human health and the environment.
HCT corridor	The general location of potential high-capacity transit services used for plan-level analysis of potential HCT investments, such as analysis of environmental impacts and ridership.
headway	The time between transit vehicles at any particular point along the route.
high-capacity transit (HCT)	A system of public transportation services within an urbanized region operating principally on exclusive rights-of-way and the supporting services and facilities necessary to implement such a system, including interim express services and high-occupancy vehicle lanes, which taken as a whole, provides a substantially higher level of passenger capacity, speed, and service frequency than traditional public transportation systems operating principally in general purpose roadways.
high-occupancy toll (HOT) lane or facility	A freeway lane or lanes that allow both high-occupancy vehicles and single-occupant vehicles that are willing to pay a toll to travel in the lane or facility.
high-occupancy vehicle (HOV)	A vehicle carrying two or more people (some areas require at least three people); examples include carpools, vanpools, and buses.
historic (or cultural) resource	Any site, building, structure object, district, traditional cultural place, or cultural landscape that has historical significance at the local, state, or federal level that is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, including buildings, districts, sites, structures, or objects.

historic period	The time after AD 1860, when Euro-American economic and land use patterns influenced the landscape of the Puget Sound region.
hot spot	An intersection with carbon monoxide levels that exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
HOV lane	A travel lane for the exclusive use of high-occupancy vehicles (buses, vanpools, and carpools).
hydrocarbons	Specifically, non-methane hydrocarbons that contribute to the formation of photochemical oxidants (commonly known as smog), primarily ozone.
impervious surface	Artificial structures, such as pavements (roads, sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots) that are covered by impenetrable materials, such as asphalt or concrete.
land development pattern	The use, types, and intensity of development. Land development patterns affect trip demand, average trip length, and therefore, energy consumption.
L_{dn} (day/night sound level)	L_{dn} is a 24-hour L_{eq} , but with a 10-dB penalty assessed to noise events occurring at night. Nighttime is defined as 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. This strongly weights L_{dn} toward nighttime noise to reflect most people being more easily annoyed by noise during the nighttime hours when background noise is lower and most people are sleeping.
lead	A component of total suspended particulates released in the combustion of gasoline containing lead.
L_{eq} (equivalent sound level)	The equivalent steady-state sound level which, in a specified time period, would contain the same acoustic energy as the varying sound level during the same period; considers volume capacity, travel speeds, and delay.
$L_{eq}(h)$	The hourly value of L_{eq} .
level of service (LOS)	A qualitative measure that represents the collective factors of travel under a particular volume condition. A measure of traffic congestion.
light rail	A mode of mass transportation consisting of light rail vehicles that travel on steel tracks and are powered by electricity from overhead wires. This mode is characterized by its ability to operate in both at-grade and grade-separated environments.
Link	Sound Transit's light rail system, featuring two- to four-car trains operating on dual trackways with overhead electric power sources. Under Sound Move, the 1.6-mile Tacoma Link line from the Tacoma Dome to downtown Tacoma and the 14-mile Central Link light rail line from Seattle to SeaTac are currently operating.
liquefaction	A phenomenon during an earthquake when soil turns into a highly unstable, jelly-like substance.
listed species	Federally listed species are those fish, wildlife, or plants that have been determined to be endangered or threatened under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. State-listed species are those fish and wildlife species that have been determined to be endangered or threatened under Sections 2.4 and 2.5 of WAC 232-12-297.
L_{max}	The maximum A-weighted sound level for a given time interval or event.
long-range plan	See Regional Transit Long-Range Plan
long-range vision	See Regional Transit Long-Range Vision
low-income household	A household with a median household income at or below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines, as derived from 2010 U.S. Census data.
maintenance area	An area that has recently attained compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards but still has the potential to violate a federal or state ambient air quality standard, based on expected growth and development in the area.

midden	A trash heap left after prolonged human occupation. Shell middens contain a high percentage of mollusk shells.
minority residents	Those persons who, in responding to the 2010 US Census, indicated their race to be something other than “White” or reported entries that the Bureau of the Census categorized as something other than “White.”
mitigation	Methods or plans to minimize, reduce, offset, or eliminate adverse impacts. These measures may include minimizing an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; or avoiding an impact by not taking a certain action or part of an action.
mobility	The ease of continuous movement along the transportation system.
mode	A particular form or method of travel, such as pedestrian, bicycle, automobile, bus, or light rail.
Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)	An act specifically authorizing funding for a broad range of toxic cleanup, management, and prevention purposes and anticipating the need to respond to new threats from toxic materials. (Chapter 70.105D RCW)
MTCA 1	Sites that have been assessed using the Washington Ranking Method to pose the greatest risk.
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Federal limits on levels of atmospheric contamination necessary to protect the public from adverse effects on health (primary standards) and welfare (secondary standards).
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)	A comprehensive federal law requiring analysis of the environmental impacts of federal actions such as approval of grants; also requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement for every major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the environment.
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966	The act that established the National Register of Historic Places and State Historic Preservation program and set forth guidelines and regulations for review of the impacts of projects involving federal funding.
National Priorities List	NPL sites are hazardous waste sites designated for priority cleanup under the Federal Superfund Program.
National Register of Historic Places	The official list of the nation’s cultural resources determined to be worthy of preservation.
nitrogen dioxide	An extremely toxic gas. It is a component of automotive exhaust fumes and a criteria air pollutant.
nitrogen oxides	Gases that are composed of nitrogen and oxygen; these pollutants are released during high-temperature combustion of fossil fuels such as diesel.
no action alternative (Current Plan Alternative)	Under the state environmental policy act (SEPA), the appropriate “No Action” alternative for planning documents consists of “no change from current management direction.” Accordingly, the “No Action” alternative in the SEIS represents the actions Sound Transit will pursue if it does not make any changes to its current long-range plan or set of planned projects. The No Action Alternative is the existing 2005 Long-Range Plan plus the subsequent Sound Transit Board actions implementing the plan. The No Action alternative serves as the environmental baseline for this SEIS.
nonattainment area	An area designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as presently violating the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, based on archival air quality data.
off-peak	Those periods of the day where transportation demand is not at a maximum.

Olmsted Plan	The Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm's 1903 master plan for a 20-mile-long greenbelt of parks and boulevards in Seattle from Seward Park along Lake Washington and across the city via Woodland Park to Discovery Park. John Charles Olmsted (1852–1920), the stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted (1822–1903), who designed New York City's Central Park, was the firm's principal designer in Seattle.
outwash	Earth material carried from a glacier by meltwater and laid down as layered deposits.
ozone	A gas consisting of three oxygen atoms formed in reactions of non-methane hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is one of the criteria air pollutants.
paratransit	Types of passenger transportation that are more flexible than conventional fixed-route transit but more structured than the use of private automobiles. Typically refers to complementary transportation service, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route transit systems.
park-and-ride facility	A parking lot or structure that provides all-day parking for cars at or near a transit facility.
particulate matter	Small particles of dust, soot, and organic matter suspended in the air. Particulate matter is a criteria air pollutant.
peak hour	The hour of the day in which the maximum demand for service is experienced, accommodating the largest number of automobile or transit patrons.
peak particle velocity (PPV)	The maximum instantaneous velocity at which matter moves while vibrating. It is analogous to an Lmax noise level. The potential for vibration damage is related to PPV level, which is measured in inches per second.
peak period	A specified time period for which the volume of traffic is greater than during other periods.
permeability	The relative ease with which water moves downward through soil.
person-trip	A trip from a point of origin to a destination made by a person by any travel mode. Within transit, transfers are not counted. That is, a person traveling from home to work on a bus with one transfer creates only one person-trip.
Plan area	The area within the boundaries of the Sound Transit District. The Plan area generally includes the urban areas of Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties.
point source	A general classification of the origin of an air or water pollutant, usually characterized as smokestacks or outfalls.
pollutant of concern	A chemical or other material that can cause serious health problems or affect many people.
pollution-generating impervious surface	An impervious surface considered to be a significant source of pollutants in runoff. Such surfaces include those subject to vehicular use or storage of erodible or leachable materials, wastes, or chemicals, and which receive direct rainfall or the run-on or blow-in of rainfall. Thus, a covered parking area would be included if runoff from uphill could regularly run through it or if rainfall could regularly blow in and wet the pavement surface.
polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)	Hazardous environmental pollutants upon which the federal government has placed additional controls regulating disposal.
priority conservation areas	The Nature Conservancy and WDFW jointly developed the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin Ecoregional Assessment in 2004. The assessment used a prioritization process to identify important places for conserving native species and ecosystems in the region.
priority habitats	Habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. A priority habitat may consist of a unique vegetation type or dominant plant species, a described successional stage, or a specific structural element.

priority species	Species that require protective measures for their perpetuation due to their population status; sensitivity to habitat alteration; and/or recreational, commercial, or tribal importance.
Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)	Formerly the Puget Sound Council of Governments, PSRC is the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization.
receiving water	A body of water that receives runoff or wastewater discharges.
regional express bus/BRT	Bus transit service encompassing the full spectrum of Bus Rapid Transit and all forms of regional express bus currently operated under Sound Transit 2 (ST2).
Regional Transit Long-Range Plan	Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan, last updated in 2005, guides the agency's future efforts to provide additional high-capacity transit service and transit facilities within the regional transit district of urban Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties.
Regional Transit Long-Range Vision	The Vision, adopted in 1996, was Sound Transit's first plan for guiding high-capacity transit service in the central Puget Sound region. When it was updated in 2005, the name was changed to Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.
retaining wall	A structure designed to hold back a mass of earth; a wall that sustains a difference in soil surface elevation from one side to the other.
right-of-way	The corridor (horizontal and vertical space) owned by a transit agency or other transportation agency.
riparian habitat	A habitat type associated with stream and lake margins and characterized by dense vegetation consisting primarily of willow, alder, and cottonwood species, supporting a wide variety of waterfowl, songbirds, amphibians, and small mammals.
route	The course followed by a transit vehicle as a part of the transit system.
runoff	The rainwater that directly leaves an area in surface drainage, as opposed to the amount that seeps out as groundwater.
screenline	A line drawn across multiple roadways or transit facilities to count the amount of vehicles or transit riders traveling in a corridor.
Section 10	Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 established authority to issue permits for obstructions or alterations of any navigable waters of the United States. The Corps of Engineers administers this permit program.
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 establishes a procedure to review the potential effects on cultural resources by projects receiving federal funds.
Section 4(f)	Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act restricts the use of USDOT funds for projects affecting the following properties publicly owned land from a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any land from a significant historic site.
Section 404	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is a permit program administered by the Corps of Engineers under guidelines by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the nation's waters from dredged and fill sources.
Section 6(f)	Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 established restrictions on, and replacement requirements for, the use of land acquired with funds authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.
Section 9	Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, which established authority to issue permits for bridges and causeways across any navigable waters of the United States, is a Permit program administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.
sediment	Particles in suspension in water or recently deposited from suspension; deposits from the waters of rivers, streams, lakes, or seas.

seismic activity	Sudden stress changes in the earth, such as an earthquake.
seismic hazard areas	Areas that are subject to severe risk of earthquake damage as a result of seismically induced settlement, soil liquefaction, or landslides.
seismicity	The geographic and historical distribution of earthquakes.
sensitive area	An area that is valued locally for its rare or sensitive habitat, exists in a relatively undisturbed, natural state, and supports indigenous species.
sensitive receptor	A local area or site which supports activities easily disrupted by audio or visual intrusions or distractions, such as a park, school, historic landmark, or residential neighborhood.
shell middens	Villages, campsites, or shellfish processing areas composed of a dark, organically rich soil with shells or shell fragments, artifacts, and fire-cracked rock. These sites are found along saltwater shorelines of western Washington.
silt	Loose, fine particles of sand and rock that can be picked up by the air or by water and deposited as sediments.
social interaction	Intra-neighborhood communication and circulation, utilizing street, sidewalk, and bikeway connections between residential areas and community facilities, retail businesses, and employment centers. Also includes verbal interaction and telecommunications facilities.
Sound Move	The first implementation phase of the regional transit system plan for the Central Puget Sound region, financing for which was approved by voters on November 6, 1996. The plan includes a mix of light rail (Link), commuter rail (Sonder), regional express buses (ST Express), and high-occupancy-vehicle access improvements.
Sound Transit	Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority, a regional transit authority authorized by RCW 81.104 and 81.112. The Regional Transit Authority was generally referred to by the acronym RTA until 1997, when the Board chose to do business under the name of Sound Transit.
Sound Transit 2 System Plan (ST2)	ST2 expands the existing light rail system to serve three major travel corridors. Link light rail would extend from North Seattle into Snohomish County, across Lake Washington into East King County, and south of Sea-Tac International Airport to Federal Way. ST2 also significantly expands Sounder commuter rail and ST Express regional bus service.
Sound Transit district	The service, representation, and tax collection area for Sound Transit. It currently includes the most congested urban areas of Snohomish, King, and Pierce Counties. See Plan area.
Sonder	Sound Transit's commuter rail system that currently serves commuters traveling from Lakewood to Seattle and Everett to Seattle. Diesel-powered locomotives coupled to passenger coaches use the existing Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway network.
spoils	Dirt or rock removed from its original location, as in dredging or construction.
ST Express	Sound Transit's system of regional express bus service that currently consists of up to 26 bus routes serving limited stops (including freeway stops and transit centers), while operating primarily on highway and HOV lanes throughout the region.
staging area	A site temporarily used for materials or equipment storage, assembly, or other temporary, construction-related activities.
State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)	A comprehensive Washington State law requiring analysis of the environmental impacts of certain public actions or decisions.
State Implementation Plan	A plan required of each state by the Clean Air Act that describes how the state will attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

subduction zone	An area where one crustal plate is descending below another. The Puget Sound area is in close proximity to a subduction zone, which is formed by the Juan de Fuca plate descending below the North American plate. This action can cause significant seismic activity.
suburban environment	The suburban environment is characterized by smaller to mid-range cities located throughout the Plan area, such as Edmonds, Kirkland, Des Moines, Kent, and Auburn.
sulfur dioxide	A gas produced by burning coal or various industrial processes. It plays an important role in the production of acid rain and is a criteria air pollutant.
Superfund Site	Sites recognized by the federal government as contaminated with hazardous substances or pollutants designated for cleanup under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state jurisdictions.
terminal	The terminating point of transportation routes with transfer facilities and often amenities for passenger convenience.
terminus	A transit station located at the end of a transit (including light rail) line.
threatened species	According to the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
topography	The surface features of an area (e.g., hills, plains, valleys).
total suspended particulates	Air pollutants that consist of solid particles (dust, lead, salts, etc.) suspended in the atmosphere. Total suspended particulates are a criteria air pollutant.
total travel time	The total elapsed time between trip beginning and end, including travel, terminal, and waiting time.
traditional cultural property	A Traditional Cultural Property is a property that is associated with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.
traffic calming	Programs and devices to slow traffic on neighborhood streets (e.g., enforcing speed limits, installing speed bumps, diverting traffic).
transfer	The portion of a trip between two connecting transit lines, both of which are used for completion of the trip.
transit	A transportation system principally for moving people in an urban area and made available to the public usually through paying a fare as an alternative to private automobiles.
transit center	A station with shelters where a large number of transit vehicles and passengers can be brought together with safety and convenience.
<i>Transportation 2040</i>	The transportation component of <i>VISION 2040</i> , <i>Transportation 2040</i> is the central Puget Sound region's adopted comprehensive metropolitan transportation plan. It defines long-term transportation strategies and investments for the metropolitan transportation system of Kitsap, Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties to address traffic congestion and make it easier for people to move between home and work, school, shopping, and recreation.
transportation corridor (also, corridor)	The group of travel movements (or travel flows) between two or more locations. A corridor may have components, or sub-corridors. A corridor includes all facilities, transit and highway, that may be used to accommodate the specified travel movement.

transportation system management (TSM)	Incorporates relatively low-cost approaches to improving mobility without constructing major new transportation facilities. Transportation System Management generally emphasizes smaller physical improvements and operational changes such as intersection improvements, minor widening, traffic engineering actions, operational changes such as queue jumps or queue bypass lanes for buses, expanded bus service, transit centers, and improved transit access.
travel time (in vehicle)	The time required to travel between two points, not including terminal or waiting time.
trip	The one-way movement of one person between his or her origin and destination, including transfers and the walk to and from the means of transportation.
trip demand	The number and type (public or private origin and destination) of trips measured, calculated, or forecasted in a specified area having a given land development pattern. Trip demand also depends on prevailing economic, behavioral, and attitudinal conditions.
trunkline	A relatively high-frequency, high-capacity transit line that connects outlying activity centers and/or transit centers to the downtown area (also line haul route).
turbidity	A measure of the cloudiness of water, which is a function of the amount of organic and inorganic material suspended in the water.
Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act	The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 is a joint Federal Highway Administration and FTA act that ensures the fair and equitable treatment of persons whose home, business, or property is acquired or who are displaced as a result of a federal or federally assisted project. Government-wide regulations provide procedural and other requirements (appraisals, payment of fair market value, notice to owners, etc.) in the acquisition of real property and provide for relocation payments and advisory assistance in the relocation of persons and businesses.
urban environment	The urban environment is characterized by higher density development in comparison to the areas surrounding it.
urban growth area	An area in which urban growth is encouraged and outside of which growth can occur only if it is not urban in nature. Urban growth areas include cities and surrounding lands plus urban villages in unincorporated areas.
urban growth boundary	The line on a map that is used to mark the separation of urbanizable land from rural land and within which urban growth should be contained for a period of time specified by a growth management plan.
urban village	A close-knit community-style development in the middle of a city or unincorporated area, where people live, use services, and possibly work all in a small area; urban villages are intended to transform automobile-oriented environments into more cohesive, mixed-use pedestrian environments.
use of Section 4(f) land	According to regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, use of Section 4(f) land is defined as (1) acquisition of title or easement to land, or (2) in unusual circumstances, serious indirect impacts, such as increase in noise, visual intrusion, or access obstruction.
vehicle mile	An amount of travel equivalent to one vehicle traveling 1 mile.
vibration velocity	Vibration velocity is the basic measure of vibration levels that occur in the ground. It is a measure of the rate that particles move back and forth in the ground relative to a stationary point.
vibration velocity level (VdB)	It is generally accepted that, over the frequency range important for ground-borne vibration from transit systems, human response to vibration is best correlated to the root-mean-square vibration velocity. In this report, root-mean-square vibration velocity is always expressed as decibels relative to 1 micro-inch per second. A 1-second root-mean-square time constant is assumed. The units are abbreviated as VdB to avoid any confusion with noise decibels.

<i>VISION 2040</i>	The integrated long-range growth management, economic, and transportation strategy for the central Puget Sound region encompassing Kitsap, Pierce, King, and Snohomish Counties. <i>VISION 2040</i> also identifies the policies and key actions necessary to implement the overall strategy.
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Heritage Program	DNR collects and distributes information about native ecosystems and rare species, using a vegetation-based classification system to identify high-quality native ecosystems and relatively undisturbed wetlands.
Waters of the U.S.	<p>For purposes of the Clean Water Act, “Waters of the United States” means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (b) All interstate waters, including interstate “wetlands”; (c) All other waters such as interstate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; (2) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or (3) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce; (d) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition; (e) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this definition; (f) The territorial sea; and (g) Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this definition.
WDFW priority habits and species	A catalog of species and habitat types identified by WDFW as priorities for management and preservation. Priority habitats include those with unique or significant value to many species. WDFW defines priority habitats as those habitat types or elements with unique or significant value to a diverse assemblage of species. A priority habitat may consist of a unique vegetation type or dominant plant species, a described successional stage, or a specific structural element.
wellhead protection areas	Wellhead protection area boundaries are the maximum distance from which a contaminant could potentially reach a public water system well within 10 years of travel through the ground.

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Distribution List

In addition to those on the distribution list below, everyone that commented on the Draft SEIS will receive a copy or notice of the Final SEIS. Appendix L, Responses to Comments, includes a list of those who submitted comments on the Draft SEIS.

Federal agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	National Park Service
Federal Aviation Administration	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Emergency Management Agency	U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
Federal Highway Administration	U.S. Coast Guard
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration	U.S. Department of the Interior
Federal Railroad Administration	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10
Federal Transit Administration	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries	

Tribes

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation	Puyallup Tribe
Duwamish Tribal Council	Snohomish Tribe
Kikiallus Tribal Council	Snoqualmie Tribe
Muckleshoot Tribal Council	Stillaguamish Tribe
Nisqually Tribe	Suquamish Tribal Council
	Tulalip Tribal Council

State agencies

Department of Agriculture	Office of the Attorney General
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Office of the Governor
Department of Commerce	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Department of Community Development	State Recreation and Conservation Office
Department of Ecology	State Transportation Commission
Department of Fish and Wildlife	Washington Joint Transportation Committee
Department of Health	Washington State Ferries
Department of Natural Resources	Washington State Patrol
Department of Social and Health Services	University of Washington
Department of Transportation	Utilities and Transportation Commission

Regional agencies/boards

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Puget Sound Partnership
Puget Sound Regional Council

Counties

King County
Pierce County
Snohomish County

Transit agencies

Community Transit
Everett Transit
King County/Metro Transit Division
Pierce Transit

Utilities

Puget Sound Energy
Seattle City Light
Snohomish County P.U.D.

Legislative districts

State Legislative District 1
State Legislative District 5
State Legislative District 11
State Legislative District 21
State Legislative District 25
State Legislative District 27
State Legislative District 28
State Legislative District 29

State Legislative District 30
State Legislative District 31
State Legislative District 32
State Legislative District 33
State Legislative District 34
State Legislative District 36
State Legislative District 37
State Legislative District 38

State Legislative District 41
State Legislative District 43
State Legislative District 44
State Legislative District 45
State Legislative District 46
State Legislative District 47
State Legislative District 48

Cities

City of Algona
City of Auburn
City of Bellevue
City of Bonney Lake
City of Bothell
City of Brier
City of Burien
City of Clyde Hill
City of Des Moines
City of DuPont
City of Edgewood
City of Edmonds
City of Everett
City of Federal Way
City of Fife
City of Fircrest
City of Issaquah

City of Kenmore
City of Kent
City of Kirkland
City of Lake Forest Park
City of Lakewood
City of Lynnwood
City of Medina
City of Mercer Island
City of Mill Creek
City of Milton
City of Mountlake Terrace
City of Mukilteo
City of Newcastle
City of Normandy Park
City of Orting
City of Pacific
City of Puyallup

City of Redmond
City of Renton
City of Sammamish
City of SeaTac
City of Seattle
City of Shoreline
City of Steilacoom
City of Sumner
City of Tacoma
City of Tukwila
City of University Place
City of Woodinville
City of Woodway
City of Yarrow Point
Town of Beaux Arts Village
Town of Hunts Point
Town of Ruston

Railroads

Amtrak
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad
Union Pacific Railroad

Ports

Port of Everett
Port of Seattle
Port of Tacoma

Organizations

Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	Northwest Progressive Institute
Bellevue Downtown Association	SeaShore Transportation Forum
Cascade Bicycle Club	Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Coalition for Effective Transportation Alternatives	Seattle Subway
Downtown Seattle Association	Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation
Eastside Transportation Association	Snohomish County Tomorrow
Eastside Transportation Partnership	Sumner/Puyallup Chamber of Commerce
Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County	Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
Federal Way Chamber of Commerce	Transportation Choices Coalition
Feet First	
Northwest Environmental Business Council	

Libraries

Auburn Public Library	Mukilteo Library
Bellevue College Library	Renton Public Library
Bellevue Public Library	Seattle Central Community College Library
Bothell Library	Seattle Pacific University Library
Burien Public Library	Seattle Public Library
DuPont Public Library	Seattle University Library
Edmonds Public Library	Shoreline Community College Library
Everett Community College Library	Shoreline Public Library
Everett Public Library	South Hill Public Library
Green River Community College Library	Sumner Public Library
Highline Community College Library	Tacoma Public Library
Issaquah Public Library	University of Puget Sound-Government Publications-Library Department
King Co. Transportation and Natural Resource Library	University of Washington Libraries-Government Publications
Kirkland Public Library	Washington State DOT Library
Lakewood Public Library	Washington State Library
Library Municipal Research Services of WA	West Seattle Public Library
Lynnwood Public Library	
Mercer Island Public Library	
Mill Creek Library	

