



# ***Operations and Maintenance Facility South***

## **Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

### **Appendix B: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination**



 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

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## APPENDIX B PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

The Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) emphasizes public engagement and agency involvement as key factors in the environmental review process. Sound Transit is committed to engaging interested parties early and often during the development of Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) South. Sound Transit has engaged neighborhood and community stakeholders, state and federal agencies, transit partners, tribes, and the general public leading into and during development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

This appendix summarizes Sound Transit's agency and tribal coordination and public outreach activities through the environmental review process for the OMF South project, leading to the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Sound Transit worked with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, and local jurisdictions to create an open and collaborative process that provided numerous opportunities to inform and involve the public.

### 1.1 Outreach Goals and Objectives

The OMF South is part of the mass transit system expansion by Sound Transit, funded by the Sound Transit 3 initiative approved by voters in 2016. It will service and store light rail cars for the Federal Way and Tacoma Dome Link Extensions. Public participation and input played a critical role in identifying a variety of potential locations and narrowing those to the three alternatives for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. To meet the project timeline and goals, Sound Transit engaged the public through an intensive public involvement plan.

Throughout alternatives development and environmental review, Sound Transit commits to several goals to ensure successful engagement, including:

- **Proactively engaging audiences and communities** most affected by the project in conversations that would lead to identifying a project to be built.
- **Transparent, meaningful, and inclusive** communication that is clear and timely.
- **Sharing information in a variety of ways** to encourage awareness of project progress and its benefits.
- **Clear communication of how feedback informed project decisions** to ensure accountability.
- **Accessible project information** geared toward accessibility for all audiences, with easy-to-read, understandable, and in-language materials.

Sound Transit focuses outreach toward five key audience groups.

- **Tribes, agencies, and local jurisdictions** through the establishment of an Elected Leadership Group (ELG) and an Interagency Group (IAG) that met regularly to provide input and receive project updates.
- **Neighborhood and community stakeholders**, including advocacy groups, businesses, communities of color, community-based organizations and cultural groups, current and future transit riders, immigrant and refugee populations, limited-English-speaking populations, low-income households, people with disabilities, local residents (renters and homeowners), and social service organizations.

- **Property owners**, including homeowners, condominium owners, apartment complex owners and their tenants and staff, small and minority-owned businesses, and commercial property owners and their tenants.
- **Public**, including people who live, work, and commute in, through, and around the Puget Sound region.
- **Print, digital, and broadcast media**, including community, local, and ethnic resources.

Sound Transit combines **in-person, online, and existing community engagement strategies** to continue to reach and engage as many members of the public as possible. English and translated materials have been available throughout the project.

## 1.2 Chartered Group Engagement

### 1.2.1 Lead Agency

Sound Transit is acting as the SEPA lead agency.

### 1.2.2 Agency Coordination

Sound Transit has engaged with project partners, local jurisdictions, affected tribes, elected officials, community partners, stakeholders, and partner agencies since the beginning of this project. Coordination with agencies and other stakeholders has been primarily through regular meetings with the following two chartered groups.

The **Elected Leadership Group (ELG)** is composed of elected officials representing the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation (Puyallup Tribe of Indians); the mayors of the cities of Federal Way, Milton, Fife, and Tacoma; Sound Transit Board members; and Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). After Sound Transit determined that OMF South would need to be located in south King County to meet operational criteria, limiting the geographic scope north of Pierce County, the City of Kent mayor was invited to attend all ELG meetings where OMF South updates were discussed beginning in fall of 2018.

Initially, the ELG met approximately every other month and has been receiving updates approximately quarterly during the initial engineering design work and preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A list of meetings is outlined below in Table B2-1.

**Table B2-1 ELG Meeting Dates**

ELG Meeting	Date
1	February 16, 2018
2	March 19, 2018
3	May 18, 2018
4	July 13, 2018
5	October 12, 2018
6	November 30, 2018
7	February 22, 2019
8	May 31, 2019
9	June 14, 2019

The **Interagency Group (IAG)** – Sound Transit is working closely to coordinate with agencies and governments as this project moves forward at a technical level to ensure the project aligns with other city, agency, and tribal plans and interests. The OMF South IAG is made up of representatives from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Muckleshoot Tribe, cities of Kent, Federal Way, and Seattle; Seattle Public Utilities (SPU); Bonneville Power Administration (BPA); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); WSDOT; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Department of Ecology (Ecology); and King County.

The IAG reviewed and commented on the Methodology Memorandums prepared for each element of the environment included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A list of meetings is outlined below in Table B2-2. The IAG was kept apprised of development of the site design and the study area used in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement analysis and the document status.

**Table B2-2 IAG Meeting Dates**

IAG Meeting	Date
1	July 22, 2019
2	October 7, 2019
3	November 12, 2019
4	December 10, 2019
5	January 14, 2019
6	February 11, 2020
7	March 10, 2020
8	April 14, 2020
9	June 9, 2020
10	January 19, 2021
11	February 16, 2021

#### **1.2.2.1 Specific Agency Input during Development of Draft Environmental Impact Statement Alternatives**

Sound Transit has weighed the input of other agencies during the development of the alternatives considered for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. In addition, Sound Transit has initiated discussions on a number of specific issues related to the project.

##### **Midway Landfill**

Public interest in pursuing the Midway Landfill as a potential OMF South site was raised early in the scoping process. The site has a number of favorable attributes: it's a mostly vacant site in an appropriate location within the Link system (South Corridor and adjacent to a mainline which will be operational when the facility opens); it is publicly owned and operated by Seattle Public Utilities; and it would provide an opportunity to put a cleanup site back into productive use.

During development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Sound Transit hosted two landfill settlement workshops on August 13 and October 3, 2019. Attendees included SPU, WSDOT, City of Kent, City of Federal Way, City of Seattle, and some of their consultant teams. The workshops centered on analyzing and brainstorming settlement solutions for a potential OMF South on the Midway Landfill. The results of the workshop were then presented to the entire IAG at the February 11, 2020, meeting. Appendix D4, Landfill Site Engineering Optimization Report, documents the process. Sound Transit has also met specifically with

representatives of the City of Seattle and SPU to discuss the Midway Landfill and to coordinate investigative field work, particularly geotechnical borings. Those meetings were as follows: August 17, 2018, September 30, 2019, January 16, 2020, January 31, 2020, February 12, 2020, and February 21, 2020.

Sound Transit has also met with the City of Seattle and SPU, Ecology and EPA to gain further understanding of the constraints that would be faced when working on a Superfund site with an approved cleanup action plan and a regulatory path forward if the Midway Landfill were ultimately selected as the final site for the OMF South. Those meetings were as follows: October 29, 2019, December 13, 2019, February 13, 2020, and August 19, 2020.

### **Local Jurisdiction Concerns**

On an ongoing basis, Sound Transit has met with the cities of Kent and Federal Way to coordinate alternatives development to gain understanding of local land use, permitting and other perspectives. These meetings have been approximately monthly.

Meetings with the City of Federal Way were held on June 6, 2018, January 9, 2018, October 3, 2018, November 16, 2018, January 30, 2019, February 9, 2019, May 15, 2019, October 1, 2019, October 21, 2019, November 21, 2019, November 21, 2019, December 16, 2019, January 14, 2020, January 16, 2020, February 20, 2020, and August 20, 2020.

Meetings with the City of Kent were held on July 3, 2018, November 8, 2018, September 24, 2019, May 11, 2020, and August 10, 2020.

### **Coordination Regarding Possible Future NEPA Approvals**

Sound Transit has coordinated with FHWA and WSDOT to reach concurrence on the proper approach to obtain NEPA compliance in support of future federal approvals for the project. Each build alternative would require work within the Interstate/Federal right-of-way, which would require approvals from FHWA. Due to this particular federal nexus, NEPA documentation will be prepared. This documentation may begin following the Sound Transit Board identification of a preferred alternative site.

Sound Transit has identified and evaluated potential issues/processes applicable under NEPA in an Appendix E, NEPA Compliance Documentation, which includes Environmental Justice and Section 4(f) analysis. The goal is to ensure that these NEPA-related issues, if applicable for a particular site, will have been considered as part of the SEPA Environmental Impact Statement.

After the preferred alternative is identified, FHWA will determine the appropriate NEPA documentation to be prepared. It will draw from work done in the SEPA environmental impact statement and Appendix E.

Meetings with FHWA and WSDOT to coordinate on future NEPA approval for the project were held on: December 20, 2018, February 01, 2019, July 23, 2019, September 18, 2019, September 27, 2019, October 16, 2019, October 25, 2019, March 12, 2020.

### **Coordination Regarding Modification to BPA lines**

Sound Transit met with representatives of BPA on December 18, 2019, to discuss the proposed modification to the BPA transmission lines, particularly in regard to BPA's environmental review

process and potential Section 106 compliance issues. Sound Transit will continue to coordinate with BPA as the project progresses.

### **Coordination Regarding Possible Future Section 404 Permit**

Sound Transit met with representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Ecology for a pre-application meeting on September 2, 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and discuss future permitting requirements, particularly related to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians was invited but unable to attend.

### **Coordination Regarding Eligible Historic Resources**

Sound Transit surveyed and inventoried a total of 86 historic-period, built-environment resources in the area of impact. The results were documented in historic property inventory forms in DAHP's WISAARD database, as well as in a technical report (Appendix G4). Based on survey results, Sound Transit has recommended, and DAHP has agreed, that none of the historic-period, built-environment resources surveyed for this project met criteria necessary for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Please see Attachment B-1 for a copy of the correspondence with DAHP.

### **1.2.3 Tribal Coordination**

Sound Transit maintains a government-to-government relationship with the sovereign tribes in the area. The OMF South build alternatives are not located on tribal lands; however, they are located within the Usual and Accustomed Areas of the Muckleshoot Tribe, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nisqually Indian Tribe.

Sound Transit consults with the affected tribes — in a process that is independent of the public involvement process — in areas that the tribes will have particular interest, such as water quality, ecosystems, and cultural resources. While the tribes do not have permitting approval, their input is valued and considered.

Sound Transit met with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe to review and discuss the potential ecosystem impacts, particularly to aquatic resources, including fish. Sound Transit met with representatives of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians on February 10, 2020, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe on January 23, 2020.

### **1.2.4 Agency Approvals**

Table B2-3 lists the currently anticipated or potential licenses, permits and approvals for OMF South.



**Table B2-3 Potential Licenses, Permits, and Approvals**

License, Permit or Approval	Issuing Agency
<b>Federal</b>	
Air Space Lease for Use of Interstate Right-of-Way	Federal Highway Administration
Section 106 Review	Federal Highway Administration
Section 4(f) Review	Federal Highway Administration
Clean Water Act, Section 404	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Federal Endangered Species Review	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service
National Environmental Policy Act documentation for reconfiguration of towers/power lines for alternatives in Federal Way	Bonneville Power Administration
<b>State</b>	
Hydraulic Project Approval	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Public Utility Commission Permits	Washington Public Utility Commission
Section 106 Review	Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
Temporary Modification of Water Quality Criteria	Washington State Department of Ecology
Underground Storage Tank Notification Requirement	Washington State Department of Ecology
Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Washington State Department of Ecology
Temporary Construction Easement (SR 99, I-5)	Washington State Department of Transportation
Air Space Lease: State Transportation Routes and Interstate Right-of-Way (with Federal Highway Administration)	Washington State Department of Transportation
Cleanup Action Plan Amendment and related Consent Decree (for Midway Landfill Alternative only)	Washington State Department of Ecology
<b>City (depending on location of alternative)</b>	
Street Use Permits	City of Kent or Federal Way
Construction Permits	City of Kent or Federal Way
Right-of-Way Permits	City of Kent or Federal Way
Environmental Critical Areas/Sensitive Areas Review	City of Kent or Federal Way
Compliance Review of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Discharge requirements before discharge to local stormwater system	City of Kent or Federal Way
Development Permits, Including Conditional Use Permit or Land Use Code Amendment	City of Kent or Federal Way
Noise Variance	City of Kent or Federal Way
Street Vacations	City of Federal Way
<b>Other</b>	
Solid Waste Disposal Permit (for Midway Landfill Alternative)	King County
Notification of Intent to Perform Demolition or Asbestos Removal	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Title V Operating Permit	Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
Pipeline and Utility Crossing Permits	Utility Providers
Utility Approvals: Easements and Use Agreements	Utility Providers

## 1.3 Outreach Activities and Tools

Beginning in 2018, Sound Transit began Agency and public outreach efforts for OMF South. Outreach methods included online, in-person, existing community efforts, media, English and translated materials to ensure continual engagement and availability of information throughout Early Scoping, Scoping and additional outreach efforts. Sound Transit engaged with over 950 people in-person to share project information and gather feedback during these outreach efforts.

To ensure widely available, accessible project information, Sound Transit used a variety of communication tools and methods, including e-mail updates, a project website, open houses and drop-in sessions, public hearings, fact sheets and brochures, community events, notifications to potentially impacted properties, press releases, and targeted outreach to underrepresented groups. Each of the outreach periods included online open houses to supplement in-person events, reaching and engaging over 7,700 users. Print, online and media advertisements and project updates disseminated project information throughout each outreach period. For each of the four outreach periods to date (Early Scoping, September 2018 outreach, SEPA scoping, and November 2019 outreach) have included a saturated postcard or newsletter mailing, reaching approximately 74,000 recipients each.

### 1.3.1 GovDelivery Listserv

Individuals interested in receiving project information can sign up to receive periodic project updates through email. Sound Transit maintains a database of individuals who have requested to receive updates on project progress and opportunities for public input using a GovDelivery listserv. The listserv includes email addresses and/or physical addresses of open house attendees, drop-in session attendees, correspondents, commenters, and other interested individuals. In addition to the listserv, Sound Transit also uses a mailing list of over 50,000 addresses in the project area for project related mailings.

### 1.3.2 Briefings

Sound Transit actively seeks opportunities to provide briefings to community and neighborhood groups, organizations, social service providers and businesses in the OMF South project area. Local community groups receive project information, learn about opportunities to provide project feedback and how to stay engaged, and ask questions at these briefings. Many briefings are one-on-one meetings with local stakeholders and community leaders. A full list of community briefings can be found in Table B5-1 at the end of this appendix.

### 1.3.3 Open Houses and Drop-In Sessions

Sound Transit held open houses and informational drop-in sessions along the project corridor during Early Scoping, Scoping, and additional outreach periods. During Early Scoping in April 2018, September outreach in September 2018, and Scoping in April 2019, Sound Transit held large open houses in three different locations during each outreach period. The project team shared information about alternatives development, project progress, and proposed route and station alternatives. Members of the public were encouraged to attend to speak with members of the project team, ask questions and provide comments and feedback. In November 2019, Sound Transit hosted a series of informal drop-in sessions along the project corridor to provide a project update and share information on alternatives development.

### 1.3.4 Public Hearings

Sound Transit will hold two online informational meetings combined with public hearings on March 24 and March 30, 2021, during the 45-day extended comment period following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These will be opportunities for the public to learn more about the project and to provide formal comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### 1.3.5 Fact Sheets and Brochures

Sound Transit distributed OMF South fact sheets and brochures to the public throughout the project lifetime. The fact sheets included general project information and timeline, status of alternatives development, information on preferred alternatives and alternatives to be studied in environmental analysis, project contact information, and the project website URL. The project team also developed a fact sheet focused on summarizing potential fieldwork activities and a folio for potentially impacted property owners along the project corridor that provided an overview of what to expect throughout the project lifecycle. Translated versions of these materials are available in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Khmer and Russian.

### 1.3.6 Community Events

The OMF South project team attend existing events held by community organizations in the project area to connect with audiences that may not receive project information otherwise. By attending these events, Sound Transit builds relationships and establishes an ongoing presence in communities in the project area, provides project information and answers questions, and offers ways to stay engaged through project email updates. The project team has focused on attending events in traditionally underserved communities and providing in-language project information. See Table B5.2 for a full list of community events.

### 1.3.7 Project Webpage

Sound Transit maintains a project webpage, <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/operations-maintenance-facility-south> for the OMF South project. The webpage includes a project overview and project maps, information on project stakeholders and partners, news and updates, project timeline and milestones, and a document library of published materials. It is kept up to date and is always accessible to users. Project documents on the OMF South website include:

- OMF South Early Scoping Information Report
- OMF South Early Scoping Report and Appendices
- OMF South Scoping Information Report
- OMF South Scoping Summary Report and Appendices
- OMF South Community Engagement and Communications Plan
- OMF South Project Folio

Visitors can also sign up to receive project email updates on the website.

### **1.3.8 News Media**

Sound Transit publishes notifications and press releases for project updates, events, outreach periods and board meetings in online and print local news publications along the project corridor. See Table B4.1 at the end of this section for a full list of publications.

### **1.3.9 Notifications to Potentially Affected Properties**

Beginning in 2018, the project team has met with potentially impacted property owners interested in learning more information or members of the public who have requested a briefing throughout the lifetime of the project. Meetings with property owners have focused on providing an overview of the project, discussing potential impacts in further detail, and answering questions. In addition to these meetings, Sound Transit has conducted door-to-door field visits to provide information about the project and distribute project factsheets and brochures. In 2019, Sound Transit began reaching out to potentially impacted residents to coordinate fieldwork efforts to inform design for site alternatives. The property-owner outreach team conducted field visits to key properties within each of the six initial sites during the 2019 Scoping period. In fall 2019, the project team called property owners, hand-distributed flyers, and conducted door-to-door knocking to notify impacted areas.

In January 2020, Sound Transit conducted door-to-door outreach to potentially impacted properties and properties adjacent to each of the site alternatives. The goal of this outreach was to keep property owners informed and to encourage them to stay engaged with the project as the environmental review process continues.

In early 2021 Sound Transit mailed individual letters to approximately 150 potentially affected property owners identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the alternatives being evaluated. The letters included details of the property's inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and an offer to meet with the project team to discuss individual property impacts in person. Sound Transit will continue to communicate transparently with property owners about potential impacts to their property, create and maintain relationships with property owners and answer questions to help clarify the property acquisition process. Due to the large number of impacted properties and the potential for non-responsive property owners, the project team aimed to offer at least 50 percent of potentially impacted property owners the opportunity to engage in a two-way conversation with Sound Transit prior to the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### **1.3.10 Targeted Outreach**

Sound Transit is committed to equitable engagement and inclusive outreach towards community groups, organizations, residents, businesses, and underrepresented populations who do not typically participate in traditional in-person and online open houses or engagement opportunities. The project team has conducted targeted outreach to populations with limited English proficiency, low incomes, and people of color to build long-term relationships and provide meaningful opportunities to engage in the project planning, design, and environmental review processes. The project team reached out to community organizations and social service providers, when possible, to learn more about individual community needs and events to attend. Sound Transit conducted a preliminary demographic analysis to identify low-income, minority, and limited-English-proficiency populations in the project area. Based on this analysis, Sound Transit provided project literature in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Khmer and Russian.



Sound Transit engages with social service providers, community leaders and organizations and other representative through targeted outreach efforts. Through these efforts, the project team can share project information, build relationships with the community, and how environmental justice populations may experience adverse impacts or benefits from the project. Sound Transit is using several types of targeted outreach, including:

- **Briefings:** Sound Transit met with representatives of individual communities or organizations to provide a project update, answer questions, and learn more about individual circumstances and better ways to engage with their community. Attention and care have been taken to meet people in locations where they may be more comfortable to engage with government agencies. This has included presence with in-language lunch groups (Korean, Spanish, and Cambodian) and collaboration with groups for translation services, as well as serving meals and engaging with community groups in the spirit of building relationship and collective understanding of perspectives. Briefings were adapted to meet the needs of specific audiences, including presentation content, as well as interpretation/translation.
- **Open houses:** Sound Transit chose locations and times that were accessible for the audiences within the project corridor. At open houses, project outreach staff set up tables of materials and resources, answered questions and participated in facilitated conversations. At TDLE-focused open houses, project staff often presented a brief overview of the project to provide background. Advertised availability for translation, ASL interpretation, and tactile interpretation was used by individuals who requested these services.
- **Fair or festival booths:** Project staff attended fairs, festivals, and community/cultural celebrations in the project area (Kent and Federal Way) to distribute project information and answer questions from the general public. Outreach staff have hosted a Sound Transit booth with project-specific materials and general South Puget Sound materials. Booths were open to the public and provided basic information, as well as a chance to discuss specific questions in detail.
- **Tabling and drop-in sessions:** Project outreach provided project information and updates and answered questions at community spaces, including transit centers, UW Tacoma, grocery stores, and community centers to reach a wider audience. These tabling sessions were held at multiple days and times (weekdays/weekends, daytime, and evening) to meet varying schedules of community members. Events were open to the public and provided basic information as well as a chance to discuss specific questions in detail.
- **Stakeholder interviews:** The project team conducted a series of interviews with social service organizations and community advocacy groups in the project area to understand their preferred methods of engagement, establish relationships, and introduce them to the OMF South project. See Table B5.1 for a complete list of stakeholder interviews.
- **Property owner meetings:** Project staff met with property owners along the project corridor to discuss specific questions and concerns; some with language interpretation.
- **Outreach toolkits:** The project team distributed outreach toolkits to social service organizations along the project corridor to encourage sharing of information by trusted leaders with their audiences during outreach periods and to generate additional feedback. The toolkits included project emails, posters, factsheets, Facebook posts and tweets for organizations to post and share.
- **Door-to-door outreach:** Project staff distributed posters and fliers to share project information, advertise upcoming events, and solicit project feedback. This often included outreach to small businesses and property owners in the project areas, particularly those likely to be affected by future alignments or stations.

There are consistent demographics represented in open houses and comment periods. The targeted outreach efforts and engagement dedicated towards historically underrepresented groups and underserved populations through the strategies outlined above is vital to build connections and gather project related feedback from these communities. Sound Transit has been able to engage with various audiences and involve people representative of the project corridor through these efforts.

Table B3-1 lists the print and online publications that have been used to advertise project information.

**Table B3-1 Print and Online Publications**

Publication	Media type
Sound Info (Federal Way Mirror and Kent Reporter)	Print and online
International Examiner (Asian Pacific)	Print and online
Korea Daily (available in Korean)	Print and online
The Korea Times Seattle (available in Korean)	Print and online
Northwest Vietnamese News (available in Vietnamese)	Print and online
The Seattle Times	Online
South Sound Biz	Online
Tacoma News Tribune	Print and online
Tacoma Weekly News	Print and online
Tu Decides Weekly Newsletter (available in Spanish)	Print and online
Weekly Volcano and NW Military	Print and online
Poster Giant	Print
Peach Jar	Print

## 1.4 Outreach During Environmental Impact Statement Process

### 1.4.1 Early Scoping

#### 1.4.1.1 Early Scoping Activities (April 2 to May 3, 2018)

The early scoping process was conducted during early 2018. Early scoping was conducted concurrently with the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project. More details about early scoping are included in the Tacoma Dome Link Extension and Operations and Maintenance Facility South Early Scoping Summary Report (June 2018) located on the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project website (<https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/tacoma-dome-link-extension/documents>).

The early scoping notice was published in the Washington State Department of Ecology State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Register on March 28, 2018, with the comment period beginning on April 2, 2018. Sound Transit also mailed postcards to properties along the corridor, placed print and online advertisements, and posted notices to social media sites. An agency meeting and three community open houses were held during the comment period.

Sound Transit asked members of the public to comment on:

- The route (alignment), stations, potential alternatives, benefits, and impacts for TDLE
- The potential location, benefits, and impacts for an OMF in the south corridor (South King and Pierce counties)
- The purpose and need for the project

To support early scoping, Sound Transit held three public open houses in Tacoma, Federal Way, and Fife.

- Open House – Tacoma  
Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Best Western Plus Tacoma Dome Hotel, 2611 East E Street
- Open House – Federal Way  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Todd Beamer High School, 35999 16th Avenue S
- Open House – Fife  
Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Fife Community Center, 2111 54th Avenue E

More than 190 people attended the in-person open houses.

In addition, an online open house was available from April 2 to May 3, 2018, to inform the public about the project and provide an opportunity to comment on the project purpose and need, potential sites, and their benefits and impacts. All materials presented at the open house were available online.

Between April 2 and May 3, 2018, over 2,470 unique visitors accessed the online open house.

Over 560 written comments were gathered in person and from online comment forms. Public comments were accepted in various ways, including through email, the online open house, open house comment forms, and mail. In addition, an interactive map tool in the online open house allowed users to place notes at specific locations on a map, and users could indicate if they liked or disliked other commenters' notes. Similarly, at the community open houses, attendees placed Post-it Notes with their input on large maps.

The most common themes in the public comments were:

- Alignment and station location suggestions
- Parking
- Potential for transit oriented development
- Multimodal connections
- General support and expediting construction
- Concern about taxes and project cost
- Light rail operations and future expansion
- Increased access to employment areas
- Environmental concerns such as air quality, wetlands, vegetation, hazardous materials, geologic hazards, and environmental justice

Outreach activities were advertised with the following methods:

- Mailer notifications sent to over 52,160 homes, apartments, and businesses
- Two news releases on April 2 and April 16, 2018
- Online and print ads in 12 local online and print publications
- Posters distributed to 150 different locations between Kent and Tacoma (included translated versions in Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Khmer, and Russian)
- Facebook and Twitter ads that reached 30,047 subscribers and 81,500 followers
- Five project updates sent to approximately 5,300 recipients on April 2, April 12, April 16, April 24, and May 2, 2018

#### **1.4.2 September 2018 Outreach**

Between early scoping and scoping outreach, Sound Transit focused on inclusive outreach through stakeholder interviews, briefings, tabling events, and fairs and festivals with community groups, organizations, residents, businesses, and underrepresented populations along the project corridor in mind (more information below). This included a project update during a series of three open houses and an online open house. Sound Transit offered shared project updates for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension and sought feedback on initial route and station concepts. Although OMF South was not the focus of this outreach and no feedback was sought for the project, staff was available to answer questions and provide updates about the project. A display was presented at the three open houses and the online open house and provided general updates on the OMF siting process since early scoping.

##### **Outreach Activities:**

- Open House – Federal Way  
Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Federal Way Performing Arts Center, 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
- Open House – Fife  
Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Fife High School, 5616 20th Street E
- Open House – Tacoma  
Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Best Western Plus Tacoma Dome Hotel, 2611 East E Street

More than 175 people attended the three in-person open houses to provide comment and feedback on the route and station concepts for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension.

These activities were advertised with:

- Postcard notifications distributed to over 67,000 homes, apartments, and businesses in the project area
- Three project email updates sent to more than 6,200 recipients on the project listserv
- Posters distributed to over 150 locations throughout Federal Way, Fife, Milton, Tacoma, and tribal areas
- Print and online display advertisements in 11 local publications



- Facebook posts on the Sound Transit page, reaching over 13,000 users and engaging over 600 people
- Sound Transit tweets, reaching over 18,000 Twitter users and engaging 271 users with 16 retweets and 17 likes
- One news release on August 30, 2018
- Notification toolkits distributed to local community organizations

### 1.4.3 SEPA Scoping

When Sound Transit initiated the formal SEPA scoping process, the OMF South environmental review had been split from the TDLE process. Unlike early scoping, which addressed both projects, the SEPA scoping process described here solely addressed the OMF South project. This section also discusses how the scoping process influenced the development of alternatives.

During scoping, Sound Transit asked for comments on the proposed range of alternatives, the purpose and need for the project, the environmental effects and benefits to be analyzed, the probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and license or other approvals that may be required.

#### 1.4.3.1 Public Comment Period and Scoping Meetings

Sound Transit published the Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice in the SEPA Register on February 19, 2019. The comment period for scoping was from February 19 to April 1, 2019. This period exceeded the 30 days required under SEPA regulations and allowed additional time for public, agency, and Tribal comment.

During this period, two open houses were held to inform and obtain input from the community (one in the City of Federal Way and the other in the City of Kent):

- Open House – Federal Way  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 6 to 8 pm  
Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center, 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
- Open House – Kent  
Wednesday, March 20, 2019 6 to 8 pm  
Highline College, 2400 S 240th Street, Des Moines

In addition to the open houses, a meeting was held for Tribes, agencies, and cities on March 12, 2019.

- Agency Scoping Meeting  
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
Federal Way Performing Arts and Events Center, 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S

Information on the purpose and need of the project, potential OMF South site locations with maps and technical details, details about the environmental review process, and the project timeline were presented at the open houses.

All public meeting locations were accessible to persons with disabilities. Alternative formats and translation services were available, including an accessible laptop with screen reader software. American Sign Language interpretation was requested and provided at the Federal Way open

house. Visitors were able to comment on the site options with written comment forms, online comment forms on the online open house with laptops provided, or verbally to a court reporter who transcribed comments. More than 370 people attended the in-person public scoping meetings and 15 agency representatives attended the agency scoping meeting.

During the scoping process, an online open house was available from February 19 to April 1, 2019 and allowed the public to review and provide feedback on potential site locations. The online open house featured the project purpose and need, information about the scoping period and the environmental impact statement, and the advantages and disadvantages of each of the six potential OMF South sites. The website included all information that was presented at the in-person open houses. Users were asked to provide comments on the six potential site options.

Between February 19 and April 1, 2019, the online open house received more than 3,400 unique visitors who used a social share widget and shared over 25 times.

Commenters had several ways to comment during the scoping period in addition to the open houses and online open house. They could also comment via email, mail, or phone. Over 1,400 comments were received via in-person and online comment forms during the scoping period, as well as over 2,000 email comments leading up to scoping. Outreach activities and opportunities and ways to provide comment during the scoping process were advertised with:

- Newsletters mailed to over 74,000 households and businesses
- Posters distributed to 301 locations throughout Federal Way, Fife, Milton, Tacoma, and tribal areas
- Four project email updates sent to more than 6,200 recipients on the South Sound email list
- Notification toolkits sent to 13 local organizations to share with constituents and members
- Print and online display advertisements in 10 local publications
- Social media posts, reaching over 9,000 Facebook users and engaging over 250 Twitter users

### **How Comments Were Used**

After the end of the comment period on April 1, 2019, Sound Transit collected and considered the comments received and prepared a scoping report to summarize the comments and results of the scoping process. The report was publicly available on the project website.

The comments received during the scoping period were considered by Sound Transit to define the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement and its related technical analyses.

### **Scoping Comment Summary**

The OMF South Scoping Summary Report (Sound Transit 2019) summarizes the comments received during scoping. Generally, public, agency, and tribal comments focused on the following:

- Concern over potential site alternatives that commenters believed could preclude future TOD opportunities, specifically the S 240th Street and SR 99 site, which includes Dick's Drive-In
- Concern about potential business displacements and other economic impacts
- For the alternatives in Federal Way, concerns about potential impacts to Hylebos Creek and its associated wetlands

Most commenters who expressed a site preference stated that one or either of the Midway Landfill sites were superior to the others.

In consideration of these comments, the Sound Transit Board identified three site alternatives to study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: the Midway Landfill and I-5 alternative, the S336th St and I-5 alternative, and the S 344th St and I-5 alternative. For the purposes of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, these were renamed the Midway Landfill Alternative, the South 336th Street Alternative, and the South 344th Street Alternative.

#### **1.4.4 Public Outreach during Draft Environmental Impact Statement Development**

##### **1.4.4.1 November 2019 Outreach Activities (November 13 to December 6, 2019)**

In November and December of 2019, Sound Transit held a series of drop-in sessions to provide the public opportunities to learn more about both TDLE and OMF South. There was also an online open house available from November 13 through December 6, 2019. More than 250 people attended the drop-in sessions, and over 1,600 users participated in the online open house.

These were primarily opportunities for information sharing. Although it was not a formal comment period, Sound Transit received approximately 20 comments from in-person and online comment forms. Commenters primarily had questions about Sound Transit's property acquisition process and timeline and how the recent passage of I-976 could affect the project. Commenters who expressed a site preference generally encouraged Sound Transit to choose the Midway Landfill Alternative.

##### **The drop-in sessions were conducted at the following locations:**

- Federal Way Link Extension Open House  
Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Highline College, 2400 S 240th Street, Des Moines
- Drop-in session – Federal Way  
Saturday, November 16, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon  
Federal Way Library, 34200 1st Way S
- Drop-in session – Kent  
Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 8 to 10 a.m.  
Fred Meyer, 25250 Pacific Highway S
- Federal Way Link Extension Open House  
Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 6 to 8 p.m.  
Federal Way Performing Arts Center, 31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S
- Drop-in session – Federal Way  
Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 5 to 7 p.m.  
Federal Way Community Center, 876 S 333rd Street

An online open house was available from November 13 to December 9, 2019. All materials from the drop-in sessions were available on the site. The site provided a project update on the three sites to be studied in environmental review and laid out the timeline for the project as well as the next opportunity for the public to provide comments and feedback.

The site had a landing page translated into Khmer, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese, with instruction on how to use Google Translate to navigate the site. The site also included in-language content for all aforementioned languages.

Between November 13 and December 9, 2019, the online open house had more than 1,600 unique visitors. These visitors used a social share widget on the site, sharing it 18 times. These activities were advertised with:

- Mailers and notifications sent to over 43,000 homes and businesses
- Social media posts reaching over 16,000 Facebook users and engaging over 5,000 Twitter users
- Posters distributed to 105 different locations throughout SeaTac, Kent, Des Moines, and Federal Way
- Three project email updates sent to more than 6,200 recipients on South Sound email lists
- Notification toolkits sent to 12 local organizations to share with constituents and members
- Print and online display advertisements in eight local publications

## 1.5 Ongoing Outreach Stakeholder Briefings, Interviews, and Tabling Events

### 1.5.1 Scoping

Table B5-1 below lists events and dates associated with scoping.

**Table B5-1 Scoping Events and Dates**

Organization	Date
Federal Way Chamber Roundtable	March 1, 2019
Federal Way Chamber Luncheon	March 6, 2019
Kent Cultural Communities Board	February 26, 2019
Korean Community Quarterly Meeting	March 21, 2019
North Lake Improvement Club of Federal Way	March 4, 2019
South King County Mobility Coalition	March 14, 2019

### 1.5.2 Other Activities (2018 to 2020)

Table B5-2 below lists other outreach activities and dates.



**Table B5-2 Other Outreach Activities and Dates**

Organization	Outreach type	Date
<b>Briefings and Interviews</b>		
West Hill Cambridge Neighborhood Council	Briefing	January 22, 2019
Auburn Area Roundtable	Briefing	August 2, 2019
Pacific Christian Academy School Board	Briefing	June 13, 2019 April 15, 2020
Garage Town	Briefing	March 7, 2019 March 18, 2020
Federal Way Black Collective	Briefing	October 1, 2020
Federal Way – Councilmember Baruso	Briefing	April 3, 2020
Federal Way – Councilmember Honda	Briefing	April 1, 2020
Federal Way – Councilmember Kochmar	Briefing	April 8, 2020
Federal Way – Mayor Jim Ferrell	Briefing	May 22, 2020
City of Federal Way Staff	Briefing	August 20, 2020
Federal Way Council Study Session	Briefing	February 19, 2019 October 1, 2019
Kent – Mayor Dana Ralph	Briefing	June 25, 2020
City of Kent Staff	Briefing	August 10, 2020
Kent Mill Creek Neighborhood Association	Briefing	April 11, 2019
Kent Council Workshop	Briefing	March 5, 2019
Multi-Service Center	Briefing	January 15, 2019 October 24, 2019
North Park Neighborhood Association	Briefing	June 13, 2019
Rock Automotive and Sunset Motel	Briefing	July 19, 2019
Neighbors of West Hill Council	Briefing	September 19, 2019
Hopelink	Briefing	November 25, 2019
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Briefing	September 2, 2020
<b>Fairs, Festivals, and Tabling</b>		
Federal Way Library Office Hours	Tabling	January 23, 2019 January 30, 2019
Ecology Midway Landfill Site Public Hearing	Hearing	February 11, 2019
Auburn Food Bank Tabling	Tabling	March 8, 2019
Federal Way Farmers Market	Tabling	July 27, 2019 July 29, 2019
Federal Way State of the City	Tabling	February 28, 2019 February 27, 2020
Kent Field Visits (12)	Door-to-door	February 28, 2019 January 28-31, 2020
Federal Way Field Visits (10)	Door-to-door	March 4, 2019 January 22-28, 2020
Kent Farmers Market	Tabling	June 22, 2019

## REFERENCES

- Sound Transit. 2018. Tacoma Dome Link Extension and Operations and Maintenance Facility South Early Scoping Summary Report. Available at: <https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/AE%25200030-17%25205.3.C%2520Early%2520Scoping%2520Summary%2520Report%2520and%2520Appendices%2520.pdf>. Accessed 2020.
- Sound Transit. 2019. Operations and Maintenance Facility South Scoping Summary Report. Available at: <https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/operations-and-maintenance-facility-south-scoping-report-summary.pdf>. Accessed 2020.



## ATTACHMENT B-1

### **Correspondence from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

January 20, 2021

Mr. Alexander Stevenson  
Cultural Resource Program Manager  
Sound Transit

In future correspondence please refer to:  
Project Tracking Code: 2020-02-01045  
Property: Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility South (OMFS)  
Re: No Effect to Historic Properties

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Thank you for contacting the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and providing a copy of the cultural resources survey report for the above referenced project. First, we agree that Sites 45KI1542 and 45KI1543 are NOT ELIGIBLE for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). We also agree that the 58 properties identified and recorded for this project are NOT ELIGIBLE for inclusion in the NRHP. Finally, we agree with the recommendations made in the report and your finding of No Effect to Historic Properties. As a result of our agreement, further contact with DAHP on this matter is not necessary.

However, if information becomes available and/or the scope of work changes, please resume consultation with DAHP and all consulting parties. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area secured, and contact made with concerned tribes and DAHP for further consultation.

These comments are based on the information available at the time of this review and on behalf of the State Historic Preservation Officer in conformance with Washington State law.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Wardlaw  
Transportation Archaeologist  
(360) 485-5014  
dennis.wardlaw@dahp.wa.gov





# ***CONTACT US***

Visit our webpage and sign up for project news [www.soundtransit.org/omfs](http://www.soundtransit.org/omfs)

Email [omfsouth@soundtransit.org](mailto:omfsouth@soundtransit.org)

Call 206-398-5453

