Winter 2024

NEPA Draft / SEPA Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement Engagement Summary

Executive Summary

The Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) South project is in the planning phase. Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) held a public comment period from September 22 to November 6, 2023, to invite comments on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft/ State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS evaluates the same three possible OMF South sites as the 2021 SEPA Draft EIS and their potential impacts to the natural and built environment and identifies potential mitigation measures. We provided information about the NEPA Draft/ SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS in English, Spanish, Korean, and Russian, and invited comments through an online comment form, by mail, by email, by voicemail, and through two public meetings and hearings. 2021 SEPA Draft EIS comments remain valid and did not need to be resubmitted; we invited new comments on project changes and updated analysis. More than 1,300 people visited the online open house during the comment period, including more than 75 visitors to our in-language sites, and we received more than 50 comments. This document summarizes outreach activities and public participation during the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS comment period. For a summary of public comments submitted, please read the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS Comment Summary Report. The Final EIS will include responses to substantive comments from both the 2021 and 2023 Draft EIS comment periods and is anticipated to be issued in 2024.

El proyecto de la Unidad de Operaciones y Mantenimiento (Operations and Maintenance Facility, OMF) Sur se encuentra en la fase de planificación. Sound Transit y la Administración Federal de Tránsito (Federal Transit Administration, FTA) tuvieron un periodo de discusión pública del 22 de septiembre al 6 de noviembre de 2023, para recibir comentarios sobre el borrador de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional (National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA) /borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (Draft Environmental Impact Statement, EIS) suplementario de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado (State Environmental Policy Act, SEPA). El borrador de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional/borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental suplementario de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado evalúa los mismos tres sitios de la Unidad de Operaciones y Mantenimiento Sur que el borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado de 2021, y sus posibles impactos en el entorno natural y construido, e identifica posibles medidas de mitigación. Brindamos información sobre el borrador de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional/borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental suplementario de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado en inglés, español, coreano y ruso, y solicitamos que nos proporcionaran comentarios a través de un formulario de comentarios en línea, por correo, por correo electrónico, por correo de voz y a través de dos reuniones y audiencias públicas. Los comentarios sobre el borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado de 2021 aún son válidos y no es necesario volver a presentarlos; invitamos a proporcionar nuevos comentarios sobre los cambios del proyecto y los análisis actualizados. Más de 1,300 personas visitaron la jornada de puertas abiertas en línea durante el periodo de comentarios, incluidos más de 75 visitantes de nuestros sitios de idiomas distintos, y recibimos más de 50 comentarios. Este documento resume las actividades de divulgación y participación

pública durante el periodo de comentarios del borrador de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional/borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental suplementario de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado. Para consultar un resumen de los comentarios públicos presentados, lea el resumen de los comentarios de la Ley de Política Ambiental Nacional/borrador de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental suplementario de la Ley de Políticas Ambientales del Estado. La Declaración de Impacto Ambiental final incluirá las respuestas a los comentarios sustanciales de ambos periodos de comentarios sobre los borradores de la Declaración de Impacto Ambiental de 2021 y 2023, y se prevé su publicación para 2024.

운영 및 관리 시설(Operations and Maintenance Facility, OMF) 남부 프로젝트는 계획 단계입니다. Sound Transit 및 연방교통국(Federal Transit Administration, FTA)은 2023년 9월 22일부터 11월 6일까지의 공개 의견 수렴 기간을 가져 국가 환경 정책법(National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA)/주 환경 정책법(State Environmental Policy Act, SEPA) 보완 환경영향평가서 초안(Draft Environmental Impact Statement, EIS 초안)에 관한 의견을 받았습니다. NEPA 초안/SEPA 보완 EIS 초안은 2021 SEPA EIS 초안과 같이 동일한 세 곳의 OMF 남부 부지 후보 및 자연환경과 인공적인 환경에 미치는 그 잠재적인 영향을 평가하고 잠재적인 완화 조치를 파악하는 것입니다. NEPA 초안/ SEPA 보완 EIS 초안에 관한 정보는 영어, 스페인어, 한국어, 러시아어로 제공되었으며, 온라인 의견 양식, 우편, 이메일, 음성 메일, 두 번의 회의와 공청회를 통해 의견을 수렴하였습니다. 2021 SEPA EIS 초안에 대한 의견은 유효하며 다시 제출하실 필요가 없습니다. 프로젝트 변경 사항 및 분석 업데이트에 관한 새로운 의견을 수렴하였습니다. 의견 수렴 기간 중 75명 이상의 비영어 사이트 방문을 포함한 1,300명 이상이 온라인 오픈하우스를 방문해 주셨으며, 50개 이상의 의견을 받았습니다. 본 문서는 NEPA 초안/SEPA 보완 EIS 초안 의견 수렴 기간 중의 아웃리치 활동 및 공공 참여에 대한 요약입니다. 제출된 공개 의견의 요약은 NEPA 초안/SEPA 보완 EIS 초안 의견 수렴 기간의 주요 의견에 대한 답변을 포함할 것이고, 2024년에 발행 예정입니다.

Проект База эксплуатации и технического обслуживания "Юг" (Operations and Maintenance Facility, OMF) находится на этапе планирования. Агентством Sound Transit и Федеральным управлением общественного транспорта (Federal Transit Administration, FTA) был установлен период общественного обсуждения с 22 сентября по 6 ноября 2023 года для представления замечаний от общественности по проекту отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду (Environmental Impact Statement, EIS) в соответствии с Законом о национальной политике в области окружающей среды (National Enviromental Policy Act, NEPA)/дополнительному проекту отчета в соответствии с Законом о политике штата в области окружающей среды (State Enviromental Policy Act, SEPA). Проект отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду в соответствии с NEPA/дополнительный проект отчета в соответствии с SEPA дает оценку тем же трем возможным местам для строительства ОМF "Юг", которые оценивались в проекте отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду 2021 года в соответствии с SEPA, и их потенциальному воздействию на природную и антропогенную среду, а также определяет возможные меры по смягчению негативных последствий. Мы предоставили информацию о проекте отчета о

воздействии на окружающую среду в соответствии с NEPA/дополнительном проекте отчета в соответствии с SEPA на английском, испанском, корейском и русском языках и предложили общественности представить свои замечания через онлайн форму, по почте. по электронной почте, по голосовой почте, а также в ходе двух публичных совещаний и слушаний. Замечания по проекту отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду 2021 года в соответствии с SEPA по-прежнему действительны, и их повторного представления не требовалось; мы предложили высказать новые замечания по внесенным в проект изменениям и обновленному анализу. Более 1300 человек посетили собрание в режиме онлайн в течение периода общественного обсуждения, включая более 75 посетителей наших сайтов на их родных языках, и мы получили более 50 комментариев. В этом документе содержится краткая информация о работе, проведенной с населением, и об участии общественности в общественных обсуждениях проекта о воздействии на окружающую среду в соответствии с NEPA/дополнительного проекта отчета в соответствии с SEPA. Краткую информацию о представленных замечаниях общественности вы можете найти в сводном отчете о полученных комментариях по проекту отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду в соответствии с NEPA/дополнительному проекту отчета в соответствии с SEPA. Заключение о воздействии на окружающую среду будет включать ответы на замечания по существу по обоим проектам отчета о воздействии на окружающую среду (2021 года и 2023 года) и ожидается, что оно будет опубликовано в 2024 году.

Overview

As part of voter-approved funding for regional light rail expansion, Sound Transit needs to build a new Operations and Maintenance Facility in the South Sound to accommodate additional vehicles for the future 116-mile light rail system. Sound Transit will also extend Link light rail from the future Federal Way Transit Center station (estimated opening in 2026) to the Tacoma Dome (estimated opening in 2035).

We launched the Operations and Maintenance Facility South project in 2018 in conjunction with the Tacoma Dome Link Extension. After multiple rounds of engagement, the Sound Transit Board identified a set of alternatives to carry into environmental review. We published a Draft EIS under SEPA in 2021 that evaluated three possible sites for the OMF South facility: the Midway Landfill Alternative, the South 336th Street Alternative, and the South 344th Street Alternative. The Midway Landfill Alternative is located in Kent and the other two alternatives are located in Federal Way (see Appendix A). After a public comment period (engagement summary, comment summary), the Sound Transit Board identified the South 336th Street site as the preferred alternative in December 2021.

To align federal and state processes, we published a NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS on September 22, 2023, that evaluates the same alternatives studied in the 2021 SEPA Draft EIS. Based on its transit expertise and federal funding opportunities, FTA is the lead federal agency. Sound Transit and FTA held a public comment period from September 22 to November 6 to invite comments on the SEPA Draft/NEPA Supplemental Draft EIS findings.

Engagement by the numbers



Sent **nearly 5,200** mailers to homes, apartments, and businesses along the project corridor



Received **55** formal comments on the Draft EIS



Over 1,300 users participated in an online open house



More than 45 attendees came to two public meetings and hearings (one online, one in-person)



Sent **four** project email updates to **more than 4,800** recipients



Placed print and online display advertisements in **six** local publications



Held briefings with **two** partner agencies and **two** property owner and resident groups



Reached **over 200** people through Sound Transit Facebook ads

Comment opportunities

From September 22 – November 6, 2023, the public provided comments in the following ways:

- Submitting comments through the online form on our website: omfsouth.participate.online
- Attending one of two public meetings and hearings:
 - o Online: October 19, 11:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m., Zoom
 - o In-person: October 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Federal Way Performing Arts & Events Center
- Emailing comments to <u>OMFSouth@soundtransit.org</u>
- Leaving a voicemail comment at 206-257-2141
- Mailing a letter to: OMF South c/o Erin Green, Sound Transit, 401 S Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98104

Outreach activities

Community input is integral to the success of the OMF South project. Sound Transit is committed to equitable community engagement and actively reflects on public input to incorporate lessons learned to improve future conversations. Sound Transit values building stronger relationships with historically underserved communities in the OMF South project area.

Online open house (omfsouth.participate.online)

An online open house was live for the duration of the comment period. The public could visit the website to review what had changed since the 2021 SEPA Draft EIS, review a summary of the findings of the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS and supporting materials, along with submitting comments via an online comment form. In addition to English, the website was also available in Korean, Russian, and Spanish. The website contained accessibility features including screen reader-friendly content and detailed alternative text. Digital factsheets and documents throughout the site were made into accessible PDFs. A total of 1,321 people visited the online open house including:

- 1,241 visitors to the English site
- 72 visitors to the Spanish site
- Two visitors to the Korean site
- Six visitors to the Russian site

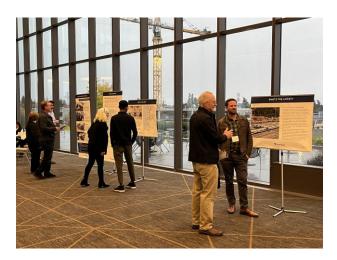
Public meetings and hearings

Sound Transit hosted one online public meeting and one in-person public meeting to provide general information about the Draft EIS and offer attendees the opportunity to provide public comment.

The online public meeting was held on Zoom on Thursday, October 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. More than 20 people attended the meeting. The first portion of the virtual meeting consisted of a presentation and a live question-and-answer segment. The presentation provided an overview of the OMF South project and the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS comment period. The Q&A segment offered the public the opportunity to submit written questions for answers from a panel of Sound Transit staff who represented different disciplines on the project team, including engineering and design, environmental, and property acquisition and relocation. The second portion of the online meeting consisted of a public hearing with a representative of Sound Transit listening to attendees who wanted to provide a public comment. Public hearing comments were captured by a court reporter.

The in-person meeting was held at the Federal Way Performance Arts & Events Center on Tuesday, October 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. More than 25 people attended the meeting. The in-person meeting included an open house where members of the public could browse displays with information on the environmental review process and Draft EIS findings. Sound Transit subject-matter experts were available to answer questions from the public. The event also included an overview presentation on the OMF South and NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS comment period. Following the presentation,

members of the public could return to the open house or participate in the public hearing, with a representative of Sound Transit listening to attendees who wanted to provide a public comment. Public hearing comments were captured by a court reporter and attendees were also able to fill out a written comment form at the meeting.





Left: Participants view project materials and speak with staff during the October 24 public meeting and hearing. **Right:** Participants at the October 24 public meeting and hearing watching an overview presentation. The same presentation was provided during the online public meeting and hearing on October 19.

Both meetings utilized standard accessibility features. The online meeting featured live captioning (in English) and was screen-reader accessible. Sound Transit offered simultaneous interpretation in American Sign Language, Spanish, Korean, and Russian at the online and in-person meetings. The inperson meeting also included translated materials in Spanish, Korean, and Russian. Sound Transit staff communicated the language and accessibility features throughout the public meetings and hearings to ensure attendees understood how to fully participate. Languages available for interpretation were based on the demographic data of the study area.

Mailers

The project team sent 5,170 mailers to residences and businesses within a half-mile of site alternatives. The mailer included translations in Korean, Russian, and Spanish. The content included information about the comment period, an overview of site locations, directions on how to comment, and resources where recipients could find more information about the OMF South environmental review process and access the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS.

Posters

To increase awareness of the comment period, the project team distributed posters to eight community gathering spaces and other areas where the public is likely to congregate in Kent and Federal Way. The poster included information on the online open house, public meeting and hearing dates, and how to submit a comment. The poster included translations in Korean, Russian, and Spanish (see Appendix B).

Online and print display ads for South Sound publications

Sound Transit ran print display ads and online ad campaigns in six publications throughout the comment period. Ad placements included English, Spanish, Korean, and Russian publications to reach audiences in the project area and region. Online ads were geo-targeted, when possible, to focus on audiences in Kent and Federal Way. The ad messaging communicated learning more about the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS and providing new comments on it. The project team placed ads in the following

publications: Kent Reporter, Federal Way Mirror, International Examiner, El Siete Dias, Korean Times Seattle, Russian Town Seattle, and Facebook (geotargeted ads in English, Spanish, and Russian).

Legal notices

Sound Transit ran a legal notice about the availability of the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS for public comment in the Seattle Times, the Tacoma News Tribune, and the Daily Journal of Commerce. Legal notices were run on September 22, September 29, and October 6. The legal notice provided information on the project, availability of the SEPA Draft/NEPA Supplemental Draft EIS, public meeting times and locations, and how to comment.

Sound Transit project listserv updates

The project team sent four email updates regarding the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS comment period to over 4,800 subscribers of the OMF South project listserv. The purpose of these listserv updates was to announce publication of the document and the comment period, direct recipients on how to access the document and submit comments and invite people to the online public meetings and hearings.

Social media

Sound Transit promoted the OMF South project Draft EIS comment period and online open house through content on Sound Transit's Facebook account. This included posts and events for the two public meetings and hearings on Facebook reaching 224 people.

Sharing physical materials

To increase accessibility for the community, project staff mailed physical copies of the NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS to frequently visited community hubs, including the Federal Way Library, Federal Way 320th Library, Federal Way Community Center, Federal Way City Hall, Kent Library, Kent Commons Community Center, and Kent City Hall, and to other locations by community request.

Outreach toolkits

During the comment period, the project team distributed four outreach toolkits to local organizations and governments so they could amplify the EIS comment period and the opportunity to comment to their respective networks. The outreach toolkit included a digital flyer and social media posts.

Briefings to agencies in the project corridor

Sound Transit sought briefings with agency partners to continue building relationships. Discussion topics included the EIS process, updated Draft EIS findings, and next steps for the OMF South project. Sound Transit met with the following groups:

- City of Federal Way
- City of Kent

Property owner engagement

Outreach and engagement with property owners has continued following the publication of the SEPA Draft EIS in April 2021. Property owners have had the opportunity to request briefings with the project team through an online scheduling tool. Briefings with property owners included project updates and information on the property acquisition and relocation process.

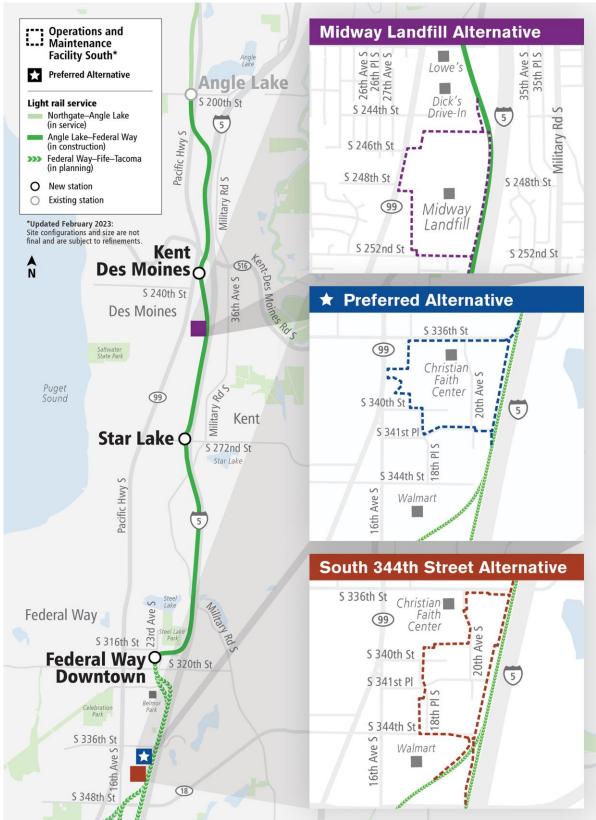
Sound Transit met with the following property owner and resident groups during the comment period to speak about NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS findings, and answer questions, and share how to comment on the Draft EIS:

- GarageTown, two people attended the briefing
- Belmor Park, 59 people attended the briefing

Outcomes and next steps

The NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS Comment Summary Report, or a summary of all comments we received, is available on the <u>project website</u>. The Final EIS will include responses to all substantive comments received from the SEPA Draft EIS in 2021 and the 2023 NEPA Draft/SEPA Supplemental Draft EIS. The Final EIS is anticipated to be published in mid to late 2024. Once the Final EIS is issued, the Sound Transit Board will select a project to be built, and FTA will issue a Record of Decision under NEPA.

Appendix A: Draft EIS Alternatives Overview Map



Appendix B: Draft EIS poster



Appendix C: Comments Received by Comment Method

The table below shows the number of public comments on the Draft EIS that were received for each comment method. For a summary of all public comments submitted on the Draft EIS, please read the <u>Draft EIS Comment Summary Report</u>.

Method	Number of comments
Online open house	23
Email	5
Letter	9
Voicemail	2
Written comment forms	6
Public hearing comments	10
Total	55