

North Corridor Transit Project

E-NEWSLETTER

April 2011



This is the first in a series of regular North Corridor Transit project updates. Please pass it on to others!

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What is the North Corridor Transit project?

Sound Transit is working to expand the Link light rail line from University of Washington (UW) Station to Lynnwood as part of the voter-approved Sound Transit 2 Plan. Two projects are taking place concurrently between the University District and Lynnwood:

- [North Link](#) – extends the light rail line from the UW Station to Northgate. This segment is in final design and is targeted to open in 2021.
- [North Corridor Transit project](#) – extends mass transit from Northgate to Lynnwood. This segment is in a very early planning phase and the project relies on receiving federal funding.

Screening process narrows potential transit mode and route alternatives for study

The project team is currently screening potential transit modes and route alternatives. This screening is called [Alternatives Analysis](#) and is part of the federal funding process. During [initial screening](#), the project team used initial public comment and reviewed a wide range of transit modes and route alternatives to determine if they meet the project purpose and need. After initial screening, potential alternatives no longer being considered are light rail on Lake City Way; light rail on 15th Avenue; and a purely at-grade version of light rail on SR-99. You can see the [December 2010 presentation](#) to the Sound Transit Board for more information about initial screening.

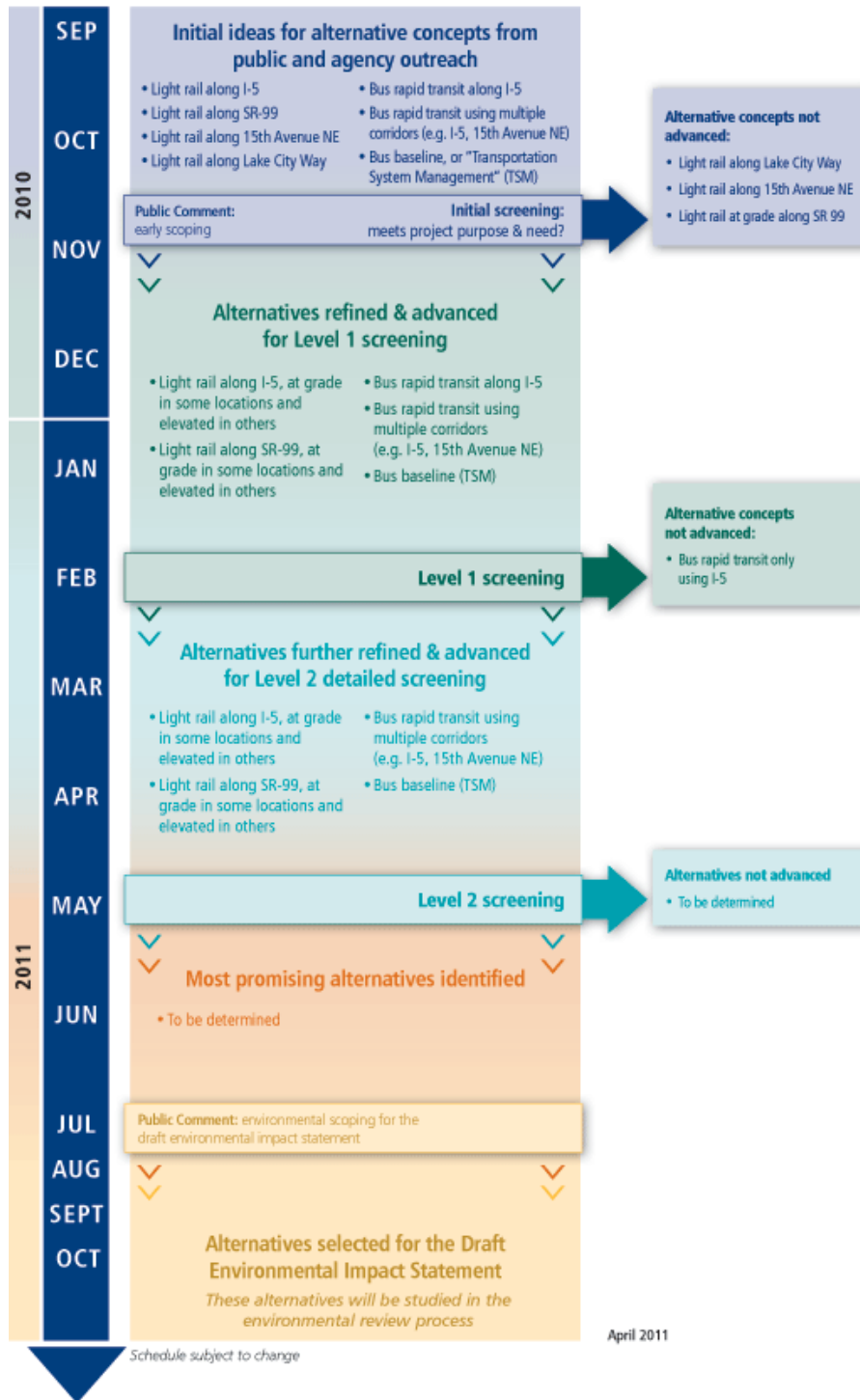
On April 14, 2011, the project team briefed the Sound Transit Board of Directors' Capital Committee on project progress and outcomes of refined screening (Level 1) using criteria including ridership, environmental impacts and future development opportunities. After Level 1 screening, a bus rapid transit system solely using Interstate 5 is no longer being considered. Alternatives now under consideration are:

- Light rail along I-5, at grade in some locations and elevated in others
- Light rail along SR-99, at grade in some locations and elevated in others
- A multi-corridor bus rapid transit system, including I-5, SR-99 and 15th Avenue NE
- Transportation System Management (TSM), a bus baseline with new bus routes, low cost traffic engineering, park and ride and transit center expansions, used by the federal government to judge the cost effectiveness of Sound Transit's future preferred alternative

For information about Level 1 screening, see the April 14 presentation to the Board's Capital Committee. Archived project materials are available on the [project website](#).

Here's how this screening process works – the project team will now begin Level 2 screening:

Screening potential alternative concepts (Alternatives Analysis)



Getting to know you and your priorities

We heard from a number of people in fall 2010 when more than 200 people attended

public workshops and more than 250 people responded to an online questionnaire. We received comments about the project purpose and need, schedule, areas that may be served by future stations, potential routes, and project evaluation criteria.

Since then, the project team met with a number of stakeholders to learn how we can better reach people who live, work and travel in this project area. Sound Transit also has been working regularly and directly with the cities in the project corridor, state, counties and transit agencies to ensure their involvement. We continue to work to best understand public interests.

What's next? Stay involved.

The project team continues in-depth study and screening of potential transit modes and route alternatives (Level 2), looking closely at criteria including environmental impacts and ridership. This summer, the most promising alternatives will be ready to be shared with the public during environmental scoping. Sound Transit will share detailed information about alternatives proposed for study in a draft environmental impact statement, asking you what you think. We will have public meetings and seek your input to determine if they are the right set of transit modes and route alternatives and if any are missing. Public comment helps guide decisions about what transit options will be further studied in the environmental review process. See the overall [project schedule](#) on our [website](#) and **stay tuned for more information about public scoping meetings.**

In late spring and early summer, Sound Transit will schedule briefings with community organizations and participate in local fairs. Look for us in your community!

We're happy to provide project briefings to different organizations – [contact us](#) if your group is interested.

To stay informed about the North Corridor Transit project:

- Sign up for a free e-mail subscription to get project e-mail updates at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe
- Visit our website at www.soundtransit.org/NorthHCT
- Call or e-mail Roger Iwata, Sound Transit Community Outreach, at 206-689-4904 or roger.iwata@soundtransit.org