

North Corridor Transit Project Environmental Review and Potential Alternatives

Scoping and the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are beginning the environmental analysis for the North Corridor Transit Project. This project is part of the Sound Transit 2 Plan approved by voters in 2008 to extend transit from Northgate to Lynnwood.

What is scoping, and what is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

- “Scoping” provides an opportunity for the public and agencies to learn about and provide comments on the project as environmental review begins.
- Scoping is a required step for an EIS prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). An EIS analyzes and presents results of potential environmental effects of alternatives.

Environmental Review and Construction



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We are here

Provide your comments

Scoping meetings and a comment period are an important part of kicking off the environmental review process for the North Corridor Transit Project. We look forward to sharing information with you about this project between Northgate and Lynnwood and hearing your questions and comments.

During scoping, your comments can help us:

- Define the purpose and need for the project.
- Identify social, economic, or environmental issues for evaluation in the EIS.
- Identify alternatives for study in the draft EIS, including routes and station locations.

Options for providing your formal comments:



Online: Complete a scoping comment form at www.soundtransit.org/NCTP



Mail: Lauren Swift
Sound Transit
401 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104



Email: northcorridorscoping@soundtransit.org

Scoping comments will be accepted until Oct. 31, 2011.



See potential alternatives for study inside.

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Potential alternatives for study

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is a potential funding partner for this project. To help qualify for federal funds, Sound Transit has completed an Alternatives Analysis that studied mode and corridor concepts. Sound Transit received valuable public feedback on potential corridors and station locations in October 2010 (“early scoping”).

Key findings from Alternatives Analysis*:

- Light rail is the only transit mode that satisfies the North Corridor Transit Project’s purpose and need.
- Light rail must operate in an exclusive right-of-way with full separation from traffic to provide the capacity, reliability, and travel time savings needed to address the corridor’s growing demand for mass transit.
- In-street light rail is not recommended because it would not provide the capacity, reliability, and travel time savings needed in the corridor.

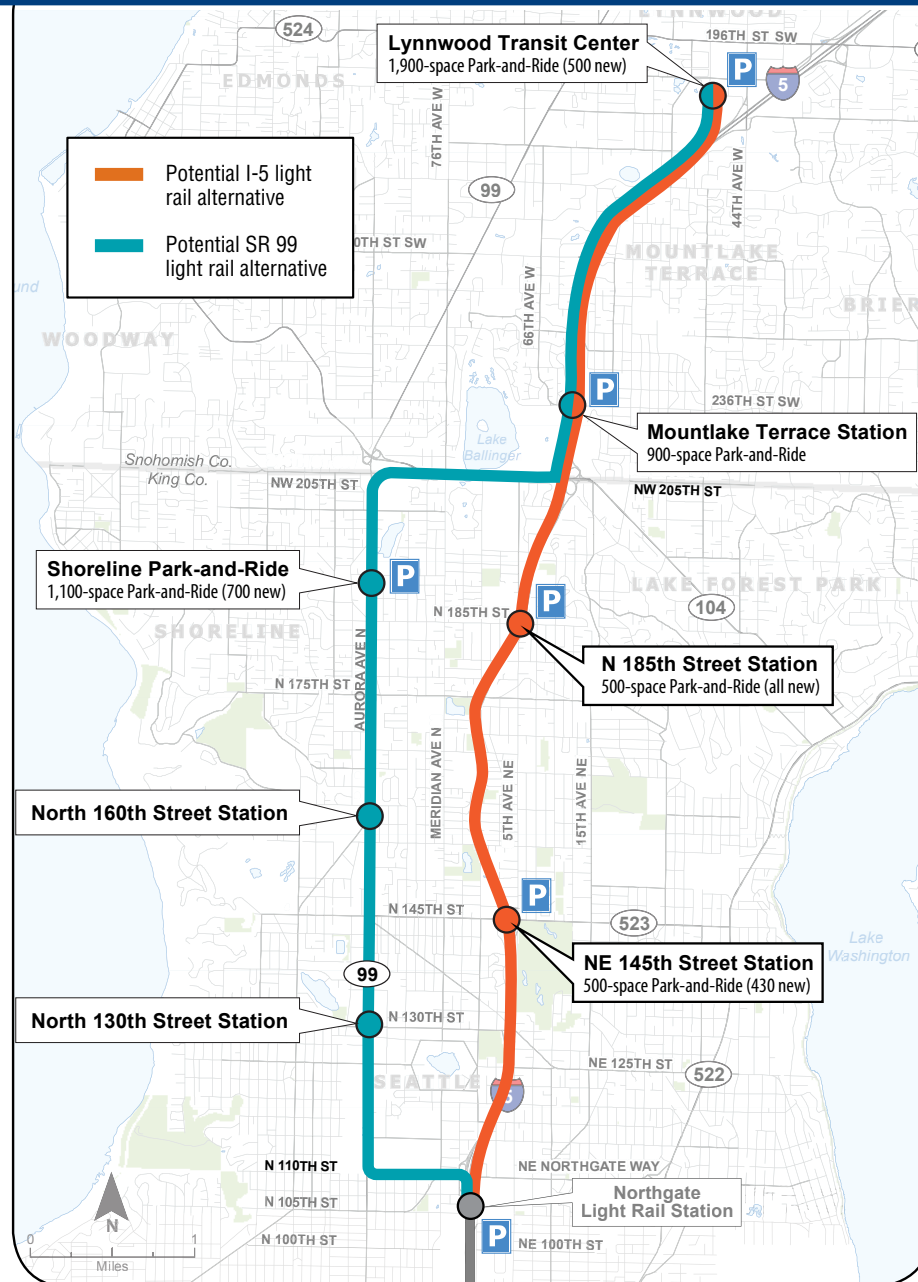
* Learn more about Alternatives Analysis at www.soundtransit.org/NCTP.

Potential I-5 light rail alternative

Light rail along the I-5 corridor offers the best overall performance across the broad set of evaluation criteria, including ridership, transportation performance, cost-effectiveness, and consistency with regional land use plans.

Potential SR 99 light rail alternative

While elevated light rail along SR 99 has the potential to meet the project’s purpose and need, it does not perform as well as the I-5 alternative in most areas; it would have substantially higher project costs, property acquisitions, and community impacts during construction. It does appear to offer more transit-oriented development opportunities around stations than the I-5 alternative.



Your comments will help define alternatives for study in a draft EIS.



What is typically studied in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

Transportation, including regional travel, local travel (traffic, access and circulation, safety, biking, walking and parking), and freight movement

Land use and economic activity

Acquisitions, displacements, and relocations

Community impacts

Visual resources and aesthetics

Air quality, including greenhouse gas emissions

Noise and vibration

Ecosystems

Water resources

Energy

Geology and soils

Hazardous materials

Electromagnetic fields

Public services and utilities

Cultural, historic, and archaeological resources (including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act)

Parklands

Construction impacts

Cumulative effects, including climate change and environmental sustainability

Financial analysis

Environmental justice

Section 4(f)—a U.S. Department of Transportation regulation protecting parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic resources



Your comments can help identify social, economic or environmental issues for evaluation in the EIS.

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Next steps

After the public comment period ends, a report will summarize the comments and results of the scoping process. The report will be posted at www.soundtransit.org/NCTP. Sound Transit and FTA will use the comments received to help define the scope of the EIS.

- Late 2011 or early 2012: The Sound Transit Board of Directors is expected to identify alternatives to study in a draft EIS and may potentially identify a locally preferred alternative.
- Early 2012: Draft EIS development is expected to begin.

Contact Roger Iwata, Community Outreach, for more information at northcorridor@soundtransit.org or 206-689-4904.

More information is available online at www.soundtransit.org/NCTP

North Corridor Transit Project. Tell us what you think now through October 31, 2011. Non-English interpretive services can be arranged with sufficient notice by calling 1-800-823-9230 during regular business hours.

Proyecto de Transporte Público del Corredor Norte. Díganos lo que piensa desde ahora hasta el 31 de octubre de 2011. Se pueden coordinar servicios de interpretación para las personas que no hablan inglés con suficiente aviso anticipado llamando al 1-800-823-9230 durante el horario normal de oficina.

Проект транспортного сообщения в Северном коридоре. Сообщите нам, что вы думаете с сегодняшнего дня до 31 октября 2011 г. Перевод с английского на другие языки можно организовать, позвонив заранее по телефону 1-800-823-9230 в рабочее время.

North Corridor 대중교통 프로젝트. 의견을 보내주세요. (2011년 10월 31일까지) 충분한 시간 여유를 두고 정규 근무 시간에 1-800-823-9230으로 전화해 주시면 비영어 통역 서비스를 준비해 드립니다.

North Corridor 交通專案 請將您的意見告訴我們 從現在開始截至 2011 年 10 月 31 日 在正常營業時間內撥電話，並提供明確說明，則可為您安排非英語語言翻譯服務。

Project Schedule

