

Appendix B:

Comment Form Transcriptions

All comments in this section represent transcribed comments from comment forms received at the workshops or submitted by mail between March 9 and 22, 2010. The name of each commenter is provided, as available, in relation to the comment. Original copies are stored in the project records.

General Comment Forms

I am Mallory Nichol and I am here with my mom, Elizabeth. I think the light rail will make a huge difference because it will slow down global warming. It will also remove a lot of traffic. That is what I think.

Name: Mallory Nichol

Please share your comments:

As is well known, the Mercer Island park and ride is full every day. Mid-day use is impossible. Active retirees who volunteer or seniors with doctor appointments or other errands in the City are prevented from using the bus. Using other buses to get to the park and ride is often logistically not possible from many parts of the island.

If you agree this is a problem, here's a simple solution! Set aside a few (10) stalls that have a time restriction! That way, anyone wanting to park there, at say 10 or 11 am, at least has a chance to "park and ride" the bus (or train!). Thank you.

Name: Hans Orth

Please share your comments:

Please consider carts similar to those at airports to help people transport their briefcase, computer, groceries, etc. inside the station. Also water fountains, adequate seating.

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments:

Feel the park and ride is too small and will not be adjusted.

Name: Norma J. Bratd

Please share your comments:

WSDOT

1. Was construction delays/congestion included when diversion numbers were calculated for tolling on SR 520 to I-90?
2. Future tolling of I-90 – please study potential for through traffic tolls and no toll for exiting on island with 1hr +/- delay prior to continuing across. Help business, allow teachers, employees to access islanders without tolling.

Name: Steve Bryan

Mercer Island Workshop Comment Forms

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Transit must be convenient and serve the convenience of maximum numbers of people!
Connect light rail and business centers! Don't let Kemper Freeman (Mr. Anti Transit) push rail to the east of downtown Bellevue! Stupid idea.

Please share any comments related to the Mercer Island station.

Looks nice, should work well! But see comments re parking.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X 1-5 miles of station?

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Mid week, mid-day volunteer work in Seattle. Also symphony and other events in evening.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

2 or 3 times/week

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Drive? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

80th Ave SE? Y

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Vandal proof amenities.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

P&R needs to implement some parking stalls that are time-limited! No one from Mercer Island can ever park there mid-day as the facility is filled up with Eastside commuters (who can blame them – but!)

Name: Hans Orth

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

This is a much needed service. It's a shame it could not be expedited and brought to fruition.

Please share any comments related to the Mercer Island station.

I'm in favor of the preliminary design as far as its location/accessibility/circulation. Strongly encourage a dynamic architectural statement be made as to the design and character of the two station entries. Hire top notch architects for the station design and give them artistic license.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X 1-5 miles of station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? Yes

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?
Mostly special events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?
1-3 times/week

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? N

Drive? Y

Bike? Y

Bus? N

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? N

80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Bike storage and bike access to trains @ both stations. Pedestrian access @ both stations. Kiss and ride (Passenger drop off) on street in front of each station with curb cut into plazas to not block traffic on 77th and 80th.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Seating, covered standing and seating areas, artwork (sculptures) etc., drinking fountains, bike storage, passenger drop off in front of each station, informational kiosks.

What else should we keep in mind as we design the station?

Expressive dynamic architectural design, provide adequate lighting.

Name: George Daniel Wittman

Please share any comments related to the Mercer Island station.

There should be some reflection of how to provide efficient transportation between mid island residents and the station. Low frequency buses are not an attractive system. It should be supplemented by solutions such as dynamic ride sharing. Sound Transit should take the lead to propose such solutions as partnership with private entities.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X 1-5 miles of station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? No

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

Not very frequently unless there is an efficient solution to reach the station from my home other than by car. If I need a car, I might drive anyway.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? N

Drive? Y

Bike? N

Bus? N

What passenger features would work well at the station?

Display of when the next train is due to arrive. It is a shame that Central Link opened without such a system in place.

Name: Anonymous

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station

Inadequate parking on Mercer Island. Poor connection from busses to light rail (too far). No drop off area especially for kids and seniors. Consider adding freeway with parking and bus stops above light rail and below.

Disappointed that the railway is not shared with busses – bus loss in capacity. A more effective approach might be light rail along BNR from Redmond to Renton and beyond and connect with existing light rail. Run bus shuttles between Mt. Baker station and new light rail.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X 1-5 miles of station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Maybe

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

Depends on parking and or shuttle service.

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

I'm from Bellevue Enatai and frequently use 550 and will use East Link. It is critical to protect the Mercer Island park and ride's capacity for MI residents not to eliminate the S. Bellevue park and ride as could happen if Bellevue City Council has its way.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station

It looks great! Grade separated cross walk to the park and ride lot?

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

No – I-90 to Seattle/SeaTac occasionally.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

1x/month.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Bike storage is very important – especially if park and ride gets full.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

It's all about Bellevue's decision.

Name: Martin Paquette

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station

Thanks for having a Mercer Island station. If you (or Metro) provide more frequent and later bus service to the South end of the island, I'll use it, and give up my park and ride space.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X 1-5 miles of station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Both – airport and sporting events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

4-5 days a week, on average.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? N

Drive? Y

Biek? N

Bus? Y

Passenger drop off? N

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

80th Ave SE? Y (Whichever is closer to where I find a parking place – probably 80th)

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Station is a lot farther from parking than bus stops are today. Sound Transit and/or the city should add cover (Awnings to shield from rain) between 809th and N. Mercer Way intersection and the station entrance.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Big problems with the station being in the middle of the freeway! Noise, wind, glare, vehicle

exhaust. People get dirty just waiting for 5 minutes, especially from road spray when it's wet. Shield us from the wind, spray, noise, and glare, please!

What else should we keep in mind as we design the station?

Please consider real-time "Next train arrival" displays not just on the station platform, but up at the bus stop/park and ride level as well. It would be nice to know whether to run for it or not before we get down to the platform.

Name: Anonymous

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X Within 1 mile of station?

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Daily commuting, errands, general transit.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

Depends on where I'll be working, but could be daily for commute or 1-2 x/week for other trips.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Bike storage! Covered walking areas with adequate seating; good walking access and wheelchair access.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Clear markings for waiting areas/directions and destinations. Ease of switching directions – going from one platform to the other. Also, make the light rail go to Bellevue 6th St NE or City Center locations West of I-90 and not routed thru Mercer Slough!

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

I am so pleased that light rail is coming to Mercer Island. As a twenty-three year resident of Mercer Island, I look forward to being able to take light rail to the airport, to Seattle, to the University of Washington, to Bellevue, etc.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

Greater than 5 miles of station

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Special events, travel to and from airport, errands.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

Several times per week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? N

Drive? Y

Bike? Y

Bus? N

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Good lighting, bike storage, ADA access, parking.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Benches, weather protection, good lighting.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Aesthetic features – native plantings, art. Parking close by.

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

1. Whatever you do, you must stay out of the Mercer Slough Wetlands.
2. On MI, there is inadequate short term parking and drop-off space.
3. Lid the entire area between 77th and 80th. Let the new surface provide weather protected roof for passengers and waiting, drop-ff management. Some park too.
4. Sure, it's expensive but you will never be sorry in the long haul. We are willing to pay more taxes for a good solution. Do not cheap out. If you do, you will regret it. So will the community.
5. Same is true in downtown Bellevue. Go to the square – not along the express way.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? Yes

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

No – retired, will use often.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

6 times per week – 3 east, 3 west.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? N

Bike? N

Bus? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

Combine

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

General comment. Current Mercer Island park and ride is completely inadequate. Proposed station has bad weather exposure.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

More general comments. Put building at South Bellevue park and ride. Do not infringe on wetlands with parking expansion. Noise reduction. Will need “good” station guards at all operating hours.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Passenger drop-off, pickup. Short term waiting for autos. Effect on park and ride small park. Noise reduction.

Name: Robert Clark

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Hurry, hurry, hurry – the design and especially construction times seem excessively long. 6-7 years? In Bellevue, stay out of Bellefield Park.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

I think a wide center access road for both peds and kiss-and-ride would be better than the 2 ends. Remember that it was the City of Mercer Island that screwed up the park and ride lot, so don't depend on them. Need a good sound barrier between platform and I-90. Need good coordination with Metro for buses to light rail.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

Special events

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island station?

Whenever I go to downtown Seattle and other neighborhoods served by ST – 5 x month.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? N

Drive? Y

Bike? N

Bus? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Good disabled access to station.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Plenty of benches. Informative electronic signs (e.g. time til next train kiosks for schedules, not just rains, but connecting buses) and good route maps/schedules and trains.)

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Now, not in 2010 – set off a few short term parking spaces at park and ride – say, no parking before 10 – Bart does it. It only requires patrolling once, just before beginning time, so not too expensive.

Name: Anonymous

Do you live on Mercer Island?

Within 1 mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both?

No

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?

One a week

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? Y

Bike? N

Bus? N

Passenger drop off? N

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? N

80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Pedestrian shelter. Bike storage lockers.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Good lighting for safety, comfort.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Adequate parking for commuters.

Name: Joe Fulding

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Need to include current Bellevue park and ride as a stop. Do we need two elevator/escalator stops at 77 and 80th? One would save \$.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.

We need additional stop or stops on Mercer Island. Our population is widespread. Our congestion in Business District with new station. Our bus service is limited. Smaller stations versus one would help parking issues.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

1-5 miles of station.

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Special events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?

1 to 3 times a week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? Y

Bike? N

Family needs – including elderly

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Bathrooms, bikes storage – dry and secure.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?
Weather protection and dry bikes/secured.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?
Parking, parking, parking. Do we need 2 sets of elevators and escalators?

Name: Anonymous

Do you live on Mercer Island?
Within 1 mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Special events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
1 time a week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Walk? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y

What type of passenger feature would work well at the station?
Weather protection.

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
I am concerned about how you could practically provide access to the HOV lane without a barrier. How will you determine who entered from Mercer Island? Thanks.

Do you live on Mercer Island?
Within 1 mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Both

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station? 5 days a week

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Walk? Y
Drive? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?
Bike storage would be nice.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?
Covered benches

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?
Noise, of course.

Name: Anonymous

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.
Mid-day park and ride spots so mid day users have a space to park.

Do you live on Mercer Island?
X 1-5 miles of the station?

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? All three – I use
walker, electric chair.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station? Every other day.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? N

Bike? Y

Bus? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y
80th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?
Places to lock tricycle, can I take my tricycle on the train.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?
Weather protection, elevator access.

Name: Dorothy Swarts

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
Excellent concept and over due. Concerned about safety on 90 bridge w/narrower lanes and

very limited shoulder. How is that safe for emergency response personnel? Won't 90 suffer from the same problem that 520 does today? One stalled car causes massive backups not only on 520 but S 405, surface streets, etc.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.

Accessibility for seniors – very long walk from park and ride to platform. Concern that not all of the platform is covered. Won't the wet uncovered part be slippery? Parking will be a problem – no mid day spaces today and if east link does not stop at South Bellevue park and ride it will be a disaster!!! B3 works best for Mercer Island and Bellevue.

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station? Infrequently, very often from Bellevue to Redmond.

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

80th Ave SE? Y

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Mercer Island park and ride lot fills up before the Bellevue lake. Adding parking in Bellevue will not do anything to relieve the inability of MI residents to use the lot and the transit!!! They need to be time restricted or resident restricted parking available!!!

Do you live on Mercer Island?

X Within 1 mile of the station?

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Both. My work day starts at 9:00 am. There is no way I can get a parking place in the lot at that time, no bus arrives and I'm unable to walk a mile each way (when working). So light rail and bus are now inaccessible!!

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? Y

Bike? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Mercer Island parking.

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Have you considered other stops on Island? How is accessibility ensured? How is safety ensured? How is it really a benefit to islanders?

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.

This meeting did not have a sense of workshop – please name meeting – public info session.

This was obviously an “update” not a workshop!

Do you live on Mercer Island?

1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Some of both.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?

1 x week average – one household member.

1x3's week average – one household member.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Drive? Y

Passenger drop off? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed? How about human ergonomics for ease of use for injured, disabled, etc.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Drop off area!

Parking close by!

Long range effects/impact on downtown Mercer Island and business and residents. Look ahead to future please so it will service everyone.

Name: Lyne Johnston

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Most important to me will be the ability to take my bicycle with me on light rail so I will have it with me when I get off. Otherwise, light rail will not benefit me.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

Within 1 mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Both.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?

2 x week

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Bike? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

Name: Jim Eanes

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Open segment from Seattle to S Bellevue park and ride first (not necessarily the segment to downtown Bellevue.) And build it sooner than 2021! Much sooner. Don't let the downtown Bellevue segment hold up the rest of the line opening sooner. Remove the existing concrete barrier between westbound I-90 and light rail lines so the "maintenance" road can be a shared shoulder for westbound I-90 traffic, disabled vehicle refuge, and emergency access.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Noise abatement between people standing on the station platform and the I-90 traffic.

Name: Anonymous

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.

Parking parking parking. The current park and ride lot on Mercer Island is being used by carpoolers. 2 or more cars drive to the lot then get into. Automobile and drive on to Seattle. I would guess that 50-70% of the cars currently in the lot do not use the bus. Need to change the mess so only people who ride transit are allowed to use the lot.

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Parking for islanders only!

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Access to parking

Name: Jim Peterson

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.

Speed up the project. Keep as many lanes on I-90 open as possible before converting center HOV lanes – expand I-90.

Do you live on Mercer Island?
Within ½ mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Daily commuting, airport, special events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
Daily

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Walk? Y
Bike? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?
Bike storage

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?
Weather protection.

Name: Anonymous

Do you live on Mercer Island?
1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Daily commuting.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
Occasionally

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Drive? Y

Name: Gustan Raaum

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
As the population increases every year any public transportation is welcome.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station.
Add good street lights, telephone booth.

Do you live on Mercer Island?
1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Yes if there is regular bus access from West Mercer Way.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
Few times a week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Bus? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y
80th Ave SE? Y

Name: Anonymous

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
Concern about parking spots for day users (non commuters).

Do you live on Mercer Island?
1-5 miles of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? Yes

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Possibly for special events.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
Have no idea.

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Walk? N
Drive? Y
Bike? N
Bus? Y
Passenger drop off? Y

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y
80th Ave SE? Y

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
Great! Should have been built in the 1960s. Never too late to do the right thing.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island Station
See station features. Maintain Mercer Island single Occupancy HOV privilege.

Do you live on Mercer Island?
Within ½ mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? Yes & Bainbridge

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? Special events/
commuting to Seattle and ferry, errands, shopping, movies, Bellevue and Seattle.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?
5-6 times per week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?
Walk? Y
Drive? N
Bike? Y
Bus? N
Passenger drop off? NY

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?
77th Ave SE? Y
80th Ave SE? N

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?
Bike storage and bike access to trains.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?
Real time actual train arrival info (i.e. where is the next train). Community bulletin board,
community calendar, coffee shop, free wifi.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?
Make it beautiful (not just functional), include landscaping, I-90 access across Mercer Island is
unique with Douglas firs and parks growing on top of the freeway. Makes a green gateway to
Seattle, a connection to nature is valued. Please add to this (more trees and rocks) instead of
tearing away from what we have.

Name: Felix

Please share your comments regarding the East Link project.
I have really liked Central Link so I am looking forward to East Link.

Please share any general comments related to the Mercer Island station?

I know there are frustrations with construction, noise, traffic, etc, but I think the end product is worth it.

Do you live on Mercer Island?

Within ½ mile of the station?

Do you work on Mercer Island? No

Do you intend to use the light rail for daily commuting, special events, or both? I would if it is finished before I retired! I look forward to using it to the airport and to downtown Seattle and Bellevue.

How often do you anticipate using the Mercer Island Station?

Several times a week.

How do you plan on accessing the station?

Walk? Y

Drive? Sometimes

Bike? N

Bus? Y

Passenger drop off? NY

Which station entrance do you anticipate using most frequently?

77th Ave SE? Y

80th Ave SE? N

What pedestrian and bike facilities are needed?

Don't really know – I don't bike, so wouldn't use. I would plan to walk to station most times, so access via stairs, escalator and elevator seems fine.

What type of passenger features would work well at the station?

Benches and weather condition protection would be good.

What else should we keep in mind as we design this station?

Drop of fon 77th and 80th does seem like it might create traffic tie ups at busy commuting times.

Name: Anonymous