

Appendix B

Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

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The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) emphasize the importance of agency cooperation early in the environmental review process. Sound Transit is committed to early agency involvement and cooperation, and it has worked with local public transportation agencies and local jurisdictions and state and federal agencies to create an open public involvement process with ample opportunities to inform and involve the public. Consistent with SAFETEA-LU, Sound Transit drafted a Coordination Plan and sent it to potentially interested agencies for review and comment during the environmental impact statement (EIS) public scoping period. The Coordination Plan is available for review on Sound Transit's project website (www.soundtransit.org/eastlink), or hard copies can be obtained at Sound Transit offices (see the Fact Sheet on page iii of this Final EIS for information). This appendix summarizes these plans and outlines the goals, objectives, and implementation of extensive public and agency outreach activities.

B.1 Outreach Goals and Objectives

Citizens and groups have had numerous opportunities to interact with, and receive a response from, Sound Transit on issues of interest or concern in the development and evaluation of the East Link Project. Sound Transit has established the following goals and objectives to guide the process:

- Inform the public of the project's purpose and need and identify the process and schedule for public participation.
 - Inform the public of the project's EIS availability and identify the process and schedule for public participation.
 - Involve the community, and actively seek out a variety of viewpoints, taking into consideration these viewpoints at all stages of planning, development, and engineering.
- Consider, answer, and account for public inquiries, suggestions, and ideas in the decision-making process.
 - Provide opportunities for the public to influence major decisions before they are finalized.
 - Publicize programs and activities through a variety of communication vehicles to accommodate the diverse communities within the project vicinity, meet environmental justice requirements and limited English proficiency needs, and make the proceedings and records available for public review.
 - Provide the public with different opportunities for, and methods of, accessing project information throughout each project phase.
 - Engage diverse populations early in the planning and development process by making materials available in multiple formats and holding meetings in accessible facilities.

This appendix summarizes agency coordination and public outreach activities performed throughout the environmental review process, up to the issuance of this Final EIS.

B.2 Agency Coordination

Consistent with the Coordination Plan, Sound Transit has been coordinating periodic interagency meetings and other activities to collect input from interested agencies. These meetings and activities were designed to obtain suggestions regarding the development of project alternatives and regarding resource analysis methodologies prior to beginning analyses and during other key project milestones, such as during the NEPA/SEPA scoping process. Three categories of interagency participation were established to facilitate agency cooperation and input for the East Link Project: co-lead, cooperating, and participating agencies. At the beginning of the environmental review process, prior to scoping, Sound Transit invited agencies to participate, where appropriate, in these categories, as described in the following subsections. Agency correspondence received to date is located in corresponding sections:

- Documentation of coordination with cooperating agencies on 4(f) park impacts is located in Appendix D: Section 4(f)/6(f) Evaluation of this Final EIS, including documentation that the I-90 bike trail is a transportation network, not a 4(f) resource.
- Correspondence between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and State Historic Preservation Office on the presence and eligibility of cultural resources for the National Register of Historic Preservation; and between Sound Transit and local jurisdictions on the eligibility of historic resources for local landmark status; and correspondence with local tribes on culturally sensitive resources are all located in the *Historical and Archaeological Resources Technical Report* (Appendix H4, bound separately from this Final EIS).
- Appendix J, *East Link Project Final Environmental Impact Statement Public and Agency Comments and Responses on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, includes all agency, business, and individual comments received on both documents, as well as Sound Transit's responses to each.

B.2.1 Lead Agency

The FTA is the federal lead agency for NEPA purposes, supervising the preparation of the EIS by Sound Transit. Sound Transit is the nominal lead agency for SEPA purposes. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is a co-lead agency for SEPA because the project alternatives are within or adjacent to WSDOT facilities and rights-of-way. These agencies are responsible for making information available to the cooperating and participating agencies as early as practicable in the environmental review process (SAFETEA-LU Section 6002; Section 139(h)(2-3)).

B.2.2 Cooperating Agencies

Cooperating agencies are any other federal, state, and local public agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise with respect to any environmental issues that should be addressed throughout the NEPA process. Sound Transit invited such agencies to serve as cooperating agencies, which includes responsibility for developing information, preparing environmental analyses, and making available staff to support and enhance the lead agency's interdisciplinary capability. To date, the following agencies have accepted their status as cooperating agencies:

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Cities of Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond
- King County
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

B.2.3 Participating Agencies

Participating agencies, according to SAFETEA-LU Section 6002: Section 139(d), are the federal and nonfederal agencies that may have an interest in the project. The following agencies were invited to participate in the environmental review process:

- U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)
- U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHPP)
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)
- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA)
- Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
- City of Clyde Hill
- City of Kirkland
- City of Issaquah
- Town of Beaux Arts
- City of Medina

Sound Transit staff contacted the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and the BIA to determine which tribes have interests in the project vicinity and should be included as affected agencies. The project vicinity does not include any tribal lands, but the tribes are expected to have interests regarding natural and cultural resources. Therefore, because of the government-to-government consultation responsibilities associated with tribes, FTA initiated consultation with these tribes and invited them to become participating agencies. The following tribes have been contacted via letter, telephone conversations, and as needed, in-person meetings:

- Muckleshoot Tribe
- Snoqualmie Tribe

- Suquamish Tribe
- Tulalip Tribe
- Yakama Tribe
- Duwamish Tribe (not federally recognized)

FTA, Sound Transit, and WSDOT continue to consult with the tribes regarding potential natural and cultural resource impacts of concern on the tribes throughout project development.

B.2.4 Resources by Agency

Federal, state, and local agencies have been helpful in providing data collection, resource identification, determination of regulatory compliance requirements, and/or development of resource methodology. Table B-1 lists the resource information Sound Transit gathered, in order by agency. Agencies also provided additional information and evaluation throughout the analysis process, which is ongoing through the completion of this Final EIS.

TABLE B-1
List of Resources Provided by Agency

Agency	Resources Provided
Federal	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Wetlands, waters of the U.S.
Federal Highway Administration	Traffic; highway improvement plans; utilities
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Flooding
U.S. Department of Interior, Geology Survey	Geology and soils
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Hazardous materials
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Threatened and endangered species, Essential Fish Habitat
U.S. Coast Guard	Navigation
National Marine Fisheries Service	Threatened and endangered species
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Historic and archaeological resources
State	
Recreation and Conservation Office	Parklands and land and water conservation-funded resources
Department of Fish and Wildlife	Threatened and endangered species, fish and wildlife, wetlands
Department of Ecology	Hazardous materials, geology and soils
Department of Natural Resources	Threatened and endangered species, geology and soils
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Archaeology and historic resources
Local/Regional Agencies	
King County, Cities of Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Redmond	Land use and economic activity; neighborhoods and population; transportation plans, traffic; archaeology and historic resources; wetlands, water quality, acquisitions, displacements and relocations; noise and vibration; visual and aesthetic resources; parklands; geology and soils; utilities
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	Air quality
Puget Sound Regional Council	Regional travel; land use and economic activity; population and employment growth projections
Seattle City Light, Puget Sound Energy	Energy, utilities
Tribes (listed in Section B.2.3)	Cultural resources, fisheries

B.3 Outreach Activities and Tools










Agency and public outreach efforts for the East Link Project began in August 2006, with varied and broad-reaching outreach methods. Sound Transit has actively worked to reach agencies, as well as local and regional members of the public, by hosting public meetings and workshops, speaking at open forums, attending community events, and providing briefings and being available to discuss the project with business, neighborhood, and transportation interest groups.

Sound Transit is also targeting outreach efforts to minority and low-income groups by reaching out to associated service providers and community groups where possible. All of Sound Transit’s notices and literature for the East Link Project have language blocks stating, “To speak with Sound Transit about the proposed Link light rail mass transit project in East King County, call 1-800-823-9230 during regular business hours,” translated into seven languages (Russian, Chinese Mandarin, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Hindi, and Japanese). These languages were selected based on 2000 U.S. Census data for the project corridor and updated in 2008 and 2010 based on

community input. When the Sound Transit staff is contacted by a member of the public who has limited use of English, they have available an immediate phone translation service that provides over-the-phone interpretation in 150 languages, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Sound Transit also offers to translate East Link Project fact sheets and related information upon request, as well as provide articles for newsletters, websites, or other communication tools used by service providers and community groups. More information on outreach and impacts on minority and low-income persons is available in Appendix C, Environmental Justice. Table B-2 demonstrates the tools being used for each of the environmental review process milestones.

To make information about the East Link Project as widely available as possible, Sound Transit created and is continually updating a variety of communication tools and materials. These include the maintenance of a website, fact sheets, press releases, and email alerts. These materials and tools provide updated information on the East Link Project and let community members know where and how to provide feedback.

TABLE B-2
Outreach Tools Used for East Link Project

Season Year	Environmental Review Process Milestone									
		Briefings	Public Meetings	Public Hearing	Mailings	Fact Sheets/ Handouts	Community Events	Comment Database	Web Page	News Media
Summer 2006	Preliminary stakeholder meetings and community briefings	✓				✓	✓	✓		
Summer/fall 2006	NEPA EIS scoping and comment on project Purpose and Need and alternatives	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2007	Alternative development	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2008	Draft EIS publication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2010	SDEIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2011	Final EIS publication	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2011	Record of Decision	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

B.3.1 Database

Sound Transit maintains a database listing people interested in receiving regular mailings on the agency's progress and interested in having opportunities for public input. The database is used when preparing mailings, in addition to the postal carrier routes or addresses within the vicinity of the proposed alternatives, and includes attendees at project open houses and public meetings, correspondents and commenters, and others who have requested information on the East Link Project.

The Sound Transit update list for the East Link Project contains approximately 6,500 email and/or physical addresses. Individuals can request updates through mail or email.

B.3.2 Briefings

Sound Transit actively sought to provide briefings to neighborhood associations, organizations, and businesses in the vicinity of the proposed alternatives by providing project information and answering questions. The primary purpose of these briefings was to allow the project staff to reach members of the public at their own neighborhood, civic, or business meetings. Briefings typically included presentations to civic, business, neighborhood and other interested groups. In some instances, project staff met one-on-one to brief individual stakeholders, provide information, and obtain input. A full list of community briefings that have been held since the environmental review process began can be found in Table B-4 at the end of this appendix. In addition, Sound Transit provided jurisdictional briefings to elected officials and staff in the Cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Mercer Island, and Redmond.

B.3.3 Public Meetings, Open Houses, and Workshops

Sound Transit held public open houses, workshops, and public meetings as the project progressed from scoping through the Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS) to share information, answer questions, and obtain input. In addition, Sound Transit has participated in open houses and public meetings organized by other local jurisdictions or projects. Typically, the format included time for the public to view project information and to speak with project team members about the project alternatives.

B.3.4 Public Hearings

A public hearing is required during a typical 45-day Draft EIS comment period. Sound Transit held an extended 75-day comment period with five public

hearings. A public hearing was also held during the comment period for the SDEIS. Responses to comments from this and from the SDEIS comment period (held from November 12, 2010, to January 10, 2011) can be found in Appendix J of this Final EIS.

B.3.5 Fact Sheets and Brochures

Fact sheets and brochures for the East Link Project have been developed for distribution at public meetings and workshops, as well as for distribution at community events. The fact sheets and brochures describe the status of the East Link Project, the alternatives being studied for the environmental analysis, and whom community members can contact for more information or with comments.

B.3.6 Community Events

The Sound Transit project staff attends a variety of community events planned by other organizations in order to reach a broader group of community members who might not otherwise seek out information on the project. Sound Transit's presence at these community events has given people the opportunity to pick up information, sign up on the project mailing/email list, and talk with project staff members. Examples of the community events Sound Transit has attended include:

- Crossroads Farmers Market
- Bellevue Strawberry Festival
- Redmond Derby Days
- Mercer Island Summer Celebration
- Bellevue Live at Lunch
- Lake Hills Blueberry Festival
- Mostly Music in the Park
- Bellevue Festival of the Arts
- Redmond Greater Transportation Management Association EcoCommunity Fair

B.3.7 Project Website

Sound Transit developed a website (www.soundtransit.org/eastlink) that provides information on the East Link Project. Individuals can also sign up online for Sound Transit's free email subscription service to receive email updates on the East Link Project.

The East Link website includes an overview of the project, project maps and images, conceptual animations of the project alternatives, and links to frequently asked questions. The project website also contains a document library with links to a variety of project-related documents. These documents are arranged as:

- General project information materials

- Environmental and technical documents
- Public outreach documents
- Presentations to the Sound Transit Board and Board Actions

B.3.8 News Media

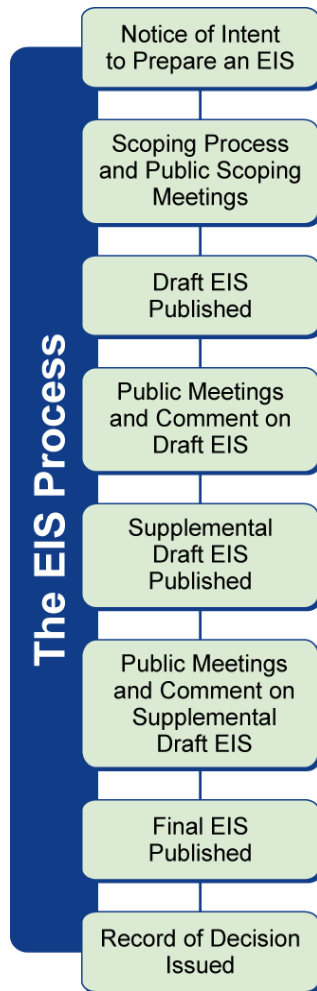
The project team has used local newspapers to inform, educate, and involve the public in the East Link Project. Area newspapers in Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond have received news releases. Additionally, Sound Transit has advertised public meetings in the local publications.

B.3.9 Affected Property Notification

Concurrent with publication of the Draft EIS in December 2008, Sound Transit mailed letters to 1,185 property owners, notifying them of the Draft EIS availability and the fact that their property could be potentially affected by the East Link alternatives. Sound Transit sent similar letters to 720 potentially affected property owners in November 2010 at the time the SDEIS was published. Concurrent with publication of this Final EIS, letters were sent to the property owners of properties identified in Appendix G2 that may need to be partially or fully acquired to construct the project.

B.4 Outreach Steps in EIS Process

Public input to the East Link Project is an essential element of the alternatives development, environmental analysis, documentation, and review process, as diagrammed above. As described in the preceding section, Sound Transit has used a variety of methods to reach out to the public, including briefings, open



houses, workshops, and public meetings. The NEPA process encourages lead agencies to make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing NEPA procedures that involve decisions that would affect the community. This includes providing public notice of public hearings, holding public meetings, and making environmental documents available. Sound Transit’s outreach and coordination efforts for the preparation of the EIS are described in the following sections.

B.4.1 Agency Involvement

Sound Transit received early and continuous information and guidance from many agencies throughout the East Link Project environmental process. Consistent with the Coordination Plan (February 2007), Sound Transit has orchestrated periodic interagency meetings and coordination activities to collect input from interested agencies. Prior to beginning analyses and during other key project milestones, initial meetings and activities were designed to obtain suggestions regarding the development of project alternatives and about resource analysis methodologies.

B.4.2 Notice of Intent and Scoping

As required by SAFETEA-LU Section 6002: Section 139(e) and by the NEPA/SEPA regulations, Sound Transit initiated the NEPA process by publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on August 22, 2006. A determination of significance was issued on the SEPA register on September 1, 2006. The NOI informed the public that Sound Transit would prepare an EIS for the proposed East Link Project and formally announced the beginning of the scoping process and solicited input on the preliminary Purpose and Need of the project. The NOI described the project and its termini, length, and the general location of the alternatives Sound Transit was considering; provided information on the issues and potential impacts; anticipated federal approvals required; and invited comments, questions, and suggestions on the scope of the EIS.

The purpose of scoping was to share information about the public process, environmental resources, and potential alternatives with the public and agencies within the East Link Project vicinity. During the scoping phase of the project, Sound Transit sought community input on which routes and stations to study, the environmental resources to be evaluated, and the project’s preliminary Purpose and Need statement. The public



and agencies were asked to identify areas of concern, opportunities, and stakeholder interests to be addressed in the EIS.

During the 30-day scoping comment period, Sound Transit hosted four public scoping meetings and one scoping meeting for agencies and tribes. This series of public scoping meetings took place in Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond. Both oral and written comments were accepted at these scoping meetings. In addition, the public submitted comments directly by mail and email. Table B-3 lists the scoping meeting dates and locations.

Sound Transit performed the following outreach and communication activities to inform the public and obtain input during the scoping process:

- Identified alternatives and environmental resources for evaluation.
- Prepared and distributed a scoping information report prior to the start of the 30-day scoping period to provide a general understanding of the project to affected agencies. This Environmental Scoping Information Report, distributed on September 1, 2006, described the preliminary Purpose and Need statement, project planning history, proposed project alternatives, and environmental resources to be evaluated in the EIS, and the project schedule and public involvement process. The report was available at the public open houses, at the agency scoping meeting, and on the Sound Transit website for the public's review and input.
- Sent postcards to more than 150,000 residents and businesses announcing the beginning of the scoping process, the public meetings, and the availability of the Environmental Scoping Information Report.
- Held four well-attended public scoping meetings (see dates in Table B-3) to present and receive

comments to help refine proposed alternatives, environmental issues, and the environmental process.

- Held one agency scoping meeting to receive comments from interested and affected agencies.
- Contacted cooperating and participating agencies and invited them to an agency scoping meeting on September 12, 2006, at which Sound Transit sought agency involvement regarding project Purpose and Need, and the range of alternatives, impacts, and important issues to be considered.
- Met or corresponded with affected local, regional, state, and federal agencies; tribes; and other organizations about issues within their jurisdiction or concern.
- Reviewed approximately 300 written and oral comments made at the scoping meetings or received during the scoping period and, as appropriate, refined the proposed alternatives, issues, and public involvement program.
- Summarized the scoping comments in an East Link EIS Scoping Summary Report (October 2006). This report is readily available to the public on the project website at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

B.4.3 Development of Alternatives

Following the public scoping process, the Sound Transit Board identified the alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS at its December 14, 2006, meeting. In early 2007, Sound Transit hosted several community-focused workshops to engage community members in refining the route and station alternatives. Following the issuance of the Draft EIS, Sound Transit again worked with the Cities of Bellevue and Redmond and community members to refine existing alternatives and develop additional alternatives, which were then evaluated in an SDEIS.

TABLE B-3
East Link Project Scoping Meetings

Date	Location	Type of meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2006	Bellevue City Hall, Bellevue, WA	Agency scoping meeting
Wednesday, September 13, 2006	Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA	Public scoping open house
Thursday, September 14, 2006	Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, Redmond, WA	Public scoping open house
Wednesday, September 20, 2006	Union Station, Seattle, WA	Public scoping open house
Thursday, September 21, 2006	Great Hall Community Center at Mercer View, Mercer Island, WA	Public scoping open house

Efforts included asking about important neighborhood features, known resources, and other elements for consideration. Workshop summaries and input received is posted on the project website at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink. The following provides more detail about the associated outreach efforts at the Draft and SDEIS phases.

B.4.4 Draft EIS

The East Link Project Draft EIS described, analyzed, and compared the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives and their implementation, and provided additional information on the methodologies and assumptions used for the analyses. Prior to the issuance of the Draft EIS to the public, cooperating agencies received a preliminary Draft EIS for review and comment. Sound Transit worked with FTA and WSDOT to address the cooperating agency comments on the preliminary draft. The Draft EIS was issued by FTA, Sound Transit, and WSDOT. In addition to the required distribution of the document to federal, state, and local agencies and parties of interest, it was also released to the public with a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the *Federal Register* and notice in the SEPA register. The following approaches were also used to notify the public about the Final EIS availability and public process:

- Public notices placed in local newspapers
- Announcements of public hearings sent to carrier routes of addresses one-half mile from the proposed alternatives and individuals in the project database
- Email notification sent to project database
- Notice posted on the Sound Transit website and the project-specific website at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

In accordance with recent FTA policy, the Executive Summary and a compact disc (CD) of the complete Draft EIS was distributed to the list of recipients (Appendix A3), and a paper copy was available on request. The Draft EIS documents were available to the public as described on the Fact Sheet and at public meetings. An electronic copy of the Draft EIS was also posted on the Sound Transit website. The Draft EIS was circulated to interested parties and agencies for public comment. The public comment period began upon publication of the NOA for the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register*.

Public hearings were held throughout the project vicinity to formally present the Draft EIS findings, including alternatives development and associated environmental impacts, for public comment. The

hearings consisted of an open house where project team members were on hand to answer questions and talk to the public, and a court reporter documented the formal hearing. Comments were accepted in writing, transcribed by a court reporter, or through email. The dates and location of these hearings were:

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center, 16600 NE 80th Street, Redmond, WA

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, 2401 South Irving Street, Seattle, WA

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Community Center at Mercer View, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Bellevue High School, 10416 Wolverine Way, Bellevue, WA

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA

B.4.5 Supplemental Draft EIS

In response to comments received during the Draft EIS, Sound Transit initiated several collaborative processes with Bellevue and Redmond City staff and community members. Three specific studies followed the publication of the Draft EIS: the *Downtown Bellevue Light Rail Alternatives Concept Design Report* (February 2010), the *112th Avenue Design Options Concept Design Report* (June 2010), and the *Evaluation of Hospital Station Options* (June 2010). In addition to these studies, Sound Transit coordinated with City of Redmond and community stakeholders about changes in Segments D and E, which are reflected in the Final EIS alternatives for those segments. The outcome of these studies was the publication of an SDEIS to offer the community an opportunity to comment on the new alternatives developed through the studies described below.

B.4.5.1 Downtown Bellevue Light Rail Alternatives Concept Design Report

After the 2008 Draft EIS was published, the City of Bellevue and Sound Transit undertook a coordinated process to identify an alternative that balanced the City's desire to construct a grade-separated route through Downtown Bellevue and Sound Transit's need to manage cost and construction risk. The process began with a workshop between the City and Sound Transit staffs to identify criteria and measures as well as a range of alternatives. This range of alternatives was shared with the Sound Transit Board of Directors and the Bellevue City Council before the

staff began the evaluation process. At the conclusion of this process, the Sound Transit Board of Directors directed the staff to evaluate six alternatives.

In December 2009 and January 2010, staff members from Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue, supported by the consultant team, evaluated 6 alternatives based on 12 criteria grouped into 8 criteria categories. The criteria included cost estimates, ridership range, traffic operations, environmental impacts, construction risk, and consistency with Bellevue plans. Specific environmental evaluation included displacements, noise and vibration, park, ecosystem, and construction impacts. The evaluation of alternatives was summarized in the *Downtown Bellevue Light Rail Alternatives Concept Design Report*, which was published in February 2010. This report included conceptual illustrations of each alternative.

In February 2010, the Bellevue City Council and Sound Transit Board of Directors met to review the evaluation of alternatives and confirm their shared goals to maintain the project schedule and budget to and meet community needs. In addition to coordination among the city and agency staffs and officials, Sound Transit hosted an open house on February 18, 2010, with 168 attendees and briefed a variety of community groups, including the Bellevue Downtown Association, the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, the Bellevue Hospital District (Overlake Hospital Medical Center, Children’s Hospital, and Group Health Cooperative), the Meydenbauer Convention Center, Microsoft, the Bellevue Club, and the Redmond Chamber of Commerce.

Comments taken from the open house and community briefings were summarized in the *Downtown Bellevue Open House Summary* (February 2010). This report and its appendices are available to the public on the project website at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

Following review of the *Downtown Bellevue Light Rail Alternatives Concept Design Report*, coordination with the City of Bellevue, and consideration of public comments, the Sound Transit Board of Directors directed its staff to study four new downtown alternatives in the EIS process on April 22, 2010. These alternatives are included in the SDEIS and this Final EIS.

B.4.5.2 112th Avenue Design Options Concept Design Report

Sound Transit hosted a value engineering study for the East Link Project. The study recommendations included an at-grade alternative using 112th Avenue SE from the “Y” at Bellevue Way to Main Street in Downtown Bellevue. To identify the alternatives on

112th Avenue that best balanced cost, impacts, and benefits, Sound Transit initiated an alternatives evaluation process that resulted in the *112th Avenue Light Rail Options Concept Design Report*, which was published in June 2010.

The City of Bellevue and Sound Transit held a joint staff workshop that identified six alternatives comprising elevated, retained-cut, and at-grade options. The City of Bellevue and Sound Transit also agreed on nine evaluation criteria that focused on cost, transportation performance, displacements, noise impacts, parks impacts, and wetlands impacts. The primary concern facing the design effort was the impacts, perceived or actual, to the neighborhoods along 112th Avenue SE. To best integrate the community in the process, efforts were made to offer detailed information to community members to best communicate the alternatives and their impacts as well as avoidance and minimization efforts. The team prepared more than 100 conceptual illustrations that demonstrated how each light rail option might look in various locations along the options studied.

The City of Bellevue and Sound Transit conducted a coordinated public involvement process that included conducting 7 neighborhood briefings and 12 stakeholder interviews, canvassing 419 homes, and conducting 3 community workshops and an open house to share the results of the evaluation. The three workshops built upon one another – first presenting information and gathering community input on the six design options, then presenting the key findings of the *112th Avenue Light Rail Options Concept Design Report* using the criteria Sound Transit and City of Bellevue developed, and at the last workshop, providing an opportunity for the community to compare and analyze key features of the 112th Avenue design options. On July 14, 2010, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue hosted an open house with 112 attendees to present the results of the 112th Avenue public involvement process, thereby offering another opportunity for the community to provide input on the tradeoffs of each option. The open house also covered the South Bellevue Station and the plans for the Winters House and Bellevue Way.

Comments taken from the community workshops, open house, and community briefings were summarized in the *112th Avenue Outreach Report* (July 2010). This report and its appendices are available to the public on the project website at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

The *112th Avenue Light Rail Options Conceptual Design Report* was reviewed by the Sound Transit Board of Directors on June 24, 2010, and by the Bellevue City

Council on July 6, 2010. On July 22, 2010, the Sound Transit Board of Directors directed its staff to study Option 2 (Westside Running to Main Street Tunnel) and Option 6 (Westside Running to At-Grade) in the EIS process.

B.4.5.3 Hospital Station Options

The 2008 Draft EIS included one option in Segment C for locating the Hospital Station within the former BNSF Railway corridor, just north of NE 8th Street. As part of the public involvement process, community comments, value analysis review workshops, and a collaborative evaluation by the Sound Transit and City of Bellevue staffs, three additional locations were identified for evaluation. All four options are located within the former BNSF Railway corridor, which is generally located between NE 8th and NE 12th Streets. The technical analysis considered a variety of factors in evaluating the different options, including cost, station characteristics, walk times, hospital access, environmental impacts, transit-oriented development potential, and construction risk and effects. On July 13, 2010, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue hosted a public meeting to present the results of the technical evaluation and gather community input on the four design options for the East Link light rail Hospital Station. A total of 32 community members attended.

Based on technical findings and public input, the Sound Transit Board of Directors directed its staff to study Option A (the former BNSF Railway corridor north of NE 8th Street) in the EIS process on July 22, 2010. This is the same Hospital Station location studied in the 2008 Draft EIS, so new analysis of this location was not included in the SDEIS.

B.4.5.4 Issuance of the Supplemental Draft EIS

As with the Draft EIS, the SDEIS included a public hearing in an open house format, where project team members were on hand to answer questions and talk to the public, and court reporters documented the formal hearing. Comments were accepted in writing, transcribed by court reporters, or through email. The public hearing was held on:

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, Washington

B.4.6 Final EIS

Following a review of public comments on the Draft EIS, the Sound Transit Board identified the preferred alternative for the Final EIS, and it directed that alternatives with other design modifications be considered (May 2009). Following additional work and evaluation of those design modifications, the

Sound Transit Board modified the Preferred Alternative in April and July 2010.

Comments on the SDEIS resulted in a number of suggested modifications to existing alternatives in order to avoid impacts to specific properties; in most cases these modifications have not been included in the Final EIS because they generally would result in greater impacts to different properties, including parks, and potentially would increase other impact categories, such as noise, visual, and traffic. The East Link Project Final EIS addresses each suggestion in the response to comments. The Preferred Alternative C9T East Main Station Design Option was added to the Final EIS based on a comment on the SDEIS.

The Preferred Alternative has undergone preliminary engineering (approximately 30 percent design work). This Final EIS analyzes the effects of the Preferred Alternative and all of the other alternatives and responds to comments on the Draft EIS and SDEIS. This Final EIS is issued by FTA, Sound Transit, and WSDOT, and released to the public with a NOA posted in the *Federal Register*, the SEPA register, and local newspapers, and on the Sound Transit website. Additional notification of the availability of this Final EIS is being sent to the project's distribution list of interested parties, agencies, Sound Transit's mailing lists, and addresses within the project vicinity.

Pursuant to FTA guidelines, the Final EIS has been distributed to the Recipient List including federal, state, local, or tribal governmental agencies identified as participating or cooperating agencies and any agency, business, organization, interest group, or member of the public that submitted comments on the Draft EIS and SDEIS. In addition, hard copies of the Final EIS are available for review at local libraries and Sound Transit's office. The documents are also available for viewing on Sound Transit's website. If a build alternative is chosen, then Sound Transit would continue to coordinate throughout final design and construction with affected agencies and local communities.

B.5 Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings

While preparing and issuing the Draft, Supplemental, and Final EISs, Sound Transit has hosted and/or participated in several public meetings, workshops, and numerous stakeholder meetings in support of the environmental process. Table B-4 lists the public and stakeholder outreach meetings held to date for the Sound Transit East Link Project.

TABLE B-4
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Overlake Hospital	1/8/2006
Redmond Chamber	6/20/2006
Kirkland Summerfest	7/14/2006
Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair	7/28/2006
Avalon Bay Communities	8/4/2006
Hines Development	8/11/2006
Bellevue Downtown Association	8/26/2006
Puget Sound Energy	8/31/2006
Schnitzer NW	9/12/2006
East Link Scoping Meeting and ST2 Open House, Bellevue	9/13/2006
East Link Redmond Scoping Meeting	9/14/2006
Michael Johnson, Redmond Chamber and West Bellevue Neighbor	9/18/2006
Puget Sound Energy	9/19/2006
East Link Scoping Meeting and ST2 Open House, Seattle	9/20/2006
East Link Mercer Island Scoping Meeting	9/21/2006
Bellevue City Council	9/25/2006
Bellevue Planning Commission	9/27/2006
Redmond City Council	10/3/2006
Sterling Realty Organization	10/9/2006
Bellevue Chamber and Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	10/10/2006
Overlake and Group Health Hospitals	10/10/2006
Hopelink	10/13/2006
Newport Hills Community Club	10/17/2006
Redmond Chamber	10/19/2006
The Dwelling Company	10/19/2006
Microsoft	10/23/2006
Sound Transit and City of Redmond Coordination	11/6/2006
Surrey Downs Neighbors with Connie Marshall	11/7/2006
Bellevue City Council	11/13/2006
Surrey Downs and Bellecrest Boards	11/14/2006
Bellevue Chamber and Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	11/14/2006
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	11/14/2006
Woodridge Neighborhood Association	11/15/2006
City of Redmond Overlake Neighborhood Open House	11/15/2006
Enatai Neighborhood Association	11/21/2006

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Wright Runstad	11/29/2006
Surrey Downs Neighbor	12/1/2006
Eastside Transportation Partnership	12/8/2006
Surrey Downs Neighborhood Board: discussion of portals and I-405 right-of-way	12/11/2006
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	12/13/2006
Special K	1/10/2007
King County Councilmember Lambert	1/12/2007
Issaquah Chamber	1/16/2007
Stu VanderHoek Properties	1/18/2007
Somerset Community Association	1/23/2007
Meydenbauer Center	1/24/2007
Microsoft	1/30/2007
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	2/1/2007
Redmond Town Center	2/5/2007
Stu VanderHoek Properties	2/6/2007
John Ewold	2/12/2007
Bellevue Chamber and Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee	2/13/2007
Group Health	2/13/2007
Good Roads Association WSDOT and Sound Transit	2/14/2007
ST2/RTID Open House, Seattle	2/22/2007
Eastside Business Roundtable	2/22/2007
Lake Heights Community Club	2/27/2007
ST2/RTID Open House, Bellevue	2/28/2007
Roads and Transit Public Meeting	2/28/2007
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	3/1/2007
Issaquah Chamber	3/8/2007
Sterling Realty Organization	3/9/2007
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Open House	3/20/2007
West Bellevue Community Club	3/22/2007
Redmond Chamber	3/26/2007
East Link Route and Station Workshop, Bellevue	3/27/2007
City of Seattle SE District Transportation Planning Meeting	3/28/2007
East Link Route and Station Workshop, Seattle	3/28/2007
Vuecrest Community Association	3/29/2007

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	3/29/2007
City of Redmond Overlake Neighborhood Plan Update	3/29/2007
Eastside YMCA	4/4/2007
East Link Route and Station Workshop, Mercer Island	4/5/2007
East Link Route and Station Workshop, Overlake	4/6/2007
East Link Route and Station Workshop, Redmond	4/10/2007
Bellevue City Council	4/16/2007
Robert Rosell and Bellevue Way Neighbors	4/17/2007
Mercer Island Lions Club	4/17/2007
Enatai Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting	4/18/2007
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	5/3/2007
City of Bellevue Bel-Red Steering Committee Meeting	5/10/2007
Mercer Island City Council	6/4/2007
Crossroads Farmers Market	6/10/2007
City of Bellevue, City of Redmond, and Sound Transit Steering Committee	6/13/2007
City of Bellevue Open House: Downtown Projects	6/14/2007
City of Bellevue Open House: Downtown Projects	6/14/2007
Bellevue Strawberry Festival	6/23-24/2007
Redmond Derby Days	7/7/2007
Downtown Bellevue Association	7/11/2007
Concerts at Marymoor	7/12/2007
Mercer Island Summer Celebration	7/14-15/2007
Bellevue Live at Lunch	7/19/2007
Blueberry Festival	7/21/2007
Mostly Music in the Park	7/22/2007
Wasatch Development	7/23/2007
Bellevue Festival of the Arts	7/27/2007
Bellevue Festival of the Arts	7/28-29/2007
Kemper Development	7/30/2007
Concerts at Marymoor	8/9-11/2007
Bellevue Live at Lunch	8/16/2007
Mostly Music in the Park	8/16/2007
Concerts at Marymoor	8/18/2007
Redmond Greater TMA EcoCommuting Fair	8/22/2007
Bellevue Live at Lunch	8/23/2007

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Crossroads Farmers Market	8/28/2007
City of Bellevue Open House: Best Practices	9/13/2007
West Bellevue Neighborhoods	9/27/2007
City of Bellevue Mini City Hall	7/7/2007
Renton Mayor Law Executive Forum	5/02/2007
Issaquah Chamber Transportation Oversight Committee	5/8/2008
City of Bellevue Open House	5/15/2008
Bellevue Council: Briefing on Preliminary EIS Findings	6/23/2008
Strawberry Festival, Crossroads Park, Bellevue	5/28-29/2008
Derby Days, City Hall, Redmond	7/12/2008
Summer Celebration, Mercerdale Park, Mercer Island	7/12-13/2008
TMA EcoCommunity Fair, Redmond	8/21/2008
ST2 Open House	6/5/2008
Strawberry Festival	6/28-29/2008
Microsoft Transportation Outreach	8/3/2008
Microsoft Commute Transportation Event	9/25/2008
Mt. Baker Community Club	10/6/2008
Microsoft Transportation Outreach	10/23/2008
Mercer Island City Council	12/01/2008
Surrey Downs East Link Committee, Bellevue	12/11/2008
Wallace Properties	1/06/2009
Surrey Downs Community Briefing, Bellevue	1/08/2009
Bellevue City Council: East Link Study Session	1/12/2009
Beaux Arts Town Council Briefing	1/13/2009
Redmond Chamber of Commerce	1/20/2009
Wright Runstad	1/20/2009
Redmond Draft EIS Public Hearing and Open House	1/21/2009
Meydenbauer Center Board of Directors	1/22/2009
Seattle Draft EIS Public Meeting and Open House	1/22/2009
Bellevue Council Study Session	1/26/2009
Eastside Transportation Association	1/27/2009
Mercer Island Draft EIS Public Hearing and Open House	1/27/2009
Bellevue High School Draft EIS Public Hearing and Open House	1/28/2009
Bellevue City Hall Draft EIS Public Hearing and Open House	1/29/2009
Bellevue Hospital District	1/29/2009

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
City of Bellevue: Public Hearing on Draft EIS	2/02/2009
Mercer Island Council: Draft EIS Briefing	2/02/2009
Mt. Baker Community Club	2/02/2009
Eastside Transportation TAC	2/03/2009
Puget Sound Energy	2/10/2009
Bellevue Library Board	2/17/2009
Mercer Park Condominiums	2/17/2009
Microsoft	2/19/2009
Bellevue Athletic Club	2/19/2009
Brookshire Condominiums, Bellevue	2/19/2009
Eleanor and John Griffin	2/19/2009
Cindy Greenbaum Lindner	2/23/2009
Puget Sound Regional Council Freight Group	3/01/2009
Meydenbauer Center	3/05/2009
Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce	3/05/2009
Bellevue Downtown Association	3/09/2009
Su Development	3/13/2009
Redmond Chamber of Commerce	3/18/2009
King County and Bellevue Library Board	4/21/2009
Bloch Properties	4/21/2009
Bellevue Downtown Association	4/29/2009
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	5/04/2009
Microsoft	6/03/2009
Strawberry Festival, Crossroads Park, Bellevue	6/27-28/2009
Summer Celebration, Mercerdale Park, Mercer Island	7/11-12/2009
International District Festival, Seattle	7/11-12/2009
Redmond Derby Days	7/11/2009
Central Area Festival, Seattle	8/22/2009
Microsoft	9/18/2009
Boeing	9/21/2009
Bellevue Hilton	9/21/2009
Bellevue Stakeholder Briefing: C9T	9/24/2009
Bellevue Club	9/29/2009
South Bellevue Park-and-Ride Outreach	10/6/2009
Overlake Transit Center Outreach	10/6/2009

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Surrey Downs East Link Light Rail Committee	10/8/2009
Eastside Heritage Center Board	10/8/2009
Overlake Preliminary Engineering Workshop	10/12/2009
Bellevue City Council	10/12/2009
South Bellevue Preliminary Engineering Workshop	10/14/2009
Bel-Red Preliminary Engineering Workshop	10/15/2009
Bellevue Red Lion	10/27/2009
Bellevue YMCA Board of Directors	11/12/2009
TCC Friday Forum at Bellevue City Hall	11/13/2009
Redmond chamber of Commerce	11/17/2009
Douglas Ross, 136th Office Park	11/18/2009
Downtown Bellevue Public Workshop	11/18/2009
Sears Corporation	11/23/2009
Hope Link	11/24/2009
Meydenbauer Center	11/30/2009
Su Development	11/30/2009
Sterling Realty Organization	11/30/2009
Wallace Properties	12/1/2009
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	12/1/2009
BOMA Suburban Cities Meeting	12/2/2009
Bellevue Downtown Association Light Rail Committee	12/4/2009
Overlake, Children's, and Group Health Hospitals	12/4/2009
Russ Clark, Arthur Murray Dance Studio	12/4/2009
Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative	12/7/2009
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee	12/8/2009
Microsoft	12/17/2009
Aiphone Company	12/17/2009
Lake Bellevue Village Condominiums	1/6/2010
Sunset Glass	1/7/2010
The Gardens Senior Living	1/27/2010
Russ Clark, Arthur Murray Dance Studio	2/1/2010
Safeway and Hartland	2/2/2010
Sound Transit and City of Bellevue Joint Workshop	2/11/2010
Bellevue Downtown Association Light Rail Committee	2/12/2010
Redmond Chamber of Commerce	2/16/2010

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Downtown Bellevue Public Open House	2/18/2010
Bellevue Red Lion	2/22/2010
Midlakes Condominiums	2/23/2010
Meydenbauer Center	2/25/2010
Overlake, Group Health, and Children's Hospitals	3/1/2010
Mt. Baker Community Club, Seattle	3/1/2010
Kris Betty, KBA, Inc.	3/4/2010
Transportation Choices Coalition Forum	3/5/2010
Mercer Island Open House	3/8/2010
Eastside Heritage Center	3/11/2010
Hiawatha Artist Lofts, Seattle	3/11/2010
Seattle Area Social Service Organization Briefing	3/17/2010
Center Park Resident Council, Seattle	3/17/2010
Russ Clark, Arthur Murray Dance Studio	3/30/2010
Bellevue Network on Aging	4/1/2010
Bel-Red/Overlake Open House	4/1/2010
Eastside Transportation Partnership	4/9/2010
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce	4/12/2010
Aiphone Company	4/29/2010
Carriage Hills Condominiums, Bellevue	5/10/2010
Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee	5/11/2010
Wright Runstad Company	5/18/2010
Beacon Properties	5/20/2010
Bellevue Downtown Association	5/21/2009
112th Avenue Drop-in Station, Bellevue	5/27/2010
112th Avenue Drop-in Station, Bellevue	6/1/2010
112th Avenue Drop-in Station, Bellevue	6/2/2010
Nine Lake Bellevue	6/2/2010
Bellefield Residential Park, Bellevue	6/9/2010
Pine Forest Properties	6/10/2010
112th Avenue Community Workshop, Bellevue	6/15/2010
Low Income Housing Institute, Bellevue	6/23/2010
Strawberry Festival, Crossroads Park, Bellevue	6/26-27/2010
112th Avenue Community Workshop, Bellevue	6/29/2010
Overlake, Group Health, and Children's Hospitals	6/30/2010

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Microsoft	7/2/2010
112th Avenue Community Workshop, Bellevue	7/7/2010
Summer Celebration, Mercerdale Park, Mercer Island	7/10-11/2010
Redmond Eco-Fair	7/10/2010
Bellevue Club, Carriage Hills, and Carriage Place	7/12/2010
Bellevue Chamber Transportation Committee	7/13/2010
Hospital Station Public Meeting, Bellevue	7/13/2010
South Bellevue 112th Avenue Open House	7/14/2010
Microsoft	7/16/2010
Lincoln Plaza Office Park	7/20/2010
Kaye-Smith, 700 112th LLC	7/26/2010
Children's Hospital	7/28/2010
State Representative Judy Clibborn	8/4/2010
U.S. Senator Patty Murray staff	8/4/2010
State Representative Deb Eddy	8/5/2010
Meydenbauer Center	8/5/2010
State Representative Larry Springer	8/12/2010
U.S. Representative Dave Reichert staff	8/13/2010
Sven Goldmanis, resident	9/13/2010
Microsoft and City of Redmond	9/14/2010
McCullough Hill and Center Pointe	9/20/2010
City of Bellevue, Bill Pace (Blueberry Farm)	9/22/2010
Pine Forest Properties	9/23/2010
Wright Runstad	9/28/2010
PS Business Parks	10/7/2010
Wright Runstad	10/19/2010
Carriage Place and Carriage Hills Condominium HOA Presidents, Bellevue	10/20/2010
Sound Transit Budget/Service Implementation Plan Open House	10/20/2010
Carriage Place and Carriage Hills Condominium Meeting	10/28/2010
Seattle/King County Realtors Young Professionals Network	11/3/2010
Bellevue Red Lion	11/8/2010
Mobility and Infrastructure Open House, City of Bellevue	11/9/2010
McCullough Hill	11/15/2010
Wright Runstad	10/16/2010
Beacon Properties	11/17/2010

TABLE B-4 CONTINUED
Public and Stakeholder Outreach Meetings Held to Date

Event/Meeting	Date
Brown Bear Car Wash	11/18/2010
Wright Runstad	11/30/2010
Supplemental Draft EIS Public Hearing and Open House, Bellevue	11/30/2010
Morrison Counseling	12/6/2010
Supplemental Draft EIS Social Services Drop-in, Bellevue	12/9/2010
Belle Arts Condominiums, Bellevue	12/15/2010
Legacy Commercial, LLC	12/17/2010
Wendy Jones, resident	12/17/2010
Bellevue Club	1/11/2011
Wright Runstad	1/11/2011
Representative Dave Reichert staff	1/21/2011
Senator Patty Murray staff	1/31/2011
Microsoft	2/1/2011
Representative Jay Inslee staff	2/8/2011
Len's Automotive	2/9/2011
Meadows Homeowners Association	2/16/2011
Children's Hospital	2/17/2011
Wright Runstad	2/25/2011
Microsoft	2/28/2011
Wendy Jones, resident	3/8/2011
Wright Runstad	3/8/2011
Bellevue College Sustainability Fair	3/9/2011
Betina Finley	3/16/2011
Microsoft Transportation Event	3/23/2011
Microsoft Transportation Event	3/25/2011
Wright Runstad	3/29/2011
Anthony Welcher, resident	4/5/2011
Wright Runstad	4/5/2011
Coinstar Transportation Event	4/20/2011

