



East Link light rail

Segment A: Seattle, Mercer Island via I-90

July 2011

Segment Details

In Segment A, there is only one route alternative between downtown Seattle and south Bellevue. The route begins in the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel, connecting to the Link light rail system at the International District/Chinatown Station. The alternative then travels east across north Beacon Hill and Rainier Valley. The route then travels on the I-90 floating bridge across Lake Washington to Mercer Island. The route remains on I-90 across Mercer Island and Lake Washington to South Bellevue. New HOV lanes will be constructed on the I-90 outer roadways, adding 24-hour HOV and bus transit service both east and westbound while preserving the existing number of general purpose lanes.

Segment A includes two stations, both located on the center roadway of I-90 with pedestrian connections to the local road and sidewalk system. Stations would be located at:

- Rainier Station: I-90 in Seattle between Rainier Avenue S and 23rd Avenue S.
- Mercer Island Station: I-90 on Mercer Island between 77th Avenue SE and 80th Avenue SE.

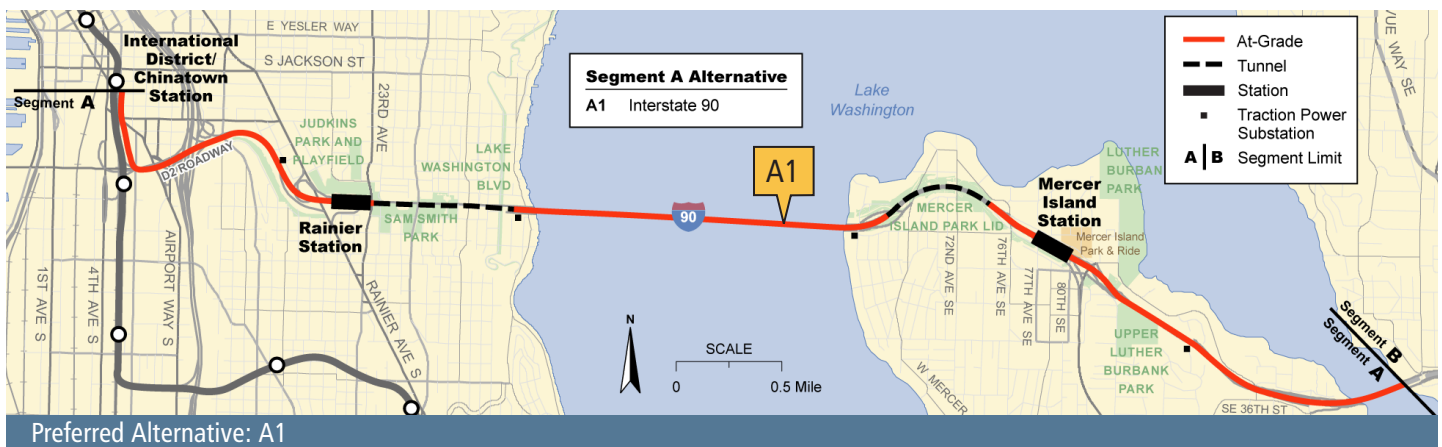
Benefits

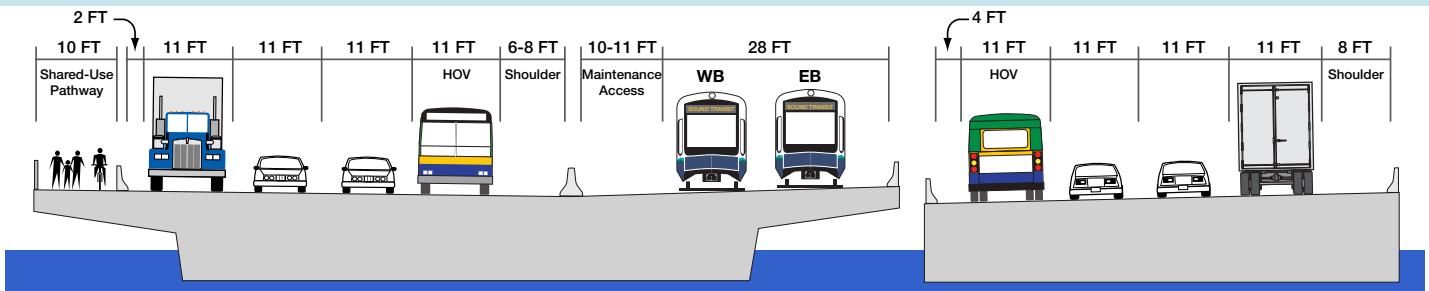
- Provides access to high quality, frequent transit service 20 hours per day.
- Approximately 5,000 combined daily boardings by 2030 would occur at the Rainier and Mercer Island Stations.
- Meets the City of Seattle's goals to promote urban villages, link urban centers, and facilitate access to employment centers for residents with expanded access to the Eastside.
- Addresses the City of Mercer Island's goals to promote mixed-use development at regional transit facilities and provides improved transit opportunities.

Travel times* (from Mercer Island Station)

- International District/Chinatown = 10 minutes
- University of Washington = 20 minutes
- Bellevue Transit Center = 10-12 minutes
- Sea-Tac Airport = 45 minutes

* Reflects preferred alternative travel times





Westbound I-90

Light Rail

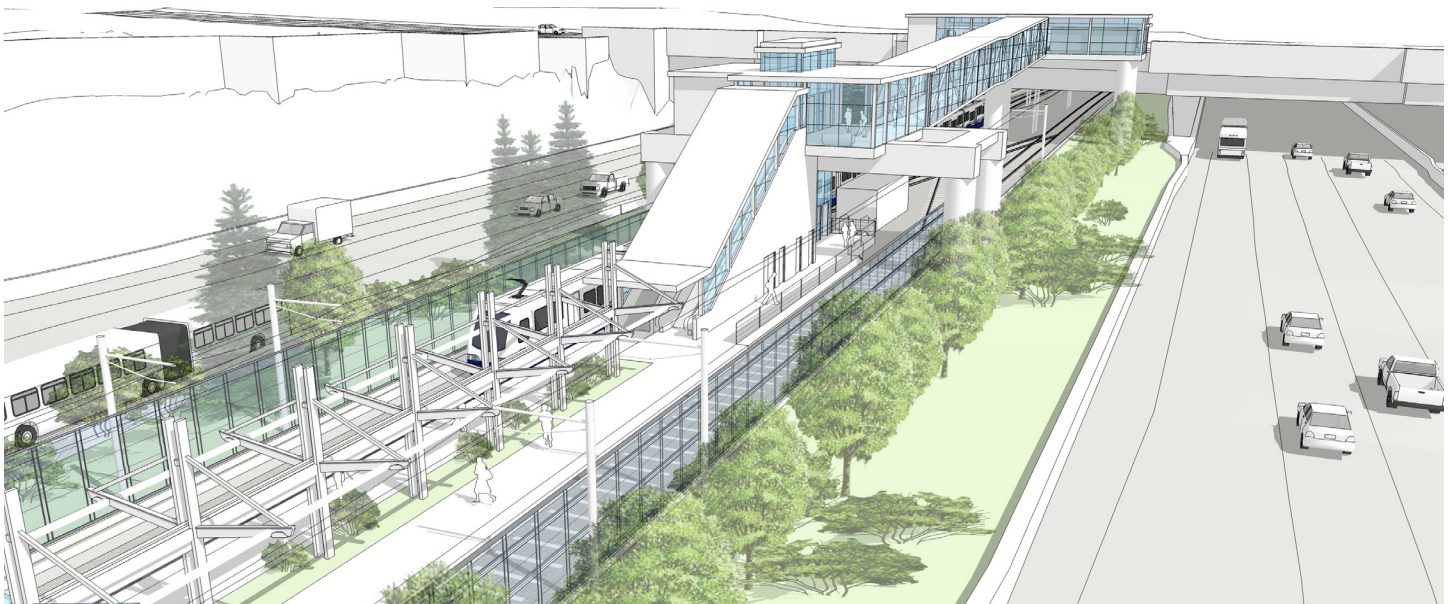
Eastbound I-90

I-90 Two-Way Transit Project with East Link light rail

Light Rail on I-90

The I-90 floating bridge was designed and constructed with the intent of supporting future rail. Studies by WSDOT confirmed that the I-90 floating bridge can support the weight of light rail after conducting a light rail simulation test using heavily loaded trucks to test how the floating bridge responded to the weight and movement.

An Independent Review Team (appointed by the Washington State Legislature) looked at technical issues related to running light rail on the I-90 bridge. Their conclusion was that through careful design and testing the bridge can accommodate light rail.



Simulation of Rainier Station in Seattle

For more information:

Project Web page:

www.soundtransit.org/eastlink

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