Expanding Sound Transit service

In 2008, the region’s voters approved the Sound Transit 2, a major expansion of the regional transit system with substantial extensions of Link light rail throughout the region plus more Sounder train and ST Express bus services.

Expanding Tacoma Link

The existing 1.6 mile Tacoma Link light rail line currently serves six stations from the Theater District to the Tacoma Dome Station. Trains run every 12 minutes during the day and served over a million riders in 2012. Voters in 2008 approved an expansion of Tacoma Link as part of the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure which includes funding for a partnership to expand Tacoma Link that would allow Sound Transit to seek federal funding and explore options for additional funding partners. Sound Transit’s Tacoma Link Expansion Alternatives Analysis project will identify and study alternative transit corridors for expansion of the Tacoma Link light rail system.

Sound Transit, in cooperation with the City of Tacoma and Pierce Transit, is engaging the community to help identify a range of alternatives, study these alternatives, and determine a preferred alternative for expansion. The study will also produce a project financing plan that will identify committed and potential funding sources.

Alternatives development

Building an expansion of Tacoma Link will require substantial federal funding. The Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Small Starts program is the federal government’s primary financial resource for supporting locally-planned, implemented, and operated transit projects, such as Tacoma Link. Sound Transit plans to apply and compete for Small Starts funds for the Tacoma Link expansion project.

To be eligible and competitive for these federal funds, Sound Transit is completing an alternatives analysis (AA) for the project. The goal of an AA is to provide the public, local officials, and potential funding partners with sufficient information for the decision-at-hand: that is, “What is the best transportation solution for addressing our problems? What are its benefits? How much is it going to cost? And how are we going to pay for it?”

An AA is the local forum for evaluating the costs, benefits, and impacts of a range of alternatives designed to address mobility problems and other locally-identified objectives in a defined transportation corridor, and for determining which particular investment strategy should be advanced for more focused study and development.
What we are doing now and over the next few months... The six remaining corridor alternatives have been evaluated more closely based on costs, benefits, impacts and on how well they achieve community defined objectives for the project. The findings will be compiled and presented to the public in an Alternatives Analysis report. The Sound Transit Board will use this information along with stakeholder and community input to identify a preferred corridor for further study.

Involving the Tacoma community
Sound Transit is committed to communicating with Tacoma residents and businesses about the Tacoma Link Expansion and providing you with meaningful opportunities to get involved. Your input will help Sound Transit select the best alternative corridor for Tacoma Link Expansion. To date, Sound Transit has included the community through:

- Postcard mailings
- Online & print ads
- Fairs & festivals
- Open houses & drop-in sessions throughout Tacoma
- Numerous business district & neighborhood council briefings
- Media articles or posts
- Outreach to social service providers that represent low income, underserved, minority and non-English speaking populations

STAY INVOLVED!
Find project information, updates and upcoming events on our website. Please visit www.soundtransit.org/tacomaLinkExpansion

For additional information about Tacoma Link Expansion or to request a project briefing for your organization, Erin Hunter, South Corridor Outreach Lead, at 206-370-5511 or erin.hunter@soundtransit.org.

Involving the Tacoma community
Sound Transit is committed to communicating with Tacoma residents and businesses about the Tacoma Link Expansion and providing you with meaningful opportunities to get involved. Your input will help Sound Transit select the best alternative corridor for Tacoma Link Expansion. To date, Sound Transit has included the community through:

- Postcard mailings
- Online & print ads
- Fairs & festivals
- Open houses & drop-in sessions throughout Tacoma
- Numerous business district & neighborhood council briefings
- Media articles or posts
- Outreach to social service providers that represent low income, underserved, minority and non-English speaking populations

STAY INVOLVED!
Find project information, updates and upcoming events on our website. Please visit www.soundtransit.org/tacomaLinkExpansion

For additional information about Tacoma Link Expansion or to request a project briefing for your organization, Erin Hunter, South Corridor Outreach Lead, at 206-370-5511 or erin.hunter@soundtransit.org.

Alternatives Development

Partner & Federal Grant Application submitted (Sound Transit 2, adopted by voters in 2008, included funding for a partnership to expand Tacoma Link. Sound Transit is seeking Federal funding and exploring options for securing additional funding partners).

Environmental Review & Preliminary Design

Final Design

Construction

Testing & Pre-Operations

Start of Service

Alternatives Development

Spring 2013

Identification of Preferred Corridor by the Sound Transit Board

For information in alternative formats, call 1-800-201-4900/TTY Relay: 711 or email accessibility@soundtransit.org.