



TACOMA LINK

Expanding Tacoma Link

FACT SHEET

JULY 2013

Expanding Tacoma Link

The existing 1.6-mile Tacoma Link light rail line currently serves six stations between the Theater District and Tacoma Dome Stations. Trains, which run every 12 minutes during the day, provided more than a million rides in 2012. The Sound Transit 2 ballot measure approved by voters in 2008 included funding for a partnership to expand Tacoma Link. Sound Transit will need to secure federal funding and additional funding partners to construct the expansion.

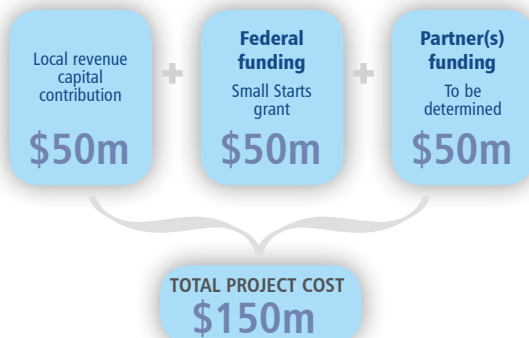
In May 2013, the Sound Transit Board selected a preferred corridor for the expansion of Tacoma Link expansion to Martin Luther King Jr. District on the Hilltop. **See map on back.**

Alternatives considered

Prior to that Board decision, Sound Transit conducted an Alternatives Analysis. Under this process, the agency, in cooperation with the City of Tacoma and Pierce Transit, engaged the community to help identify a range of corridor alternatives, study those alternatives, and determine the preferred corridor alternative to advance to environmental review.

Sound Transit evaluated six corridor alternatives in detail. This included determining the costs, benefits and impacts and, how well each alternative would achieve project objectives. The Sound Transit Board considered this information, along with stakeholder and community input, in identifying the preferred corridor for expansion.

Building an expansion of Tacoma Link will require a local partnership and substantial federal funding. The Federal Transit Administration's Small Starts program is the federal government's primary financial resource for supporting transit projects such as Tacoma Link. Sound Transit plans to apply and compete for Small Starts funds for the Tacoma Link expansion project. Sound Transit is also seeking funding from local partners to achieve the estimated \$150 million project cost.



Next steps

Over the summer, Sound Transit will conduct preliminary technical analysis on route alternatives within the preferred corridor. More opportunities for public review and comment will start in the fall of 2013.

- **Summer 2013** Complete early technical work on corridor alignment. Negotiate new scope of work with the consultant.
- **Fall 2013** Identify potential route alternatives within E1 corridor and determine necessary level of environmental review.
- **Winter 2013/14** Begin conceptual engineering on route alternatives and environmental analysis.
- **Future** Apply for federal funding once environmental review is complete

STAY INVOLVED!

The Sound Transit Tacoma Link team will be out and about at neighborhood meetings, fairs and festivals, and other events this summer. Please don't hesitate to call us with any questions.

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, contact **Erin Hunter, South Corridor Outreach Lead**, at 206-398-5511 or erin.hunter@soundtransit.org.



Sign up for email updates at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe.

ALTERNATIVE: NORTH DOWNTOWN CENTRAL CORRIDOR (E1)

TACOMA LINK EXPANSION

Benefits*

- Has high potential to attract riders due to existing transit ridership
- Faster service to Downtown and Tacoma Dome
- Zoning supportive of higher density mixed-use development
- High viability for funding from local improvement based upon assessed value
- Serves areas that have high ethnic and economic diversity

Disadvantages*

- Low amount of developable vacant land
- High number of noise sensitive receptors
- Potential for effects on historic or park resources

**Benefits and disadvantage assumptions are based on known plans and existing conditions the length of the corridor.*

Designated Mixed Use Centers and Regional Destinations:

Stadium Mixed Use Center; Martin Luther King Mixed Use Center; Downtown Regional Growth Center



Tacoma Link Expansion: North Downtown Central Corridor (E1)

Legend

- Existing Tacoma LINK Corridor
- Link Stations
- Other Community Institutions
- Hospitals
- Parks
- Schools
 - Primary School
 - Secondary School, Post-secondary and Vocational school
- E1
- North Downtown Central Corridor (E1)
- Neighborhood Boundary
- Mixed Use Centers
- Streets - Arterial
- Highways

Maps show 1/2-mile-wide corridor study areas

0 0.5 Miles

