Funding

Funding for Tacoma Link Expansion is a partnership between Sound Transit, the City of Tacoma, and the Federal government. The current cost is approximately $165 million (year of expenditure) for the potential expansion. Project funding includes a $50 million contribution from Sound Transit tax revenues and almost $75 million from a potential federal Small Starts grant. It’s anticipated that additional partners will contribute $40 million to the project. Partnership funding includes a contribution from the City of Tacoma, more than $18 million in secured grants and other potential grant sources.

Sound Transit will work with the City of Tacoma and the community to identify an affordable project that is the right fit for Tacoma. Full funding for the expansion must be secured before the timing of final design and construction can be determined.

How to get involved

Visit soundtransit.org/TacomaLinkExpansion for more information about community outreach events and project updates. To learn more or request a project briefing for your organization, contact Allison Gregg, South Corridor Outreach Specialist, at 206-398-5063 or allison.gregg@soundtransit.org.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

FREQUENCY: 10 MINUTES

What is preliminary engineering?

During this phase, the project design will be developed to the 30 percent engineering design level. This means the preferred alignment and station design will be further defined. After preliminary engineering the project will enter final design.

Benefits:

• Operate from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. most days; increase frequency from 12 to 10 minutes
• Serve ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods. Within one-quarter mile of the alignment, the population is 40 percent minority, 25 percent low income and 30 percent have no vehicle
• By 2035 the Link corridor will include 54,000 jobs and 45,000 residents
• Save 10 to 15 minutes per trip compared to existing bus service

Potential expansion:

LENGTH: 2.4 MILES
STATIONS: 6 PROPOSED
RELOCATED

PROJECT GOALS:

• Improve mobility and transportation access for Tacoma residents and visitors
• Increase transit ridership in Tacoma
• Serve underserved neighborhoods and communities
• Use transit to spur economic development and other types of investment
• Ensure the project is environmentally sensitive and sustainable
• Establish a project that is competitive for federal funding

FREQUENCY: 10 MINUTES

How to get involved

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Working to expand Tacoma Link

In February 2014, the Sound Transit Board of Directors, in cooperation with the City of Tacoma, Pierce Transit and community members, identified a preferred alignment for the potential expansion of Tacoma Link, to be evaluated in the environmental review. The identified route continues north along Commerce Street to the Hilltop District via Stadium Way, North 1st Street, Division Street and Martin Luther King Way Jr. Way (MLK Jr. Way). Subsequently, early engineering and public comments helped determine station locations.

In summer 2014, Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) began an environmental review of the proposed expansion. Community and environmental impacts of the proposed alignment, stations and expanded Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) were evaluated.
Preferred alignment, proposed station locations and maintenance facility expansion

The route identified for the potential expansion is approximately 2.4 miles long with six new stations and one relocated station. The project also includes expanding the existing operations and maintenance facility located at 802 E. 25th St. near the Tacoma Dome Station.

Two-way train tracks would be in existing road lanes shared with cars and buses and would be compatible with on-street parking and existing bicycle facilities. Like the existing Tacoma Link system, trains would be low-floor vehicles powered by overhead wires supplied by up to five power substations.

Potential station locations include:
- Relocated Theater District Station
- Stadium Way and South 4th Street
- Stadium District
- MLK Jr. Way and Division Avenue
- MLK Jr. Way and 6th Avenue
- MLK Jr. Way and South 11th Street
- MLK Jr. Way and South 19th Street

Station location considerations
Sound Transit considered the following factors in selecting station locations:
- Located near key destinations, activity areas and arterials
- Located on street grades less than two percent to provide ADA accessibility
- Listened to public feedback and made modifications
- Spaced approximately a half mile or less apart for easy access
- Avoided bus stops where possible
- Positioned to minimize impacts to existing bicycle facilities, on-street parking and driveways

Visual simulations

- Looking northeast on 4th Street and Stadium Way
- Looking north up Commerce Street by 7th Street
- Looking south down Stadium Way near Division Avenue
- Looking north up MLK Jr. Way near South 11th Street

*Simulations are intended to show the potential project location and visual changes. They do not illustrate other potential station or design amenities.

Key station features
The public will have the opportunity to comment on station design during preliminary engineering this summer and fall.

Stations include:
- Passenger shelter
- Seating
- Fare collection machine
- Lighting (may include street lighting)
- Trash receptacles
- Rider information signage and area map
- Public art