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Find project information, updates and upcoming events on our website. Please visit [www.soundtransit.org/TacomaLinkExpansion](http://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](mailto:erin.hunter@soundtransit.org).

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



# Tacoma Link Expansion

DEC 2012



## 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 nearly a million riders in 2011. Voters in 2008 approved an expansion of Tacoma Link as part of the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure which included 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 travel 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 Analysis

Building an expansion of Tacoma Link will require substantial federal funding. The Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) discretionary New Starts program is the federal government's primary financial resource for supporting locally-planned, implemented, and operated transit capital investments, such as Tacoma Link. New Starts funding is awarded nationwide on a competitive basis following a rigorous, objective review of potential projects. Sound Transit plans to request New Starts funds for the Tacoma Link expansion project.

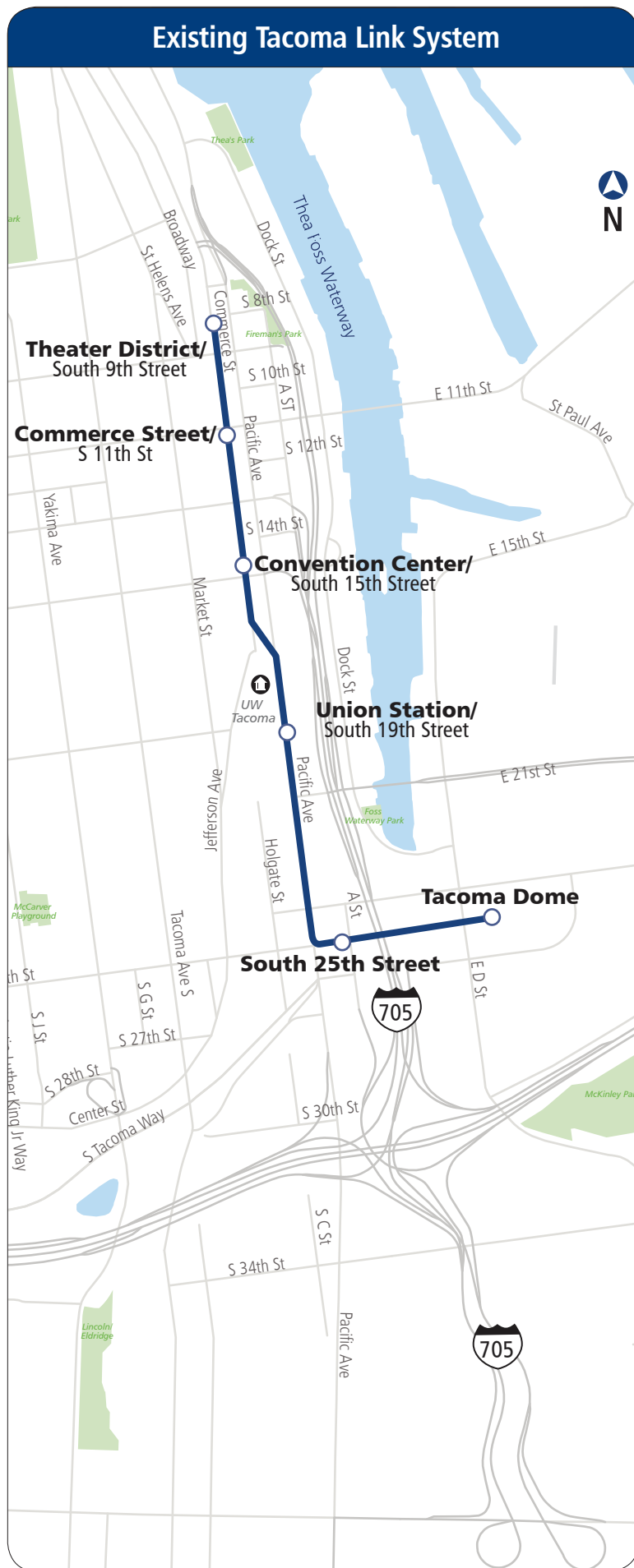
To be eligible and competitive for these federal funds, Sound Transit is completing an alternatives analysis (AA) for the project. An AA is the local forum for evaluating the costs, benefits, and impacts of a range of alternatives designed to address mobility problems and other locally-identified objectives in a defined transportation corridor, and for determining which particular investment strategy should be advanced for more focused study and development. 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?"

Queremos escucharle y brindarle toda la información que necesite. Por favor, llámenos al 1-800-823-9230.  
귀하의 의견을 듣고 싶습니다. 그러므로 귀하가 필요한 모든 정보를 알려주세요. 1-800-823-9230으로 연락하십시오.  
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我們希望傾聽您的意見，並向您提供您需要的所有資訊。請致電 1-800-823-9230。  
យើងចង់ឮពីលោកអ្នក និងផ្តល់គ្រប់ព័ត៌មានដែលអ្នកត្រូវការ។ សូមទូរស័ព្ទតាមលេខ 1-800-823-9230 ។*



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## What's been accomplished so far? Phase I (June 2012-September 2012)

Developed a list of possible corridor alternatives for expanding Tacoma Link. This list built upon the corridors identified by the Tacoma Link Expansion Stakeholder Group and Sound Transit's Pre-AA study (more information available at [www.soundtransit.org/tacomalinkexpansion](http://www.soundtransit.org/tacomalinkexpansion)) as well as additional input from the community.

- Held open houses to seek input from the public and agencies on corridor alternatives, (August 2012). This public process was part of "early scoping" for the public and agencies under National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), in order to obtain public input on the potential alternatives prior to any formal environmental documentation.
- Developed written statements explaining the project's purpose, need, goals and objectives.
- Define the alternatives and prepare for initial screening of alternatives.
- Submitted "AA Initiation Package" to Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

## What we are doing now and over the next few months...

### Phase II (October 2012-April 2013)

- Gathering input from stakeholders, community members, and agencies on evaluation criteria, purpose and need, and additional alternatives. Conduct initial screening of alternatives including public and agency input. Screen the alternatives based on their ability to meet the project's purpose and need.

## Sound Transit 2

Sound Transit 2, adopted by voters in 2008, included funding for a partnership to expand Tacoma Link. Sound Transit is:

- Seeking federal funding
- Exploring options for securing additional funding partners

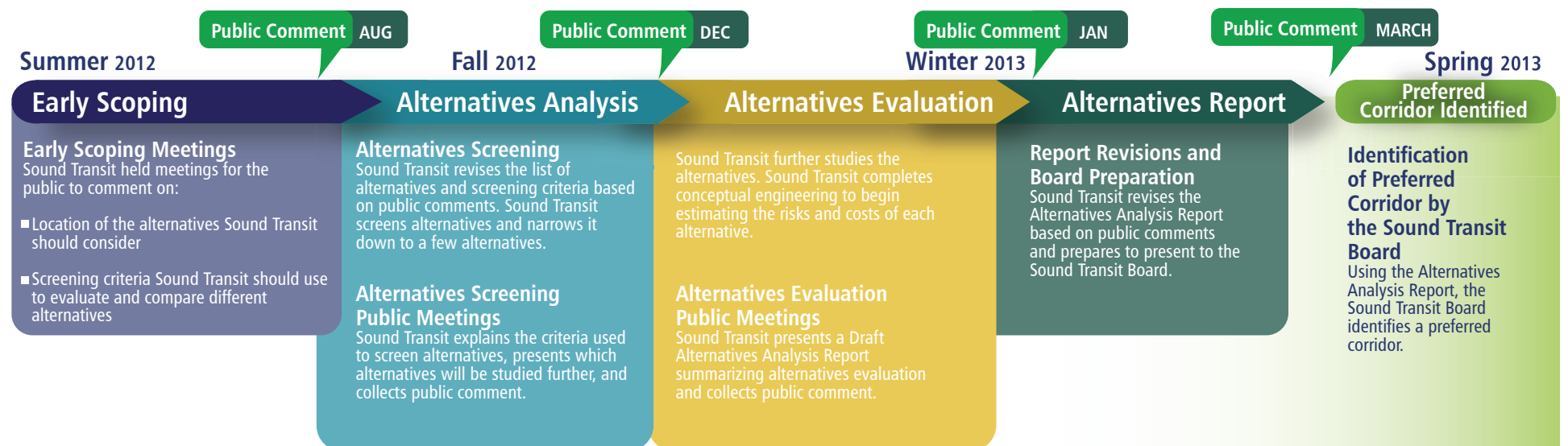
- Define evaluation criteria and questions that came out of public and agency input and evaluate the alternatives that come out of the screening based on the evaluation questions.
- **Hold public meetings to discuss initial findings of the alternatives evaluation process (December).**
- Prepare a preliminary draft Alternatives Analysis report summarizing the alternatives evaluation and public/agency involvement process.
- **Hold public meetings to discuss and receive comments on the preliminary draft Alternatives Analysis Report.**
- Revise the alternatives analysis report based on public comments and prepare to present to the Sound Transit Board.
- **Hold public meetings to discuss the draft Alternatives Analysis Report.**
- Finalize the Alternatives Analysis report and present to the Sound Transit Board.
- **Sound Transit Board Identifies a preferred alternative to enter into the environmental review process and a project funding plan.**
- Determine type of environmental review documentation needed and next steps for the project. An additional formal environmental scoping process under NEPA and SEPA may be required. environmental scoping process under NEPA and SEPA may be required.
- Submit application for FTA New Starts/ Small Starts grant funding.



## 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. During the process you will have opportunities to:

- Receive advance notice about public meetings and opportunities to provide input on the Tacoma Link Expansion project through local newspapers, blogs, project mailings and the project website.
- Meet Sound Transit staff in your community and talk to us about your questions, comments or concerns.



**Alternatives analysis process** supports efforts to: Narrow and define project options • Develop cost estimates for potential corridors • Work with partners to develop a funding plan