Building University Link

On track to open early 2016

University link construction is going so well Sound Transit expects to open service in early 2016, six to nine months earlier than previously scheduled.

Construction remaining

Excavation of the underground stations and tunnel construction is complete. Crews are now building the two stations, installing tracks and installing communications, power, train control, HVAC and emergency systems. Train and systems testing will occur late 2015 through early 2016.

Building pedestrian concourse under Broadway

An underground pedestrian concourse will allow riders to access Capitol Hill Station from the west side of Broadway.

To build that concourse, Sound Transit’s contractors are excavating portions of the road and sidewalks on Broadway between East Howell Street and East Denny Way.

Expect sidewalk and lane closures in the area until early 2015. One lane of traffic will be maintained in either direction. The sidewalk will remain open on at least one side of the street. Flaggers and signs will direct traffic.

Schedule

Construction of University Link began in 2009 and will open for service in 2016. By 2030, the University Link line alone is projected to add 70,000 daily boardings to the Link light rail system.

Funding

Funding for University Link was approved by the Sound Transit Board in April, 2006. The project is budgeted at $1.9 billion dollars (adjusted for inflation). Sound Transit received a Federal Transit Administration grant of $813 million to help construct the line. Local funding is 100 percent secured from local taxes approved by voters in 1996.

Community Outreach

Sound Transit is committed to keeping the community informed about construction activities and promptly addressing any problems.

For more information

To request a briefing for your organization or for more information, call (206) 398-5300 or email ulink@soundtransit.org. You can also visit Sound Transit’s website at soundtransit.org.

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

To receive email updates about this project, subscribe online at soundtransit.org.
University of Washington Station

The University of Washington Station, located by Husky Stadium, will provide access to the UW campus and Medical Center, nearby sports venues and surrounding neighborhoods. Riders will board trains underground. A pedestrian/bicyclist bridge over Montlake Boulevard will connect the station to the Montlake Triangle. The University of Washington will build a land bridge over NE Pacific Place to connect the triangle to the UW Campus and the Burke Gilman Trail. Riders can use covered bicycle storage or connect to buses at the station.

Sound Transit worked closely with the University of Washington to coordinate design and construction issues and minimize impacts to vital research activities. Sound Transit is also coordinating with other agencies; Washington State Department of Transportation, King County Metro and the City of Seattle as the Montlake Triangle Project and the SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project moves forward.

For more information about the University of Washington Station, please visit soundtransit.org/UWStation.

Public art

Local artist and UW graduate Leo Saul Berk’s concept is to create an underground planetarium by cutting an artist-designed hatch pattern into the back-lit metal walls of the station interior. The walls make up the chamber where transit riders traverse the deep underground station on two pairs of up-down escalators and elevators. The patterns relate to the actual geologic cross-section of the station site, and are inspired by geology soil coding. The experience will remind riders of where they are and what is just on the other side of the station’s massive concrete walls.

The START program

For more information, contact: Barbara Luecke, Art Program Manager, at barbara.luecke@soundtransit.org or 206-398-5059. See the latest on Sound Transit’s Public Art program at soundtransit.org/start.

Capitol Hill Station

The Capitol Hill Station is located just east of Broadway and south of East John Street. Riders will board trains underground. In addition to serving Seattle Central Community College and Seattle University, this station will also serve the densely populated residential neighborhoods and the Broadway business district. Group Health Medical Center and other employers are also nearby.

Capitol Hill Station will have three entrances: a north entrance on the east side of Broadway at the corner of East John Street, an entrance on the west side of Broadway just south of East Denny Way and a south entrance at the corner of East Denny Way and Nagle Place.

Station features include:

- Covered bicycle storage
- Connections to buses and the First Hill Streetcar
- Easy access to CalAnderson Park.

When construction is finished, surplus property will be available for redevelopment that is compatible with the station facilities and neighborhood. The redevelopment will include a public plaza and approximately one third of residences will be affordable housing.

East Denny Way between Broadway and 10th Avenue will re-open as a festival street, which can be closed to accommodate public events.

For more information about the Capitol Hill Station, please visit soundtransit.org/capitolhill.

Public art

Mike Ross will create artwork for the station’s platform level and Ellen Fomey for the two entrances. Ross, of New York City, is developing a sculpture that explores the tension created by forces that both pull together and push apart and the juxtaposition of nature and powerful technology.

Ellen Fomey, a Capitol Hill artist, has proposed two murals for the north and west entrances of the station. Her designs mirror some of the same themes of Ross’ sculpture: a level of playfulness, ambiguity, and a juxtaposition of forces pushing together and pulling apart. With the clean graphic quality of Fomey’s work and the bold color she has chosen, her murals will become beacons for the station’s entrances.