

LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

 U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit
Administration

JULY 2013



July 26, 2013

Dear Recipient:

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Sound Transit (the Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority) have prepared this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) on the proposed Lynnwood Link Extension light rail transit project. Sound Transit is the project proponent.

The Draft EIS has been prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 to 4370e) and the State Environmental Policy Act (Ch. 43.21C RCW). It has been prepared to inform the public, agencies and decision makers about the environmental consequences of building and operating the Lynnwood Link extension of the light rail system from Northgate in Seattle to Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline, and Lynnwood along the Interstate 5 corridor. The Draft EIS examines the project alternatives identified by the Sound Transit Board in April 2012.

The major choices for the project involve the route and profile of the light rail line and station locations. The Sound Transit Board will consider the Draft EIS, public and agency comments, and other information before identifying a preferred route and station locations. FTA and Sound Transit will prepare a Final EIS which will respond to comments on the Draft EIS and include an evaluation of impacts and mitigation for the preferred alternative and the other alternatives considered. After completion of the Final EIS the Sound Transit Board will select the project to be built. The FTA will also issue a Record of Decision, which will state FTA's decision on the project and list Sound Transit's mitigation commitments to reduce or avoid impacts.

The Draft EIS includes appendices and technical reports on the enclosed CD. Please see the Fact Sheet of this Draft EIS regarding document availability and who to contact for further information about the Draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Steve Kennedy
Environmental Affairs and Sustainability

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**LYNNWOOD LINK EXTENSION
KING AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES, WASHINGTON
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Submitted pursuant to
the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4322(2)(c))
and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Ch. 43.21C RCW)

by the

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION**

and

CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY
(Sound Transit)

In cooperation with

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CITY OF EDMONDS
CITY OF LYNNWOOD
CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE
CITY OF SEATTLE
CITY OF SHORELINE
KING COUNTY
SNOHOMISH COUNTY

7/2/13

Date of Approval



Regional Administrator

For Federal Transit Administration, Region 10

7/2/13

Date of Approval



SEPA Responsible Official

For Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority

Fact Sheet

Proposed Action

The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) is proposing to expand the regional light rail system north from Seattle to Lynnwood, Washington. The proposed light rail extension, called the Lynnwood Link Extension (formerly known as the North Corridor Transit Project), would be within the cities of Seattle and Shoreline in King County and in Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood in Snohomish County. The proposed project was approved by voters as part of the Sound Transit 2 (ST2) Plan in 2008 (Sound Transit, July 2008).

The proposed project, which is part of a larger regional network of light rail proposed under the ST2 program, would begin at Northgate in north Seattle and end at the Lynnwood Transit Center. The 8.5-mile-long project corridor generally follows Interstate 5 (I-5), which is the major north-south route through the state and serves a large commuter market traveling between Snohomish and King counties. The transportation corridor I-5 serves is bounded by Puget Sound to the west and Lake Washington to the east.

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates a No Build Alternative and several build (light rail) alternatives. The light rail alternatives include both at-grade and elevated light rail alignments with different station configurations. The alternatives are arranged in three geographic segments: Segment A—Seattle to Shoreline, Segment B—Shoreline to Mountlake Terrace, and Segment C—Mountlake Terrace to Lynnwood. Six alternatives are evaluated in Segment A; four alternatives are evaluated in Segment B; and three alternatives are evaluated in Segment C.

Project Proponent

Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit)
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104-2826
www.soundtransit.org

Dates of Construction and Opening

Sound Transit plans to begin construction of the Lynnwood Link Extension by 2018, and the light rail line is expected to open in 2023.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency

Federal Transit Administration
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
www.fta.dot.gov/about/region10

Responsible NEPA Official

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Federal Transit Administration
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Seattle, Washington 98174-1002

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Lead Agency

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Responsible SEPA Official

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Contacts for Additional Information

Sound Transit

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Seattle, Washington 98104-2826

Federal Transit Administration

Dan Drais, Environmental Protection Specialist
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
(206) 220-4465

Anticipated Permits and Approvals

Federal Agency

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Air Space Leases
	Interchange Justification Report
	Interstate Design Deviation
	Interstate Transportation System Interchange Access Modification Request
	Limited Access Break
	Monitoring Well Agreements
	Operations and Maintenance Agreement
	Record of Decision or other National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental determination
Federal Transit Administration	NEPA Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision
	Section 106 Review; Section 4(f) Review
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act, Section 404 Wetlands Approval
U.S. Department of the Interior	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 and U.S. Department of Transportation Section 4(f) (Parks, Recreation Areas and Wildlife/Waterfowl Refuges and Historical Sites)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service	Federal Endangered Species Act Review

State, County, and Regional Agency

Sound Transit	State Environmental Policy Act Final Environmental Impact Statement and Project Approval
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hydraulic Project Approval
Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Review
Washington State Department of Ecology	Coastal Zone Management Consistency Certification National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Discharge Permit, Clean Water Act Section 402 Underground Storage Tank (UST) 30-Day Notice Wastewater Discharge Permit Water Quality Certification: Clean Water Act Section 401
Washington State Department of Ecology and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	Notice of Construction (Air Quality)
Washington State Department of Transportation	Air Space Lease: State Transportation Routes Construction Oversight Agreement Design Documentation Package General Permits Interchange Justification Report Interstate Design Deviation (with FHWA) Interstate Transportation System Interchange Access Modification Request (with FHWA) Limited Access Break (with FHWA) Monitoring Well Agreements (with FHWA) Operations and Maintenance Agreement (with FHWA) Survey Permits

Cities	
Cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, and Lynnwood	Administrative Conditional Use and/or Design Review Approvals Binding Lot Adjustments and Site Plan Approvals Building Permits: Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Signs, Fences, and Awnings Comprehensive Plan or Development Code Amendments, Special Use Permits, and/or Zoning Revision Applications Construction Permits: Clearing and Grading, Demolition, Drainage, Driveways, Haul Routes, Landscape and Irrigation, Parking, Sanitary Sewers, Side Sewers, Street Use, Tree Protection, Use of City Right-of-Way, and Walls Conveyance (Elevators and/or Escalators) Environmental Critical Areas/Sensitive Areas Review including Wetlands, Streams, Rivers, Lakes, Steep Slopes, Flood Zones, Critical Habitat, and Buffers Fire Protection and Hydrant Use Permits Inspection Record Approval and Occupancy Permits Noise Variances Reviews and Approvals: Planning, Design, and Arts Commissions; Right-of-Way Permit or Franchise (Utilities) Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (if required) Street and Alley Vacations Permanent, Interim, or Temporary Street Use Permits Access or Use Easements for City-owned Properties Removal/Abandonment of Residential USTs or Underground Heating Oil Tanks Traffic, Transportation, and Parking Approvals Use of City Right-of-Way (for construction) Water Meter and Water Main Permits and Approvals
City of Lynnwood	Floodplain Development License
City of Seattle	Greenfactor and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculations Master Use Permit Seattle Landmark Preservation Board; Landmark Eligibility Review
City of Shoreline	Master Development Plan Approval
Other	
Utility Providers	Pipeline and Utility Crossing: Permits Utility Approvals: Easements and Use Agreements

Principal Contributors

See Appendix E, List of Preparers. North Corridor Transit Partners was the lead consultant in preparing this Draft EIS.

Date of Issue of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

July 26, 2013

Commenting on the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS will be available for an extended comment period of 60 days (45 days are required). The comment period will begin on July 26, 2013. Comments on the Draft EIS can be made in writing, by e-mail, or at the public hearings. All comments are due by close of business on September 23, 2013.

Send written comments to the following address:

Attention: Lauren Swift, Lynnwood Link Extension DEIS
Sound Transit
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

E-mail comments should be sent to LynnwoodLinkDEIS@soundtransit.org.
Written or e-mail comments should include an addressee and return address. You may also offer comments at a public hearing/open house:

August 14, 2013 – Mountlake Terrace

Nile Shrine Golf Center, Ballroom
6601 244th Street SW, Mountlake Terrace

August 20, 2013 – Seattle

Northgate Community Center, Gymnasium
10510 5th Avenue NE, Seattle

August 21, 2013 – Lynnwood

Embassy Suites, Rainier and Baker rooms
20610 44th Avenue W, Lynnwood

August 22, 2013 – Shoreline

Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline Room
18560 1st Avenue NE, Shoreline

All meeting times are 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Next Actions

Following publication of this Draft EIS and the close of the public comment period, the Sound Transit Board of Directors is expected to consider the comments received and identify a Preferred Alternative for evaluation in the Final EIS. The Final EIS will analyze the Preferred Alternative along with the other proposed light rail alternatives and the No Build Alternative. The Final EIS will also respond to the public and agency comments on the Draft EIS. Following issuance of the Final EIS, the Sound Transit Board of Directors will then make a final decision on the route and station locations to be built for the project.

The Federal Transit Administration is directed to issue a combined Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) document pursuant to Public Law 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, Section 1319(b) unless it determines, for statutory criteria or practicability reasons, that separate documents are appropriate. The Lynnwood Link Extension EIS is a joint NEPA and SEPA document consistent with 40 CFR 1506.2(c) and supports decision-making by Sound Transit, Federal Transit Administration, and other agencies. Sound Transit is not identifying a Preferred Alternative in the Draft EIS, which is one of the statutory criteria that would allow separate Final EIS and

ROD documents. In addition, SEPA requires that the Sound Transit Board of Directors' final decision on the project to be built be informed by the Final EIS; therefore, a final decision cannot be made until the Final EIS has been issued. The ROD is required to describe the final project decisions and therefore must be issued after the Sound Transit Board of Directors' final decisions on the project. As a result of these regulatory requirements under SEPA and NEPA, it likely will not be practical to issue a combined Final EIS and ROD, and they likely will be issued as separate documents.

Related Documents

- North Corridor Transit Project Alternatives Analysis Report and SEPA Addendum (Sound Transit, September 2011)
- Final EIS, Transportation 2040: Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Puget Sound Region (Puget Sound Regional Council, March 2010)
- North Link SEPA Addendum to the Final Supplemental EIS (Sound Transit, March 2012)
- North Link Final Supplemental EIS (Sound Transit, April 2006)
- Sound Transit 2: A Mass Transit Guide, The Regional Transit System Plan for Central Puget Sound (Sound Transit, July 2008)
- Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Final Supplemental EIS (Sound Transit, July 2005)

All the above Sound Transit documents are available on the Sound Transit Web site. The Table of Contents provides a list of other relevant documents that are included with this Draft EIS.

Cost of Document and Availability for Review and/or Purchase

This Draft EIS is available for public review in a variety of formats and locations. It is available on the Sound Transit Web site (www.soundtransit.org/11e) and on compact disk (CD) at no cost. Paper copies are available for the cost listed below, which does not exceed the cost of reproduction:

- Summary – FREE
- Draft EIS – \$25.00
- Technical Reports – \$15.00 each

Paper copies of these documents are available for review or purchase at the offices of Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington 98104. To request any of the documents, please contact Lauren Swift at (206) 398-5301. To review them, please call the Sound Transit librarian at (206) 398-5344 weekdays from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm to arrange an appointment.

Paper and CD copies of the Draft EIS documents are also available for review at the following public places:

Seattle Public Library branches

- Central Library: 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle
- Northgate Branch: 10548 Fifth Avenue NE, Seattle

King County Library System

- Shoreline Library: 345 NE 175th Street, Shoreline

Sno-Isle Libraries

- Edmonds Library: 650 Main Street, Edmonds
- Mountlake Terrace Library: 23300 58th Avenue West, Mountlake Terrace
- Lynnwood Library: 19200 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood

University of Washington Libraries

Washington State Library: Point Plaza East, 6880 Capitol Boulevard SE, Tumwater

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- K. Supporting Documents*
 - Alternatives Analysis Report
 - Scoping Summary Report
 - 2012 Final Board Briefing Book
- L. Public Involvement and Agency Coordination*
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Technical Reports*

Cultural, Archaeological, and Historic Resources

Ecosystem Resources

Noise and Vibration

Transportation

* Provided on CD with the Draft EIS and available on the project website at www.soundtransit.org/llc. Printed versions are available on request for the cost of reproduction.