



## Reader's Guide to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

### Understanding the project area

The Lynnwood Link Extension is part of the voter-approved Sound Transit 2 (ST2) Plan to extend mass transit throughout the region. Upon the scheduled 2023 completion, the Lynnwood Station will be the most northern point of a light rail system with more than 50 miles of service to the north, south and east of Seattle. The proposed system expansion would add 8.5 miles of light rail to provide an alternative to congested roadways and Interstate 5 in one of the most densely developed urban areas in the Pacific Northwest with stations in Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood.

Since 2011 Sound Transit has been gathering input from the public, local community groups, stakeholders and jurisdictions including the cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds and Lynnwood as well as King and Snohomish counties.

On Friday, July 26, 2013, Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released the Lynnwood Link Extension Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that studies route and station alternatives for the proposed project along the Interstate 5 corridor. In compliance with federal and state regulations, the Draft EIS presents a detailed analysis of project impacts for each alternative and identifies potential mitigation measures for adverse effects.

Si usted desea hablar con Sound Transit en el idioma español acerca del tren de riel ligero entre Northgate y Lynnwood llame al 1-800-823-9230.

如果您想用粵語向 Sound Transit 查詢或反映有關 Northgate 和 Lynnwood 之間輕鐵列車的情況，請致電

Nếu quý vị muốn nói chuyện với Sound Transit bằng tiếng Việt về hệ thống hỏa xa nhẹ từ Northgate đến Lynnwood, xin gọi số 1-800-823-9230.

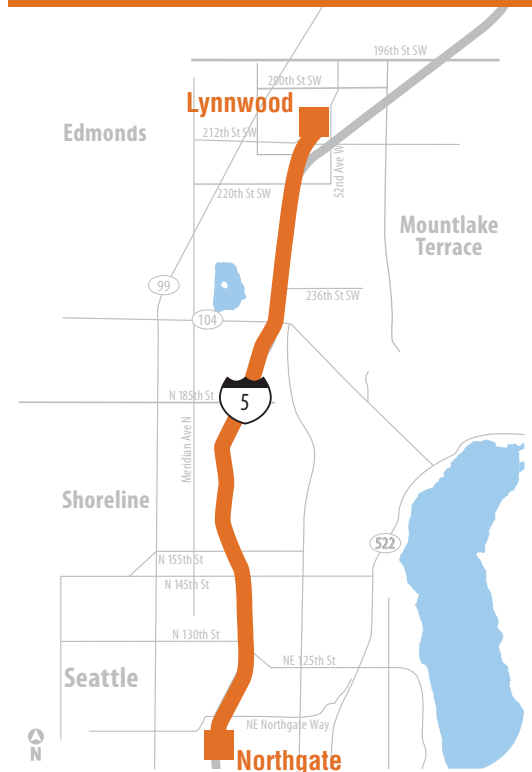
Kung nais niyong makipag-usap sa Sound Transit sa Tagalog na wika ukol sa tren na light rail na nasa pagitan ng Northgate at Lynnwood tawagan ang 1-800-823-9230.

Northgate와Lynnwood간 라이트 레일 기차에 관하여 한국어로Sound Transit에 문의하시려면 1-800-823-9230 문의하시려면 1-800-823-9230으로 전화하시면 됩니다.

በ Northgate እና በ Lynnwood መካከል ስለሚዘረጋው የቀላል ባቡር ሐዲያ (ላይትሬይል) በአማርኛ ቋንቋ ከ Sound Transit ጋር ለመነጋገር ከፈለጉ፣ 1-800-823-9230 ይደውሉ።

### What's inside?

- Information about what is in the Draft EIS
- Opportunities to learn more from project staff
- How to submit a comment





## What is an EIS?

An EIS:

- Identifies and describes potential environmental impacts and benefits of the project and alternatives under consideration.
- Proposes actions that will help mitigate unavoidable impacts.
- Enables decision-makers to identify the solution that best meets the project purpose.
- Provides the public and other agencies an opportunity to review and comment on project impacts and proposed alternatives.

The EIS is first issued as a Draft EIS to allow for review and comment on the content and thoroughness of the environmental analysis.

### Draft EIS quick-reference bookmarks

Topic	Chapter-Page
Where can I find an overview of the document?	S-1 to S-33
What is the project need and purpose?	1-4
How is the project related to other projects in the area?	2-37 to 2-39
What are the alternatives under consideration?	2-7 to 2-26
What happens if this project is not built?	S-22, 5-1
How is Sound Transit working with property owners?	4-11 to 4-12
What does the project cost?	5-11 to 5-13
What are the physical components of light rail?	2-4 to 2-7
How many people would board the train daily in each station alternative?	3-22
What are the differences in impacts between the alternatives?	S-18 to S-31 and Ch. 5
What construction impacts will there be?	S-18 and Ch. 4
Where is information about transit travel times?	S-17 and 3-23

Where can I find information on ...	Chapter-Page
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	4-94
Cultural, Archaeological and Historic Resources	4-197
Economics	4-34
Ecosystem Resources	4-128
Energy Impacts	4-160
Noise and Vibration	4-104
Parks and Recreational Resources	4-208
Property Acquisitions, Displacements and Relocations	4-1
Public Services, Safety and Security	4-184
Social Impacts, Community Facilities and Neighborhoods	4-48
Transportation Impacts	3
Visual and Aesthetics Resources	4-65

## Project Milestones



# Draft EIS contents

The Draft EIS documents the results of the environmental analysis conducted from 2011 through 2013. It contains six chapters that include the topics shown below.

## Summary

Briefly presents the findings of the full Draft EIS and identifies the project alternatives, environmental impacts and other environmental considerations. Describes the project area, transportation effects, potential mitigation measures and estimated project schedule.

## Chapter 1: Purpose and Need

Presents an overview of contextual regional and local transportation systems, including regional highways and transit, and how the proposed project addresses the corridor's growing mobility, access and capacity needs.

## Chapter 2: Alternatives Considered

Explains the breakdown of the project area into three segments: Segments A, B and C. Presents route and station options in each segment; each configuration considered is called an alternative.

## Chapter 3: Transportation Impacts and Mitigation

Presents analysis of existing transportation systems and regional traffic elements, including regional context and traffic patterns, transit service and operations, freeway operations, arterial and local street operations, nonmotorized facilities, freight mobility and access, parking and safety. Discusses potential service impacts for each alternative, such as regional transit ridership, travel times and freight mobility and access.



## Chapter 4: Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Per the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act regulations, which require that an EIS disclose direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of a proposed action on the environment, the Draft EIS discusses impacts to project area resources by topic:

- Acquisitions, Displacements and Relocations
- Land Use
- Economics
- Social Impacts, Community Facilities and Neighborhoods
- Visual and Aesthetic Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Noise and Vibration
- Ecosystem Resources
- Water Resources
- Energy Impacts
- Geology and Soils
- Hazardous Materials
- Electromagnetic Fields
- Public Services, Safety and Security
- Utilities
- Cultural, Archaeological and Historic Resources
- Parks and Recreational Resources
- Section 4(f) and Section 6(f) Evaluation

## Chapter 5: Evaluation of Alternatives

This chapter begins by evaluating how well the Lynnwood Link Extension alternatives meet the project's Purpose and Need Statement. It then compares the environmental and transportation performance of the project alternatives, discusses their costs and reviews other implementation issues.

## Chapter 6: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

The proposed project incorporates public involvement and agency coordination in accordance with federal and state environmental processes. Chapter 6 describes the public involvement and agency coordination that has occurred, as well as the plan for future efforts related to the EIS process.

LATE 2014

EARLY 2015

2015-2018

2018-2023

LATE 2023\*

BOARD  
SELECTS  
PROJECT TO  
BE BUILT

RECORD OF  
DECISION  
Issued by FTA

FINAL  
DESIGN &  
PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION

OPEN FOR  
SERVICE

\*Schedule subject to change

### Review the Draft EIS

There are several ways to access the Draft EIS.

**On website:** [www.soundtransit.org/LLE](http://www.soundtransit.org/LLE)

**In print by mail:** Request a printed Summary or CD copy free of charge or purchase a copy of the Draft EIS by calling Lauren Swift at 206-398-5301 or email [Lauren.Swift@soundtransit.org](mailto:Lauren.Swift@soundtransit.org).

**At a Sound Transit office:** By appointment, call 206-398-5344

**At a public reading room location:**

**Central Seattle Library** 1000 4th Ave., Seattle

**Northgate Library** 10548 5th Ave. N.E., Seattle

**Shoreline Library** 345 N.E. 175th St., Shoreline

**Mountlake Terrace Library** 23300 58th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace

**Lynnwood Library** 19200 44th Ave. W., Lynnwood

**Edmonds Library** 650 Main St., Edmonds

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### Attend a public open house

Community members are encouraged to attend to learn about the environmental analysis, ask questions directly to Sound Transit staff and provide comment on the environmental analysis. Stop by anytime to talk with the project team and submit your comments or provide verbal comment to a court reporter.

**All open houses are from 5:30 – 8 p.m.**

<b>Mountlake Terrace</b> Wed., Aug. 14, 2013	Nile Shrine Golf Center 6601 244th St. S.W., Mountlake Terrace
<b>Seattle</b> Tue., Aug. 20, 2013	Northgate Community Center 10510 5th Ave. N.E., Seattle
<b>Lynnwood</b> Wed., Aug. 21, 2013	Embassy Suites 20610 44th Ave. W., Lynnwood
<b>Shoreline</b> Thur., Aug. 22, 2013	Shoreline Conference Center 18560 1st Ave. N.E., Shoreline

**Can't make it to an open house?**

Join us online during your lunch hour on Sept. 13, 2013, for a "Tech Talk" panel discussion. Visit the project website for more details: [www.soundtransit.org/LLE](http://www.soundtransit.org/LLE).

### Get Involved

- Review the Draft EIS
- Attend a public open house
- Submit comments

### Submit your comments by September 23, 2013

Your comments on the Draft EIS will help the Sound Transit Board identify a preferred alternative this fall and will be responded to in the Final EIS (expected in 2014).

Any and all input is welcome! We just need you to write it down, send it in an email or say it directly to a court reporter at a public open house. Comments can be about anything related to the project, ranging from giving an opinion or observation to discussing technical aspects of the environmental analysis.

**In person:** Complete a comment form or provide verbal comment to a court reporter at a public open house

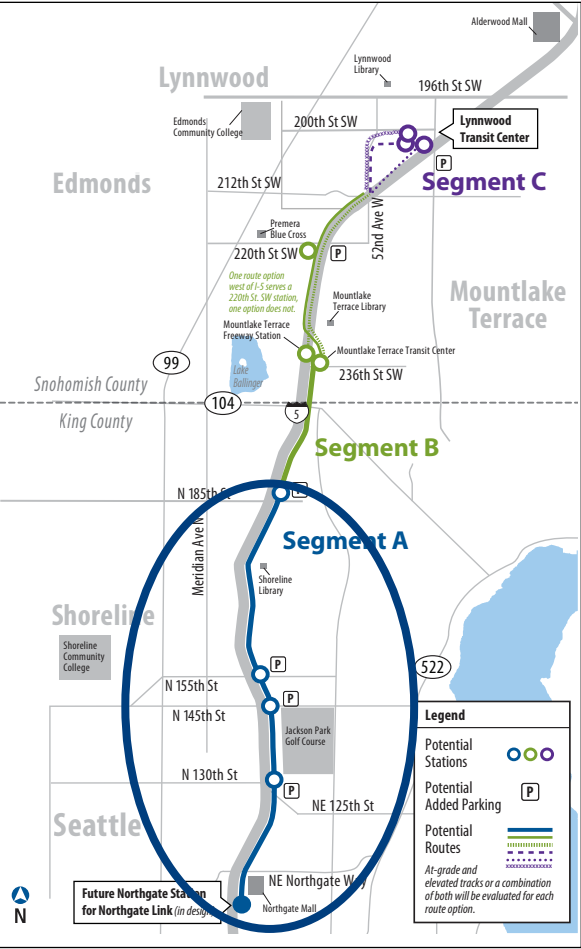
**By email:**  
[LynnwoodLinkDEIS@soundtransit.org](mailto:LynnwoodLinkDEIS@soundtransit.org)

**By mail:**  
Sound Transit  
Draft EIS Comments c/o Lauren Swift  
401 S. Jackson St.,  
Seattle, WA 98104



### Segment A alternatives

#### Project area

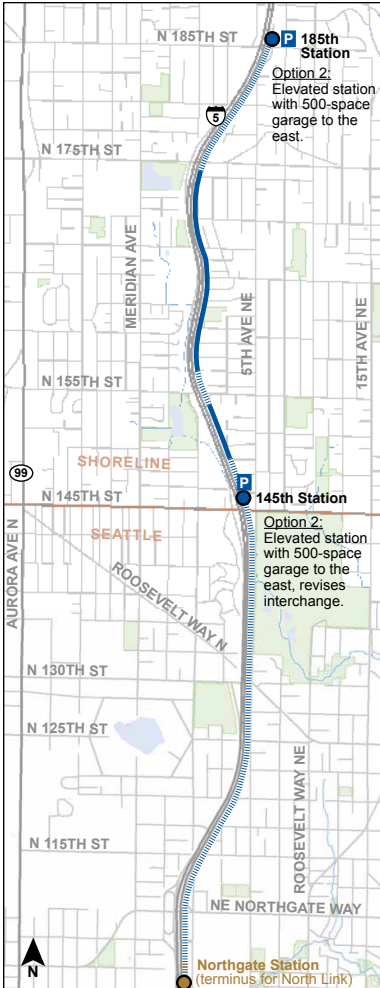


- Legend**
- ||||| Elevated
  - At Grade
  - Station
  - City Boundary
  - P Parking Structure

A1



A3



A5



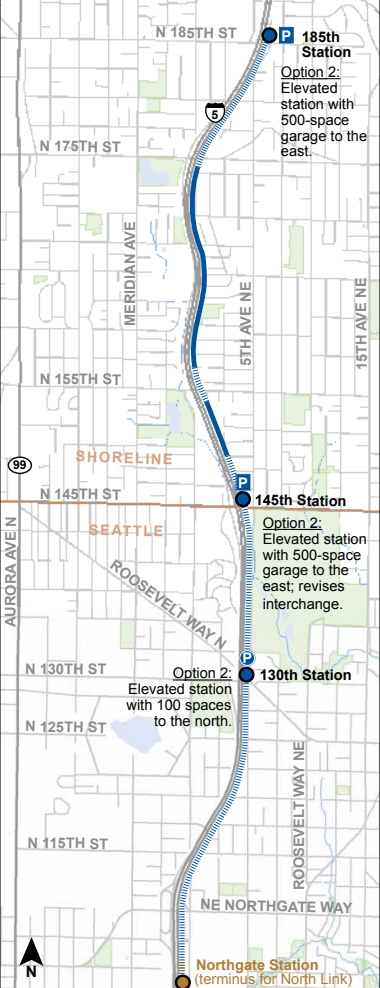
A7



A10



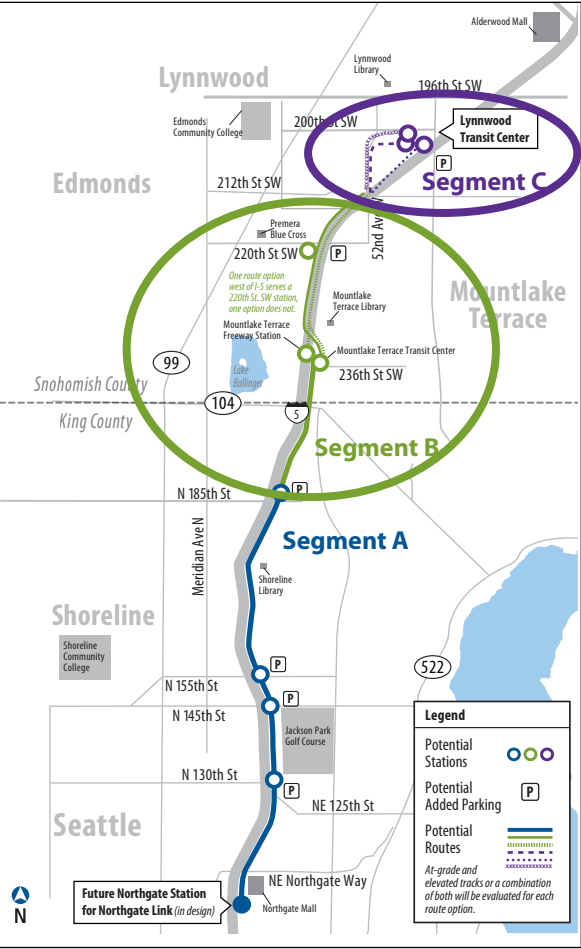
A11



**No Build Alternative:** The No Build Alternative represents the existing transportation system without the Lynnwood Link Extension. Under the No Build Alternative, Sound Transit would still build and operate the Northgate Link, East Link and South Link Light Rail extensions as part of the ST2 program. It also assumes growth in regional population and employment through 2035.



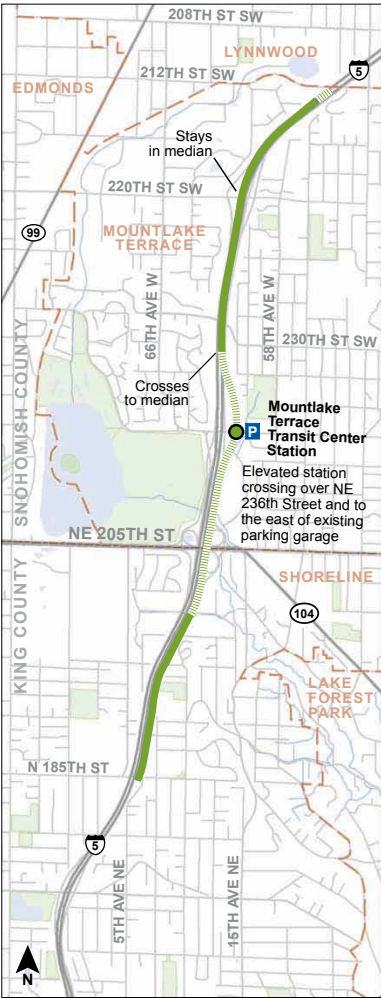
Project area



- Legend**
- Elevated
  - At Grade
  - Station
  - City Boundary
  - Parking Structure

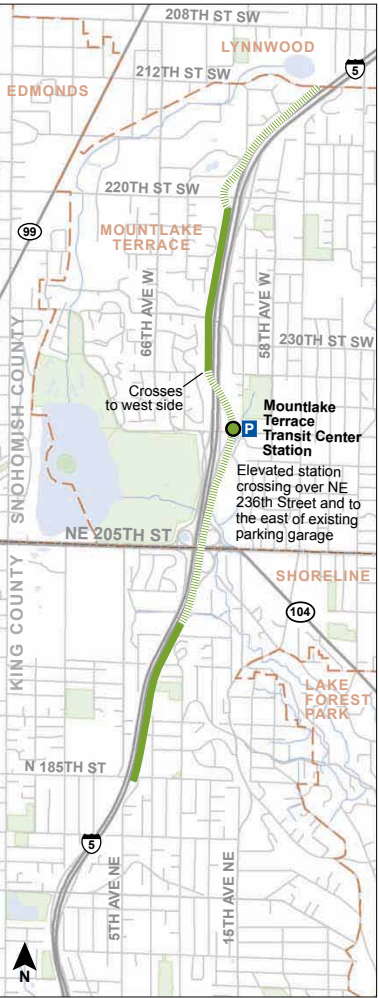
Segment B alternatives

B1



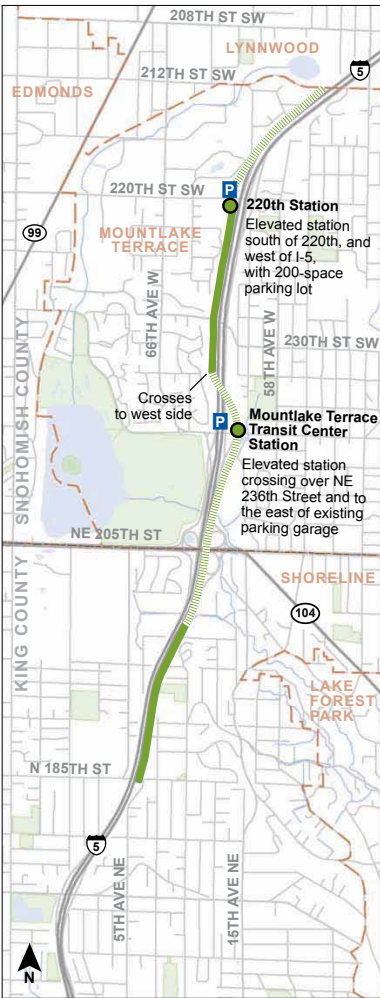
EAST SIDE TO MOUNTLAKE  
TERRACE TRANSIT CENTER TO  
MEDIAN

B2



EAST SIDE TO MOUNTLAKE TERRACE  
TRANSIT CENTER TO WEST SIDE

B2A



EAST SIDE TO MOUNTLAKE TERRACE  
TRANSIT CENTER TO WEST SIDE  
WITH 220TH ST SW STATION

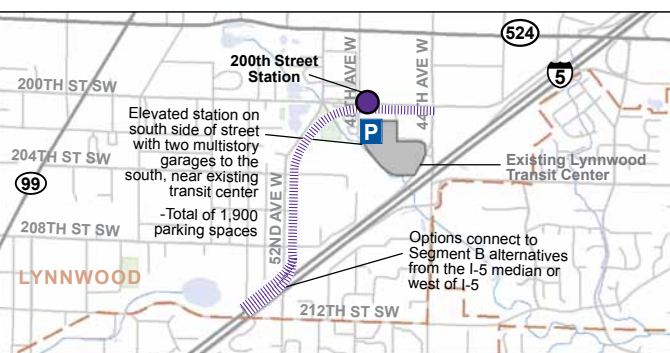
B4



EAST SIDE TO MOUNTLAKE TERRACE  
FWY STATION TO MEDIAN

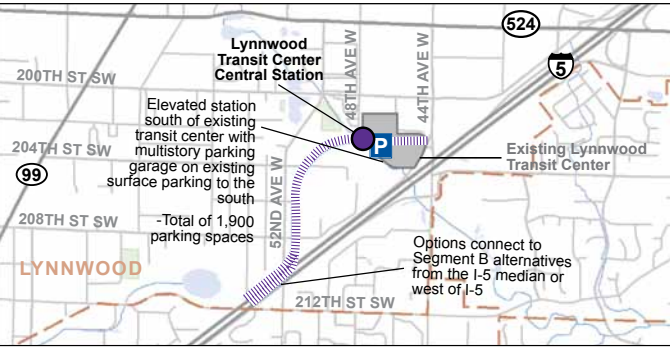
Segment C alternatives

C1



52ND AVE W TO 200TH ST STATION

C2



52ND AVE TO LYNNWOOD TRANSIT CENTER STATION

C3



ALONG I-5 TO LYNNWOOD PARK-AND-RIDE STATION

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