



Expanding your transit choices



2020 Progress Report

Eastside



SOUNDTRANSIT  **Powering progress**

Doubling your destinations within the next 5 years

Eastside residents:

During the next five years, Sound Transit is dramatically changing how we all get around the region.

From 2021 to 2024, we'll more than double your Link light rail destinations, opening new service to Northgate, Bellevue, Lynnwood, Federal Way, Redmond and the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma. Also by 2024, we'll launch new Stride bus rapid transit on I-405, SR 518, SR 522 and NE 145th, and open new parking and access improvements at Sounder stations.

At the same time, we're advancing other Link and Sounder projects described in this report, making it easier for you to get to work and home and to Seahawks games, college classes and Tacoma Dome concerts.

This progress report is just one way for us to stay in touch. For more information, check out our website, subscribe to updates and get involved with the projects that interest you most.



Peter Rogoff, Sound Transit CEO

 **soundtransit.org/2020report**

More inside:

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At Sound Transit we are connecting more people to more places to make life better and create equitable opportunities for all.

More transit coming to the Eastside





East Link service on schedule to open in 2023



Downtown Bellevue to a Huskies game in 31 minutes // Opens 2023

East Link Extension

- 10 new stations including Mercer Island, South Bellevue, Downtown Bellevue, the Spring District and Redmond's Overlake neighborhood.
- 1,400 additional parking spaces, local transit routes as well as bike and pedestrian paths to connect riders to stations.



2019 progress

- Completed I-405 and I-90 overpasses.
- Finishing work on downtown Bellevue tunnel.
- Laying track on I-90 floating bridge.
- Restoring wetlands near Mercer Slough, Kelsey Creek and other construction sites.



2020 look-ahead

Complete construction of Mercer Island, Overlake Village and Redmond Technology stations.

Subscribe for the latest news and project updates:



soundtransit.org/subscribe

Downtown Bellevue to Marymoor Park in 15 minutes // Opens 2024

Downtown Redmond Link Extension

- 2 new stations: SE Redmond near Marymoor Village and Downtown Redmond.
- 1,400-stall parking garage at SE Redmond, local bus routes and easy pedestrian and bike access from nearby trails.



2019 progress

- Selected contractor to finalize design and build the project.
- Celebrated project groundbreaking.



2020 look-ahead

Early construction activity.

South Kirkland to Issaquah in about 25 minutes // Opens 2041

South Kirkland – Issaquah Link

- New light rail line serving seven stations.
- Planning starts in 2027.



East Link tracks on I-90 Bridge.

See how we're solving the challenge of building light rail on a floating bridge.



soundtransit.org/eastside



- 1 Open the Camera app on your phone.
- 2 Hover over QR code for 2-3 seconds.
- 3 Click notification to play video.



Connect/2020

In January 2020, we began connecting our new Eastside light rail line to the existing line in downtown Seattle. Work will continue into March. In 2023, fast Link service extends to Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond. Learn about service changes during this time at soundtransit.org/connect2020.

Light rail spurs business development and affordable housing

The arrival of light rail has encouraged many large employers to expand to the Eastside, citing easy access to transit for their workers. The Spring District is an emerging master-planned development anchored by a light rail station. It's home to REI headquarters, Facebook offices, hundreds of apartments, and the Global Innovation Exchange, an educational partnership between the University of Washington, Tsinghua University and Microsoft.



The Spring District is growing.

Across the street from the Spring District, Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Facility East is in the final stages of construction. When East Link service starts in 2023, light rail trains delivering riders from Redmond to Northgate will come to the OMFE each night to be cleaned, serviced and stored before taking to the rails again by 5 a.m.

But this project is about more than taking care of trains. Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue have partnered to connect the OMFE with the Spring District. When land is no longer needed for OMFE construction, it will be transformed into a range of transit oriented development, from affordable housing to retail, office and public space.

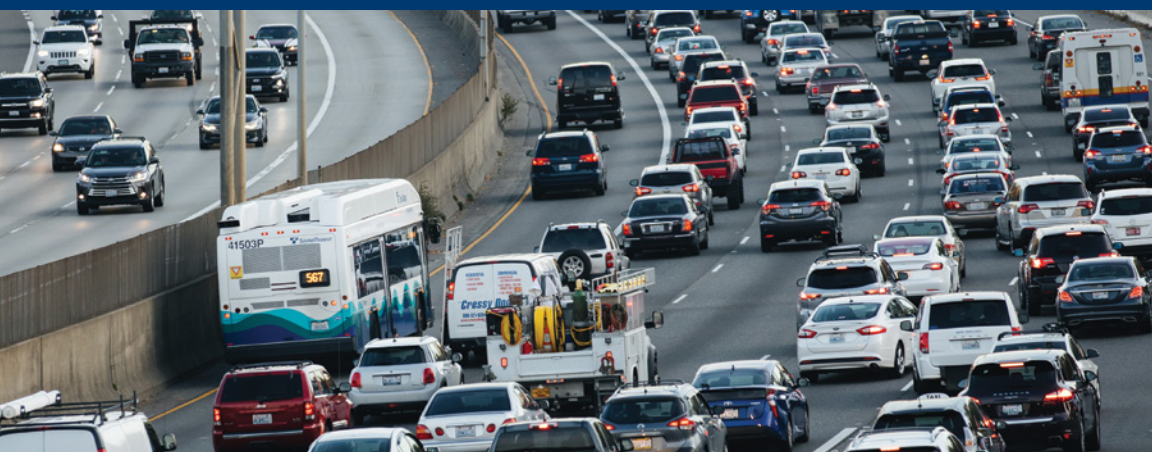
All will be easy to reach when the Spring District/120th Station opens across the street, while the new adjacent Eastrail will provide a convenient connection for those walking or biking to the station.

Helping you make your connection

In 2019 Sound Transit announced recipients of the first round of System Access Fund grants for projects that make it easier and more convenient to get to transit. With funding totaling more than \$40 million in this initial round of grants, we are partnering with local cities and counties to help pay for pedestrian and bike safety improvements in Kenmore and many other projects.



Building faster bus connections



Lynnwood to Bellevue in 33 minutes

// Starts 2024

Stride bus rapid transit on I-405, SR 518, SR 522 and NE 145th

- Stride, a new BRT service, will offer fast, frequent and reliable bus travel to destinations on highways and arterials north, east and south of Lake Washington.
- Buses run as often as every 10 minutes. Stations will be designed for fast arrivals and departures.
- Park-and-ride facilities at new NE 44th and South Renton stations.
- Connects to Link light rail at Shoreline, Lynnwood, Bellevue and Tukwila.



2019 progress

- Refined project to take advantage of new Express Toll Lanes, cutting Lynnwood to Bellevue travel time by 40%.
- Conducted outreach to inform and gather comments from communities along the route.
- Performed fieldwork, technical analysis and environmental study.



2020 look-ahead

WSDOT starts construction of I-405 Renton-to-Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes project, which includes the new NE 44th Stride station in Renton.

North Sammamish park-and-ride // Opens 2024

- Up to 200 spaces with local transit connections.



2019 progress

Potential sites identified and studied.



2020 look-ahead

Determine preferred location in partnership with City of Sammamish and King County Metro.

Getting around is getting easier

2021

Link to Northgate
A 7-minute ride takes you from Husky Stadium to the new NHL practice facility at Northgate.

2022

Tacoma Link to Hilltop
Grab lunch in the Stadium District between classes at UW Tacoma.

More parking
New garages at Puyallup (opens 2022) and Sumner (opens 2023) make it easier to leave the car behind and relax your way to work on Sounder.

2023

East Link to Redmond Technology
Ride from Northgate to the Microsoft campus, or hop on at Bellevue's new Spring District neighborhood or Mercer Island and cross Lake Washington to downtown Seattle or the U District.

2024

Extending Link north, south, east
Ungrip the steering wheel and fly by traffic on your way north to Lynnwood, south to Federal Way and east to Downtown Redmond.

Stride on up to new bus rapid transit
No schedule needed to get you to destinations on I-405, SR 518, SR 522 or NE 145th St. Step off a Stride bus and onto Link light rail at Shoreline, Lynnwood, Bellevue or Tukwila.

More parking
Lots more parking plus new bike and pedestrian paths give you more connections to transit at North Sammamish as well as Kent, Auburn, Edmonds and Mukilteo Sounder stations.





Transit gives you choices

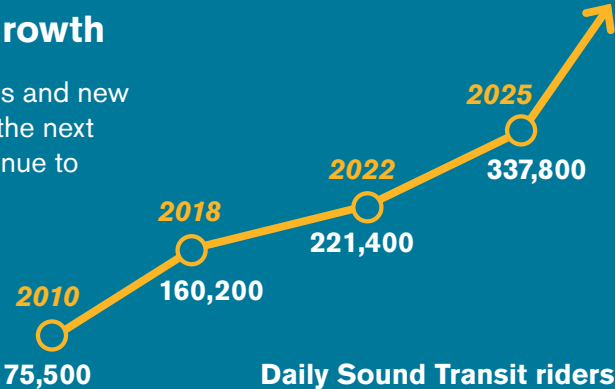
Link light rail, Sounder and bus rapid transit (BRT) provide fast, reliable and traffic-free transportation choices. More people each year are letting go of the steering wheel and instead choosing to:



- ✓ Read the sports section
- ✓ Binge watch that new series
- ✓ Save money for vacation
- ✓ Breathe deeply and enjoy the view
- ✓ Leave the air cleaner

Our region leads the nation in transit ridership growth

With 28 new light rail stations and new BRT service opening in just the next five years, ridership will continue to grow dramatically.





Transit benefits everyone

Whether you use Sound Transit services or not, the growing network of light rail, Sounder trains, ST Express buses and BRT lines coordinating with local bus service improves your daily travel. Given a reliable, comfortable alternative to driving, hundreds of thousands of people choose transit every day, helping make travel easier for those who need to drive.

Trains can move more people in less space

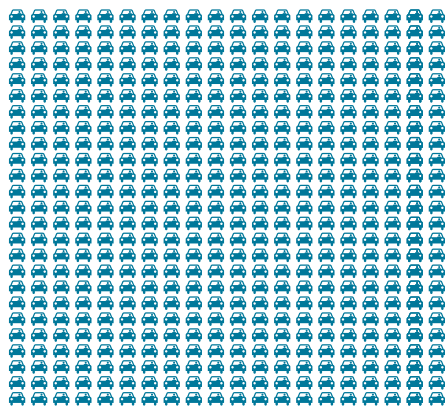
Link trains arrive every 4–6 minutes during peak hours.



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1 light rail train
of 4 cars
(200 people
per car)

10 buses
(80 people
per bus)

500 cars
(average 1.6 passengers per car)

How to ride

 soundtransit.org/how-to-ride

Plan

Use our mobile-friendly Trip Planner to see where to catch your ride and find schedules for your trip.

Pay & Ride

To ride **Link** or **Sounder**, use the ticket machines at the station to buy:



ORCA card

It's the easy way to pay for multiple rides on Sound Transit and other local transit services.

Buy a pass for unlimited rides or load cash value to pay as you go and save on transfers.



Single ticket

Pay with cash or card to purchase a single ticket.

To ride an **ST Express bus**



ORCA card

Tap your ORCA card when boarding.



Exact change

Pay with exact change when boarding.

To ride **Link**, **Sounder** and **ST Express bus**



Transit GO Ticket app

Buy your single ticket anywhere with the Transit GO Ticket app.

Don't forget to activate your ticket before boarding and show your screen to the fare enforcement officer if asked.

Senior or disabled reduced fare

The Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) is available for those over the age of 65 and riders with disabilities. Apply for an RRFP card at an ORCA customer service office. The card is free.

ORCA LIFT for income-qualified riders

If you qualify, you can save up to 66% on Sound Transit and many other local transit services with an ORCA LIFT card registered to your name. It works just like a regular ORCA card. Go online to learn how to qualify. Apply for a card at an ORCA customer service office.



Ride tip

When riding Link or Sounder trains, tap your ORCA card on a yellow card reader at the start and end of your trip. ORCA calculates the cost of your trip and deducts that amount from your account.

On buses, tap the reader by the driver. No need to tap off a bus ride.

Connect to new light rail stations

Catch a bus to the train

Sound Transit is coordinating with King County Metro and Community Transit to get you to fast, reliable light rail and Stride BRT when those services open on the Eastside. Check the Trip Planner for your most direct route.

Find Eastside transit parking

Locations are listed on our website.

Safely walk, bike or get dropped off

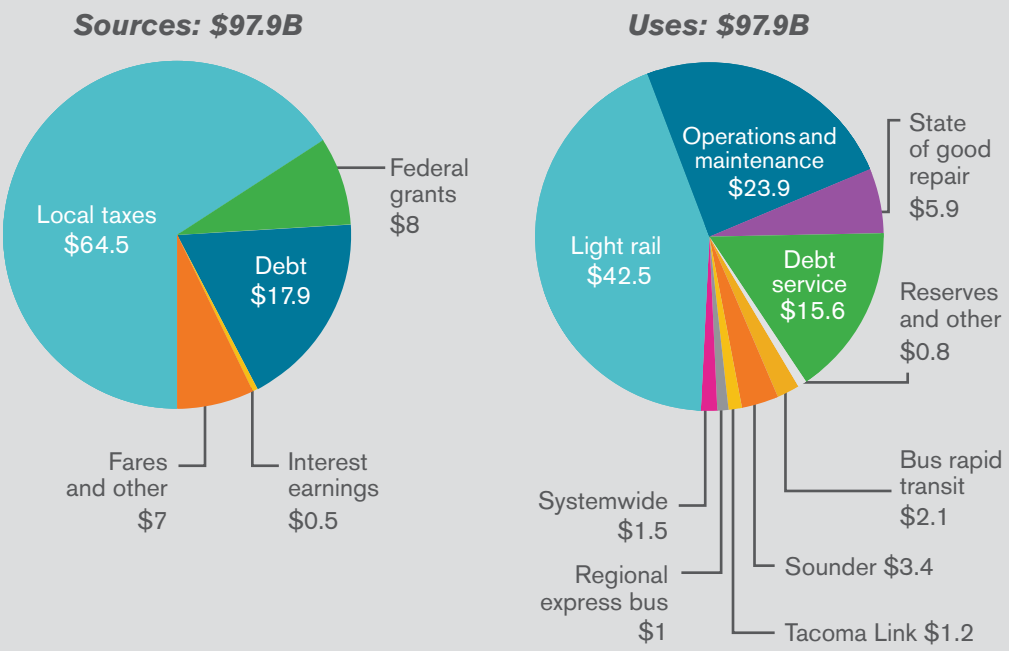
Bike and walking trails as well as pick-up and drop-off locations offer easy ways to access transit. Scope out your local station online.



Voter-approved transit funding

Paying for transit construction, operations and maintenance takes a combination of local taxes approved by voters, as well as grants, proceeds from debt, fares and other miscellaneous sources. Local tax sources include Sales and Use Tax, Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, Property Tax and Rental Car Tax.

Funding sources and uses: 2017–2041 (in billions)



2020 Sound Transit Board of Directors

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Paul Roberts, Vice Chair,
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Nicola Smith, Lynnwood Mayor

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King County Councilmember

Victoria Woodards, Tacoma Mayor

Pressures on project costs

The region's hot construction market is increasing costs of labor, land and materials. As a result, Sound Transit has updated its financial plan to assume higher rates of inflation. Despite recent cost increases, projects remain on timelines consistent with voter-approved plans.

Background on Motor Vehicle Excise Tax collections

Initiative 976, adopted last November, seeks to reduce certain state and local vehicle license taxes. The initiative allows, and state law requires, Sound Transit to continue collecting its current voter-approved Motor Vehicle Excise Tax and its Rental Car Tax until all bond and other debts secured by the taxes are repaid. The initiative seeks to have Sound Transit accelerate repayment of these bonds and other debts, at which point the Sound Transit MVET could be reduced or eliminated.

At the Sound Transit Board's direction, the agency will continue to monitor recent litigation initiated by other jurisdictions to determine whether I-976 is constitutional and enforceable, and will evaluate legal issues specific to Sound Transit.

To repay its bonds and debts early, Sound Transit would have to collect additional taxes and divert revenues from transit projects in order to pay the cost of bond defeasance, refinancing or retirement. In addition, early bond and debt repayment in order to eliminate a projected \$7.2 billion in MVET and Rental Car Tax revenue would require cutting or significantly delaying projects and services described in this report.

As of printing this report in mid-January, the agency is also defending against two other lawsuits that seek to reduce or eliminate Sound Transit's MVET. Updates on developments related to the MVET, including further information on implications if agency revenues were reduced, is available at soundtransit.org/MVET.

Benefit of sound financial management

Because of our history of strong financial management and clean audits, Sound Transit enjoys one of the highest bond ratings of any transit agency in the country, allowing us to obtain loans at lower interest rates, which saves taxpayer dollars.

Tax rollback

After the voter-approved capital projects in ST3, ST2 and Sound Move are completed and all debt is retired, Sound Transit will implement a tax rollback to a level necessary to pay for permanent operations, including system operations and maintenance, fare administration, capital replacement, and ongoing systemwide costs and reserves.



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해당 지역의 교통시스템 확장 내역을 확인하세요.

Узнайте как расширяется ваша транзитная система.

Alamin kung paano lumalawak ang inyong transit system sa mas maraming mga lugar.

Tìm hiểu về việc hệ thống giao thông công cộng của quý vị đang mở rộng tới nhiều địa điểm hơn như thế nào.

了解公共交通系統如何擴展至更多地方。



800-823-9230

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