



# *Expanding your transit choices*



**2020 Progress Report**

# *Pierce County*

# Doubling your destinations within the next 5 years

## Pierce County 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](https://soundtransit.org/2020report)

## More inside:

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- pg. 7** The system we're building, including timelines for new service.
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- pg. 12-13** How we finance construction and operation of the expanded system.

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

# More transit for Pierce County



Read on for progress updates



## More light rail to serve the South Sound



### Six new stations connecting downtown Tacoma to the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods // Open 2022

#### Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension



#### 2019 progress

- Partnering with City of Tacoma, relocated and upgraded utilities along the Link route. Began laying track and installing power.
- Loyal to the Local campaign launched to support businesses in the construction zone. Join in with your support.



#### 2020 look-ahead

Complete track and start building stations while continuing to manage construction cost risks.

### Tacoma Dome to Sea-Tac Airport in 35 minutes // Opens 2030

#### Tacoma Dome Link Extension

- Regional light rail comes to Pierce County, joining Sounder, Tacoma Link and ST Express services.
- 4 new stations: South Federal Way, Fife, Portland Avenue and Tacoma Dome.
- New parking at Fife and South Federal Way stations and short walk to catch Tacoma Link at Tacoma Dome. Local bus routes will connect to stations.



#### 2019 progress

- Developed alternative route and station locations with help from broad public input, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and local jurisdictions.
- The Sound Transit Board chose the preferred alternative and other alternatives to study in an Environmental Impact Statement.



#### 2020 look-ahead

Learn more about route options and station area refinements.

Subscribe for the latest news and project updates:



[soundtransit.org/subscribe](https://www.soundtransit.org/subscribe)

# Federal Way to Sea-Tac Airport in 15 minutes // Opens 2024

## Federal Way Link Extension

- Starting point for light rail extension to Pierce County.
- 3 new stations: Kent/Des Moines near Highline College, S 272nd and Federal Way Transit Center.
- 3,200 parking spaces and frequent bus connections from Pierce County to Federal Way Transit Center for light rail to Sea-Tac Airport and regional destinations.



### **2019 progress**

Advanced route and station designs and acquired property.



### **2020 look-ahead**

Groundbreaking and start of construction.

## Check out these businesses along the future Tacoma Link line to Hilltop.



[soundtransit.org/pierce](https://soundtransit.org/pierce)



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



## Critical milestone met thanks to your involvement

Early partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, local jurisdictions, and community organizations and broad public involvement helped meet a critical milestone for keeping the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project on schedule to open in 2030.

More than 4,000 community members participated during the scoping process in April and May, providing more than 500 comments. After reviewing these, the Sound Transit Board chose the preferred alternative and other alternatives to study in an Environmental Impact Statement. The Final EIS will guide the Board's decision in 2022 of light rail route and station locations.





## Making Sounder easy for more riders



Take Sounder to the Hawks! A third of local Seahawks fans are from Pierce County.  
Source: *Seattle Times*

### More parking at Puyallup and Sumner stations // Open 2022 and 2023

#### New Sounder garages with approximately 500 spaces each

- Puyallup garage and 165 surface parking spaces as well as bicycle and sidewalk improvements.
- Sumner garage and local sidewalk and lighting enhancements.
- New garages at Kent and Auburn stations open in 2024.



#### 2019 progress

- Sound Transit Board selected a contractor to design and build the Puyallup garage.
- City of Sumner began rebuilding the Traffic Avenue/410 interchange and improving sidewalks near the station with funding contributions from Sound Transit.



#### 2020 look-ahead

Finalize Pierce County garage designs and prepare to start construction.

## Expansion projects to serve more Sounder riders // all complete by 2036

→ Sounder South Capacity Expansion to serve more passengers could include additional service, expanding platforms to serve trains up to 10 cars long and other updates to Sumner, Puyallup, Tacoma Dome, South Tacoma, Lakewood and south King County stations.



### **2019 progress**

Launched planning with initial public involvement to determine best investments.



### **2020 look-ahead**

Identify and begin planning first round of projects.

## Two new Sounder stations south of Lakewood // Open 2036

→ 2 stations with parking at Tillicum and DuPont to serve Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

## Supporting Pierce Transit's bus rapid transit project from Spanaway to downtown Tacoma // Opens 2022

→ Connects riders from Spanaway/Parkland to Tacoma Dome transit hub and downtown Tacoma.

→ Sound Transit is contributing \$60 million to Pierce Transit, who will build and operate the service.

## 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 bike lanes in Sumner and many other projects.

## 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](https://www.soundtransit.org/connect2020).

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.

**Link light rail**

Future service:

- Everett–Seattle–West Seattle
- Redmond–Seattle–Mariner
- Ballard–Seattle–Tacoma
- Issaquah–Bellevue–South Kirkland
- Tacoma Dome–Tacoma Community College

In service:

- Univ. of Washington–Angle Lake
- Tacoma Dome–Theater District

**Sounder trains**

Future service:

- DuPont–Lakewood

In service:

- Sounder North (Everett–Seattle)
- Sounder South (Lakewood–Seattle)

**Bus**

Future service:

- Stride bus rapid transit (BRT)

In service:

- ST Express bus

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⊕ Added capacity  
 ⊕ Parking improvements  
 2024 Open/completion date





## ***Transit gives you choices***

Link light rail, Sounder, ST Express and bus rapid transit (BRT) provide fast, reliable 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.



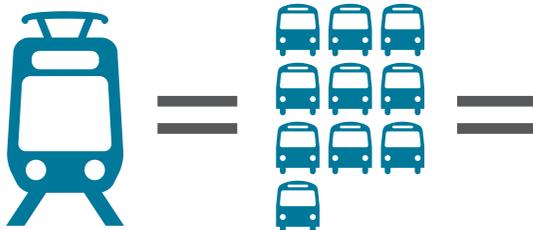


## Transit benefits everyone

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.

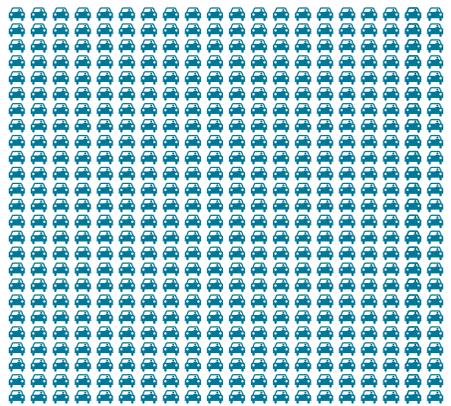
### Trains can move more people in less space

Link trains arrive every 6 minutes during peak hours.



**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](https://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 Link and Sounder stations**

### ***Catch a bus to the train***

Catch a Pierce Transit or Sound Transit bus to current and future Pierce County Sounder and Link stations. We're coordinating with local bus services to get you to fast, reliable trains when new stations open. Check the Trip Planner for your most direct route.

### ***Make parking reliable***

Organize a transit rider carpool and earn a free parking permit. Paid permits are available for solo drivers at many popular Link and Sounder stations. Go online to learn more.

### ***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.

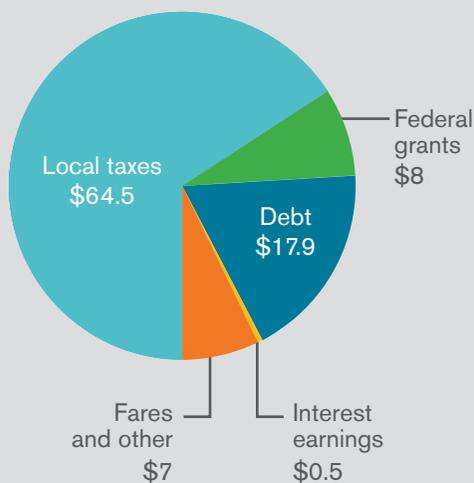


# Voter-approved transit funding

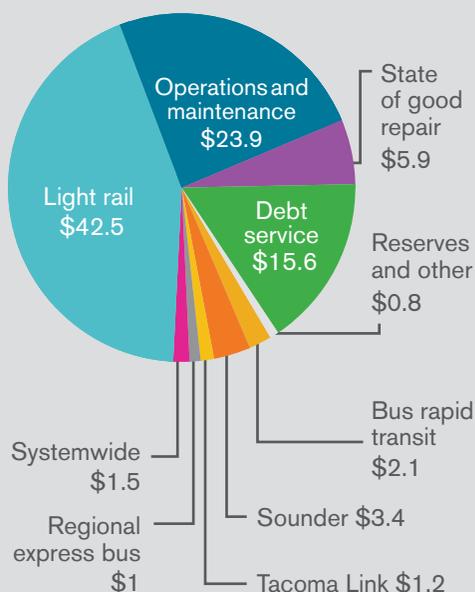
Paying for transit construction, operations and maintenance takes a combination of local taxes approved by voters, as well as grants, proceeds from debt, fares and other miscellaneous sources. Local tax sources include Sales and Use Tax, Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, Property Tax and Rental Car Tax.

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

Sources: \$97.9B



Uses: \$97.9B



## 2020 Sound Transit Board of Directors

★ Pierce County representatives

- ★ **Kent Keel**, Chair, University Place Councilmember
- Dow Constantine**, Vice Chair, King County Executive
- Paul Roberts**, Vice Chair, Everett Councilmember
- Nancy Backus**, Auburn Mayor
- David Baker**, Kenmore Mayor
- Claudia Balducci**, King County Council Chair
- ★ **Bruce Dammeier**, Pierce County Executive
- Jenny Durkan**, Seattle Mayor
- Debora Juarez**, Seattle Councilmember

- Joe McDermott**, King County Council Vice Chair
- Roger Millar**, Washington State Secretary of Transportation
- Ed Prince**, Renton Councilmember
- ★ **Kim Roscoe**, Fife Mayor
- Nicola Smith**, Lynnwood Mayor
- Dave Somers**, Snohomish County Executive
- Dave Uptegrove**, King County Councilmember
- Pete von Reichbauer**, 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](https://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.



Descubra de qué manera se está expandiendo su sistema de transporte público para llegar a más lugares.

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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