

Eastside

2019 Regional Report



Light rail is coming 



Ride with us page 14

Viaje con nosotros página 15

당사의 교통편을 이용하세요 15 페이지

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Sumakay sa amin pahina 15

Lái với chúng tôi trang 15

搭乘我們的車輛 第 15 頁



Committed to Delivery

The cranes we see dotting the landscape are signs of new jobs and people coming to the region. Along with new opportunities, this growth brings more cars and more traffic to our already crowded roads.

To keep our region moving in the face of this growth, voters have approved the most ambitious transit expansion in the country. Sound Transit is committed to delivering this expanded system as efficiently as possible.

This Eastside edition of the 2019 Regional Report provides an update on the status of your tax investments. It tells you the progress Sound Transit is making to bring the expanded system into operation, the possible challenges we see on the horizon and how you can help shape decisions ahead.

This report is just one way you can stay informed. We hope you will also visit our website for more details and subscribe to updates about the projects that interest you the most.



Get involved and get onboard

soundtransit.org/2019report

Transit helps keep the region moving as our population grows

By 2040, King County is projected to be home to almost 400,000 more people than in 2015. That's like doubling the combined populations of Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah, Renton and Mercer Island. People are discovering the Eastside quality of life at a record pace. But when all these people are on the roads at the same time, gridlock happens.

Light rail and bus rapid transit (BRT) are the best options for moving thousands more people every hour on the Eastside without adding to freeway traffic.

▶ Go to page 8 to see what's coming.

Transit provides reliability

Traveling in their own rights of way, light rail trains get you to your destination at the same time every day regardless of traffic.

Commute times from Bellevue to Seattle on I-90

Drive time without traffic



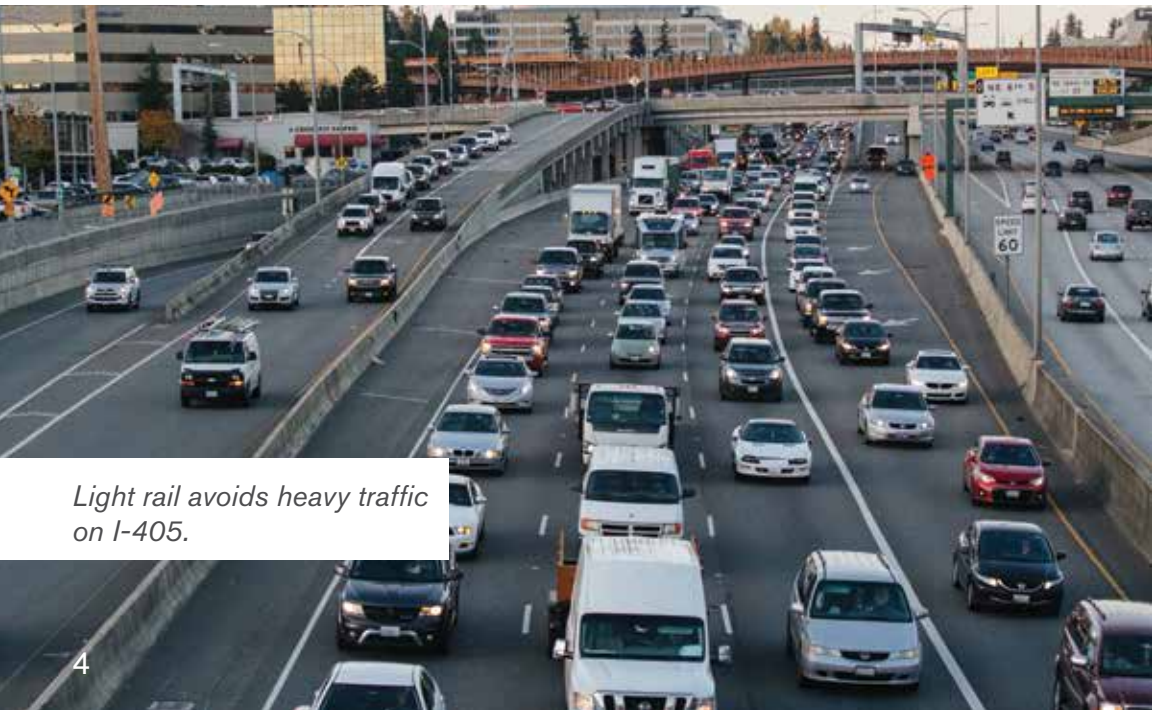
Reliable* commute drive time



Link light rail (coming 2023)



*Reliable travel time gets commuters to their destinations on time 19 out of 20 weekdays.
Source: [WSDOT 2017 Corridor Capacity report](#)



Light rail avoids heavy traffic on I-405.

Transit benefits everyone

Whether or not you use Sound Transit services, the growing network of light rail, Sounder trains, ST Express buses and BRT lines 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.

Ridership is growing

Transit [ridership](#) is growing faster in our region than anywhere else in the United States.



Boosting our local economy

Traffic is choking the region's freeways, delaying people and goods from getting where they're going. Businesses are increasingly locating and expanding in areas that invest in transportation infrastructure.

Transit construction creates thousands of good-paying [careers](#) helping to power our local economy before projects are even completed.

In 2018, and for each of the next five years, Sound Transit will invest more than \$800,000 to train, mentor and retain local workers, targeting those from populations who are traditionally underrepresented in the construction industry.

42 percent of the workforce building Sound Transit's new rail and bus projects are King County residents.

Link light rail is connecting more people to more places

[Link light rail](#) today carries about 80,000 daily riders on a 22-mile system. The network will almost triple in size over the next six years with extensions to Northgate, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Federal Way, Redmond and Lynnwood. By 2041, the system will total 116 miles, from Tacoma to Everett and from Seattle to Redmond and Issaquah. Eastside residents will enjoy easy connections to Seattle, Sea-Tac Airport, University of Washington and many more destinations around the region.



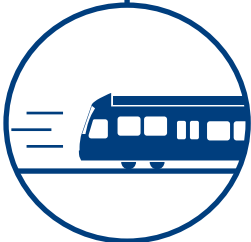
Link light rail provides



Easy access. Find local bus connections and parking at many stations.



No schedule needed!
Service every few minutes.



Fast, traffic-free travel.
Arrive at the same time every day.



Connections at stations.
Reach your final destinations with sidewalks and bike paths plus pick-up and drop-off areas.

Progress Report

Bringing light rail to the Eastside



First stop:

Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond 2023

Light rail construction continues on I-90 between downtown Seattle, Mercer Island and South Bellevue. From there residents are watching elevated tracks rise through South Bellevue and descend into a tunnel through downtown, with more work underway through the Spring District to Redmond's Overlake neighborhood. Ten stations serve the 14-mile route. Pedestrian and bike paths, local bus transfers, and about 1,400 additional parking spaces make it easy to connect to stations.



Next up:

Downtown Redmond 2024

In 2018, the Sound Transit Board chose the route and station locations for the downtown Redmond extension. One year after opening to the Overlake neighborhood, two more stations open, serving Marymoor Village near Marymoor Park with a parking garage of approximately 1,400 spaces, and downtown Redmond.



Final stop:

South Kirkland to Issaquah 2041

This project builds an 11.75-mile line with four new stations at South Kirkland, Richards Road, Eastgate and Issaquah, as well as serving existing stations at Wilburton, Bellevue Downtown and East Main.



Get updates

soundtransit.org/2019report



The [East Link Extension](#) is on budget and on schedule to open in 2023.

The regional system approved by voters

What's coming in 2019:

Link Light Rail

- Install track on I-90 floating bridge and Mercer Island.
- Complete elevated guideway along entire [East Link route](#).
- Complete construction of Bellevue tunnel.
- Select contractor to complete design and build [Downtown Redmond Link](#).

Bus Rapid Transit

- Begin environmental review of [I-405](#) and [SR 522/NE 145th](#) BRT projects.

ST Express Bus

- Continue planning for [North Sammamish Park-and-Ride](#).

Get updates
soundtransit.org/2019report

Watch the system grow
soundtransit.org/system-expansion

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 Commuter Rail

Future service:

- DuPont–Lakewood

In service:

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

Bus

Future service:

- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

In service:

- ST Express bus (service re-evaluated annually)

○ New station or bus facility
 P Added parking
 ⊕ Station improvements
 ⊕ Major transfer hub
 ○ Existing station or bus facility
 P Existing parking
 ○ Provisional light rail station



More transit for the Eastside



Bus Rapid Transit – a new, faster, more reliable service on I-405 and SR 522/NE 145th

With buses running as often as every 10 minutes and stations designed for fast arrivals and departures, *Stride* Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) will be a new, fast, frequent and reliable Sound Transit bus service traveling primarily in dedicated lanes and connecting to Link light rail as well as to other transit service provided by Sound Transit, Community Transit and King County Metro.

I-405 Bus Rapid Transit from Lynnwood to Burien opens 2024

Stride will connect to Link light rail at Lynnwood, Bellevue and Tukwila. Two routes, from Lynnwood to Bellevue and from Bellevue to Burien will offer 37 miles of service, operating in express toll lanes from Totem Lake to South Renton along I-405. The project includes a new transit center in South Renton, 11 BRT stations and 1,300 parking stalls.

SR 522/NE 145th Bus Rapid Transit opens 2024

A second new *Stride* line will connect communities north of Lake Washington to Link light rail at Shoreline South/145th. The 8-mile route will serve nine stations, with new parking in Bothell, Kenmore and Lake Forest Park.



Improving the environment

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by providing alternatives to driving, Sound Transit makes lasting environmental improvements with construction mitigation projects.

The [East Link Extension project](#) will provide improved flood water storage, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat at the west tributary of Kelsey Creek, Mercer Slough and elsewhere on the Eastside.



North Sammamish Park-and-Ride

Planning has started for the [North Sammamish Park-and-Ride](#) with up to 200 spaces to facilitate transit connections, opening 2024.



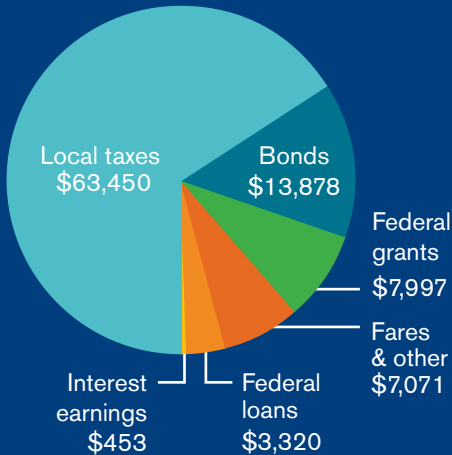
Finances

Transit construction and operation is paid for by a combination of local taxes, federal grants, borrowing through the issuance of bonds, fares and other sources. Sound Transit recently received its 24th annual Financial Statement and federal funding Single Audit, conducted by the independent outside auditing firm KPMG. No material weaknesses have been found since these audits began in 1995. Sound Transit has one of the highest bond ratings of any transit agency in the country, allowing us to obtain loans at lower interest rates, which helps save taxpayer dollars. Sound Transit’s Board of Directors is made up of 17 local elected officials and the state Secretary of Transportation.

Sources and uses of revenue 2017-2041 (in millions)

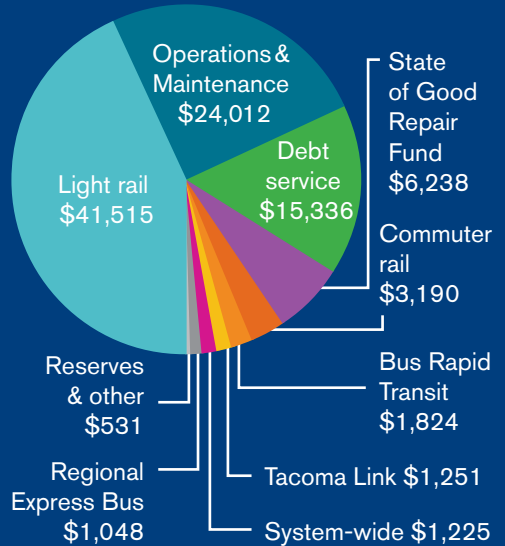
Funding sources

Total: \$96.1B



Uses of revenue

Total: \$96.1B



Tax rollback

After voter-approved capital projects are completed, Sound Transit will reduce taxes to a level necessary to operate and maintain the system and pay associated debt service on outstanding bonds.

Find more information about Sound Transit finances:

For a list of audits and findings: [soundtransit.org/audits](https://www.soundtransit.org/audits)

To review the 2017 Annual Report of finances, including revenues, expenses and change in net position: [soundtransit.org/2017-annual-report](https://www.soundtransit.org/2017-annual-report)

Read Sound Transit's 2019 budget and financial plan: [soundtransit.org/2019-financial-plan-budget](https://www.soundtransit.org/2019-financial-plan-budget)

Navigating potential challenges

Successfully delivering a major infrastructure program over a period of more than two decades requires managing risks.

Managing potential risks to project costs and funding

The region's hot [construction market](#) is increasing costs for labor, land and materials. As a result, Sound Transit has updated its financial plan to assume a higher rate of inflation. Despite recent cost increases, however, the East Link light rail extension and other Eastside projects remain on timelines communicated to voters.

Local funding

Although the economy is strong today, Sound Transit will need to advance projects through potential future recessions that could reduce the local tax revenues necessary to build projects on schedule. This makes it more important than ever to closely manage project costs, especially by avoiding last-minute changes and additions.

Federal funding

Sound Transit works closely with the region's congressional delegation to secure [federal funding](#). The agency is on track to receive approximately \$1.2 billion in critical federal funding for the Lynnwood Link Extension. Failure to secure federal funding assumed for other voter-approved projects could affect Sound Transit's ability to complete them on schedule.



Today's hot market is pushing up costs for land, labor and materials.



Ride with us

New to transit?

- › Sound Transit's **Trip Planner** gets you where you need to go: [soundtransit.org/tripplanner](https://www.soundtransit.org/tripplanner)
- › Find parking to connect to transit: [soundtransit.org/Rider-Guide/parking](https://www.soundtransit.org/Rider-Guide/parking)



Paying for your ride

The ORCA card is the easy way to pay for multiple rides. Buy a card for \$5.00 at any Sound Transit light rail or Sounder train station and load with cash to use like a transit debit card for trips on buses and trains around the region. Visit [soundtransit.org/fares-and-passes](https://www.soundtransit.org/fares-and-passes).

Senior or disabled?

The Regional Reduced Fare Permit is available for everyone over the age of 65 and any person with a disability. Apply at any participating transit agency, including:

King County Metro Customer Service

201 South Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 553-3000



ORCA LIFT

Personal income should not be a barrier to using transit. Learn about ORCA LIFT, helping low-income riders save 50 percent on Sound Transit services at [soundtransit.org/orca-lift](https://www.soundtransit.org/orca-lift)

Get involved and get onboard

Add your voice!

Transit projects and operations affect everyone. Let us know the best way to keep you informed by taking our online survey, and sign up to receive project updates.

➤ **Start today**
soundtransit.org/2019report

Sound Transit construye y opera el servicio de trenes y autobuses, que ayuda a todas las personas en los condados de King, Pierce y Snohomish. Obtenga más información e indíquenos cómo mantenerlo informado. Realice nuestra encuesta en línea.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-espanol

Sound Transit은 King, Pierce 및 Snohomish 카운티의 사람들을 돕기 위해 기차와 버스 서비스를 구축하고 운영합니다. 우리 서비스에 대해 더 자세히 알아보고, 향후 고객님이 연락받고 싶은 방법을 알려 주십시오. 당사의 온라인 설문조사에 참여하십시오.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-korean

Компания Sound Transit организует и осуществляет железнодорожные и автобусные перевозки пассажиров в округах King, Pierce и Snohomish. Получите дополнительную информацию и сообщите нам о том, как держать вас в курсе. Пройдите наш онлайн-опрос.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-russian

Bumubuo at nag-o-operate ng tren at serbisyo ng bus ang Sound Transit, na nakakatulong sa mga county ng King, Pierce at Snohomish. Matuto ng higit pa at sabihin sa amin kung paano ka namin mapapanatiling may alam. Sagutan ang aming online survey.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-tagalog

Sound Transit xây dựng và điều hành dịch vụ tàu hỏa và xe buýt dành cho cư dân ở các hạt King, Pierce và Snohomish. Tìm hiểu thêm và hãy cho chúng tôi biết cách thông báo cho bạn. Trả lời khảo sát trực tuyến của chúng tôi.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-vietnamese

Sound Transit 將建立並運營列車與公共汽車服務，幫助 King、Pierce 及 Snohomish 的每個人。欲知更多資訊，並告訴我們如何讓您知悉最新情況。參與我們的線上調查。

➤ soundtransit.org/report-chinese



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Para obtener más información sobre la ampliación del sistema de Sound Transit, llame al 1-800-823-9230 durante el horario laboral normal.

Sound Transit 시스템 확장에 대한 자세한 내용은 알고 싶다면 정상 영업 시간 중에 1-800-823-9230 번으로 연락하십시오.

Дальнейшую информацию о расширении системы Sound Transit можно получить по телефону 1-800-823-9230 в обычные часы работы.

Para sa higit pang impormasyon tungkol sa pagpapalawak ng Sound Transit system, tumawag sa 1-800-823-9230 sa normal na oras ng pagnenegosyo.

Để biết thêm thông tin về việc mở rộng hệ thống Sound Transit, hãy gọi 1-800-823-9230 trong giờ làm việc bình thường.

欲知 Sound Transit 系統擴展的更多資訊，請在正常工作時間致電 1-800-823-9230。

This report cost 34 cents each to print and mail.



Connecting more people to more places.