

Pierce County

2019 Regional Report



More transit choices are coming





Ride with us page 14

Viaje con nosotros página 15

당사의 교통편을 이용하세요 15 페이지

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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 Pierce County 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, Pierce County is projected to be home to a quarter million more people than in 2015. That's like doubling the combined populations of Tacoma and Puyallup. People are discovering the South Sound 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 Sounder trains are the best options for moving thousands more people every hour in Pierce County without adding to freeway traffic.

▶ Go to page 8 to see what's coming.

Transit provides reliability

Traveling in their own rights of way, Sounder trains deliver passengers to their destinations at the same time every day regardless of traffic.

Travel times from Seattle to Tacoma

Drive time without traffic



Reliable* commute drive time

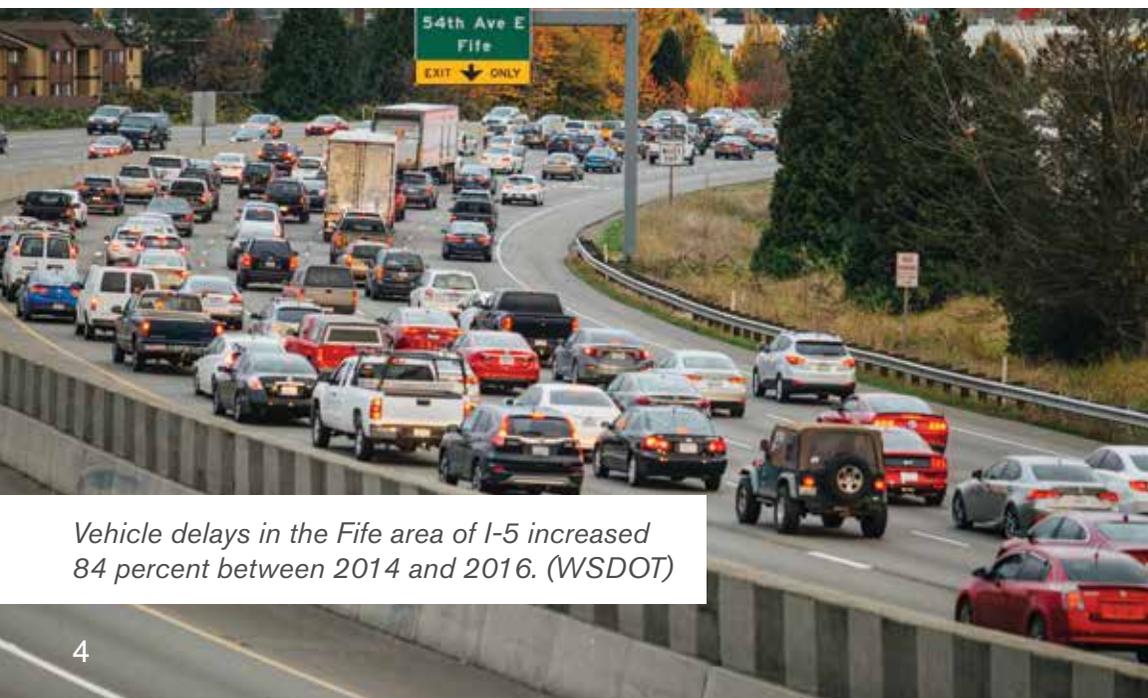


Sounder



*Reliable travel time gets commuters to their destinations on time 19 out of 20 weekdays.

Source: [WSDOT 2017 Corridor Capacity report](#)



Vehicle delays in the Fife area of I-5 increased 84 percent between 2014 and 2016. (WSDOT)

Transit benefits everyone

Whether or not you use Sound Transit services, the growing network of light rail, Sounder trains, ST Express buses and bus rapid transit (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.

Over 25 percent of the skilled workforce building Sound Transit projects comes from Pierce County, representing approximately 2,600 workers and over \$47.5 million in wages paid.

Sounder: Pierce County's reliable ride

The popular Sounder South line connects Pierce County, south King County and Seattle with fast, reliable service on rail lines owned by BNSF Railway and Sound Transit. In 2017, Sound Transit added two additional daily runs, including one during the mid-day, bringing service to 13 daily roundtrips, eight of which also serve South Tacoma and Lakewood. Special Sounder game-day service brings thousands of fans to Seahawks, Sounders and Mariners games and visitors to the Washington State Fair.



Sounder commuter and event service

Sounder news for 2019

Final design advances for new garages at [Puyallup](#) and [Sumner](#) stations, adding more than 1,000 parking spaces combined. Along with better pedestrian and bicycle access, these investments make it easier for Pierce County residents to travel stress-free.

New parking garages open in 2021 and 2022.



Sounder planning for the future

A strategic planning process kicks off in 2019 to plan for future growth with a comprehensive package of improvements including:

- › Longer trains and platforms to serve more riders.
- › Potential for additional daily trips.
- › Pedestrian and bicycle paths.
- › Better local bus transfers.
- › Improvements to Tacoma Dome, South Tacoma and Lakewood stations.
- › Two new stations at Tillicum and DuPont.

Making more connections



Tacoma Link

Tacoma Link was Sound Transit's very first light rail project, beginning service in 2003. The Link line connects 3,000 daily riders to and from the Tacoma Dome transit hub, where riders arrive on Sounder trains and regional buses, and special service connects fans and concert-goers to the Tacoma Dome.

Tacoma Link news in 2019

Construction started in 2018 on the [Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension](#). This 2.4-mile project adds six stations connecting to the Stadium district, Hilltop neighborhood, medical facilities and local businesses. Service starts in 2022.



Bus investments and operations

Bus news for 2019

Sound Transit is investing \$60 million in Pierce Transit's Pacific Avenue/SR 7 BRT project to provide fast bus connections from Spanaway to Sounder and Tacoma Link trains at Tacoma Dome Station.



Construction started in 2018 for a 2.4-mile Tacoma Link extension to Hilltop.



Get updates

soundtransit.org/2019report

The regional system approved by voters

What's coming in 2019:



Tacoma Link

- Continue construction of [Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension](#), opening 2022.



Link Light Rail

- Start construction on [Federal Way Link Extension](#) from Angle Lake to Federal Way Transit Center, opening 2024.
- Identify preferred alternative route and station locations to study for [Tacoma Dome Link Extension](#), opening 2030.



Sounder Commuter Rail

- Develop final designs for new parking garages at [Puyallup](#) and [Sumner](#) Sounder stations adding approximately 1,000 spaces combined, opening 2021 and 2022.
- Start planning for [Sounder capacity expansion](#) and extension to DuPont, opening 2036.



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



Pierce County

Link light rail is connecting more people to more places

Regional light rail today carries about 80,000 daily riders on a 22-mile system. By 2030 when the Tacoma Dome Link Extension is open, Pierce County residents will enjoy easy connections to Sea-Tac Airport and destinations around the region. By 2041, the system will extend 116 miles with 83 stations from Tacoma to Everett and from Seattle to Redmond and Issaquah.



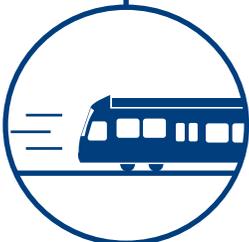
Link light rail provides



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 regional light rail to Pierce County

First stop: **Federal Way 2024**

Construction starts in 2019 to extend light rail south from Angle Lake with stations at Kent/Des Moines near Highline College, South 272nd and at the Federal Way Transit Center. Approximately 3,200 parking spaces serve the route.

Next up: **Tacoma Dome 2030**

In 2019, the Sound Transit Board identifies a preferred alternative for regional light rail route and station locations near South Federal Way, Fife, East Tacoma and Tacoma Dome. With help from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and local government, alternatives are being developed now. This is a critical time to add your voice.

The preferred alternative and other alternatives will be studied in a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Board relies on the final EIS in mid-2022 to decide route and station locations. The Board will also select a site for a new South Sound light rail operations and maintenance facility.

Building careers

Over the next 25 years, Sound Transit construction projects will create good-paying careers, including for those who don't yet have construction experience. In 2018, and for each of the next five years, Sound Transit is investing over \$800,000 to train, mentor, support and retain regional workers from populations who are traditionally underrepresented in the construction industry.

Additionally, Sound Transit prime contractors working on Pierce County projects have awarded \$46 million in contracts to disadvantaged and small business enterprises.



At a recent Construction Career Connections event in Tacoma, Sound Transit partnered with other local organizations and non-profits to help create access for Pierce County residents to construction careers.

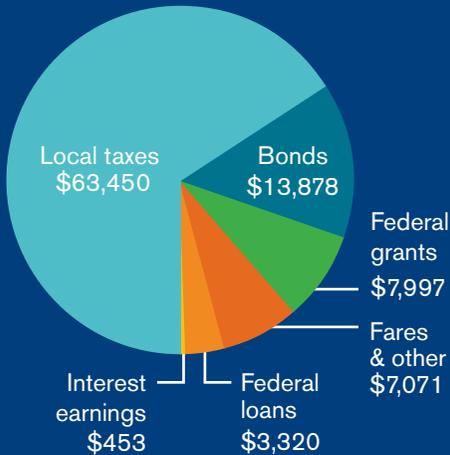
Finances

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)

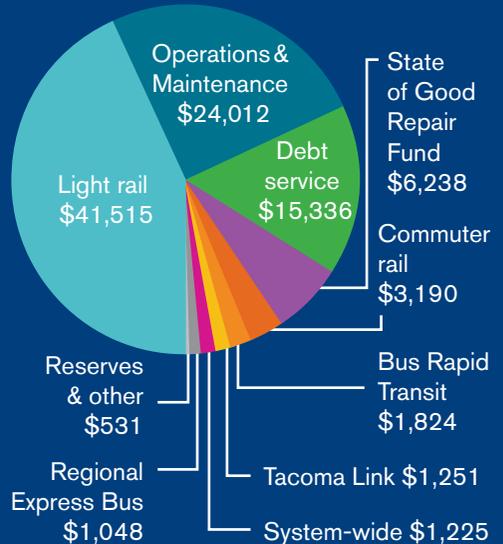
Funding sources

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 Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension remains scheduled to open in 2022.

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
- › Pierce Transit (piercetransit.org) and King County Metro (tripplanner.kingcounty.gov) buses connect to Sounder stations and ST Express bus stops
- › Find parking: 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.

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:

**Pierce Transit
Tacoma Dome Station Bus Shop**
505 East 25th St.
Tacoma, WA 98241
(253) 581-8000



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

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 está construyendo trenes y autobuses, que afectan a todos en los condados de King, Pierce y Snohomish. Obtenga más información y háganos saber la mejor manera de mantenerlo informado mediante nuestra encuesta en línea.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-espanol

Sound Transit은 열차와 버스를 건설하고 있으며, King, Pierce 및 Snohomish 카운티의 모든 사람들에게 영향을 미치고 있습니다. 자세한 내용을 알아보고 온라인 설문 조사를 통해 정보를 제공하는 가장 좋은 방법을 알려주십시오.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-korean

Ang Sound Transit ay nagtatayo ng mga tren at bus, na nakakaapekto sa lahat ng tao sa mga county ng King, Pierce at Snohomish. Kumuha ng higit pang impormasyon at ipalam sa amin ang pinakamahusay na paraan upang mapahusay ka sa pamamagitan ng aming online na survey.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-tagalog

Sound Transit строит поезда и автобусы, которые затрагивают всех в округах Кинг, Пирс и Снохомиш. Узнайте больше и дайте нам знать, как лучше всего держать вас в курсе, проведя онлайн-опрос.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-russian

Sound Transit đang xây dựng các chuyến tàu và xe buýt, ảnh hưởng đến tất cả mọi người ở các quận King, Pierce và Snohomish. Tìm hiểu thêm và cho chúng tôi biết cách tốt nhất để thông báo cho bạn bằng cách thực hiện khảo sát trực tuyến của chúng tôi.

➤ soundtransit.org/report-vietnamese

Sound Transit正在建造火車和公共汽車，影響King，Pierce和Snohomish縣的每個人。了解更多信息，並通過在線調查了解告知您的最佳方式。

➤ 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.