

# *Seattle area*

## 2019 Regional Report



**More light rail is coming** 

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## **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 Seattle area 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](https://soundtransit.org/2019report)

# Transit helps keep the region moving as our population grows

In the last 10 years, Seattle's population has increased faster than any other big city in the country, growing by 18.7 percent since 2010.\* People are discovering the quality of life here 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 in the Seattle area without adding to 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.

### UW to Westlake



### Northgate to Stadium (2021)



### International District/Chinatown to Bellevue (2023)



Light rail avoids heavy traffic on I-5.

\*The Seattle Times: 114,000 more people: Seattle now fastest-growing big city..., (May 2018)

## 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. Seattle area residents will enjoy easy connections to Bellevue, Ballard, West Seattle and many more destinations around the region.



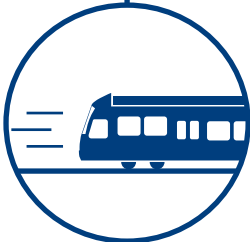
## Link light rail provides



**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

## Extending light rail in the Seattle area



### **First stop:**

### **Northgate 2021**

Two underground stations at U District and Roosevelt and an elevated station at Northgate are taking shape as rail is laid in tunnels and on the guideways, preparing for this 4.3-mile extension. Two Shoreline stations will be added to the Lynnwood extension, opening in 2024.



### **Next up:**

### **International District/Chinatown to Judkins Park Station and the Eastside 2023**

Construction continues on the East Link Extension, connecting Seattle to Mercer Island and South Bellevue along I-90 and continuing north to downtown Bellevue, the Spring District and Redmond's Overlake neighborhood. Ten stations serve the 14-mile route.



### **Final destinations:**

### **West Seattle and Ballard 2030 and 2035**

In 2019, the Sound Transit Board identifies a preferred alternative for route and station locations to West Seattle and Ballard. With help from the City of Seattle, neighbors and community groups, 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 2022 to decide route and station locations.



### **Get updates**

[soundtransit.org/2019report](https://soundtransit.org/2019report)

*[Northgate Link Extension](#) is on budget and on schedule to open in 2021. Link extends to Snohomish County by 2024.*



# The regional system approved by voters

## What's coming in 2019:

### Link Light Rail

- Continue construction of [Northgate Link Extension](#), opening 2021.
- Continue construction of [East Link Extension](#), with Seattle station at Judkins Park. Direct service to the Eastside from Northgate and downtown Seattle, opening 2023.
- Start construction on [Lynnwood Link Extension](#) with stations in Shoreline, opening 2024.
- Identify preferred alternative (route and station locations) for [West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions](#), opening 2030 and 2035.

### Bus Rapid Transit

- Begin environmental review of [I-405](#) and [SR 522/NE 145th](#) BRT projects, opening 2024.

Get updates [soundtransit.org/2019report](http://soundtransit.org/2019report)

Watch the system grow [soundtransit.org/system-expansion](http://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)

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- 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



# Seattle area



## More transit for the Seattle area



### Bus Rapid Transit – a new, faster, more reliable service

With buses running as often as every 10 minutes and stations designed for fast arrivals and departures, *Stride* Bus Rapid Transit 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.

#### **SR 522/NE 145th Bus Rapid Transit opens 2024**

A 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.



### More system expansion milestones coming in 2019

- › Construction starts on [Lynnwood Link Extension](#), opening 2024.
- › Construction starts on [Federal Way Link Extension](#), opening 2024.
- › Construction continues on [Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension](#), opening 2022.
- › Preferred alternative is identified for [Tacoma Dome Link Extension](#), opening 2030.
- › New parking garages and other access improvements to Sounder stations at [Kent](#), [Auburn](#), [Sumner](#) and [Puyallup](#) advance in planning and design, opening in 2021 - 2023.



## Transit builds communities

Areas close to light rail stations offer ideal opportunities for transit oriented development (TOD). South Transit works with private and non-profit developers who create new retail, restaurants and job sites, as well as housing affordable to a range of income levels. These combine to create sustainable and walkable neighborhoods with direct access to transit.

The Capitol Hill Station site will soon be transformed by a mix of housing choices, including market-rate units for families as well as affordable units for those who meet income qualifications. Plans also include ground floor retail, on-site childcare, and a public plaza to host the Capitol Hill Farmer's Market and other neighborhood events.

Mercy Othello Plaza at the Othello Link station offers an example of successful TOD that combines affordable housing for families with on-site social services.

In 2017, Sound Transit selected Plymouth Housing and Bellwether Housing to build approximately 300 affordable housing units on Sound Transit property on First Hill. The apartments will house low-income seniors, families and others, and will be Seattle's first affordable high-rise built in 50 years.

 **Get updates**

[soundtransit.org/2019report](https://soundtransit.org/2019report)



Rendering courtesy of Gerding Edlen,  
site developers.

*Capitol Hill station area will  
be transformed with TOD.*

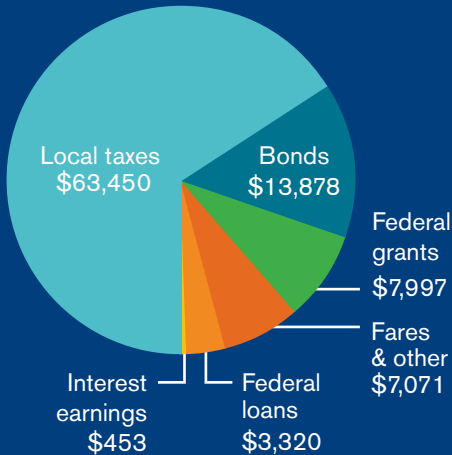
# Finances

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)

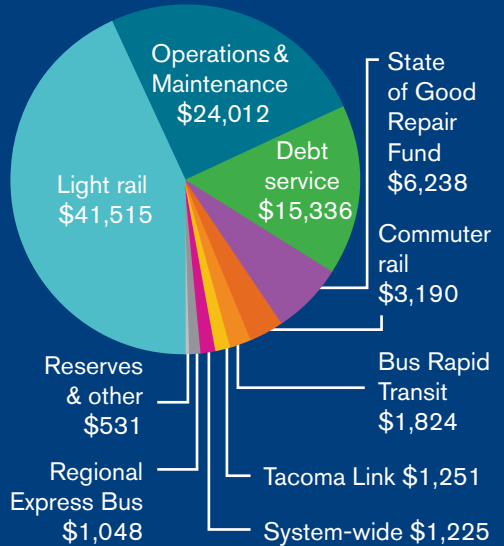
### Funding sources

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**

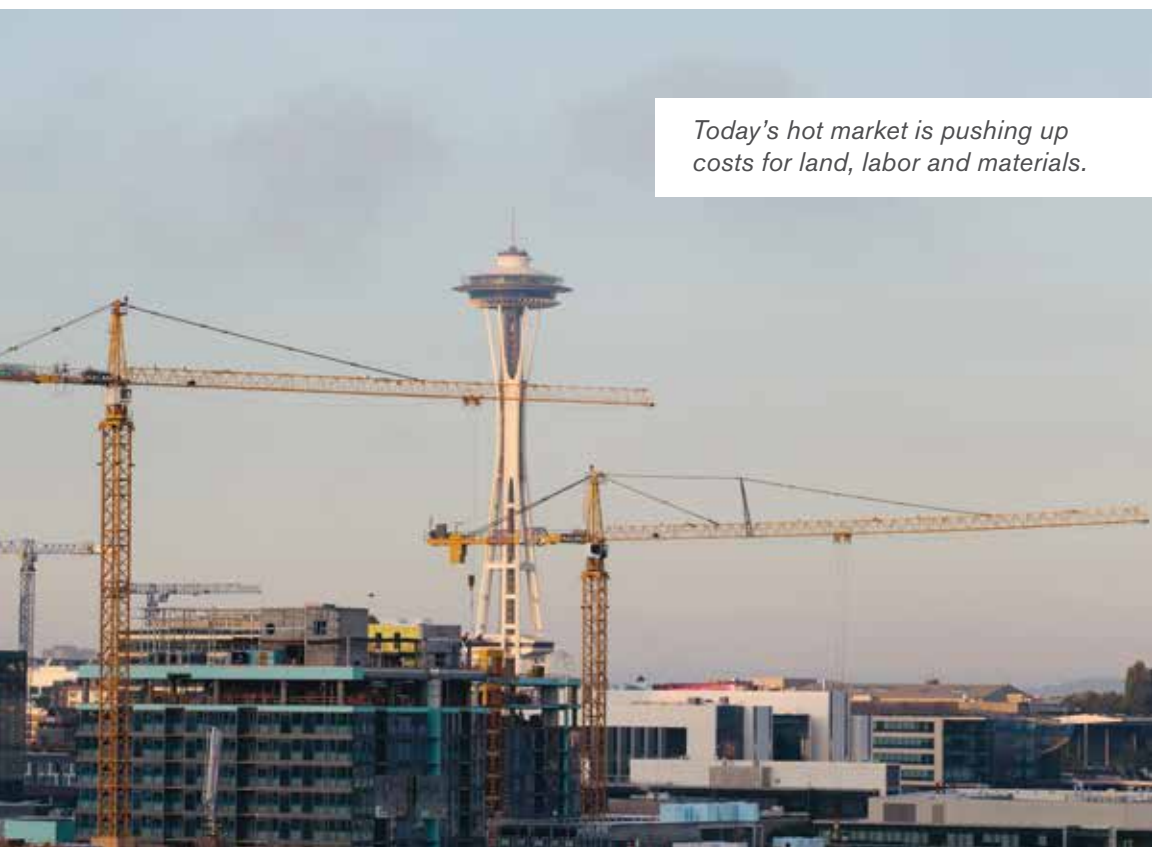
The region's hot [construction market](#) is increasing costs for labor, land and materials. As a result, Sound Transit has updated its financial plan to assume a higher rate of inflation. Despite recent cost increases affecting budgets for other major capital projects in the region, Northgate Link and East Link extensions remain scheduled to open in 2021 and 2023.

## **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://soundtransit.org/tripplanner)
- › King County Metro connects to light rail stations: [tripplanner.kingcounty.gov](https://tripplanner.kingcounty.gov)
- › Find parking: [soundtransit.org/Rider-Guide/parking](https://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://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://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://soundtransit.org/report-chinese)



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## Seattle Area Regional Report

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.