

# South King County

2019 Regional Report



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### **O**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, <u>voters</u> <u>have approved</u> the most ambitious transit expansion in the country. Sound Transit is committed to delivering this expanded system as efficiently as possible.

This South King 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.



### 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 Federal Way, Kent, Auburn, Burien and SeaTac. People are discovering the South King County quality of life at a record pace. But when all these people are on the roads at the same time, gridlock happens.

Light rail, Sounder trains and bus rapid transit (BRT) are the best options for moving thousands of people in South King County every hour 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.

Travel times from Federal Way to Seattle

Drive time without traffic



Reliable\* commute drive time





Link light rail (coming 2024)



\*Reliable travel time gets commuters to their destinations on time 19 out of 20 weekdays. Source: WSDOT 2017 Corridor Capacity report



### **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 <u>ridership</u> is growing faster in our region than anywhere else in the United States.







**2012** 

million riders 2016
49.7
42.9 million riders

riders

### **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 <u>careers</u> 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 Federal Way, Northgate, Bellevue, Mercer Island, Redmond and Lynnwood. By 2041, the system will total 116 miles, from Tacoma to Everett and from Seattle to Redmond and Issaquah. South King County residents will enjoy easy connections to Sea-Tac Airport, Bellevue, Tacoma 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 regional light rail farther in South King County

In 2009, South King County was one of two areas connected in the region by light rail when Sound Transit built the initial light rail route to Tukwila and Sea-Tac Airport. In 2016 a third South King County station opened at Angle Lake. With a parking garage offering space for more than 1,000 cars, Angle Lake station serves almost 4,000 passengers each weekday.



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.



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 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.

Get updates
soundtransit.org/2019report



## The regional system approved by voters

### What's coming in 2019:

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### Link Light Rail

- Start construction of <u>Federal Way</u> <u>Link Extension</u>, opening 2024.
- Identify preferred alternative (route and station locations) for <u>Tacoma Dome Link Extension</u>, opening 2030.



### Sounder Commuter Rail

- Begin design of new parking garages at Kent and <u>Auburn stations</u>, opening 2023.
- Start planning for Sounder capacity expansion and extension to DuPont, opening 2036.



### **Bus Rapid Transit**

- Continue planning for <u>I-405 BRT</u> with service to Burien and Tukwila and a new transit center in South Renton, opening 2024.
- Begin environmental review of <u>I-405</u> and <u>SR 522/NE</u> <u>145th</u> BRT projects, opening 2024.
- Get updates
  soundtransit.org/2019report
- Watch the system grow
  soundtransit.org/
  system-expansion



### More transit for South King County



### Sounder commuter and special event service.

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.

### Sounder news for 2019

Planning continues for parking and access improvements to <u>Kent</u> and <u>Auburn</u> stations. Project elements include a combined 1,000 additional parking spaces and better pedestrian and bicycle access, opening 2023.

### Sounder planning for the future

A strategic planning process kicks off in 2019 to plan for future growth, including extending platforms to serve longer trains, negotiations with BNSF Railway to run more trains, and extending the line to Tillicum and DuPont.







### Bus Rapid Transit – a new, faster, more reliable service on I-405

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 service traveling in primarily dedicated lanes and connecting to regional Link light rail as well as to other service provided by Sound Transit, Pierce Transit, King County Metro and Community Transit.

### <u>I-405 Bus Rapid Transit</u> from Lynnwood to Burien opens 2024

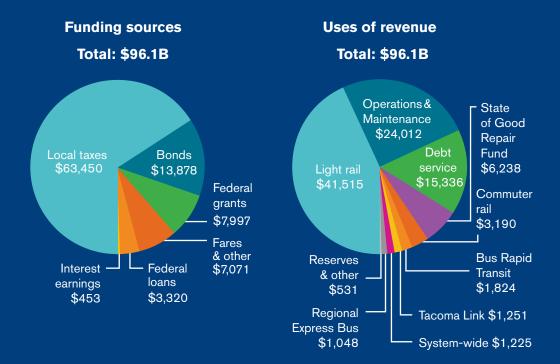
Stride will connect to Link light rail at Lynnwood, Bellevue and Tukwila. Two routes, from Lynnwood to Bellevue and from Bellevue to Burien will offer a combined 37 miles of service, operating in express toll lanes from Totem Lake to South Renton along I-405. The project includes a new transit center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



### **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)



#### 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

To review the 2017 Annual Report of finances, including revenues, expenses and change in net position: <u>soundtransit.org/2017-annual-report</u>

Read Sound Transit's 2019 budget and financial plan: 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 <u>construction market</u> 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 Federal Way Link Extension remains scheduled to open in 2024, and all other South King County 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 secure approximately \$1.2 billion in critical federal funding for the Lynnwood Link Extension. Failure to receive federal funding assumed for the Federal Way Link Extension and other voter-approved projects could affect Sound Transit's ability to complete them on schedule.





### Ride with us

### **New to transit?**

- Sound Transit's Trip Planner gets you where you need to go: soundtransit.org/tripplanner
- Pierce Transit (<u>piercetransit.org</u>) and King County Metro (<u>tripplanner.kingcounty.gov</u>) buses connect to Sounder stations and ST Express bus stops:
- > Find parking to connect to transit 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:

King County Metro Customer Service 201 South Jackson St. Seattle, WA 98104 (206) 553-3000 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



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 meior manera de mantenerlo informado mediante nuestra encuesta en línea.

soundtransit.org/report-espanol

Sound Transit은 열차와 버스를 건설하고 있으며, King, Pierce 및 Snohomish 카운티의모든 사람들에게 영향을 미치고 있습니다. 자세한 내용을 알아보고 온라인 설문조사를 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 ipaalam 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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### **South King County 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.