



# ***Getting there together***

**2023 System Expansion Progress Report**



**SOUNDTRANSIT**  **Powering progress**



## Hello, neighbors!

If you've never stopped to wonder which region is building **the biggest transit expansion in the country**, I'll give you one guess.

The answer, I'm proud to say, is ours.

Central Puget Sound residents have chosen time and again to invest in a better-connected future, and at Sound Transit we're working to bring that future to life.

You might have seen our Link light rail, Sounder trains and ST Express buses on rails or roads across the region, and if you travel I-5, I-405, I-90 or SR-520, you've seen our major construction projects, too. Within the next few years, these voter-approved expansions will more than double your current Link service, from 26 to 62 miles, and add 45 miles of new Stride bus rapid transit. And we won't stop there—your regional network will double again in the years to come.

**Your tax dollars are hard at work advancing these transformative projects and services, and you're receiving our annual System Expansion Progress Report because we want you to know how they're going.**

Transit growth on this scale will open up a whole new world of options for how we get around—not just to work, school and essential services, but also to the everyday personal connections that make life meaningful. And whether you ride transit or not, we all benefit from fewer cars on our roadways, a cleaner and greener environment, more affordable housing, and equitable access to opportunities and services across our region.

So as you learn more about Sound Transit's current expansion progress and challenges, I also hope that, like me, you take pride in how your investment in transit makes life better for people. That's what drew me to Sound Transit in 2022, and what makes me more excited to come to work as CEO with each passing day.

We're getting there, together. Welcome aboard!



Sincerely,

**Julie Timm**, Sound Transit CEO

Follow @SoundTransit







## Arriving this summer: Twice as much T Line!

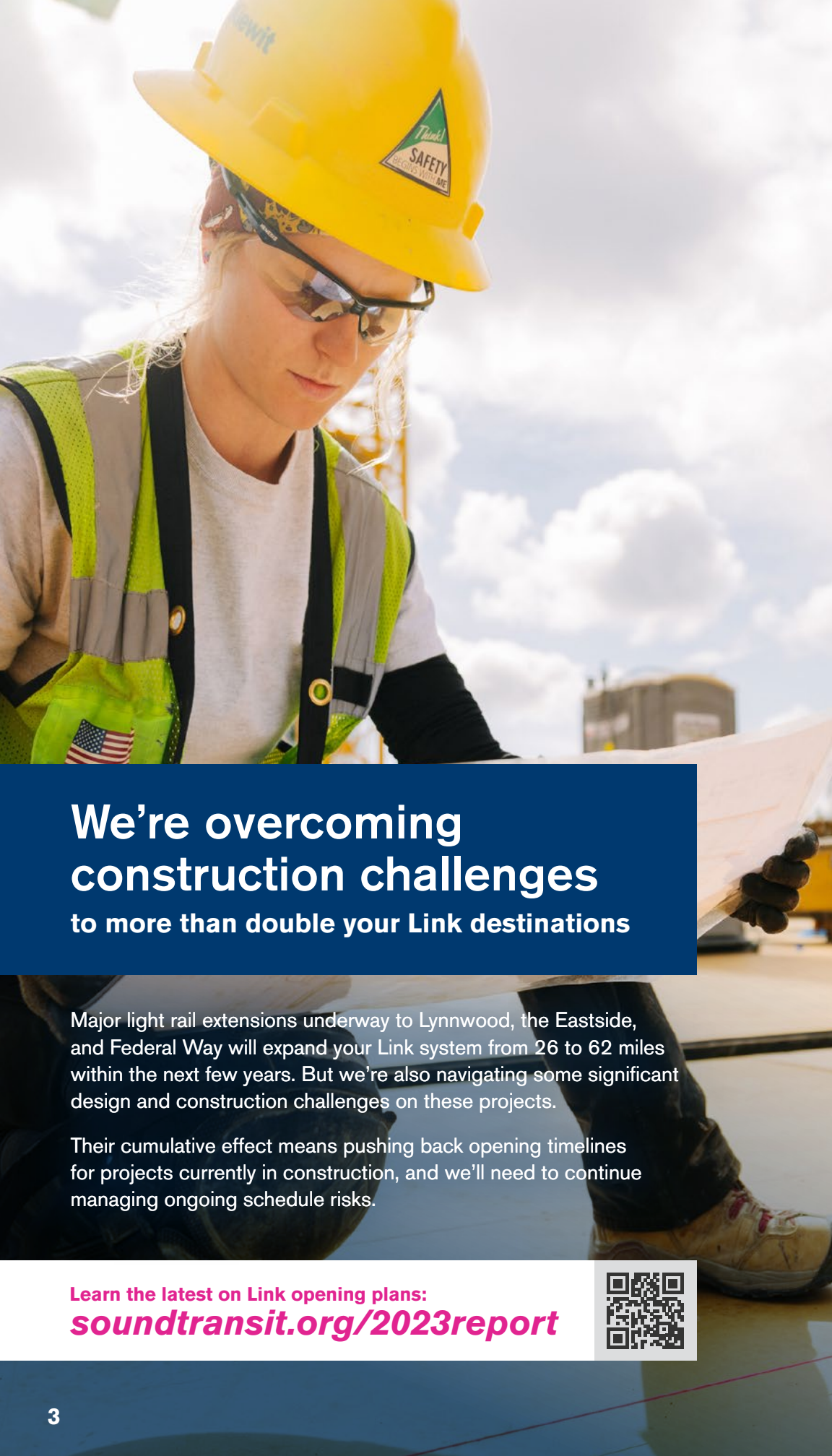
The train is about to transform how you get around Tacoma, with six new stops in the vibrant Stadium District and Hilltop neighborhood. Whether you're grabbing lunch with a friend, exploring Wright Park with the kids, running to a medical appointment or heading out for a night on the town, the newly expanded T Line is the way to go.



Learn the latest:

***[soundtransit.org/2023report](https://soundtransit.org/2023report)***





## We're overcoming construction challenges to more than double your Link destinations

Major light rail extensions underway to Lynnwood, the Eastside, and Federal Way will expand your Link system from 26 to 62 miles within the next few years. But we're also navigating some significant design and construction challenges on these projects.

Their cumulative effect means pushing back opening timelines for projects currently in construction, and we'll need to continue managing ongoing schedule risks.

Learn the latest on Link opening plans:  
**[soundtransit.org/2023report](https://soundtransit.org/2023report)**







**Here's how we're working to welcome you aboard as soon as possible:**

## **Extending Link to the Eastside**

We're working concurrently on two major Eastside light rail projects. The 14-mile East Link Extension will connect downtown Seattle to Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond's Overlake area, while the Downtown Redmond Link Extension will reach 3.4 miles and two stations further to the heart of Redmond.

In summer 2022, we shared the news that quality issues with concrete plinths—large blocks that support the tracks—and other construction challenges along the west end of the East Link project would require replacement. This work will push the East Link opening beyond its planned mid-2023 time frame. We expect that the entire extension to Downtown Redmond will be ready to open by spring 2025.

We're also investigating ways to open a portion of the East Link project sooner. Later this year the Sound Transit Board of Directors will decide whether to launch an "East Link Starter Line" in spring 2024, serving eight new stations between South Bellevue and Overlake.

## **Lynnwood Link Extension**

Of the four major projects underway, the 8.5-mile extension from Northgate to Lynnwood is on track to be the first full project to finish construction. Its four new stations serving Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood could be ready to open as soon as summer or fall 2024.

But opening Lynnwood ahead of the full East Link extension will mean starting with less-frequent service than originally planned. That's because these extensions all rely on our new operations and maintenance facility in Bellevue to service and store our expanded vehicle fleet. Until trains can cross Lake Washington and access the Bellevue base, Lynnwood service will operate out of our current operations facility in Seattle, which will fill beyond capacity with our new trains.

Right now we're focused on finding creative solutions for train storage and transport so we can provide the highest-frequency service possible when Lynnwood Link opens.

## **Federal Way Link Extension**

Our 7.8-mile extension south from Angle Lake includes three new stations serving the Kent/Des Moines area and Federal Way. In 2022, we determined that a deep layer of unstable soil between I-5 and a wetland in Kent would require a new long-span bridge design. As of our March 1 print deadline, we're working with the project's design/build contractor to estimate a new opening time frame in 2025/2026.

*Our new Stride fleet will include both double-decker and articulated models, and Sound Transit's first battery electric buses.*



## Take traffic in Stride

### **A new mode is joining the Sound Transit family!**

Stride bus rapid transit service will glide past gridlock on I-405, SR 522 and SR 518 to connect communities from Shoreline and Lynnwood to Bellevue and Burien. It's designed for fast arrivals and departures, with:

- ✓ New dedicated bus lanes—some already in use by our regional transit partners!
- ✓ Multiple doors and off-board fare payment.
- ✓ Seamless connections to Link light rail at Tukwila, Bellevue, Lynnwood and Shoreline.

In 2023 we'll be working to finalize roadway, sidewalk and station designs, as well as public art installations. You'll also see increased construction getting underway along I-405, including around N.E. 85th St. in Kirkland and N.E. 44th St. in Renton.



## Sounder service for the future

As ridership continues to rebound post-pandemic, we're working to make it easier to get to Sounder stations, whether you walk, roll, bike, drive or take transit. After opening Puyallup's new parking garage this spring, we're also planning garages at Kent, Auburn and Sumner—plus access improvements in Lakewood and South Tacoma in the years ahead.



# Your Link to tomorrow

While we're building the Link light rail network up to 62 miles within the next few years, we're also planning the additional voter-approved expansions that will create a truly regional system stretching 116 miles.

## We're listening

You're the expert on your community, and we rely on your perspectives to help shape the projects you and your neighbors will use.



### **NOW!** Help us plan these projects:

- New 1-Line stations at S. Graham St. and S. Boeing Access Rd.
- Downtown Seattle to West Seattle
- Federal Way to Tacoma Dome
- Downtown Seattle to Ballard
- Lynnwood to Everett



### **NEXT** Approved for future planning:

- Hilltop neighborhood to Tacoma Community College
- South Kirkland to Issaquah

Subscribe for project updates and help plan the future:  
**[soundtransit.org/system](https://soundtransit.org/system)**





# Your future regional transit network

## Pierce County and South King County:

**THIS SUMMER** Tacoma’s T Line doubles in length and destinations.

**2025/2026:** 1 Line expands from Angle Lake to Kent, Des Moines and Federal Way.  
*Forecasted opening, see pg. 4 for details.*

**2026-2027:** New parking garages + access upgrades at Sounder stations in Sumner, Kent and Auburn.

**2030:** Better connections to S-Line stations in South Tacoma and Lakewood.

**2031:** New 1-Line station opens at S. Boeing Access Rd.

**2035:** 1 Line expands from Federal Way to Tacoma.

**2039-2041\*:** T Line extends from St. Joseph to Tacoma Community College.

**2036-2046:** More Sounder capacity: Longer trains + more trips.

**2045:** S-Line service extends to Tillicum and DuPont + more efficient bus connections between East Pierce County and Sumner Station.

## East King County:

**2025:** 2 Line launches to Judkins Park, Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond.  
*Later this year, the Sound Transit Board will determine whether to open eight new stations, from South Bellevue to Overlake, in **Spring 2024**. See pg. 4 for details.*

**ALL NEW 2027-2028:** Stride bus rapid transit launches on I-405 and SR 522.

**2041-2044\*:** 4 Line opens from South Kirkland to Issaquah.

**2045:** New park-and-ride lot opens at North Sammamish.

## Snohomish County:

**NEXT YEAR 1 Line extends from Northgate to Lynnwood.**

**2037-2041\*:** 2-Line and 3-Line service expands to Everett.

**2034:** Parking and access upgrades at N-Line stations in Edmonds and Mukilteo.


## Seattle area:

**2026:** New light rail station opens at N.E. 130th St. with 1-Line and 2-Line service.


**2031:** New 1-Line station opens at S. Graham St.


**2032:** 3 Line launches from downtown to West Seattle.


**2037-2039\*:** 1 Line expands from downtown to Smith Cove and Ballard.


 **Link light rail**


**Future service:**

 1 Line Ballard–Tacoma


 2 Line Mariner–Redmond


 3 Line Everett–West Seattle


 4 Line S. Kirkland–Issaquah


 T Line Tacoma Dome–Tacoma Community College


**In service:**


 Northgate–Angle Lake


 Tacoma Dome–Theater District


 New station

 Existing station


 Provisional station

 Added capacity


 Added parking or improvements


 **Sounder trains**


**Future service:**

 S Line DuPont–Lakewood


**In service:**


 N Line Everett–Seattle


 S Line Lakewood–Seattle


 **Stride buses**

**Future service:**


 S1 Line Bellevue–Burien

 S2 Line Lynnwood–Bellevue

 S3 Line Shoreline–Bothell

 **ST Express buses**


**In service:**

 Current routes

*\*These dates reflect a target schedule, based on plans to increase revenue and reduce costs, and an affordable schedule, based on current financial projections and cost estimates.*

The map illustrates the future regional transit network, showing various transit lines and stations across the region. Key locations include Everett, Mukilteo, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Shoreline, Northgate, Ballard, UW, Seattle, West Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah, North Sammamish, Renton, South Renton, Tukwila, Burien, SeaTac/Airport, Angle Lake, Kent, Des Moines, Federal Way, Fife, Tacoma, Tacoma Community College, St. Joseph, Tacoma Dome, South Tacoma, Lakewood, Tillicum, DuPont, Sumner, Puyallup, Bonney Lake, and Auburn. The map uses color-coded lines to represent different transit services: Link light rail (green, blue, pink, purple, orange), Sounder trains (blue, pink, purple, orange), Stride buses (yellow, orange, green), and ST Express buses (blue). Station types are indicated by icons: solid circles for new stations, open circles for existing stations, and dashed circles for provisional stations. Capacity and parking improvements are marked with plus and P symbols. The map also shows current routes as solid blue lines.

Learn the latest on projects in your area:

 [soundtransit.org/2023report](https://soundtransit.org/2023report)



# Ride with us

Start your trip here:

***[soundtransit.org/ride-with-us](https://soundtransit.org/ride-with-us)***



## Plan

**Scan the QR code** above to use Trip Planner or download schedules and maps.



Need help? Contact Passenger Care at **888-889-6368/TTY 711**, Mon.-Fri., 7 a.m.-7 p.m., or email [main@soundtransit.org](mailto:main@soundtransit.org).

## Pay



**With an ORCA card**, just tap and go! It works on all regional transit, making transfers easy and often free. Get yours at a ticket machine, local retailers or [myorca.com](https://myorca.com).

You can also use the **Transit GO Ticket app**, buy single-use or one-day **train tickets**, or pay **exact change on buses**.

**Find fare information** at [soundtransit.org/fares](https://soundtransit.org/fares).

## Ride



You'll pay your fare when you board a bus, but there are no turnstiles or gates when you enter Link or Sounder platforms. Just tap your ORCA card on a yellow reader or buy your fare before you board.

Fare ambassadors periodically board trains to check fares for everyone on board, so have your ORCA card, activated app fare or paper ticket ready to show.

**Don't miss important alerts!** Sign up for texts or emails at [soundtransit.org/subscribe](https://soundtransit.org/subscribe).



# Youth ride free!



If you're 18 or under, transit is now fare-free thanks to Move Ahead Washington, a statewide transportation funding package.

**Learn how to get a Free Youth Transit Pass today:**  
***[freeyouthtransitpass.com](https://freeyouthtransitpass.com)***

## **Fares shouldn't be a barrier**

We believe everyone should have access to transit. That's why fares for income-qualified passengers, seniors and riders with disabilities are just \$1 on all Sound Transit buses and trains.

To see if you're eligible for an ORCA LIFT card or reduced-fare permit and apply today, visit [myorca.com](https://myorca.com).

# Life's better with transit at your doorstep

As regional connections strengthen and people rely less on cars, transit-oriented development around station areas helps neighborhoods thrive. TOD creates retail space, restaurants, offices, community spaces and, most importantly, thousands of urgently needed new affordable housing units across the region.

Sound Transit partners with private and nonprofit developers to build TOD projects on property we no longer need for transit construction. In 2022 we joined Bellwether Housing and Mercy Housing Northwest in celebrating the opening of Cedar Crossing, an all-affordable housing project just steps away from our new light rail station in Seattle's Roosevelt neighborhood.



**2,500+** housing units planned or already built



**Most are affordable to those earning 80% or less of area median income**

Meet some of Cedar Crossing's first residents:  
**[soundtransit.org/lara-family](https://soundtransit.org/lara-family)**

VIDEO



*"There were times when my commute turned into three hours. Every time I got home I was just so stressed out. Now when I get off work, I get to enjoy my kids a lot more. Everything's just so conveniently placed for us here. **We get to enjoy our life.**"*

— Angel Lara



# Becoming a more equitable, anti-racist agency

This work doesn't happen overnight, but we're making it part of every day at Sound Transit.

From the way we collaborate with our communities, to how we recruit and retain talent, to our passengers' experience aboard our buses and trains—every facet of our work has the potential to improve lives, or to perpetuate systemic inequities.

Since its inception in 2017, Sound Transit's Office of Civil Rights, Equity and Inclusion has been building an internal foundation to help us grow into that accountability and approach every decision through an equity lens.



*Sound Transit's sustainability program was named the nation's "Most Transformative" in the Federal Transit Administration's 2022 Climate Challenge Awards.*

## Prioritizing our planet

Did you know that in our region, transportation is the largest source of emissions contributing to climate change? Sound Transit's growing network of low- or zero-carbon trains and buses are greening the way we travel across the Central Puget Sound and making it easier to shift from driving to transit.

In fact, Sound Transit's voter-approved projects are projected to save **793,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually by 2046**. That's saving the equivalent of:



Burning more than 89 million gallons of gasoline.



Providing electricity for nearly 154,000 homes for a year.



The carbon sequestered by growing 13 million tree seedlings for 10 years.



*"I studied abroad in Japan for a semester and with a short walk to the train station, I could just get anywhere. I look at this map that Sound Transit has now, and we're building a transit system that can get you so many more places—the biggest transit expansion in this entire country. **I feel amazing to be a part of that wave!**"*

**– Patrick Carnahan**  
Safety & Security Specialist

## Come work with us!

To meet the operating needs of our growing system, we're working with our regional transit partners to **double our hiring rate in the years ahead**. That means hundreds of great-paying new operator and technician positions, and an array of exciting careers at Sound Transit.

Seize your opportunity:  
**[soundtransit.org/jobs](https://soundtransit.org/jobs)**



Sound Transit's 19 active construction projects have employed more than **27,700 tradespeople**, including **5,500 apprentices**.

They've generated more than **20 million labor hours** and **\$958 million in wages** alone.

There are **45 million labor hours still to come** on our current slate of projects.



### Building careers, building a legacy

Sound Transit provides living-wage jobs for thousands of Puget Sound residents, and we're actively recruiting tomorrow's diverse workforce.

We partner with community nonprofits to train local talent—including traditionally underrepresented groups like people of color, native tribal members and women—for lifetime careers in construction trades.

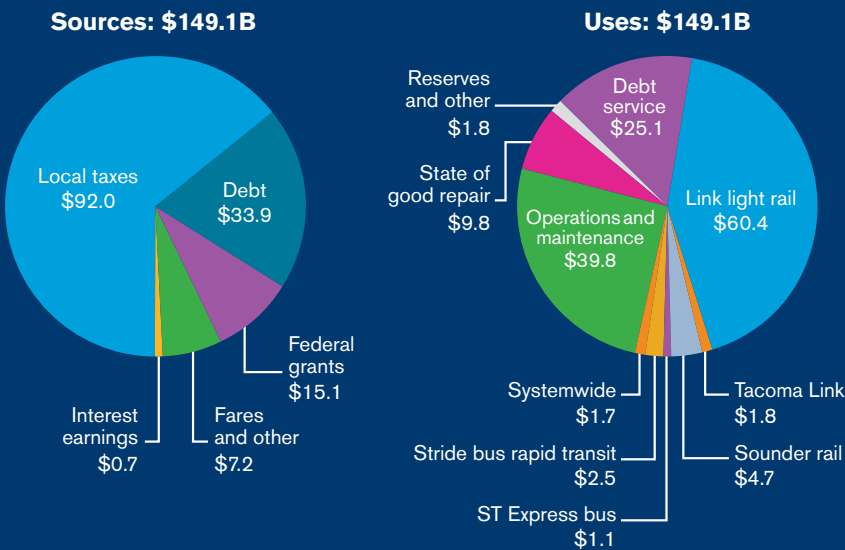
# Financial information

Funding for transit construction and operation comes from a combination of local taxes, federal grants, borrowing through the issuance of bonds, fare income and other sources.

Sound Transit recently received its 27th annual Financial Statement and federal funding Single Audit, conducted by the independent outside auditing firm Moss Adams. No material weaknesses have been found since these audits began in 1995.

## Funding sources and uses: 2017-2046 (in billions)

Why 2017-2046? That's the program life of our ST3 regional system expansion plan.



**Sound Transit has one of the highest bond ratings of any transit agency in the country, which helps us get lower loan interest rates and stretch taxpayer dollars further.**

## Sound Transit Board

An 18-member Board of Directors governs Sound Transit. It's made up of local elected officials from across our transit district, apportioned by population—three from Snohomish County, 10 from King County and four from Pierce County—plus the Washington State Secretary of Transportation.

**Dow Constantine**, *Chair*,  
King County Executive

**Kent Keel**, *Vice chair*,  
University Place Councilmember

**Dave Somers**, *Vice chair*,  
Snohomish County Executive

**Nancy Backus**, Auburn Mayor

**David Baker**, Kenmore Councilmember

**Claudia Balducci**, King County Councilmember

**Bruce Dammeier**, Pierce County Executive

**Cassie Franklin**, Everett Mayor

**Christine Frizzell**, Lynnwood Mayor

**Bruce Harrell**, Seattle Mayor

**Debora Juarez**, Seattle Council President

**Joe McDermott**, King County Councilmember

**Roger Millar**, Washington State  
Secretary of Transportation

**Ed Prince**, Renton Councilmember

**Kim Roscoe**, Fife Mayor

**Dave Upthegrove**, King County Council Chair

**Peter von Reichbauer**,  
King County Councilmember

**Kristina Walker**, Tacoma Deputy Mayor



**800-823-9230**

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。

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-spanish\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-spanish)

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-korean\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-korean)

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-russian\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-russian)

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-tagalog\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-tagalog)

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-vietnamese\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-vietnamese)

➤ [\*\*soundtransit.org/report-chinese\*\*](https://soundtransit.org/report-chinese)