

**Sound Transit  
Tacoma Dome Link Extension  
Determination of Significance  
And Request for Comments on Scope of EIS**



**Description of Proposal**

Sound Transit is proposing to expand Link light rail transit service from the Federal Way Transit Center to the Tacoma Dome Station area. The project, known as the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE), runs in a corridor approximately 10 miles long, with four proposed stations and two park-and-rides. The project is part of the Sound Transit 3 Plan of regional transit system investments, funding for which was approved by the voters in 2016.

The purpose of the TDLE project is to expand the Link light rail system from the Federal Way Transit Center to the Tacoma Dome Station area, to make appropriate community investments to improve mobility, and to increase capacity and connectivity for regional connections. Additional detail on the project's draft Purpose and Need is in the Scoping Information Report. The draft Purpose and Need statement establishes the basis for developing and evaluating a range of reasonable alternatives for environmental review and assists with the identification of a Preferred Alternative.

Sound Transit will evaluate a range of light rail transit (LRT) build alternatives as well as a no-build alternative.

*No Build Alternative.* The No Build alternative reflects the existing transportation system and environment without the proposed project. It also serves as a baseline for comparing impacts of the build alternatives.

*LRT Alternatives.* The full-length project connecting from Federal Way to the Tacoma Dome Station is approximately 10 miles long and includes four stations: South Federal Way, Fife, East Tacoma, and the Tacoma Dome. FTA and Sound Transit may also examine several design options and potential minimal operable segments for the proposed alternatives. Information about the proposed project, the alternatives development process, scoping, and the EIS process will be available at the scoping meetings, at Sound Transit offices, on the project website: <http://www.soundtransit.org/tdlink>, or by contacting the project line at (206) 903-7118. For purposes of this notice, the project can be generally described as follows:

Based on planning efforts to date, the alternatives evaluated for the project follow the I-5 corridor, the SR 99 corridor, or a combination of the two corridors, and include four stations and two park-and-rides located at the South Federal Way and Fife stations. The project begins just south of the Federal Way Transit Center and includes three general alternative routes in South Federal Way: I-5, Enchanted Parkway, and SR 99. The I-5 alternatives run parallel to the west side of I-5 with station options in the vicinity of S 356th Street. The Enchanted Parkway alternatives curve from I-5 to Enchanted Parkway between S 344th Street and S 359th Street with station options in the vicinity of S 352nd Street. The SR 99 alternatives use either SR 99 or a short stretch of I-5 to reach an SR 99 station near S 348th Street before continuing south along SR 99, or returning to the west side of I-5. All station options in South Federal Way include a park-and-ride. Just south of Porter Way, I-5 and SR 99 make a 90-degree curve to the west near the city limits for Milton and Fife. Due to the topography and a new interchange with SR 167 that the Washington State Department of Transportation plans to start constructing in 2019, all alternatives converge along the SR 99 corridor as they enter Fife. The station and park-and-ride site options in Fife are generally located north of SR 99 between 59th Street E and 54th Street E. West of 54th Street E, the alternatives follow either the south side of the SR 99 corridor or the north side of the I-5 corridor. All of the alternatives are anticipated to cross the Puyallup River on a new bridge to the north of

I-5. From East Tacoma to the Tacoma Dome Station area, the alternatives would curve slightly north to follow either E 26th Street, E 25th Street, or Puyallup Avenue. There is also an option for an alignment to follow E 26th Street or E 27th Street to a station site at the Tacoma Dome near East D Street. The East Tacoma station location is anticipated to be a block east or west of Portland Avenue E. The Tacoma Dome light rail station would be located in the vicinity of East G Street or East D Street.

The build alternatives could also include transit-related roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements at the stations, and the Puyallup River Bridge crossing. These improvements may be eligible for federal funding and could be part of the transit project or constructed as part of a joint effort with agency partners.

**Proponent:** Sound Transit (Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority)

**Location of proposal:** Federal Way, King County, Washington; Fife, Milton, Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington; Puyallup Tribal Reservation.

**Lead agency:** Sound Transit is the lead agency for State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A combined EIS is being prepared under SEPA and NEPA.

*EIS Required.* The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS: transportation (including navigable waterways), land use and consistency with applicable plans, land acquisition and displacements, socioeconomic impacts, park and recreation resources, historic and cultural resources, environmental justice, visual and aesthetic qualities, air quality, noise and vibration, hazardous materials, energy use, electromagnetic fields, public services and utilities, safety and security, water resources, floodplains, and ecosystems, including threatened and endangered species, and potential marine mammals. The EIS will evaluate the impacts of construction, operations, and indirect and cumulative impacts. The EIS will also propose measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate significant adverse impacts.

The following areas will also be included for the purposes of meeting NEPA requirements in this combined SEPA/NEPA EIS: Section 4(f)/6(f) resources (public parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of national, State, or local significance), Section 106 resources (historic and cultural properties on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places), and environmental justice (effects on low-income and minority populations).

The scoping process may result in a narrower scope of elements analyzed in the EIS.

*Scoping.* Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on the proposed range of alternatives, potential significant impacts to be avoided, minimized, or mitigated, the draft Purpose and Need, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Three public scoping meetings and one agency and tribe scoping meeting are scheduled. Invitations to the agency and tribe scoping meeting are being sent to appropriate federal, tribal, state, and local governmental entities. The method and deadline for providing comments is as follows:

Comment Deadline: Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2019

Comment Online: [tdlink.participate.online](http://tdlink.participate.online)

Mail: Tacoma Dome Link Extension (c/o Elma Borbe)  
Sound Transit  
401 S Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104

Email: [TDLEscoping@soundtransit.org](mailto:TDLEscoping@soundtransit.org)

At a public meeting:

1. Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Fife Community Center  
2111 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue E. Fife, WA 98424
2. Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Tacoma Convention Center, Rooms 315 and 317  
1500 Commerce Street, Tacoma, WA 98402
3. Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 6:00 – 8:00pm  
Federal Way Performing Arts and Event Center  
31510 Pete von Reichbauer Way S  
Federal Way, WA 98003.


Project line: 206- 903-7118

All public meeting locations are accessible to persons with disabilities who may also request materials be prepared and supplied in alternate formats by calling 800-201-4900/TTY Relay 711 or email [accessibility@soundtransit.org](mailto:accessibility@soundtransit.org) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Responsible official: Perry Weinberg  
Position/title: Deputy Executive Director,  
Office of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability  
Phone: (206) 689-4931  
Address: Sound Transit  
Office of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability  
Union Station, 401 South Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104-2826

**Additional Information:** Additional information is contained in the Scoping Information Report, including alternatives under consideration, topics for discussion in the EIS, and the draft Purpose and Need Statement, and is available at <http://www.soundtransit.org/tdlink> or can be obtained by calling the project line at 206-903-7118.

For information on the scoping process, contact Elma Borbe, Sound Transit, Senior Environmental Planner, at 206-398-5445.

Date: 3/26/2019 Signature:   
Perry Weinberg  
SEPA Responsible Official