

Fife and South Federal Way Public Engagement Summary

Engagement overview

Since beginning the environmental review process for the TDLE in 2018, Sound Transit identified the need to consider additional route and station options. These include:

- Two station options in Fife.
- An additional route in South Federal Way / Milton and associated station locations in South Federal Way.
- No additional alternatives are being proposed in Tacoma.

To bring these additional route and station options up to the same level of evaluation as our existing alternatives, we would delay Draft EIS publication to mid-2024. This delay would also impact the start of service for TDLE, which we now anticipate opening in 2035.

From February 27 to March 17, 2023, we publicized these project updates and hosted a comment opportunity. The engagement period drew more than 2,150 visitors to an online open house. We received more than 75 survey responses through the online survey (30 in Fife, 45 in South Federal Way), talked to more than 110 people at three in-person drop-in sessions, and received around 10 email comments. Thank you to everyone who participated. Read more about the engagement activities in [Appendix A](#).

We provided an engagement report with key comment themes (see next section) to the Sound Transit Board for their consideration. On March 23, the Board approved a [motion](#) to include the additional route and station options for further study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.



Engagement by the numbers

Tacoma Dome Link Extension

The Draft EIS will include more detailed information about all routes and stations (including the additions to Fife and South Federal Way), and their potential effects on the natural and built environments. We'll seek comments from the public, Tribal Nations, cities and agencies during a formal public comment period when the Draft EIS is published.

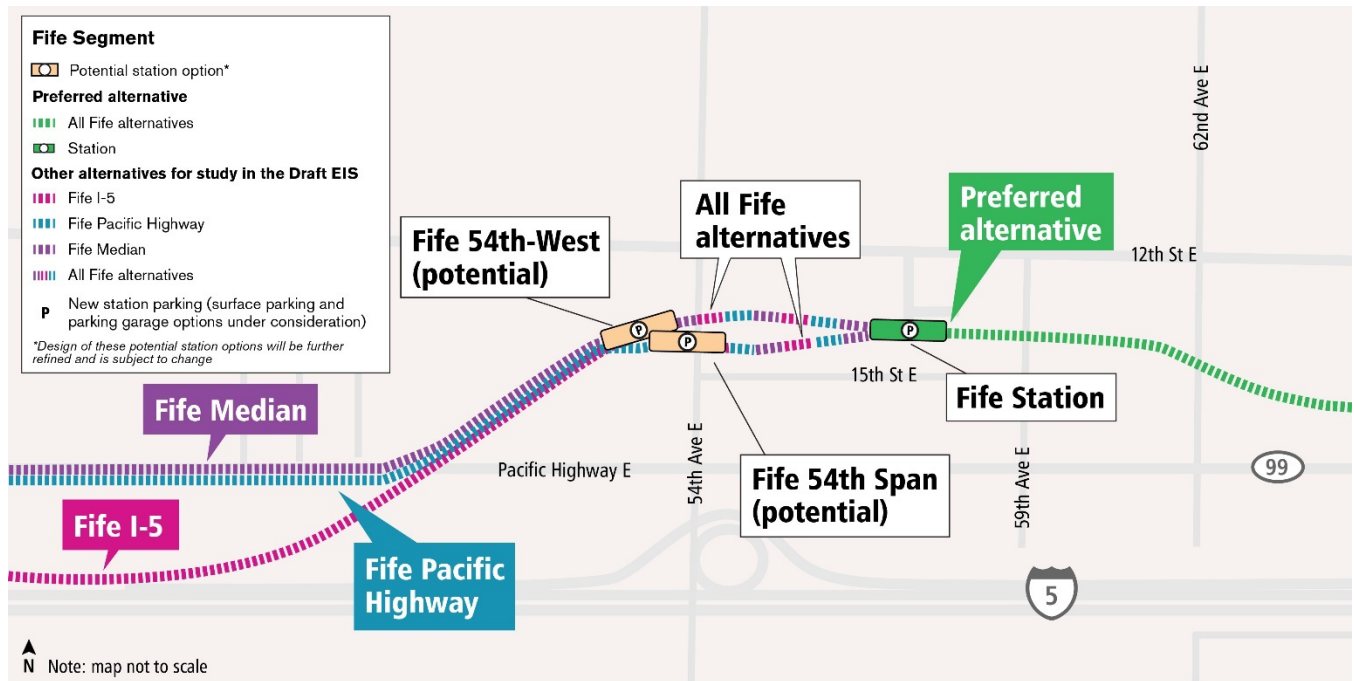
Key comment themes

The online open house included two short surveys for people to provide feedback about the potential additions in Fife and South Federal Way/Milton. We also spoke to community members at three drop-in events, one in each city, and received several emails with comments. Themes from these feedback methods are summarized below.

Fife station options

Fife Station, which the Sound Transit Board identified as part of the preferred alternative to study in the Draft EIS in 2019, is in a federally designated floodplain. Through ongoing development of the Draft EIS, we've come to better understand the nature and limits of the floodplain.

To meet federal environmental regulations related to floodplains, we're now proposing to study two more potential station options in the Draft EIS —the Fife 54th Span Station Option and Fife 54th-West Station Option—outside of the designated floodplain.



The two additional station options being considered in Fife.

Comments about traffic, impacts

- Concerns about heavy traffic congestion in the area potentially made worse by station locations on 54th

- Questions about potential residential, business and community resource impacts from the station and parking
 - Question from representatives of the Korean Catholic Church (St. Paul Chong Hasang) community regarding noise and vibration if the station were to be located further west

Support for the 54th station options

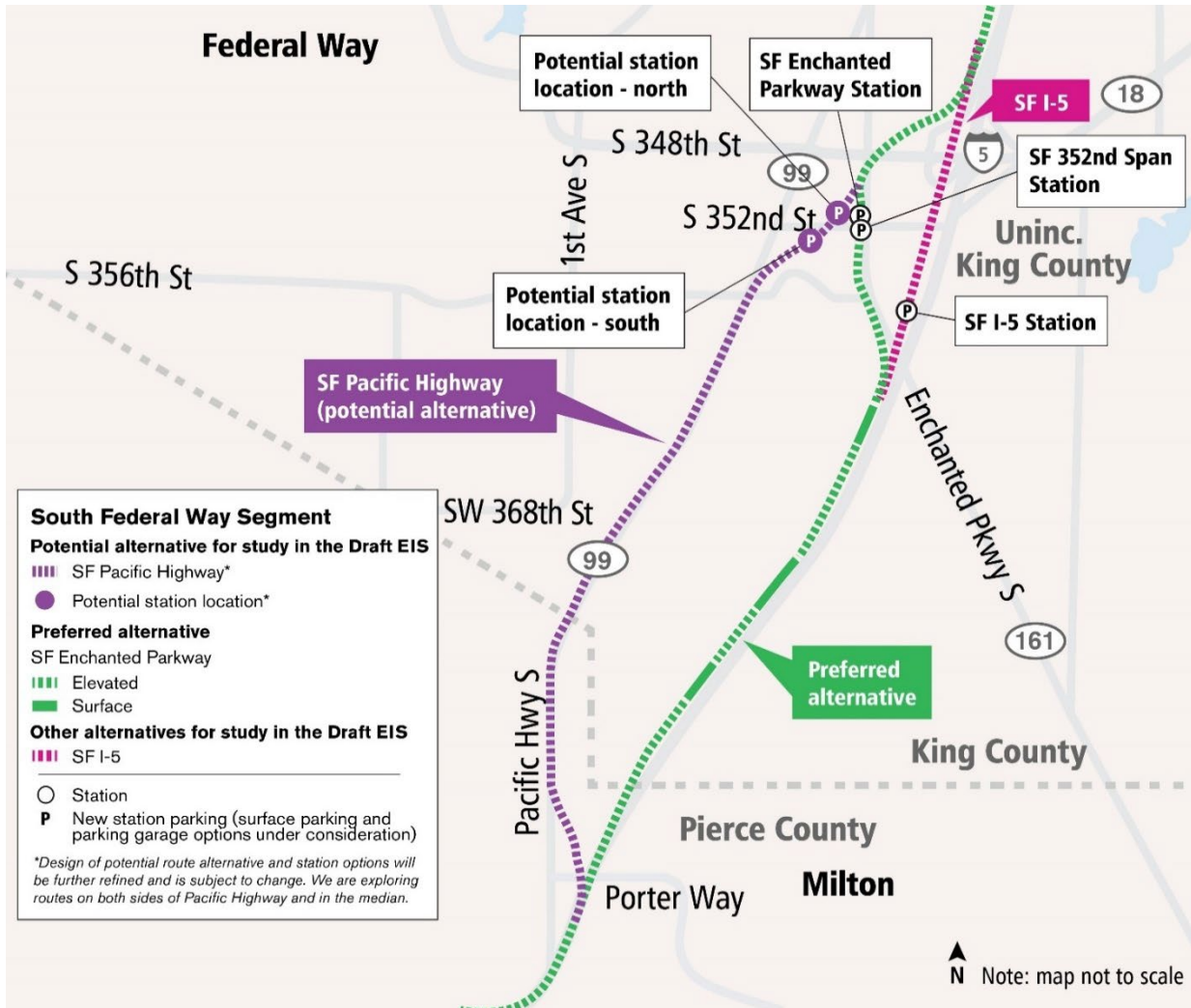
- Some commenters expressed support for one or both station options near 54th. Comments included:
 - 54th-West: Potential for fewer traffic impacts, opportunity for environmental restoration
 - 54th Span: Potential for providing pedestrian access to both sides of street
 - Either: Benefit of being outside of the federally designated floodplain
- Others stated a preference for the existing Fife Station location

South Federal Way/Milton route and stations

The southern part of the South Federal Way Segment includes one route, which the Board identified as the preferred alternative. Early coordination with Regional Tribal Partners identified known cultural resources adjacent to I-5. In recent communications they voiced that these impacts are unavoidable. We are now considering studying a potential route from South Federal Way to Milton along Pacific Highway (SR 99).

We are exploring potential routes on either side of Pacific Highway as well as potentially in the median. The design of this route would be further refined and is subject to change. We're also exploring two potential station locations for study in the vicinity of the SF Enchanted Parkway Station that would serve the Pacific Highway route.

Tacoma Dome Link Extension



The potential additional alternative in South Federal Way is along Pacific Highway and includes two potential station locations.

Concerns about Pacific Highway route

- The top comment theme about the proposed additions in South Federal Way was concern about residential and commercial property impacts and displacements from the potential route on Pacific Highway
 - Participants at the Milton drop-in session presented a petition with around 30 signatories: “Home owners, company owners, property owners, against the Tacoma Link Project via 99 Pacific Hwy in Milton, WA as per Sound Transit projected map.”
 - Residents and the owner from Spring Valley Mobile Home Park expressed concerns about displacement of low-income homes
 - A Milton City Councilmember stated plans for the town to develop businesses near the Pacific Highway route and felt this would interfere with their community development

- Commenters also raised questions and concerns about other impacts from the potential route, such as environmental impacts to trees and the Hylebos watershed/West Hylebos Wetland Park and impacts to Gethsemane Cemetery

Support for Pacific Highway route

- Some commenters expressed support for the route suggesting a potential to promote higher walkability and redevelopment in the corridor with a potential for an infill station in the future
 - A couple commenters suggested a need for an additional route that stays along I-5 longer before transitioning to Pacific Highway to keep the other station options viable

No clear station preference for South Federal Way

- Some preferred existing station locations, some preferred the new proposed station locations along the Pacific Highway alignment
- General themes included concerns about increased traffic and congestion in the future station area and displacements no matter where the station is located

General feedback themes

Questions about project milestones

- Commenters expressed concerns and frustrations about delays on the project
 - Some opposed the additions suggesting it would be faster to only study what was already approved
 - Tacoma-area commenters expressed frustration of delay of transportation benefits to Pierce County
 - City of Tacoma and Pierce County Council sent letters that share concerns around this theme
- Many we spoke to at the drop-ins asked when the Draft EIS would be available, when property impacts such as acquisitions needed for the project would be more certain, and when TDLE would open for service

Questions about nearby projects

- Many drop-in participants, particularly at the Federal Way event, asked for updates about OMF South and the Federal Way Link Extension
 - There were participants from Belmor Park, Garage Town, and Pacific Christian Academy

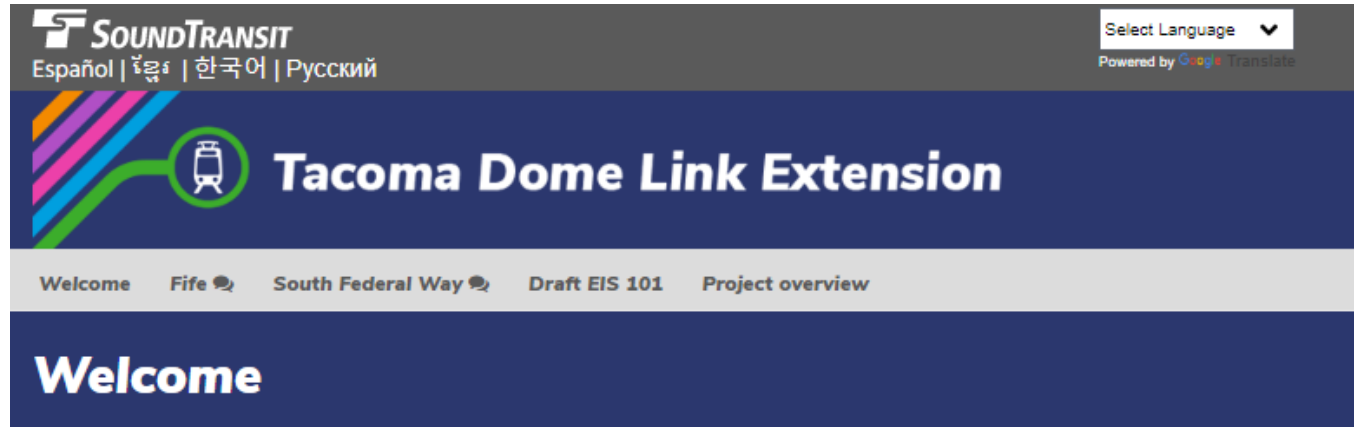
Feedback and questions on the Tacoma Segment

- Though we had no new information to share about the Portland Avenue and Tacoma Dome station areas at this time, we got a few comments with feedback on routes and stations in Tacoma and requests for updates on the Tacoma Segment

Appendix A: Engagement activities

Online open house

We used an online open house as our main way to share information and gather feedback through short online survey questions. The online open house was available from Feb. 27 – March 17 in English, Spanish, Korean, Khmer and Russian, and drew over 2,150 visitors, including over 50 visitors to our in-language sites. We received 30 survey responses on the Fife survey and 45 survey responses on the South Federal Way survey (all survey responses were in English).



Explore the latest

Potential additions for further study

Since beginning the environmental review process for the Tacoma Dome Link Extension in 2018, Sound Transit identified the need to consider additional route and station options. These include:

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Attend an in-person drop-in session

Milton/Edgewood Library

Wed., March 8 | 5-7 p.m.

900 Meridian Ave E, Milton

Snapshot of the online open house website with project updates and the opportunity to provide feedback about the potential additions in Fife and South Federal Way/ Milton

Community events

We hosted three community drop-ins to talk with community members during this period.

- **Milton:** Wednesday, March 8, 5-7 PM, Milton/Edgewood Library
- **South Federal Way:** Tuesday, March 14, 8 - 10 AM, Federal Way Community Center
- **Fife:** Wednesday, March 15, 11 AM - 1 PM, Poodle Dog Restaurant

We had more than 110 attendees across the three events (around 35 in Milton and 40 each in Federal Way and Fife). At each event, staff shared information about the project updates, responded to questions, and encouraged participants to comment and sign up for the project listserv to stay in touch moving forward.



A project staff member speaks with a community member at the Federal Way Community Center drop-in on March 14.

Notifications

We used several notification tools to share information about the project updates, the online open house, and the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.

Mailer

We sent more than 12,900 mailers to nearby homes and businesses with information in four languages (English, Spanish, Korean, Khmer). The mailing area was centered on addresses near the proposed additions in Fife, Milton and South Federal Way.

Visit our online open house by March 17 to explore potential new route and station alternatives in Fife and South Federal Way.

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Fife 및 South Federal Way에서의 잠재적인 새 경로 및 역 대안을 조사하는 3월 17일 온라인 오픈하우스에 참여하세요.

Visite nuestra jornada de puertas abiertas en línea antes del 17 de marzo para explorar posibles nuevas alternativas de rutas y estaciones en Fife y South Federal Way.

tdlink.participate.online



Front side of the multi-lingual mailer promoting the online open house and drop-in sessions

Listserv

We sent three email updates to our project email list with over 5,200 subscribers to announce the project updates (Feb. 27), remind people of the drop-in session events (March 8), and remind them to comment (March 16).

Property calls

We made over 60 calls to properties potentially affected by the potential additional station options in Fife and route and station options South Federal Way/Milton the week of Feb. 27. Many attendees at the drop-in sessions mentioned receiving one of these calls.

Community partner toolkits

We created a notification toolkit including posters, sample newsletter text and social media posts for our jurisdictional and community partners to share information to their networks.

Social media

We also ran two social media ad campaigns on Facebook from Feb. 27 – March 3 and March 8 – March 11, which garnered a combined 46,000 impressions and 835 clicks.