Project timeline

**Public involvement / Testing**
- Conversations with property owners
- Groundbreaking
- Construction updates and mitigation
- Safety education
- Testing and preparations

**Design**
- Final route design
- Final station designs
- Procure and commission station and public art
- Obtain land use and construction permits

**Planning**
- Alternatives development
- ST Board selects project to be built
- Federal Record of Decision
- Procure and commission station and public art

**Construction**
- Final route design
- Final station designs
- Procure and commission station and public art
- Obtain land use and construction permits

**Voter Approval**
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Preliminary design
- ST Board selects preferred alternative

**Start of Service**
- 2030

Stay involved
Sound Transit is committed to meaningful public participation. We will be hosting workshops and listening sessions, attending community briefings, and hosting information tables at several fairs and festivals throughout the environmental review stage to keep you in the loop as the alternatives are further studied.

Equity and inclusion
Sound Transit is committed to inclusively engaging those who live and work along the project corridors, including historically underrepresented communities. Throughout planning and environmental review, we are working closely with these communities to identify and understand potential benefits and impacts, and to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement.

Contact us
soundtransit.org/tdlink or 206-398-5453

401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104
1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711

Information in alternative formats:
1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711
Email: accessibility@soundtransit.org

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Regional light rail is on the way

Current project status:
Environmental review (2019–2022)

July 2019: The Sound Transit Board identified route and station locations to study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS will evaluate potential impacts and benefits of the project on the natural and built environment and identify potential mitigation measures.

Sound Transit plans to release the Draft EIS for public review and comment in 2021.

Project map inside

Project overview
The Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to residential and job centers in the South Sound region. This Link extension is part of the transit system expansion approved by voters in November 2016. Once complete, riders will be able to travel from South Federal Way to Tacoma Dome in 20 min. and from Tacoma Dome to Sea-Tac Airport in 35 min.

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How did we get here?
From 2017–2019, the project was in the alternatives development phase—a period that consisted of technical analyses, community feedback and recommendations from the Stakeholder Group and Elected Leadership Group to narrow project alternatives. The result? After study of a wide variety of routes and station locations, The Sound Transit Board identified a preferred alternative and other alternatives to study in the Draft EIS based on feedback from nearly 18 months of public engagement.

What’s next?
The project is now in environmental review and preliminary design. Your next opportunity to submit feedback on route and station locations from Federal Way to Tacoma will be in 2021, when we publish the Draft EIS. Informed by feedback received by the public, agencies, and tribes, the Sound Transit Board will confirm or modify the preferred alternative. We’ll then prepare a Final EIS to further study the preferred alternative, along with other alternatives, and will respond to comments received on the Draft EIS. After we publish the Final EIS in 2022, the Sound Transit Board will select the final route and station locations to be built.

Upcoming activities
Fieldwork. The project team plans to conduct a variety of fieldwork throughout the corridor. What’s fieldwork? It’s important research that may include surveying, drilling to collect soil samples, vibration testing, noise monitoring and more.

Station planning. Building light rail isn’t just about moving people from place to place; it’s also about building community. Over the next couple of years, we will work with communities along the project corridor to help inform early station design development. It’s our goal to identify solutions that best fit the vision for your community and connect more people to mass transit.

Route and station locations being studied in the Draft EIS

Federal Way to Tacoma
- Adds 9.7 miles of light rail service from the Federal Way Transit Center to the Tacoma Dome station area.
- Four new stations at South Federal Way, Fife, east Tacoma and the Tacoma Dome area.
- Provides connections to other transit services in the region such as Sounder, Tacoma Link, Sound Transit Express, King County Metro, Pierce Transit, Intercity Transit and Amtrak.
- Features pickup and drop-off zones and provides access for those traveling by foot, bike, paratransit and other modes.
- Includes two new parking facilities in South Federal Way and Fife.