



# Monthly Report: External Engagement

It is important to Sound Transit to hear from the public during all phases of a light rail project, including planning, design and construction. We document all of our public engagement activities and summarize what we're hearing to share with the project team, Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), Elected Leadership Group (ELG) and Sound Transit Board of Directors (Board).

The purpose of this monthly report is to show where Sound Transit has met with community, what we're hearing from community members, and how we're using that feedback to shape the project.

Our community engagement goals are as follows:

- **Be proactive:** Engage audiences, including the communities most affected by the project, in conversations that lead to an early agreement on a preferred alternative.
- **Be transparent:** Foster public trust through transparent communication, meaningful and inclusive public engagement and timely responses to project questions and feedback.
- **Be accountable:** Ensure accountability by clearly communicating when, where and how public feedback was used to make project decisions.
- **Ensure accessibility:** Ensure accessibility by presenting project information in easy-to-read and understandable formats, including in-language documents, with an eye toward accessibility for all audiences.
- **Encourage awareness:** Encourage local and regional awareness of the benefits, effects and progress of the project.

Report key:



Provided direct response



Informed technical work



Documented for future phases



Shared with SAG/ELG/Board



Informed public engagement approach



## Monthly Report: Activities Snapshot

### PROJECT PHASE: ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

In March, the 45-day scoping comment period continued and we received more than **1,500** scoping comments. In addition, we hosted **1** scoping open house, **2** community workshops, attended **26** community briefings and participated in **3** community festivals/tabling events. The scoping period began on February 15 and ends on April 2, 2019.



**1,586** comments and questions



**2** community workshops



**3** email updates  
engaging **7,300** subscribers



**26** community briefings



**3** festivals & tabling events  
engaging **167** community members



**1** Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting



**1** open house  
engaging **94** community members



**1** Elected Leadership Group meeting



**1** online open house  
engaging more than **6,687** online visitors



## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach














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### COMMUNICATIONS ANALYTICS

1,586 communications (including 1,533 scoping comments):

- 1,130 online open house comments
- 266 emails
- 124 comment forms
- 29 letters
- 23 phone conversations or scoping voicemails
- 13 verbal comments from open houses
- 1 in-person conversation

#### Key feedback\*:

- Questions about the process to select a preferred alternative and other alternatives to study in the Environmental Impact Statement  
- Questions about how to give feedback on the alternatives and submit a scoping comment  
- Support for an alignment that doesn't remove neighborhood or underground parking 
- Support for a tunnel alignment in West Seattle 
- Support for a Midtown station that does not impact 5th Avenue 
- Support for a Ballard station on 20th Avenue NW 
- Concerns about potential property impacts  
- Interest in good pedestrian routes to access the Chinatown-International District station   

\*Scoping comments will be summarized in a Scoping Summary Report, scheduled to be published in late April 2019.



## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### BRIEFINGS

During the reporting period, the project team held **26** briefings, engaging the following groups or individuals:

- Pete Spalding, Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council (3/1)
- Lisa Howard, Alliance for Pioneer Square (3/1)
- South Downtown Stakeholders (3/4)
- Uptown Alliance, Transportation Committee (3/4)
- South Lake Union Community Council (3/5)
- Barry Blanton, Blanton Turner (3/5)
- Harbor Safety Committee (3/6)
- Ron Chew, ICHS (3/6)
- Michael Taylor Judd, West Seattle Transportation Coalition (3/6)
- SODO Station Conversation (3/6)
- AIA Seattle, Transportation Task Force (3/11)
- NP Hotel Apartments (3/11)
- Pigeon Point Neighborhood Council (3/11)
- Coastal Transportation (3/12)
- Ballard Alliance (3/13)
- Pacific Café (3/19)
- Nora Chan, Seniors in Action Foundation (3/19, 3/25)
- SCIDpda Board of Directors (3/19)
- Pioneer Square Residents' Council (3/19)
- International House Senior Living (3/20)
- Washington Federal (3/22)
- West Seattle JuNO (3/25)
- North Seattle Industrial Association (3/26)
- 5th and Madison Condominiums (3/28)
- Community briefing at House of Hong Restaurant (3/31)

















## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### BRIEFINGS (KEY FEEDBACK)

Questions and feedback received from briefings during the reporting period.

#### Corridor wide

- Comment about strengthening the language on equitable transit-oriented development (TOD) in the purpose and need statements  
- Questions about topics and number of alternatives considered in the Environmental Impact Statement and the associated formal scoping period  
- Questions about agency collaboration with the City of Seattle and King County Metro during the alternatives development process  
- Questions about what funding has been secured through 2035 and additional funding options  
- Questions about how Sound Transit is considering the density of neighborhoods in the next 50 and 100 years as proposed routes and stations are evaluated  
- Questions about timing of the station area planning and property acquisition processes  
- Questions about station designs, including level of detail included at this stage and when feedback can be provided on features like the number and locations of entrances and tunnel portals  












## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### BRIEFINGS (KEY FEEDBACK)

Questions and feedback received from briefings during the reporting period.

#### Interbay/Ballard (includes stations at Ballard, Interbay and Smith Cove)

- Questions about the proposed bridge over Salmon Bay, including the structure design, cost and feasibility, timing to replace the existing Ballard bridge and coordination with the Coast Guard  
- Question about the proposed Ballard station locations and the distance to historic Ballard  
- Concern about siting an Interbay station to the west when most people are located along 15th Avenue W  
- Questions and concerns about construction impacts and column locations of a fixed bridge over Salmon Bay  
- Support for a tunnel under Salmon Bay with a Ballard tunnel station 

#### Downtown (includes stations at Seattle Center, South Lake Union, Denny, Westlake and Midtown)

- Support for having Seattle Center and Uptown featured in the name of the proposed Seattle Center station 
- Support for a SLU station at Harrison Street 
- Interest in station designs complementing the historic character of the Uptown neighborhood  
- Interest in the Midtown station connecting with existing infrastructure and amenities at the Columbia and Municipal towers  
- Comment that station access, enhanced landscaping, pedestrian safety and transit integration should be priorities of the Seattle Center station  





















## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### BRIEFINGS (KEY FEEDBACK)

Questions and feedback received from briefings during the reporting period.

#### SODO/Chinatown-International District (includes stations at C-ID, Stadium and SODO)

- Interest in creating a “SODO gateway,” a transfer hub south of downtown at the SODO station 
- Concern about Lander and Holgate overpasses and potential property effects and construction disruption 
- Support for an alignment on 5th Avenue S given the shorter construction period and proximity to the C-ID neighborhood 
- Support for an alignment on 4th Avenue S in order to minimize disruptions to businesses and car traffic on 5th Avenue 
- Support for a shallow station option due to better accessibility, quicker transfers and opportunities to activate Union Station plaza 
- Support for a 5th Avenue S deep station due to interest in less vibration and noise during operations and for easier access from C-ID 
- Interest in providing additional station entrances for improved access; suggestions include the NE corner of Jackson Street and 5th Avenue S and on the east side of 5th Avenue S near King Street  
- Questions and suggestions for the structure of the C-ID Station Community Workshop on March 13, including ideas for presentation topics and facilitated discussion  
- Interest in expanding engagement with the Pioneer Square neighborhood  
- Question about the feasibility of putting a lid over the BSNF lines near 4th Avenue S  
- Question about the need to replace the 4th Avenue viaduct with an alignment along 4th Avenue S  
- Request to notify the C-ID residential and business community about construction and associated detours in-language, early and through a variety of mediums (such as posters and in newspapers)  























## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### BRIEFINGS (KEY FEEDBACK)

Questions and feedback received from briefings during the reporting period.

#### West Seattle (includes stations at Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction)

- Question about the height and clearance of the existing and proposed West Seattle bridges  
- Questions about the proposed Delridge station, including height, location and track width  
- Question about the ability to minimize the cost of a tunnel to West Seattle  
- Questions and suggestions for the structure of the Delridge Station Community Workshop on March 12  
- Comment to consider the potential construction impacts when working in the Duwamish  
- Comment to consider horizontal clearances and air-draft clearances for the proposed Duwamish River crossing  
- Interest in the previously eliminated purple line (Pigeon Point) tunnel alignment and/or the north crossing of the West Seattle bridge to reduce impacts to the Pigeon Point neighborhood  
- Concerns about the elevated guideway and station associated with the West Seattle elevated (orange) alignment and residential neighborhood effects  
- Concerns about future extensions south from the Alaska Junction station and potential property effects and suggestions to utilize Delridge Way or 35th Avenue SW  
- Support for the ST3 Representative Project (red) alignment, if elevated, due to reduced neighborhood effects 
- Support for a tunnel to the Alaska Junction 





## **Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach**

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### **STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP**

During the reporting period, the project team held 1 Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting to discuss station area planning and the Level 3 alternatives.

#### **Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #13 (March 21, 2019)**

- Sound Transit staff provided an update on past, ongoing and upcoming community engagement efforts, including public engagement during the scoping comment period and recent community workshops
- Sound Transit staff presented an overview of Level 3 station planning activities
- Stakeholder Advisory Group members broke into small groups and discussed the Level 3 end-to-end alternatives, with a focus on station area planning



## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### ELECTED LEADERSHIP GROUP

During the reporting period, the project team held 1 Elected Leadership Group meeting to discuss the Level 3 alternatives and community planning and visioning, specific to the Chinatown-International District and Delridge stations.

#### Elected Leadership Group Meeting #6 (March 29, 2019)

- The meeting focused on two neighborhoods: Chinatown-International District and Delridge. Public comment was received prior to the presentation and discussion of each neighborhood.
- Sound Transit staff described the Racial Equity Toolkit (RET), as well as the Level 1 evaluation and outcomes, Level 2 evaluation and outcomes and Level 3 scope.
- For the C-ID station, Sound Transit staff presented the outreach completed in Level 3, as well as what was heard from participants. Staff also summarized the Level 3 alternatives and provided context on community vision and connections.
- For the Delridge station, Sound Transit staff presented the outreach completed in Level 3, as well as what was heard from participants. Staff also summarized the Level 3 alternatives and provided context on community vision and connections.
- Sound Transit staff answered Elected Leadership Group member questions and discussed next steps.









## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### FESTIVALS AND TABLING EVENTS

During the reporting period, the project team attended **3** festivals and tabling events to share information with the community, answer questions and discuss opportunities to stay engaged.

#### Lunar New Year (March 2, 2019)

- **145** community members stopped by the booth
- Questions focused on regional transit changes, including when new light rail stations open and why buses moved out of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. Visitors also asked how they could participate in the scoping comment period.
  - “How do I provide a scoping comment?”  
  - “When will other extensions open, including service to Federal Way? Northgate?”  
  - “Can the new CID station connect to the Amtrak and Sounder?”  

#### Publix Apartment Tabling Event (March 8, 2019)

- **7** community members stopped by the table
- Questions focused on neighborhood impacts and how to connect future light rail to existing transit services
  - “What are potential impacts to the 4th Avenue pedestrian bridge?”  
  - “What are the key differences between a deep or shallow tunnel station in the Chinatown-International District station?”  
  - “How will Sound Transit connect future light rail in the neighborhood to existing buses and trains?”  









## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### FESTIVALS AND TABLING EVENTS

#### Delridge Community Center Tabling Event (March 9, 2019)

- **15** community members stopped by the booth
- Questions focused on specific components of the Level 3 alternatives, property acquisition and coordination with stakeholders
  - “How high is the new guideway across the Duwamish?”  
  - “What is the property acquisition process?”  
  - “Has Sound Transit worked with the Port of Seattle regarding impacts to Harbor Island?”  



## ***Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach***

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### **SCOPING OPEN HOUSES/NEIGHBORHOOD FORUMS**

During the reporting period, the project team held **1** scoping open house/neighborhood forum to collect feedback on route and station alternatives, topics to study in the environmental impact statement, and the project purpose and need. Sound Transit presented segment-specific information, followed by small group breakout discussions to answer questions from community members. All scoping comments will be summarized in a Scoping Summary Report, scheduled to be published in late April 2019.

#### **Downtown Open House and Neighborhood Forum (March 7, 2019)**

- Sound Transit staff shared the environmental review process and previous project milestones accomplished during the alternatives development phase
- Sound Transit presented the Level 3 end-to-end alternatives and design options, evaluation results and key considerations for the South Lake Union, Downtown, Chinatown-International District and SODO segments
- Community members broke into small groups and asked Sound Transit questions about the Level 3 alternatives and station locations
- Attendees shared their scoping comments through written comment forms, verbal comments via a court reporter and digital comments via the online open house



## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

During the reporting period, the project team held **2** community workshops for the Delridge and C-ID stations. The purpose of the community workshops was to learn more about the communities' vision for their neighborhoods, how they get around in the community and where they go, and to share and solicit feedback on the Level 3 alternatives in these neighborhoods and encourage scoping comments. **94** people attended the Delridge Station Community Workshop and **133** people attended the C-ID Station Community Workshop.

#### Delridge Station Community Workshop (March 12, 2019)

- The workshop started with an open house prior to the start of the workshop which gave attendees an opportunity to learn about the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project.
- Sound Transit provided a presentation covering system expansion, West Seattle and Ballard extensions and timelines; scoping, Level 1 and Level 2 alternatives, Level 3 Delridge station options and evaluation results; and an overview of station planning.
- Following the presentation, attendees participated in small breakout groups. Facilitators guided the small group discussions and asked participants to share their perspectives on community vision and connections; the opportunities and challenges of the Level 3 alternatives and station locations serving Delridge; and any potential refinements to the alternatives to better achieve the community vision.



## Monthly Report: Communications and Outreach

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### COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

#### Chinatown-International District Station Community Workshop (March 13, 2019)

- The workshop started with an interagency resource fair with information on Systems Expansion, West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project and East Link's tunnel tie-in and service planning information. King County Public Health provided tutorials and assistance with ORCA Lift applications and Sound Transit handed out free ride tickets.
- Sound Transit provided a presentation covering system expansion, West Seattle and Ballard Extensions and timelines, scoping, C-ID station area options and construction methods, and community visioning surrounding the Jackson Hub. Community members broke out into small groups and facilitators asked community members 1) about the community's long-term vision, 2) how to improve connections, and 3) how the new C-ID station could best serve the community and what impacts they worry about most.
- Following the small group discussions, the remaining participants joined together for a report out wherein each breakout group designated a "spokesperson" to share their group's feedback in their language of choice.
- The presentation was delivered in English and Cantonese; Mandarin was interpreted simultaneously using headset technology. Facilitation and report outs were conducted in English, Cantonese and Mandarin and translated so that every participant could understand the feedback during the meeting.