Project timeline

WE ARE HERE

VOTER APPROVAL

2016

PLANNING 2017–2022

Alternatives development
2017–2019

Early scoping

Scoping

ST Board identifies preferred alternatives and other EIS alternatives

Environmental review
2019–2022

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Final Environmental Impact Statement

ST Board selects project to be built

Federal Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

DESIGN 2022–2026*

Final route design

Final station design

Pavement and commission station and public art

Obtain land use and construction permits

Property acquisition/relocation

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

CONSTRUCTION 2025–2035*

Groundbreaking

Construction updates and mitigation

Safety education

Testing and preoperations

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

START OF SERVICE

West Seattle: 2030

Ballard: 2035

*West Seattle: Design is expected to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2026. Construction and testing is expected to begin in 2025 and be completed in 2030.

*Ballard and downtown Seattle light rail tunnel: Design is expected to begin in 2023 and be completed in 2026. Construction and testing is expected to begin in 2027 and be completed in 2035.

Current project status:
Environmental review (2019–2022)

May 2019: The Sound Transit Board identified route and station options to study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Draft EIS will evaluate potential impacts and benefits of the project on the natural and built environment and identify potential mitigation measures. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be released in 2020 for public review and comment.

Project overview

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers throughout the region. In addition, a new downtown Seattle light rail tunnel will provide capacity for the entire regional system to operate efficiently. These two separate light rail extensions are part of the regional ST3 package that voters approved funding for in November 2016.
How did we get here?
From 2017–2019, the project was in the alternatives development phase. This period consisted of technical analyses, community feedback and recommendations from the Stakeholder Advisory Group and Elected Leadership Group. The result? The Sound Transit Board identified preferred alternatives 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. In late 2020, we will publish a Draft EIS and collect public and agency comments. The Final EIS will include updates as needed and responses to public and agency comments. The EIS analysis and public and agency comments will inform the Sound Transit Board’s selection of the project to be built in 2022.

Upcoming activities
Fieldwork
Starting this summer, 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 neighborhood and connect more people to mass transit.

Subscribe to project emails and learn how to get involved:
soundtransit.org/wsblink

Route and station location options being studied in the Draft EIS

2017–2019

2019–2022

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
Preferred Alternatives
Preferred Alternatives with Third Party Funding
Other Draft EIS alternatives

Route profiles
Elevated route
Tunnel route
Surface route

Current and future light rail service
Station location

*Potential alternatives showing route and general station locations for further environmental study. Final project may reflect refinements.

2030
West Seattle to downtown
Adds 4.7 miles of light rail service from downtown Seattle to West Seattle’s Alaska Junction neighborhood.
Includes 5 stations between the Stadium area and Alaska Junction.

2035
Ballard to downtown
Adds 7.1 miles of light rail service from downtown Seattle to Ballard’s Market Street area, including a new downtown Seattle rail-only tunnel.
Includes 9 stations between International District/Chinatown and Market Street.

May 2019: Sound Transit Board identified Preferred Alternatives, Preferred Alternatives with Third Party Funding, and other alternatives for study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
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 summer to keep you in the loop as the current options are further studied during environmental review.

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

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Project map inside