



# ***West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions***

## **JAN. MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT**

January 2020



# West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions

## Activities snapshot



**14 comments and questions**



**7 community briefings**



**1 festival** *engaging 346 community members*



**11 fieldwork activities and 2 property owner meetings**



**1 email update** *engaging 10,357 subscribers*



Light rail service will extend to West Seattle in 2030 and Ballard in 2035.



## *Emails and phone calls*

During the reporting period, the project team received 14 comments and questions from emails and phone calls.

### **A few questions and comments**

- Support for a tunnel alternative across Salmon Bay.
- Support for a new elevated SODO station.
- Concerns about temporary disruptions due to fieldwork activities.
- Concerns about business effects if a high-level fixed bridge was built across Salmon Bay.
- Questions about current and upcoming opportunities to provide input.
- Questions about the feasibility and benefits of having two at-surface stations at SODO.
- Questions about the property acquisition process and timeline.
- Requests for more detailed maps of the route and station locations online.
- Requests from community organizations for a project briefing.



## Community briefings

During the reporting period, the project team participated in 7 briefings, engaging the following groups or individuals:

- First Hill Improvement Association, Transportation Committee (1/6)
- Pioneer Square Preservation Board (1/22)
- Seattle Center (1/22)
- Seattle Youth Commission (1/22)
- Kilroy Realty (1/24)
- Downtown Transportation Alliance (1/28)
- Ballard-Interbay Regional Transportation System Study Public Meeting (1/28)

## Common questions and comments

### Corridor wide

- Support for affordable housing near station areas.
- Support for integrated shuttle or van services at stations, with an emphasis on addressing the first and last mile challenge.
- Support for station amenities such as small retail vendors and intuitive and multilingual wayfinding signage.
- Support for consistently operable elevators and escalators in future stations.
- Support for more greenspace surrounding stations.
- Support for prioritizing safety at station entrances.
- Concerns about I-976 and its potential effect on this project.
- Concerns about construction impacts on communities along the corridor.
- Questions about how this project will integrate with other transit modes.
- Questions about third-party funding, potential sources and whether it's public or private.
- Questions about equity and inclusion and how much time is spent engaging low-income populations and communities of color.
- Questions about which factors of the potential alignments can inform the Board's decision on a preferred alternative.
- Questions about what happens after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is published.
- Questions about the property acquisition process.



# West Seattle and Ballard

## Link Extensions

### Interbay/Ballard

**Stations:** *Ballard, Interbay and Smith Cove*

- Support for station amenities such as small retail, public restrooms and access to surrounding commerce.
- Support for passenger car loading zones at Ballard station.
- Support for grade separated crossings that connect people walking to the Ballard station.

### Downtown

**Stations:** *Seattle Center, South Lake Union, Denny, Westlake and Midtown*

- Support for light rail serving the First Hill neighborhood.
- Support for intuitive station egress from Seattle Center events.
- Support for station design and artwork to represent the history and culture of the community.
- Support for engagement and building partnerships with downtown businesses, property developers and landowners.
- Support for improvements to existing stations such as clearer wayfinding signage.
- Support for building momentum around station planning now and implementing short term and midterm improvements that will benefit the overall system once the line is in service.
- Support for intuitive pedestrian connections to South Lake Union and Denny stations.
- Questions about the depth of Downtown stations.

### Chinatown-International District/SODO

**Stations:** *Chinatown-International District and SODO*

- Support for improving pedestrian and bicycle corridors near the proposed station locations.
- Questions about the 4th Avenue viaduct and whether it will need to be rebuilt.
- Questions about whether there will be an underground walkway for passengers transferring lines at Chinatown-International District station.

### West Seattle

**Stations:** *Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction*

- Support for light rail serving South Seattle College.
- Questions about the feasibility of fitting a station into the Alaska Junction.



## Fairs and festivals

During the reporting period, the project team attended 1 festival to share information with the community, answer questions and discuss opportunities to stay engaged.

### Common questions and comments

#### Tet in Seattle Festival

**Date:** Jan. 18 - 19, 2020 | **Visitors:** 346

- How is this project funded and where will you source third-party funding?
- Will you build a tunnel or an elevated guideway in West Seattle?
- Will the tunnel construction be as disruptive as the Alaskan Way Viaduct project?
- Where can I purchase or refill the money on my ORCA card?



Staff at project information booth at Tet in Seattle Festival



## **Property owner meetings and fieldwork**

During the reporting period, the project team distributed notifications about 11 upcoming fieldwork activities and attended 2 meetings with property owners.

### Fieldwork

#### Activities

- Delivered flyers in West Seattle, West Seattle Duwamish Waterway, SODO, Downtown and Ballard to notify businesses and residences about geotechnical work.



Geotechnical drilling rig in South Lake Union

### Property owner meetings

#### A few questions and comments

- Concerns about potential effects to historical and landmark buildings in Downtown.
- Questions about the size of construction staging areas in Downtown and whether stations will be mined or cut-and-cover.
- Questions about where the station entrances for Midtown station will be located.
- Questions about the property acquisition process.

[soundtransit.org/wsblink](https://soundtransit.org/wsblink)



 **SOUNDTRANSIT** // Powering progress