

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

JAN. MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

January 2020





Activities snapshot



14 comments and questions



7 community briefings



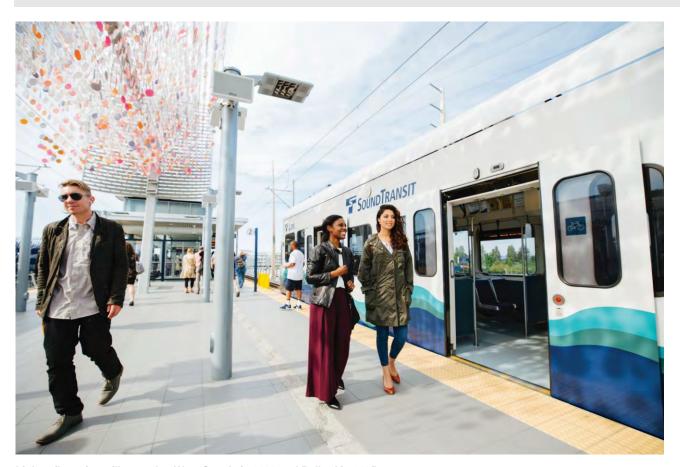
1 festival engaging 346 community members



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 guestions 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.



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.



