



West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

MARCH MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

March 2020



West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions

Activities snapshot



7 comments and questions



3 community briefings



1 career fair *engaging 100 students*



15 fieldwork activities and 3 property owner meetings



1 online survey *engaging 443 waterway users*



47,139 Facebook impressions



4,701 Twitter impressions

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in-place orders, Sound Transit began transitioning outreach with community groups, property owners and other stakeholders to virtual platforms during the reporting period. As a result of the global health crisis, many community briefings, meetings and events were postponed or cancelled. We are continuing to find creative ways to engage with the communities in which we work that support the recommendations to socially distance to enhance public safety.

Emails and phone calls

During the reporting period, the project team received 7 comments and questions via emails and phone calls.

A few questions and comments

- Support for minimal fieldwork effects in the Chinatown-International District.
- Support for potential refinements to the Yancy-Andover alternative that improve transit integration and that address truck traffic to and from Nucor.
- Questions about which communities will benefit the most from the project.
- Questions about potential construction effects for residents near Seattle Center and South Lake Union stations.
- Question about fieldwork activities in the Chinatown-International District and if additional fieldwork is planned in the neighborhood.



Community briefings

During the reporting period, the project team participated in 3 briefings, engaging the following groups or individuals:

- Seattle Renters Commission (3/2)
- Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board (3/4)
- Vulcan (3/24)

Common questions and comments

Corridor wide

- Support for engaging representatives from neighborhoods along the alignment in community outreach efforts.
- Support for dedicated train cars for bikes, more flexible train cars and more secure bike parking at future stations.
- Support for light rail expansion to continue throughout the region.
- Support for placing information kiosks and collecting feedback at community centers along the corridor.
- Support for providing construction job opportunities for people of color.
- Support for engaging tenants in property conversations.
- Support for making light rail welcoming to all populations.
- Concerns about residential displacement and development around future stations.
- Questions about alternatives that serve the Magnolia neighborhood.
- Questions about how bus service will operate after light rail is built.
- Questions about alternatives and the preferred alternatives identification process.
- Question about the definition of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- Question about engaging marginalized communities along the alignment.
- Question about how feedback is incorporated into the project.
- Question about how bicyclists will access future stations.
- Question about how the stations will be designed to be accessible and safe.
- Question about future transfer points with regional light rail expansion.



West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions

Interbay/Ballard

Stations: *Ballard, Interbay and Smith Cove*

- No feedback received.

Downtown

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

- Support for providing ample pedestrian crossings during construction.
- Question about the construction timeline to build the alignment between Denny station and Westlake station.
- Question about entrance locations to the Denny and South Lake Union stations.
- Questions about potential effects to the South Lake Union Streetcar.
- Question about how feedback led to a potential Denny station at Terry Avenue.
- Question about the vibration testing schedule along Mercer Street.
- Request for continued engagement with Mercer Street stakeholders about the development of the South Lake Union and Seattle Center stations.

Chinatown-International District/SODO

Stations: *Chinatown-International District and SODO*

- Support for improving bike lanes in SODO during station construction.

West Seattle

Stations: *Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction*

- No feedback received.



Fairs and festivals

During the reporting period, the project team attended 1 career fair to share information with students, answer questions and discuss career opportunities.

Common questions and comments

Chief Sealth International High School Career Fair

Date: March 5, 2020 | *Visitors:* 100

- I'm excited that light rail is coming to West Seattle!
- How is this project funded and who would pay for third-party funding?
- When will this light rail extension be in service?
- Where else will light rail expand to in the future?
- I haven't used the light rail system yet.
- How will people get to the stations?
- How are the trains powered?
- What is your favorite thing about working at Sound Transit?



Project staff share information about light rail expansion at the Chief Sealth International High School Career Fair



Property owner meetings and fieldwork

During the reporting period, the project team distributed notifications about 15 fieldwork activities and attended 3 meetings with property owners.

Fieldwork

Activities

- Delivered flyers and/or conducted phone calls to stakeholders in Chinatown-International District, Downtown, Interbay and Ballard to notify businesses and residences about geotechnical work, in-water fieldwork and historical surveys.

Property owner meetings

A few questions and comments

- Support for early engagement with property owners.
- Concerns about how the project could potentially affect future development in SODO.
- Interest in learning more about the property acquisition process and how condominium owners will be engaged.
- Questions about alternatives and potential property effects in Queen Anne, Delridge and SODO.
- Questions about how the alignment will connect to the Operations and Maintenance Facility in SODO.



Online survey

During the reporting period, the project team concluded 1 online survey to gather vessel data from waterway users in Salmon Bay, Shilshole Bay, Elliott Bay, Lake Union and the Duwamish Waterway. The survey was available from Jan. 31 to March 17, 2020.

Survey results – Who we heard from

- 443 individuals submitted a survey response.
- How respondents best identify their role in the maritime industry:
 - 67% Recreational user of the local waterways
 - 22% Business
 - 4% Maritime organization
 - 4% Resident of the local waterways (houseboat or live aboard)
 - 3% Something other than a recreational user, business, organization or resident



Social media

During the reporting period, the project team posted 1 Facebook ad and 1 Tweet to promote the online survey.

Social media analytics

Facebook

- 47,139 impressions
- 400 link clicks

Twitter

- 4,701 impressions
- 38 link clicks



The navigation survey was shared on Twitter, Facebook and other maritime news outlets



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