



West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

MAY MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

May 2020



West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions

Activities snapshot



12 comments and questions



98 introductory calls and emails



2 community briefings



3 fieldwork notification activities and 1 property owner meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and extension of shelter in-place orders, Sound Transit continued 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.



Regional light rail expansion will help connect more people to more places.



Emails and phone calls

During the reporting period, the project team received 12 comments and questions from emails and phone calls.

A few questions and comments

- Support for continued wildlife observations in West Seattle as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.
- Questions about alignments and potential station locations in Downtown and South Lake Union.
- Question about the Draft EIS timeline and the cost of the Ballard extension.
- Questions about fieldwork locations and temporary effects in SODO.
- Question about how Duwamish Valley organizations can get more involved in project conversations.
- Interest in aligning the design and construction of the West Seattle Link Extension with the design and construction of a new West Seattle High Bridge and questions about how that could occur. (*Note: The City of Seattle announced a long-term closure of the West Seattle High Bridge on March 23, 2020.*)
- Interest in more information about the Yancy/Andover alternative in West Seattle.



Introductory calls and emails

During the reporting period, the project team reached out to 98 stakeholders to inform them about the project and answer questions. This outreach primarily focused on property managers of multi-family residential buildings and hotels located near potential station options. Of the 98, the project team connected directly with 55 stakeholders through phone, email or a virtual briefing.

Common questions and comments

- What's the project timeline?
- Will the project schedule be advanced considering the closure of the West Seattle Bridge?
- We're excited to have light rail coming to our neighborhood.
- What are future opportunities to engage with the project?
- How can we share project updates with other community members?
- What alternatives are you considering right now and who makes the decision about which alternative will be built?



Community briefings

During the reporting period, the project team participated in 2 briefings, engaging the following groups:

- UW Medicine (5/14)
- LeClercq Marine Construction (5/20)

Common questions and comments

Corridor wide

- No feedback received.

Interbay/Ballard

Stations: Ballard, Interbay and Smith Cove

- Questions about responses received from the waterway user survey.
- Questions about maritime property effects near the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
- Interest in tunnel alternatives to minimize effects to maritime traffic.

Downtown

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

- Questions about if the closure of the West Seattle Bridge will affect the development of the Downtown alignment.
- Questions about how the I-976 initiative and COVID-19 may influence the project.
- Concerns about the effect of building new tunnels on the operations of Downtown hotels.

Chinatown-International District/SODO

Stations: Chinatown-International District and SODO

- No feedback received.

West Seattle

Stations: Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction

- No feedback received.



Property owner meetings and fieldwork

During the reporting period, the project team distributed notifications about 3 upcoming fieldwork activities and attended 1 meeting with a property owner.

Fieldwork

Activities

- Delivered flyers via email and phone to notify businesses and residences about geotechnical work in SODO, Downtown, and Interbay.
- Continued outreach with adjacent building owners, property managers and tenants to provide notifications for the 5th Avenue Westlake Pump Test in Downtown.



Westlake Pump Test: A drilling rig was located in Downtown for 6 weeks to test groundwater near the future Westlake station. Thank you for your patience as crews completed this important work!

Property owner meetings

A few questions and comments

- Interest in alternatives that will minimize effects to property in SODO.
- Interest in connections from the existing Operations and Maintenance Facility to the West Seattle Extension and the effects it could have on properties in SODO.
- Questions about the property acquisition process.

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