

Review the Draft EIS

Online: wsblink.participate.online

Draft EIS
Full document



Executive Summary
Key information and takeaways



In print:

The Executive Summary and a thumb drive of the complete Draft EIS documents are free. Printed copies of the Draft EIS are available for \$25. Printed copies of Technical Reports are available for \$15 each.

At Sound Transit Headquarters:

Sound Transit, 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104

Call 206-398-5344 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday – Friday to arrange an appointment.



To request printed copies or a thumb drive:

Contact Dominique Jones at 206-689-4783 or dominique.jones@soundtransit.org.

At a public reading room location:

- Ballard Library** 5614 22nd Ave. NW, Seattle
- Burien Library** 400 SW 152nd St., Burien
- Beacon Hill Library** 2821 Beacon Ave. S, Seattle
- Central Library** 1000 4th Ave., Seattle
- Columbia City Library** 4721 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle
- Delridge Library** 5423 Delridge Way SW, Seattle
- Fremont Library** 731 N 35th St., Seattle
- Greenwood Library** 8016 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle
- High Point Library** 3411 SW Raymond St., Seattle
- Chinatown-International District Library** 713 8th Ave. S, Seattle

- Magnolia Library** 2801 34th Ave. W, Seattle
- New Holly Library** 7058 32nd Ave. S, Seattle
- Queen Anne Library** 400 W Garfield St., Seattle
- Rainier Beach Library** 9125 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle
- Southwest Library** 9010 35th Ave. SW, Seattle
- University of Washington Suzzallo Library** 4000 15th Ave. NE, Seattle
- West Seattle Library** 2306 42nd Ave. SW, Seattle
- White Center Library** 1409 107th St., Seattle

At a community center or organization:

- Alliance for Pioneer Square** 105 S Main St., Suite 201, Seattle
- Delridge Neighborhoods Development Association**, Youngstown Cultural Arts Center 4408 Delridge Way SW, Seattle
- Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority** Hing Hay Coworks, 409 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle



How to comment

Submit your comment by April 28, 2022.

The 90-day Draft EIS comment period is from January 28 through April 28, 2022. After reviewing the Draft EIS and the comments from agency partners and the public, the Sound Transit Board will confirm or modify the preferred alternative for further evaluation in the Final EIS.

Online: wsblink.participate.online/#comment-now

Virtual public meetings

Each public hearing will include a brief presentation, Q&A session and oral testimony captured by a court reporter.

Find meeting links at wsblink.participate.online.

Interbay/Ballard segment:

Tuesday, March 15, 5:30-7:30 PM

Downtown segment:

Tuesday, March 22, 5:30-7:30 PM

Chinatown-International District and SODO segments:

Thursday, March 24, 5:30-7:30 PM

West Seattle/Duwamish segment:

Wednesday, March 30, 5:30-7:30 PM

Drop-in open house*

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering multiple virtual opportunities to engage for the health and safety of the community. We are also offering one in-person drop-in open house to provide assistance for those who may need more support or prefer not to engage online.

Full project and all proposed stations:

Thursday, March 17, 12-7 PM
Union Station, 401 S Jackson St.
Seattle WA 98104

*The in-person event is subject to state and local guidelines regarding social distancing due to COVID-19. If the in-person event cannot be held due to COVID-19 concerns, a virtual event will be held in its place. Hours may differ if this becomes a virtual event. To confirm, call 206-903-7229 or visit wsblink.participate.online for updates.

Email: WSBLEDEIScomments@soundtransit.org

Voicemail: 800-471-0879



Comments can be made in any language.

We will translate in-language comments received via any of the formats listed above.

Mail: WSBLE Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comments
c/o Lauren Swift
401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104

Written or emailed comments should include the name of the person submitting the comment and a return address.

What's next?

Based on the Draft EIS analysis and public comments received, the Sound Transit Board will identify a preferred alternative* later this year. The preferred alternative and other Draft EIS alternatives, along with responses to comments received on the Draft EIS, will be included in the Final EIS, which we expect to publish in 2023. After that, the Sound Transit Board will select the project to be built.

*Preferred alternative indicates a "preference" among alternatives but is not a final decision or obligation. The final decision on the route and stations to be built will not be made until after the Final EIS is published.



Readers Guide to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

About the project

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 transit system expansion approved by voters in November 2016.

What is an EIS?

The Draft EIS for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project has been developed to help Sound Transit, as well as partner agencies and the public, better understand the potential impacts and benefits of the project.

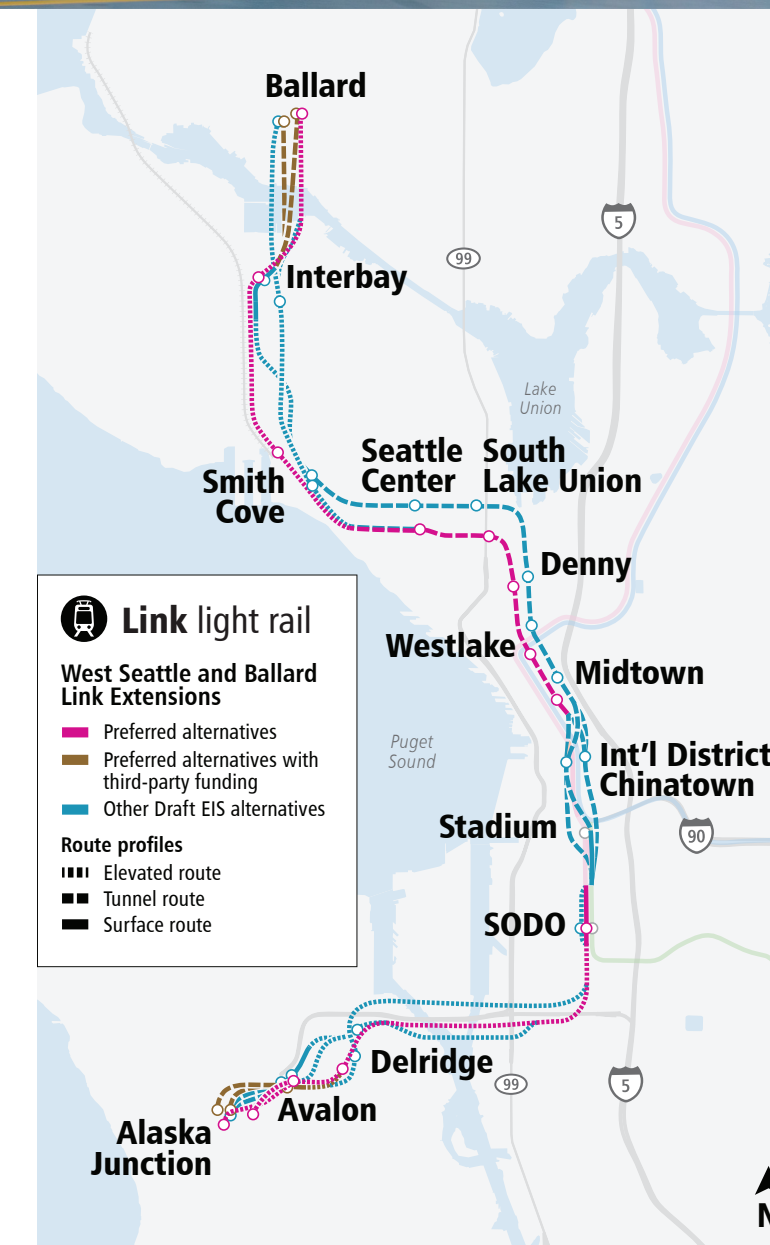
The Draft EIS:

- Identifies the alternatives under consideration.
- Describes the potential environmental impacts and benefits of each alternative.
- Proposes actions that will help mitigate impacts.

Review and comment on the Draft EIS by April 28, 2022:



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Draft EIS contents

The Draft EIS documents the alternatives being considered and results of the environmental analysis conducted from May 2019 through December 2021. It contains an executive summary, six chapters, and 20 appendices on the topics described below.

Executive Summary:

Briefly introduces the project. Describes the project area, project alternatives, schedule, and summarizes the community and environmental impacts that are described in detail in the full Draft EIS.

Chapter 1 Purpose and Need:

States what problems the project will address and why the investment in this transit project is needed.

Chapter 2 Alternatives Considered:

Describes the alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIS, including alignment and station locations, how they will be constructed and how long construction will take.

Chapter 3 Transportation:

Presents analysis of the existing transportation system in the project area and discusses potential impacts of the alternatives to regional facilities and travel and transit operations during construction and operations. Discusses ridership for each alternative and pedestrian and bicyclist access at each station area. Chapter divided by West Seattle Extension and Ballard Extension.

Chapter 4 Environmental Consequences:

Discusses the affected environment and environmental consequences of the project by topic and divided by each Extension:

- Acquisitions, displacements and relocations
- Land use
- Economics
- Social impacts, community facilities and neighborhoods
- Visual and aesthetic resources
- Air quality and greenhouse gases
- Noise and vibration
- Ecosystems
- Water resources
- Energy impacts
- Geology and soils
- Hazardous materials
- Electromagnetic fields
- Public services, safety and security
- Utilities
- Archaeological and historic resources
- Parks and open space
- Section 4(f) resources

Chapter 5 Cumulative Impacts:

Describes the project's effects on a particular resource, combined with past, present and future effects of other projects. The cumulative impact assessment can identify consequences that might not be apparent when the project is considered in isolation.

Chapter 6 Alternatives Evaluation:

Evaluates how the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project alternatives meet the project's Purpose and Need. It also summarizes the benefits and impacts of each alternative.

Numerous additional appendices (A-N), including technical reports for the project, are also available for review in the Draft EIS.

Draft EIS quick-reference bookmarks

Topic	Chapter-Section
Where can I find an overview of the document?	Executive Summary
Why is the project needed?	1.2
Why do we need another tunnel under downtown Seattle?	1.2.2.2
What is the timeline for the remaining project milestones?	1.5.3
What is a preferred alternative versus a preferred alternative with third party funding?	Chapter 2
What are the alternatives under consideration?	West Seattle - 2.1.2.1; Ballard - 2.1.2.2
How were the alternatives developed?	2.5.1
What are segments?	2.1.2
What is a Minimum Operable Segment?	2.4.2
Where can I find information about each of the stations?	West Seattle - 2.1.2.1; Ballard - 2.1.2.2
How will you approach construction and what is the duration of construction activities?	2.6
What is the preliminary cost of the project? What about operations and maintenance?	2.8
How will this project change the feel of my neighborhood?	West Seattle - 4.2.4; Ballard - 4.3.4
How many properties may be affected by the project?	West Seattle - 4.2.1; Ballard - 4.3.1
Would any parks and recreation facilities be affected by the project?	West Seattle - 4.2.17; Ballard - 4.3.17
What are some of the trade-offs with each alternative?	6.2.2
What are the cumulative impacts with other projects?	Chapter 5
How will this project affect communities of color and low-income populations?	Appendix G: Environmental Justice
What other alternatives did you look at and how were they screened?	Appendix M: Summary of Alternatives Development and Initial Assessment Process



Where can I find information on...	Chapter-Section
Air quality and greenhouse gasses	West Seattle - 4.2.6; Ballard - 4.3.6
Historic and archaeological resources	West Seattle - 4.2.16; Ballard - 4.3.16
Economics	West Seattle - 4.2.3; Ballard - 4.3.3
Ecosystems resources	West Seattle - 4.2.9; Ballard - 4.3.9
Energy impacts	West Seattle - 4.2.10; Ballard - 4.3.10
Geology	West Seattle - 4.2.11; Ballard - 4.3.11
Land use	West Seattle - 4.2.2; Ballard - 4.3.2
Noise and vibration	West Seattle - 4.2.7; Ballard - 4.3.7
Parks and recreation resources	West Seattle - 4.2.17; Ballard - 4.3.17
Property acquisitions, displacements and relocations	West Seattle - 4.2.1; Ballard - 4.3.1
Public services, safety and security	West Seattle - 4.2.14; Ballard - 4.3.14
Social impacts, community facilities and neighborhoods	West Seattle - 4.2.4; Ballard - 4.3.4
Transportation impacts	West Seattle - 3; Ballard - 3
Visual and aesthetics resources	West Seattle - 4.2.5; Ballard - 4.3.5
Water resources	West Seattle - 4.2.8; Ballard - 4.3.8

Key Project Milestones

Throughout the life of the project and during these major milestones, Sound Transit has been committed to providing meaningful engagement opportunities for the public to get involved, provide feedback, and shape the project. Some of those opportunities have included open houses, neighborhood forums, community workshops, community briefings, door to door outreach, fairs/festivals. Additionally, Sound Transit convened a Stakeholder Advisory Group and Elected Leadership Group during alternatives development, and four Community Advisory Groups to engage around the Draft EIS public comment period.

