



Puyallup Station

Parking and Access Improvements

Oct. 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Highlights

How much parking will Sound Transit add?

Sound Transit will add about 665 spaces near the station. This includes a new garage with approximately 500 spaces, and new surface parking with approximately 165 spaces. In addition to the 364 current space at the station and 319 at the Red Lot, this is a total of 1,348 spaces.

Sound Transit is building parking based on projects approved by voters, including 500 new stalls at Sumner Station. By 2024 there will be a total of 8,400 Sounder south parking stalls. The new parking will supplement alternative access options, such as local bus transit, drop-off, biking and walking. Sound Transit also has reserved parking for transit riders in a registered carpool, and may implement reserved single occupancy vehicle parking permits in 2019.

What is the project schedule?

After required environmental studies were completed in 2016, Sound Transit began preliminary engineering work, including designing utilities and stormwater facilities. In 2018 Sound Transit completed a purchase agreement for the Eagles property, the site of the new garage. The construction contractor will be hired in 2019, construction will likely start in early 2020, and the garage will open in 2021.

What will happen during construction?

Sound Transit's practices ensure the safety of construction workers, local employees and residents during construction. Sound Transit will maintain business access as much as possible and will conduct community outreach with residents and business owners before any construction activity begins.

What is the budget for this project?

The budget for this project is \$60.2 million.

Safety and Security

What measures will Sound Transit take to ensure safety once the facility is open?

Sound Transit implements industry best practices to ensure our facilities are safe. Tactics include:

- Security cameras outside garages.
- Landscaping that preserves open sight lines.
- Lighting on the garage exterior and surrounding areas to ensure a visible and well-lit area for pedestrians and others.
- 24-hour lighting inside all areas of the garage.
- Ensuring visibility for stairwells and elevator shafts, such as using glass or other transparent materials.
- Monitoring of garages by security staff, and encouraging customers to report any suspicious activity.



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Project History

Why was this location selected, and how was the public involved?

During planning in 2013 and 2014, Sound Transit presented six different alternatives of parking and access locations to the City Council, community stakeholder group, residents, commuters and business owners in and around the project area. Two rounds of public meetings and online surveys in early 2014 were extensively advertised, including through mailings to all residents and businesses within five miles of the station. After review of public feedback and input from the city of Puyallup, the Sound Transit Board identified a preferred package of access improvements, including a new garage on the Eagles site.

This site has the benefit of being close to the station (a priority for Sounder riders), while having fewer traffic impacts than the current surface parking lot at the station.

What is the status of purchasing the Eagles property?

The new garage will be built at the former Eagles location at 2nd Ave NW. In 2018, Sound Transit and the Eagles have reached a settlement on purchase of the property, and the Eagles have plans to relocate in the vicinity of downtown Puyallup. Sound Transit is leasing the current property to the Eagles through May 2019, and has provided funding to help Puyallup Eagles with relocation expenses.

In a September 2018 letter to the Puyallup City Council, the Puyallup Eagles expressed support for Sound Transit's request to vacate 3rd Avenue North, as long as access to the Eagles property and parking facility remains intact until the end of the lease term.

Traffic

How will traffic around the new parking garage be managed?

Sound Transit completed a traffic analysis that studied traffic in the area in 2035, both with and without the parking garage. The study found that travel times on key corridors in 2035 are only slightly higher with the garage in place, and not much higher than traffic today. More information is available in the [Transportation Technical Report](#). To mitigate traffic impacts and maintain traffic levels as they would be without the garage, the study found that two modifications are needed: a new signal at 7th Street NW and W Stewart Ave and a new right turn pocket onto N Meridian from W Stewart Ave. Sound Transit is building both of these improvements as part of this project.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements

What non-motorized improvements will be built as part of the project?

The following improvements for people walking and bicycling to the station will be part of this project

- Pedestrian bridge over 5th St NW connecting to the garage
- Flashing beacon lights for pedestrian crossings at three intersections on W Main Ave and E Main Ave
- ADA-accessible curb ramps at intersections on 5th St SW, W Stewart Ave, and W Main Ave
- New street lighting on 5th St NW and SW
- Bicycle lanes on Stewart Ave from 23rd Street NW to 6th Street NW



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Sound Transit will build the pedestrian bridge directly, while the other improvements will be constructed by the city of Puyallup, with \$3.4M funding from Sound Transit. See map of the pedestrian/bicycle improvements on the Sound Transit website: www.soundtransit.org/puyallup-access-improvements

Why is a pedestrian bridge across the railroad tracks not included in this project?

Sound Transit studied building pedestrian bridges across the railroad tracks and over 5th St NW. Only one pedestrian bridge is affordable within the scope of this project. A pedestrian bridge will be built over 5th St NW connecting directly to the garage, which is expected to get significantly more use than a bridge over the tracks. Sound Transit may consider other funding sources to build a bridge over the tracks in the future.

Other

Will parking in the garage be free?

Current parking at Puyallup Station and other Sound Transit facilities is first-come, first-served, with no charge, and many facilities fill up very early on weekday mornings.

To provide access to more people, Sound Transit has instituted [HOV parking permits](#) at Puyallup Station and other facilities, allowing transit riders who arrive by carpool to have access to reserved spaces. In July of 2018, the Sound Transit Board approved policies to expand parking permits for solo drivers at locations that are over 90% full. Before the new Puyallup garage opens in 2021, Sound Transit will study the parking in the area and make a projection about how full the garage is expected to be. If utilization is expected to be over 90% in the first year, the garage will be eligible for Sound Transit's new SOV permit parking program, where up to half the spaces could be reserved for holders of monthly permits. For more information, see [FAQ](#) about the new permit parking program.

Can the garage be used by non transit-riders?

Sound Transit's parking facilities are intended for use by transit customers. Potential partnerships with other public agencies may be possible to make Sound Transit parking available during off-hours.

Will Sound Transit add additional trains?

As ridership on the Sounder South continues to grow, Sound Transit is working to increase train and platform capacity from seven cars to 10, accommodating 40 percent more passengers. Sound Transit will also negotiate with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway (the railway owns the tracks used by Sounder) to run more daily trips. Planning for Sounder South capacity expansion will begin in late 2018, with improvements completed by 2036.

