



Guide to early scoping

Early scoping starts public conversation about the project before the start of formal state and federal environmental studies. Sound Transit asks the public, elected officials, other agencies and tribal governments to take part in defining goals for the project and determining how it can best fit in with the communities and the environment.

Purpose and Need Statement

To guide decision-making during the alternatives analysis and to support the project's state and federal environmental reviews, Sound Transit has developed a draft statement of why this project is being proposed. The agency will use the Purpose and Need statement to evaluate alternatives leading to a preferred alternative as well as any other alternatives for further study in an EIS. The agency will continue to develop and refine the Purpose and Need statement to reflect public and agency comments as the project moves forward.

The purpose of the Tacoma Dome Link Extension is to expand the Link light rail system from the Federal Way Transit Center to the Tacoma Dome Station area to:

- » Provide high-quality rapid, reliable, accessible and efficient peak and off-peak light rail transit service connecting Federal Way, Milton, Fife, Tacoma, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to other destinations on the regional high-capacity transit system.
- » Meet projected transit demand and offer an alternative to travel on congested roadways, better connecting people to where they live, work and play.
- » Connect regional growth centers as described in adopted regional and local land use, transportation and economic development plans, and Sound Transit's Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.
- » Develop a light rail extension and an operations and maintenance facility that are technically feasible and financially sustainable to build, operate and maintain, consistent with the regional system defined by Sound Transit's ST3 Plan and the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.

- » Expand mobility for people in the corridor and region, including this corridor's high concentrations of low income, minority and transit-dependent populations.
- » Encourage equitable and sustainable urban growth in station areas through support of transit-oriented development, station access and multimodal integration, consistent with adopted local comprehensive or land use plans.
- » Preserve and promote a healthy and sustainable environment by minimizing adverse impacts to people and the natural and built environments.





Tacoma Dome Link Extension

The project is needed because:

- » Roadway congestion is increasing on I-5 and SR-99, the two primary highways connecting King and Pierce Counties, affecting reliability for transit as well as automobiles.
- » There is not enough transit capacity to serve the corridor's riders today or in the future.
- » Regional and local plans call for high-capacity transit (HCT) to serve long-term population and employment growth in the corridor consistent with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transit Long-Range Plan.
- » The regional system does not have the operations and maintenance facility capacity to efficiently operate the long-term light rail vehicle fleet needed to serve South King and Pierce counties.
- » South King and Pierce County citizens and communities, including its low income, minority and transit-dependent populations and residents, need better access to the rest of the region.
- » Regional and local plans call for increased residential and employment growth and density in areas to be served by HCT and multi-modal transportation systems.
- » Environmental and sustainability goals of the state and region include reducing total vehicles miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.



Early scoping comments will be accepted through May 3

- » Provide input on the route, stations, potential alternatives, benefits and impacts.
- » Provide input on the potential location of the operations and maintenance facility (OMF) in the south corridor (South King and Pierce counties).
- » Provide input on the Purpose and Need Statement.

How to submit your feedback:

 **Return a comment card** at an open house or via mail

 **Email** tdlink@soundtransit.org

 **Online** at tdlink.participate.online

 **By mail to:**
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c/o Senior Environmental Planner Steve Kennedy
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