

Sound Transit property and sales and use taxes FAQ

When did I start paying property tax to fund Sound Transit?

Voters approved a property tax increase of \$.25 per \$1,000 assessed property valuation in November, 2016 in order to fund [Sound Transit 3](#) (ST3). The tax went into effect in January, 2017.

How is my property assessed?

This tax is based on assessments of property valuations done by Assessor's offices in [King](#), [Snohomish](#) and [Pierce](#) Counties. Contact the office for the county where your property is located with questions about assessment rates and appeals.

What relief from property taxes is available to senior citizens and to people with disabilities living at low income?

Senior citizens and people with disabilities whose primary residences are in Washington State who meet household income and other eligibility requirements can utilize programs that help reduce or defer property taxes and/or special assessments. Visit the Department of Revenue for information about property tax [exemption](#) or [deferral](#) programs.

How much Sales and Use tax does Sound Transit receive to build and operate mass transit?

With voter approval in November 2016, the RTA portion of the sales and use tax paid on purchases made within the Sound Transit District has increased from .9 percent to 1.4 percent, or 14 cents on a \$10.00 purchase. To see the total level of all state and local sales and use tax collected in your city including the RTA tax, visit the [Department of Revenue](#).

What do these taxes pay for?

RTA taxes pay for the construction and operation of regional mass transit services, including [Link light rail](#), [Sonder commuter trains](#) and [ST Express buses](#). Mass transit provides an alternative to congested roadways, delivering riders to their destinations quickly and reliably every day.

I don't use transit service. Do I still have to pay these taxes?

In the November 2008 and 2016 elections, voters living in the Sound Transit district approved mass transit expansions. Related taxes apply to all the citizens living in the district. Everyone within the Sound Transit district benefits from enhancing regional mobility regardless of whether they personally use transit or not.