

2026 Service Plan Update

Rider Experience and Operations Committee

10/2/2025



Why we are here

No action requested today; information only

- Overview of the 2026 Service Plan Part 1: Rail Plan
- Preview Part 2: ST Express Plan draft service concepts in advance of public engagement

2026 Service Plan Timeline



WE ARE HERE

2025

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec



Link and Sounder (Part 1)



Link
public
updates



Sounder
N Line
survey



Board
update



ST Express (Part 2)



ST Express
Survey
(April)



ST Express
engage-
ment

2026

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug



Rail service change implementation



Board
action



ST Express service change
implementation (*Fall 2026*)

Part 1:
Rail Service Plan

Link light rail

Begin serving Pinehurst Station on 1 and 2 Lines

- Trains arrive every 4 minutes between Lynnwood and downtown Seattle during peak periods, and 5-8 minutes in the off-peak, Saturdays, and Sundays
- Service operates approximately 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- Opening date to be determined



*Sounder commuter rail**

- N Line changes
 - **Earlier northbound service:** First northbound train would depart 20 minutes earlier (3:45 p.m.) Other trip start times would be updated by a few minutes.
- S Line changes
 - **Extend one afternoon round trip to/from Lakewood:** Instead of first afternoon southbound trip ending at Tacoma, continue to Lakewood and provide northbound trip (3:52 p.m. departure from Lakewood)

Changes would go into effect on March 30, 2026.

Rail Plan Outreach



Pinehurst Station engagement

- Construction engagement conducted since 2023
- In fall 2024, survey collected public input on station name. Station name was adopted in January 2025.
- The public was informed about the Pinehurst service change through 2026 Service Plan engagement (Phase Two) in summer 2025.

Sounder engagement

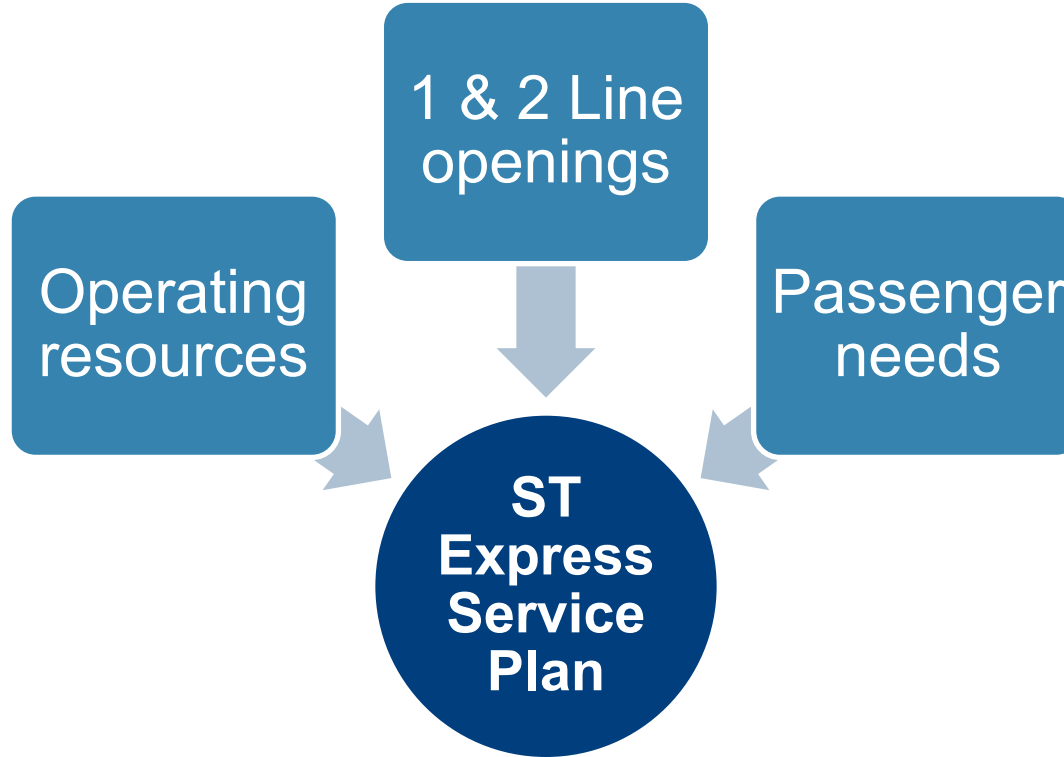
- In September 2025, we asked riders about shifting the southbound Sounder N Line schedule to earlier (removing 7:45 a.m. trip and replacing it with 5:45 a.m. trip)
- The Sounder N Line survey received 780+ responses. About 70% of respondents said they preferred the current southbound schedule.

Rail service changes

The proposed rail service changes are not Major Service Changes as defined by Sound Transit policy; no Board action is required to implement.

Part 2:
ST Express Service Plan
Draft Concepts

ST Express Plan



ST Express Proposal

Summary of changes proposed for Fall 2026

- Discontinue service in light rail corridors that does not offer substantial travel time benefits over Link
- Maintain service in high ridership corridors where Link operates, but would introduce substantial travel time increases during most time periods
- Add overnight service in I-5 North, I-5 South, and I-90 corridors



I-5 North, I-405 North, SR-522

513 Seaway TC – Lynnwood

Add bi-directional service;
discontinue service to Eastmont P&R.

515 Lynnwood – Seattle

Discontinue temporary route.

522 Woodinville – Shoreline South

Reroute to Shoreline South Station (was Roosevelt).
Metro to cover Lake City Wy with frequent service.

535 Lynnwood – Bellevue

Increase Saturday frequency to every 30 minutes;
add Sunday service.

Routes with no changes:

510 Everett – Seattle

512 Everett – Lynnwood

532 Everett – Bellevue

-  Frequent all day service
Approx. every 15 min on weekdays or better
-  All day service
Approx. every 30 min on weekdays or better
-  Peak hour service
Peak hours on weekdays only
-  Route discontinued



SR-520, I-90, I-405 South

550 Bellevue – Seattle

Discontinue.

554 Issaquah – Seattle

Discontinue.

556 Issaquah – Bellevue

Shorten to Bellevue TC (was U-District);
Increase frequency; extend to all-day service.

Routes with no changes:

542 Redmond – U-District

545 Redmond – Seattle

560 Bellevue – West Seattle via Sea-Tac

566 Auburn – Redmond

-  Frequent all day service
Approx. every 15 min on weekdays or better
-  All day service
Approx. every 30 min on weekdays or better
-  Peak hour service
Peak hours on weekdays only
-  Route discontinued



I-5 South, SR-167

574 Lakewood – Federal Way (was Sea-Tac)


Shorten to Federal Way Downtown Station; increase frequency to every 15 minutes.

580 South Hill – Puyallup Station

Discontinue. Comparable service provided by Pierce Transit.

586 Tacoma – U-District

Discontinue. Passengers can use 590 series to connect to Link in downtown Seattle.

 **Frequent all day service**
Approx. every 15 min on weekdays or better

 **Peak hour service**
Peak hours on weekdays only

 **All day service**
Approx. every 30 min on weekdays or better

 **Route discontinued**

Routes with no changes:

577 Federal Way – Seattle

578 Puyallup – Seattle via Federal Way

590 Tacoma – Seattle

592 DuPont – Seattle

594 Lakewood – Seattle

595 Gig Harbor – Seattle

596 Bonney Lake – Sumner



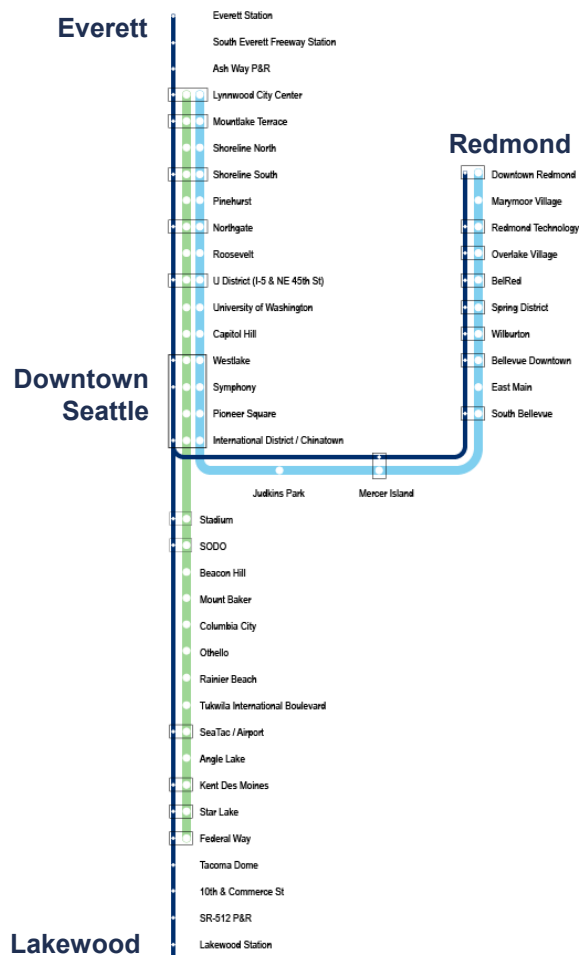
Overnight Service Proposal

Purpose & Goals

- Provide overnight bus service along Link lines and core ST Express network.
- Serve riders and destinations with continuous or non-traditional need, such as hospitals and the airport.
- Combined with Metro's late-night network, 85% of Link station areas would be served all day and all night.

Service Proposal

- Three routes: Everett-Seattle, Lakewood-SEA-Seattle, and Redmond-Seattle
- Service from approx. midnight to 5 a.m., 7 days/wk; could also support Link maintenance window expansion
- Headways: 15-60min



Title VI Equity Analysis

Analysis Level	Results	Mitigations
Individual Route <i>Reviews each major service change individually</i>	Equity finds on some proposed changes	New Link service and existing routes would provide alternatives with better service level
Systemwide <i>Compares benefits and impacts over multiple years</i>	No findings identified	Not required



Public Engagement

Spring 2025 Survey Results



- Five times more survey responses than last year
2336 survey responses
998 comments
- The most popular trip purpose is to commute to/from work, followed closely by recreational trips.
- About half said they will be able to use the 1 or 2 Line for all or most of their trips after the Link extensions open.
- Several respondents expressed concerns about changes to bus service that could increase travel time or add transfers to trips.

Fall 2025 Engagement Plan



- Survey on bus service proposals available Oct. 6 – Nov. 7
- Community open houses in each corridor; outreach at fairs, festivals and transit events throughout the region
- Updates to Service Planning website including detailed route proposals
- Robust Ambassador outreach (75+ shifts at key stops and stations)
- Community based organization partnerships
- Creative social media ads and videos
- Multicultural media campaign to boost in-language survey responses
 - 9 print & online channels, 7 languages

Next Steps

Next steps

- Prepare for rail service change implementation in Spring 2026.
- 2026 Service Plan Part 2 – ST Express Plan engagement October 6-November 7, 2025
- Update proposals and share changes resulting from feedback in early 2026
- Bring proposed 2026 Service Plan Part 2 to Board for consideration by March 2026.

Next steps, continued

Network planning effort supporting Enterprise Initiative (Fall 2025-2026)

- Revise Link light rail service design and planning assumptions based on new travel patterns and the modified system expansion program that emerge via the Enterprise Initiative.
- Update the agency's service standards and performance measures to provide clearer guidelines for how and when service is adjusted.
- Establish a multi-year plan for all modes that is responsive to the updated system expansion program, meets statutory requirements, and remains affordable in the long term.

Thank you.



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