Escalators and stairs
Where we go from here

Sound Transit Board
October 25, 2018
Why we’re here

• Escalator performance at UW Station has not met customer or agency expectations
• Customers have repeatedly experienced major disruptions
• We have a plan to fix the problem
Why we’re here

Frequency of outages
- Capitol Hill: 4.5x
- UW:

Maintenance cost per unit
- Capitol Hill: 3.6x
- UW:
What we’ve done

- Studied options for maintaining or modernizing current escalators vs. replacing all units
- Conducted Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) analysis
- Developed preliminary replacement timelines
Why replacement?

• Less expensive to replace now than maintain current units through expected end of useful life (2025)

• Better reliability for customers years sooner
What we’re doing

1. Execute emergency stair protocol  
   Complete
   Done

2. Complete repairs recommended by consultant  
   Q4 2018

3. Transfer UW maintenance to manufacturer  
   Q4 2018

4. Convert back stairs for full-time use  
   Q1 2019

5. Connect sub-mezzanines  
   2019

6. Replace two down escalators with stairs  
   2019-2022

7. Replace the other 11 escalators  
   2019-2022
Submezzanine connection
Problem:
• Public stairs available from mezzanines to surface, but platform access depends on escalators/elevators

Solution:
• Convert stairs to all levels for permanent public use (2019)
Public stair location
Solution:

- Public stairs when station opens in 2021
- Contractor change order underway
Public stair location

U District Station
Downtown Seattle transit tunnel

- Taking ownership from King County Metro in 2020
- Unknown scope of maintenance needs
- Inheriting 36 escalators and 22 elevators
Bottom line

• UW & Capitol Hill will have public stairs by early 2019.
• U District Station will have public stairs upon opening.
• We will replace all UW Station escalators.
• Staff will return to the Board to authorize funds in 2019.
• UW replacement begins in 2019, complete in 2022
Message to our riders

• We apologize.
• We have learned valuable design & procurement lessons.
• We have a plan.
• Any station with escalators will also include stairs.
• We will only install heavy duty escalators.
• Future elevated or tunnel stations will have redundant access.
Questions?