



SYSTEM ACCESS FUND 2019 ONLINE OPEN HOUSE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview and Report Organization

As part of the System Access Fund 2019 Call for Projects, Sound Transit hosted an Online Open House between July 26 and August 23, 2019, to solicit rider and resident feedback on the 53 projects requesting funding from the System Access Fund. The Online Open House provided an easy way for the public to learn about project applications as well as the initial policy and technical evaluation conducted by Sound Transit.

When visiting the Online Open House, participants could:

- Identify each of the 53 project applications as Very Important, Important, or Not Important and provide additional comments for consideration
- Share their input on the importance of the policy factors used to evaluate the project applications and provide additional factors for consideration
- Answer questions about how they use transit
- Provide demographic information

Sound Transit used a variety of communication channels to publicize the Online Open House, including regular updates via Sound Transit's Facebook and Twitter accounts, encouraging project applicants to promote the Online Open House, issuing a press release when the Online Open House launched, promoting the Online Open House via a Platform blog post, and sharing information via email subscriber lists.

Between July 26 and August 23, 4,864 unique users visited the Online Open House. Users provided a total of 4,063 survey responses in the following ways:

- 2,659 survey responses to the 53 projects under consideration
- 519 evaluation criteria survey responses
- 476 transit use and demographic survey responses
- 255 general open-ended comments
- 154 evaluation criteria open-ended comments

This report summarizes the results of the System Access Fund Online Open House and is organized in the following sections:

- Project ratings by subarea
- Evaluation criteria ratings and additional factors to consider
- Themes from open-ended comments
- Transit use and demographics

Complete survey results and all open-ended comments are included in the System Access Fund 2019 Online Open House Complete Results Appendix. The appendix includes complete project-specific survey results, evaluation criteria survey results and all open-ended comments.

Project Ratings by Subarea

The System Access Fund is allocated equally among Sound Transit's five subareas for projects that improve access to transit. The Online Open House was organized by Sound Transit subarea and included the project applications submitted in each subarea, along with the preliminary evaluation rating assigned by Sound Transit. Projects were rated as Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended.

Participants of the Online Open House could indicate whether they believed any or all the project applications submitted were Very Important, Important, or Not Important. The following tables are organized by Sound Transit subarea and include the results of this portion of the Online Open House. A complete set of subarea survey results is included in the System Access Fund 2019 Online Open House Complete Results Appendix.

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Sound Transit

Snohomish Subarea: Overall Summary (\$20,137,900 total requested)

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount Requested	Preliminary Evaluation Rating	Important/ Very Important	Not Important	Total Survey Responses
Everett	Everett Station Nonmotorized Access Improvements	\$1,900,000	Highly Recommended	80%	20%	311
Lynnwood	Scriber Creek Trail Redevelopment	\$2,500,000	Highly Recommended	70%	30%	285
Mountlake Terrace	Veteran's Memorial Park Trail Light Rail Connector	\$500,000	Highly Recommended	74%	26%	300
Edmonds	Citywide Bicycle Improvements	\$1,850,000	Recommended	60%	40%	318
Mukilteo	5th St Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements	\$764,000	Recommended	62%	38%	269
Snohomish County	Ash Way Corridor Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements	\$2,000,000	Recommended	73%	27%	286
Snohomish County	Ash Way Direct Access Ramps and I-5 Crossing	\$2,500,000	Recommended	78%	22%	286
Bothell	Canyon Park Nonmotorized Access Improvements	\$2,673,000	Not Recommended	53%	47%	280
Edmonds	228th St SW Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	\$3,450,000	Not Recommended	60%	40%	303
Mountlake Terrace	Main St Revitalization Project	\$1,500,000	Not Recommended	55%	45%	281
Mukilteo	Park Ave Pedestrian Improvements	\$500,900	Not Recommended	52%	48%	274

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North King Subarea: Overall Summary (\$12,419,800 total requested)

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount Requested	Preliminary Evaluation Rating	Important/ Very Important	Not Important	Total Survey Responses
King County Metro	Secure Bicycle Parking Expansion & Improvements	\$100,000	Highly Recommended	86%	14%	563
Shoreline	148th St Nonmotorized Bridge	\$3,700,000	Highly Recommended	83%	17%	537
Seattle	Judkins Park Station Access	\$4,360,800	Recommended	85%	15%	561
Seattle	Southeast Seattle High Priority Sidewalks and Walkways	\$2,259,000	Recommended	86%	14%	548
Lake Forest Park	Town Center to Burke-Gilman Trail Connector	\$2,000,000	Not Recommended	70%	30%	552

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East King Subarea: Overall Summary (\$20,549,807 total requested)

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount Requested	Preliminary Evaluation Rating	Important/ Very Important	Not Important	Total Survey Responses
Kenmore	Juanita Drive NE Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Improvements	\$1,500,000	Highly Recommended	79%	21%	307
King County Metro	Secure Bicycle Parking Expansion & Improvements	\$250,000	Highly Recommended	75%	25%	426
King County Parks	Eastrail: NE 8th Street Crossing	\$6,000,000	Highly Recommended	78%	22%	333
Redmond	156th Avenue Cycle Track	\$1,165,242	Highly Recommended	58%	42%	313
Renton	S 7th Street Corridor Improvements	\$2,000,000	Highly Recommended	74%	26%	351
Bellevue	Eastgate Nonmotorized Access to Transit Improvements	\$2,050,000	Recommended	71%	29%	332
Bothell	Downtown Nonmotorized Access Improvements	\$1,743,000	Recommended	64%	36%	307
Kirkland	I-405 & NE 85th St – NE Quadrant Connection	\$688,500	Recommended	67%	33%	296
Mercer Island	80th Avenue SE Sidewalk Improvements	\$1,000,000	Recommended	49%	51%	301
Bellevue	110th Ave NE & NE 6th St Intersection Improvements	\$1,200,000	Not Recommended	60%	40%	326
Kenmore	73rd Ave NE Bike Lanes	\$747,165	Not Recommended	59%	41%	299
King County Parks	Eastrail: May Creek & NE 44th Street Connection	\$1,200,000	Not Recommended	66%	34%	309
Kirkland	I-405 & NE 85th St – SE Quadrant Pedestrian Access	\$734,400	Not Recommended	61%	39%	295
Mercer Island	Mercer Island Station Gateway Plaza Design	\$271,500	Not Recommended	33%	67%	305

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South King Subarea: Overall Summary (\$19,179,751 total requested)

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount Requested	Preliminary Evaluation Rating	Important/ Very Important	Not Important	Total Survey Responses
Auburn	Regional Growth Center Access Improvements	\$1,625,000	Highly Recommended	72%	28%	317
Des Moines	Barnes Creek Trail South Segment	\$1,985,000	Highly Recommended	62%	38%	225
Federal Way	21st Ave S/S 320th St Signal & Pedestrian Improvements	\$730,000	Highly Recommended	69%	31%	237
Kent	W James Street at 2nd Avenue N Pedestrian Crossing	\$273,683	Highly Recommended	69%	31%	242
King County Metro	Secure Bicycle Parking Expansion & Improvements	\$50,000	Highly Recommended	67%	33%	264
Tukwila	Nonmotorized Connections and Wayfinding	\$2,873,000	Highly Recommended	73%	27%	254
Tukwila	Tukwila Station Nonmotorized Connectivity and Safety	\$3,291,000	Highly Recommended	77%	23%	253
Federal Way	Pedestrian Improvements to the Federal Way Transit Ctr	\$2,392,800	Recommended	70%	30%	242
Kent	W James St and W Smith St Pedestrian Improvements	\$879,268	Recommended	68%	32%	238
SeaTac	Station Intersection Pedestrian Safety Improvements	\$1,500,000	Recommended	74%	26%	240
Auburn	A St Loop	\$280,000	Not Recommended	49%	51%	244
Burien	SW 148th St Pedestrian Access Improvements	\$2,000,000	Not Recommended	58%	42%	223
SeaTac	Military Rd S and S 152nd St Improvements	\$1,300,000	Not Recommended	59%	41%	227

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Pierce Subarea: Overall Summary (\$14,066,953 total requested)

Project Sponsor	Project Title	Amount Requested	Preliminary Evaluation Rating	Important/ Very Important	Not Important	Total Survey Responses
Lakewood	111th St SW/112th St SW Improvements	\$1,040,000	Highly Recommended	58%	42%	158
Pierce County	112th St Pedestrian Improvements	\$2,000,000	Highly Recommended	66%	34%	195
Sumner	Rivergrove Community Pedestrian Bridge	\$452,000	Highly Recommended	81%	19%	332
Sumner	Sounder Safe Sidewalk/Bike Programmatic Enhancements	\$1,500,000	Highly Recommended	82%	18%	340
Tacoma	HTLE Streetscape Access Improvements	\$3,500,000	Highly Recommended	87%	13%	657
Auburn	Bus Route 497 Accessibility Improvements	\$250,000	Recommended	60%	40%	179
Bonney Lake	Elhi Hill Trail Staircase	\$661,936	Recommended	95%	5%	208
DuPont	DuPont-Steilacoom Rd Improvements	\$150,000	Recommended	44%	56%	119
Fife	I-5 Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Crossing at 62nd Ave E	\$1,650,000	Recommended	70%	30%	228
Puyallup	Bike Lane Expansions on W Stewart Ave & 4th St NW	\$1,053,345	Recommended	61%	39%	184
Puyallup	Wheelchair Ramp Upgrades in Residential Neighborhood	\$309,672	Recommended	67%	33%	210
Tacoma	26th St/Tacoma Dome Station Access Improvements	\$1,500,000	Not Recommended	68%	32%	209

Evaluation Criteria Ratings and Additional Factors to Consider

Participants in the Online Open House could also identify the importance of the policy factors used by Sound Transit to evaluate project applications. The results are shown in the table below.

Policy Factors	Not at All Important	Slightly Important	Important	Fairly Important	Very Important	No Opinion	Total Responses
Customer Experience	2%	4%	23%	26%	44%	1%	518
Equity	4%	8%	18%	21%	46%	3%	513
Safety & Human Health	1%	1%	12%	19%	65%	2%	519
Connectivity	1%	1%	4%	14%	78%	2%	519

Participants also had the option of providing open-ended comments about additional factors they felt were important for Sound Transit to consider when evaluating projects that increase access to transit. A total of 154 responses were submitted. These responses have been organized into the following themes. A complete list of all open-ended comments in response to this question is included in the System Access Fund 2019 Online Open House Complete Results Appendix.

- **Existing policy factors.** Many of the open-ended comments seemed to validate the policy factors used in the System Access Fund 2019 Call for Projects. Multiple respondents identified connectivity (e.g., “maximize ridership”), safety (e.g., “safer routes for pedestrians and bicyclists”), equity (e.g., “service to low-income and diverse communities”), and providing options for active travel (e.g., “reduced dependency on cars”) as key factors for Sound Transit to consider.
- **Multimodal and accessible options.** Multiple comments indicated the importance of prioritizing projects that increase the number of multimodal options in the communities served by Sound Transit. These responses also overlapped with others that identified a need to consider Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements to make connecting to transit easier for people with disabilities.
- **Supporting development.** Respondents identified projects that support development as a factor that Sound Transit should consider. In addition, comment letters submitted by Transit Access Stakeholders and Feet First stated that fostering transit-oriented development in the vicinity of Sound Transit services should be considered as a policy factor in the future.
- **Cost-benefit analysis.** Some respondents indicated that Sound Transit should conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the projects submitted to determine the return on investment of System Access Funds.
- **Parking.** Though parking is not eligible for System Access Funds, several respondents identified the need for Sound Transit to increase the number of parking stalls as a means of increasing access to the system.

Themes from Open-Ended Comments

In addition to rating the importance of the 53 project applications, participants in the Online Open House also provided 255 open-ended comments, which have been organized into the following themes. A complete list of all open-ended comments in response to this question is included in the System Access Fund 2019 Online Open House Complete Results Appendix.

- **Project-specific.** More than 90 comments referenced project applications. Most of these comments were indications of support. Projects receiving multiple comments in support included those in Lake Forest Park and Redmond. The balance of comments were indications of opposition for specific projects, with the Sumner Rivergrove Pedestrian Bridge and the Edmonds 228th Corridor project receiving multiple comments.
- **Unsubmitted projects.** Approximately 50 comments identified projects or other improvements not otherwise included in the 53 project applications. While some of these were specific to increasing access, others remarked on improvements outside the scope of the System Access Fund, including increasing bus or Sounder service and next-train/bus passenger information.
- **Prioritization.** Several commenters identified various attributes that should receive more or less weight when prioritizing among project applications. One specific attribute identified by multiple commenters was the need to prioritize safety and a project's potential for safe connections to transit. Others noted the need to prioritize projects that will meaningfully influence the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Some noted that there should be greater weight given to bicycle projects that separate bicycle facilities, compared with those that only add sharrows or bicycle lanes.
- **Parking.** While new vehicle parking supply is not eligible for System Access Funds, approximately 20 comments identified this topic, with some commenters identifying the importance of parking to access transit and others expressing gratitude that System Access Funds would be used for non-parking improvements.
- **Yakima Fruit Market.** A dozen comments addressed the news that was reported during the Online Open House period regarding the Yakima Fruit Market in Bothell and stated a strong preference for not impacting this business.
- **Concerns about costs and taxes.** Approximately 10 comments expressed frustration about the costs and taxes associated with implementing the Sound Transit system.

Transit Use and Demographics

Participants in the Online Open House had the option to answer several questions about their transit use and demographic characteristics. However, these questions were not required, so not all respondents to the evaluation criteria and project application surveys, and open-ended comments answered these questions. However, 476 participants did complete these questions and the summary of these answers is shown below. A complete set of transit use and demographic survey results is included in the System Access Fund 2019 Online Open House Complete Results Appendix.

(Note: Percentages in the tables below have been rounded up to the nearest whole number.)

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How often do you typically use public transit?

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
1-2 days per week	15%	72
3-4 days per week	15%	72
5+ days per week	28%	133
A few times a month	18%	86
A few times a year	19%	89
Never	5%	24
Total	100%	476

When you take transit, how do you usually get to the stop or station? Please select the method you use for the longest part of your trip to get to transit.

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
Bicycle using my own/friend's/family member's bicycle	15%	71
Carpool/vanpool and park	5%	21
Drive alone and park	23%	105
Dropped off by friend or family member	7%	32
Dropped off by Uber/Lyft/taxi	1%	4
Walk	45%	208
Other	4%	20
Total	100%	461

Do you identify yourself as a member of any of the following ethnic groups? Check all that apply.

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	5
Asian/Asian Indian	5%	24
Black/African American	2%	7
Caucasian/White	71%	318
Hispanic/Latino	3%	12
Prefer not to answer	23%	103
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1%	3
Middle Eastern or North African	0%	2
Total	-	448

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What is your age?

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
Younger than 19	<1%	1
19–24	5%	21
25–34	19%	90
35–49	33%	154
50–64	23%	104
65 or older	14%	64
Prefer not to answer	6%	28
Total	100%	462

What is your gender identity?

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
Male	51%	233
Female	39%	178
Non-Binary	2%	7
Prefer not to answer	9%	42
Total	100%	460

What are your household's total annual earnings?

Answers	Percentage	Total Responses
Under \$20,000	2%	9
\$20,000–\$49,999	10%	45
\$50,000–\$99,999	24%	113
\$100,000 or more	38%	175
Prefer not to answer	26%	120
Total	100%	462