

# *Realignment public engagement*

*Sound Transit Board — 5/27/21*



# *Realignment public engagement*

- More than a year of continuing jurisdictional and stakeholder engagement.
- Community listening sessions to supplement equity analysis.
- April online open house to inform public and seek input via survey.
- Full report provided to Board members and posted to [soundtransit.org/realignment](https://soundtransit.org/realignment)

***Jurisdictional and  
stakeholder engagement &  
community listening  
sessions***

# *Jurisdictional and stakeholder briefings*

- May 2020 online town hall with 78 elected officials and staff.
- 50+ briefings with city councils, city/county staff, commissions and regional elected officials.
- Approx. 55 stakeholder briefings with chambers of commerce, health care industry leaders, rotaries, transportation advocates, and accessibility advisers.
- 70+ letters and emails to Board and/or agency leadership.

# *Jurisdictional and stakeholder input*

- Commitment to completing projects as soon as possible.
- Willingness to support work to close affordability gap.
- Prioritize projects with highest affordable housing potential.
- Prioritize projects in transit-reliant communities.
- Ensure ST2 projects are completed.
- Protect accessibility of projects and system.
- Consider expected regional job growth and potential for more revenue in ST financial plan.
- Questions about what decisions are made during realignment vs. at project level.

# *Community listening sessions*

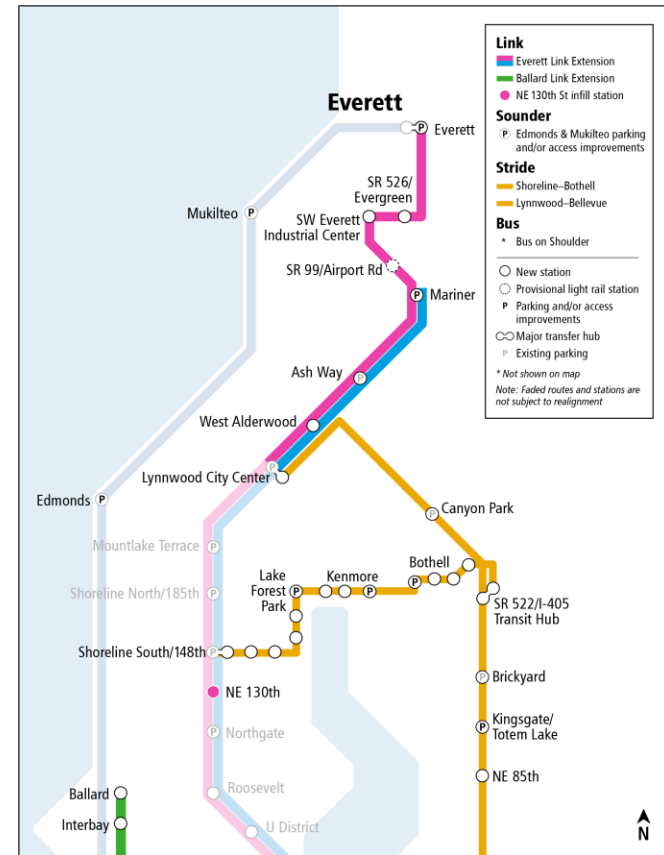
- 28 representatives of organizations working with communities most affected by institutional and systemic racism and other forms of oppression and potentially impacted by program realignment decisions.
- Asked for input to supplement equity analysis and online survey:
  - "What are important destinations for your community?"
  - "Would planned ST projects support your access to these destinations and resources?"
  - "What would you like the Board to understand before delaying, phasing or modifying future projects?"

# *Community listening sessions insights*

- Delaying projects that serve communities of color erodes trust, doesn't consider systemic racism borne by communities.
- Community input can expire if planning/service timeline is extended.
- Use any extra time to ensure future stations/services reflect community values and needs.
- Minimize construction impact timeframe; coordinate with other capital projects in the area.
- Make light rail more welcoming with accessible how-to-ride resources for aging, low-income, unsheltered populations, non-English speakers and communities of color.
- Consider community representation on the Board.

# Snohomish County insights

- North corridor communities have waited a long time for light rail.
- Many government and human services at Everett Station -- connect as soon as possible.
- If Everett Link must be delivered in phases, plan entire alignment holistically with communities.
- Extended project timelines may allow communities to build resiliency to prevent gentrification in the Casino Road area.





# Eastside insights

- East Link opening is highly anticipated for expanding access between Eastside communities and Chinatown/ International District.
- Hopelink working to connect Snoqualmie Valley and other surrounding communities to East Link stations, which will expand accessibility to many with enhanced mobility needs.



# Seattle-area insights

- The Delridge corridor anticipates more than 200 additional affordable housing units. Station has many destinations, incl. Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, library, South Seattle Community College and multiple human services agencies.
- Graham Street is key hub for community services, cultural centers, housing projects, childcare, ethnic groceries and small businesses, incl. for Filipino, Somali, Cham and other international communities. Graham St. Action Coalition has community-driven plan and for the station area.



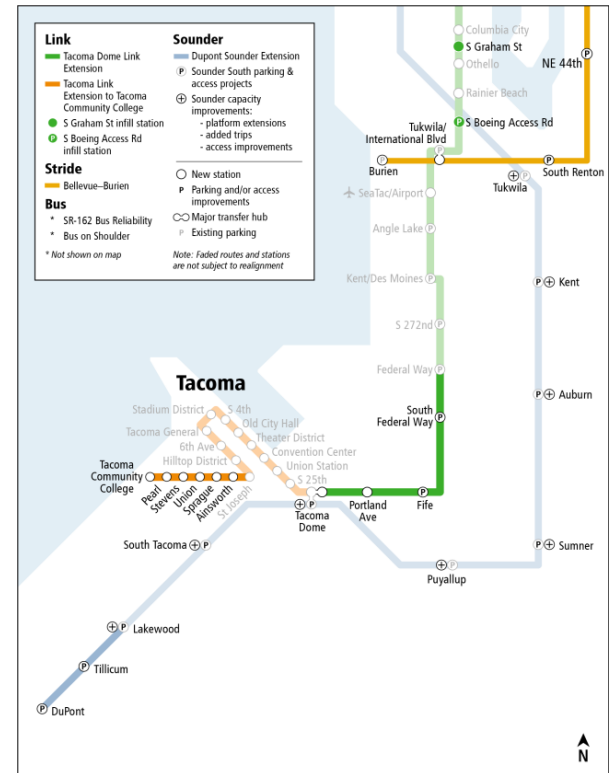
# Seattle-area insights, cont.

- Chinatown/International District is cultural connection of the diaspora, and new station will be major destination. Community needs time to recover from the pandemic before more construction impacts and to ensure Jackson Hub is driven by community priorities and vision.
- Pioneer Square has been under high pressure construction since 2008, delays make pressure feel endless.
- WSBLE will reduce buses on Alaskan Way, realizing the full potential of the waterfront revitalization.



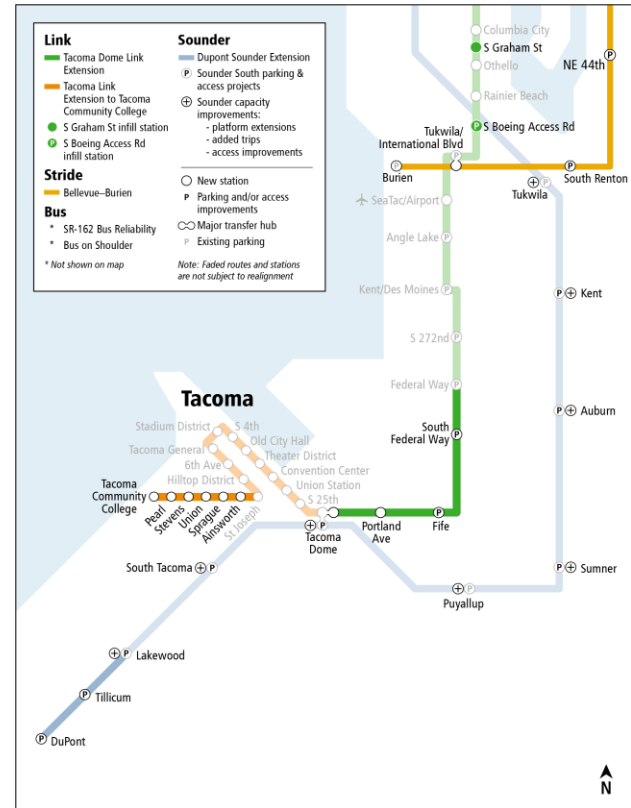
# South King County insights

- Perception that transit is Seattle-centric there is a desire to prioritize South Sound destinations for for communities of color, those living with disabilities and elderly groups.
- Many communities don't currently use ST services.
- Now could be a time to rethink the system plan and give faster service to communities in South King.
- Parking should be free in Federal Way.



# Pierce County insights

- Feeling of being last served despite pressing need; more access and housing for youth and aging population needed.
- Hilltop-Tacoma Community College connection is a top priority for people pushed out of Hilltop in search of more affordable living.
- 650 units of affordable housing planned at end of Hilltop-TCC line; 200 units of multi-family housing near the Tacoma Dome. These are catalysts for redevelopment and affordable housing projects that will improve access.



# *Public engagement*

# *April public engagement*

## *Online open house and survey*

- Outlined realignment issues and captured non-scientific input.
- Available in English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

## *Additional comment options*

- Email [realignment@soundtransit.org](mailto:realignment@soundtransit.org)
- Dedicated voicemail inbox
- Board meeting public comment
- Stakeholder briefing comment

# Promoting broad participation

- Progress report mailer to all 1.3M ST district households.
- Digital ads in multiple languages.
- Emails ST's ~100K subscribers.
- Website, social media, news media.
- Community engagement (projects, jurisdictions, organizations).
- Text pilot reaching 10,000 non-English speaking, low-income and disabled residents.





# Overview of participation

**31,086**

Unique visitors to online open house

- 23,277 English
- 1,235 Chinese
- 1,026 Korean
- 1,276 Russian
- 1,550 Spanish
- 1,348 Tagalog
- 1,374 Vietnamese

**9,730**

Surveys completed, with 6,717 open-ended responses

**202**

Emails from general public

**55**

Voicemails from general public

# *Survey results*

# *Who responded to the online survey?*

*Equity focus in previously described stakeholder engagement particularly important, given over-representation of certain groups in survey results:*

- 24% identified as a person of color
- 84% identified as white (question allowed multiple identifications)
- 63% reported a household income of \$100K or more
- 49% live in Seattle area

# *Input solicited through the survey*

## *Project priorities*

- Participants ranked voter-approved projects that are not yet in construction in any corridor of interest.

## *Open-ended question*

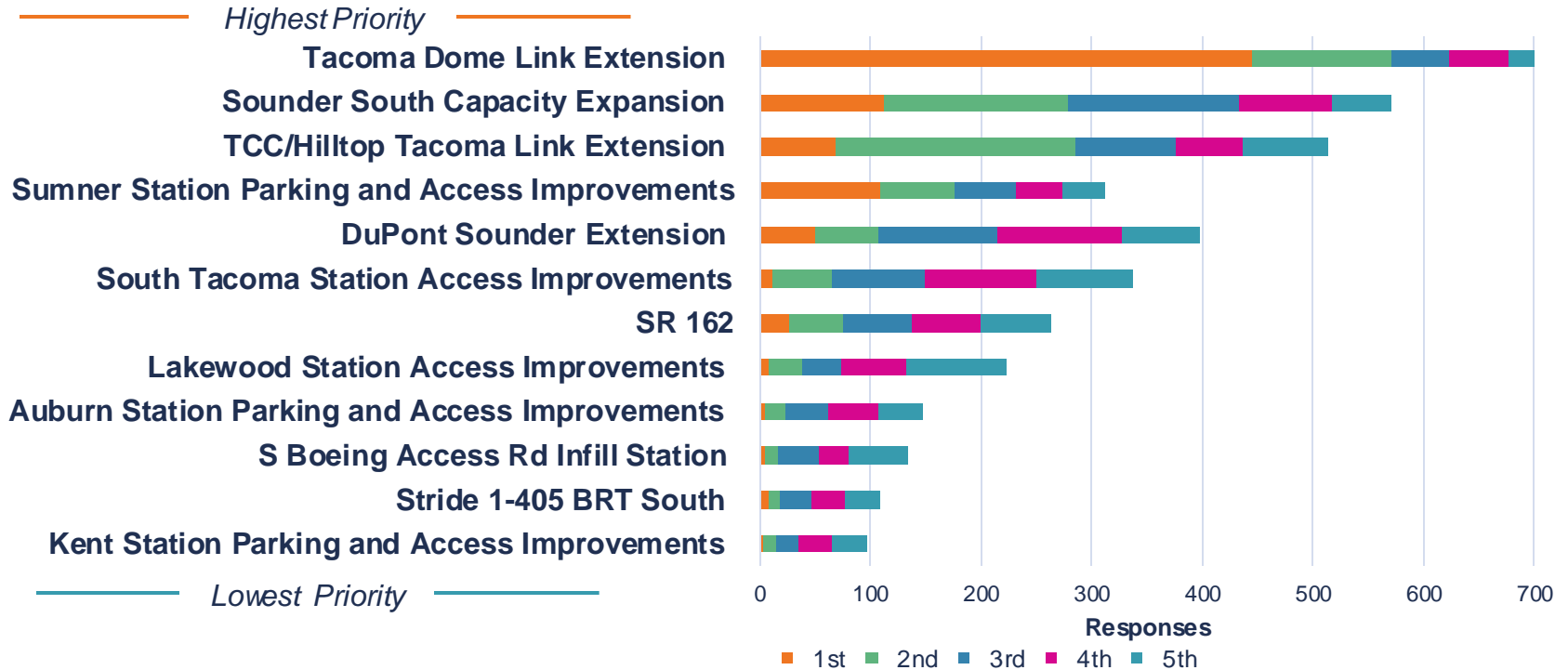
*"Why are the transit projects you've prioritized important to you? What would you prioritize when considering delaying, phasing, or modifying future transit projects?"*

- Non-scientific input from self-selected participants.

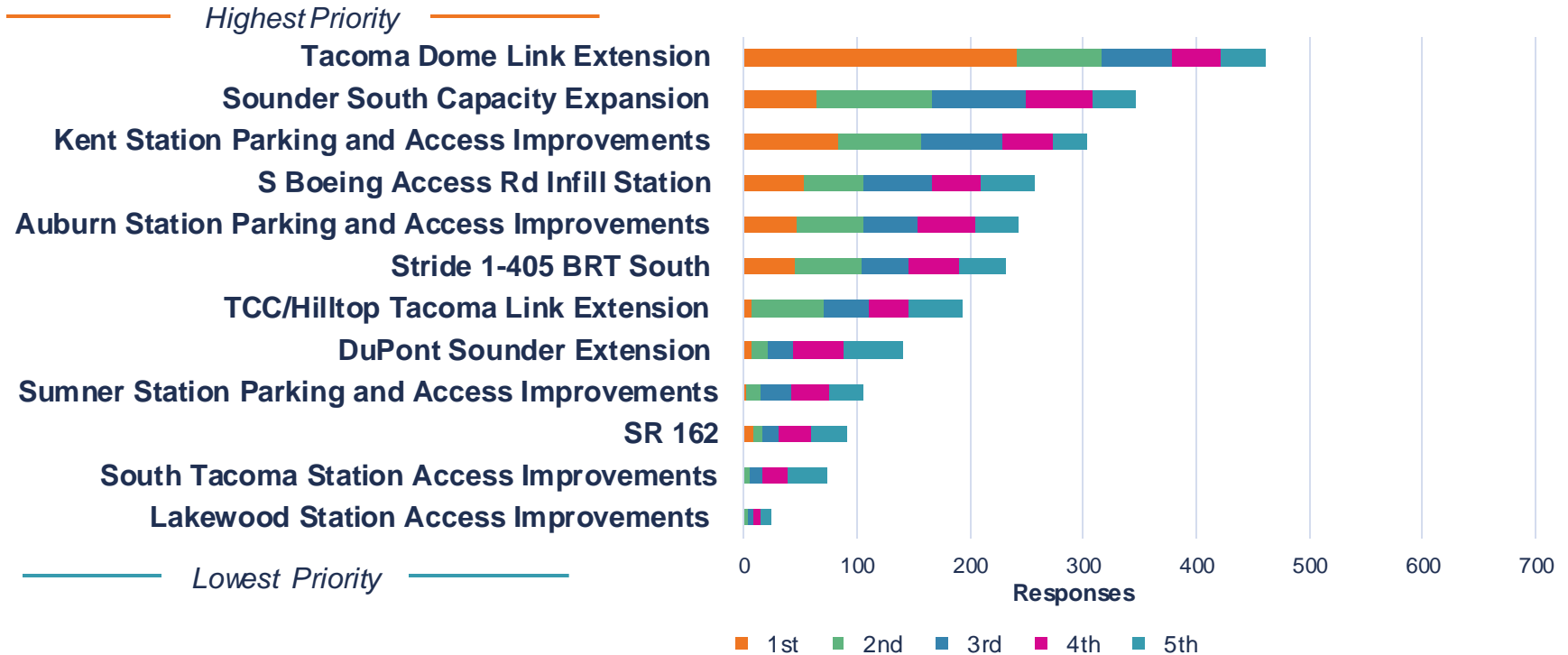
# *Consistent themes across subareas*

- Expanding Link light rail is the highest priority.
- Perception that cost estimates should have been planned for more effectively.
- Concern that costs, particularly property costs, will only increase the longer we wait.
- Support for parking is divided.

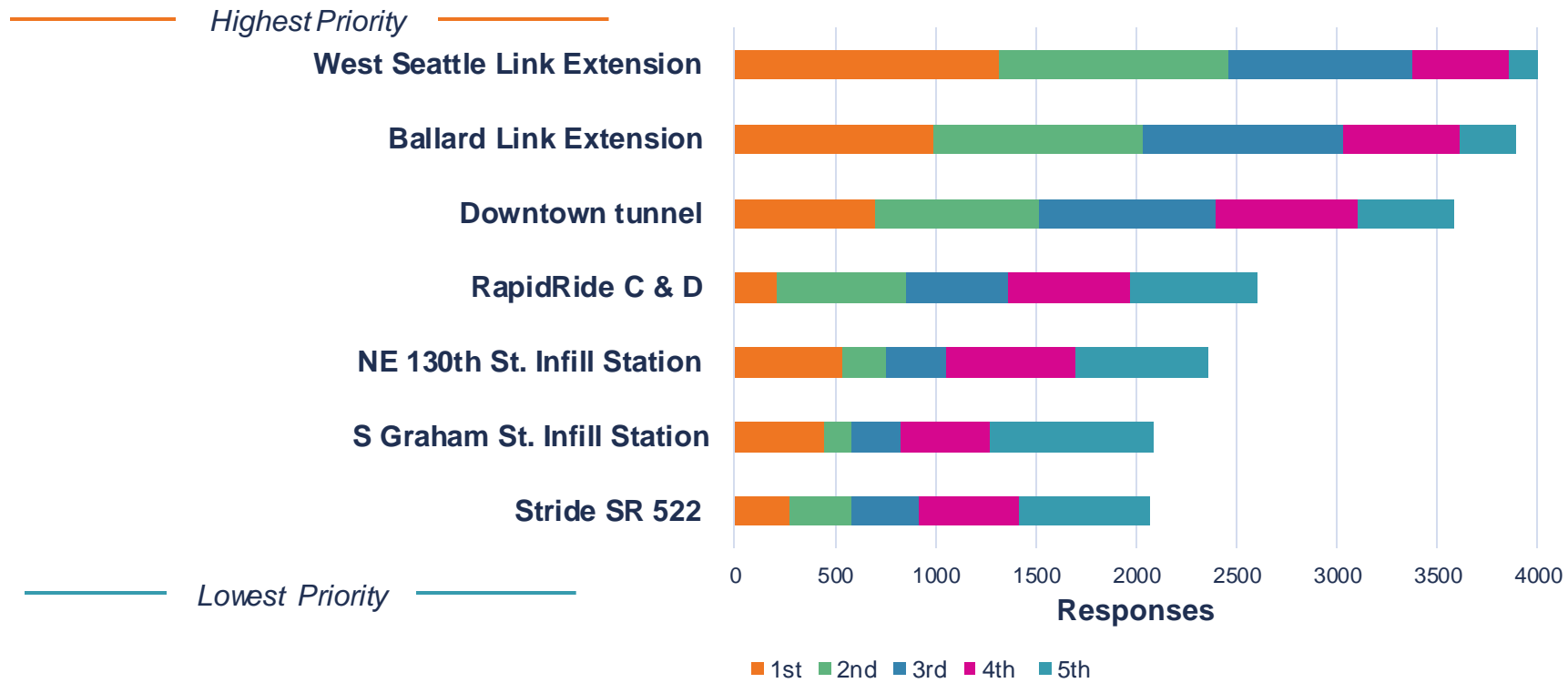
# Pierce residents' South Corridor priorities



# S. King residents' South Corridor priorities

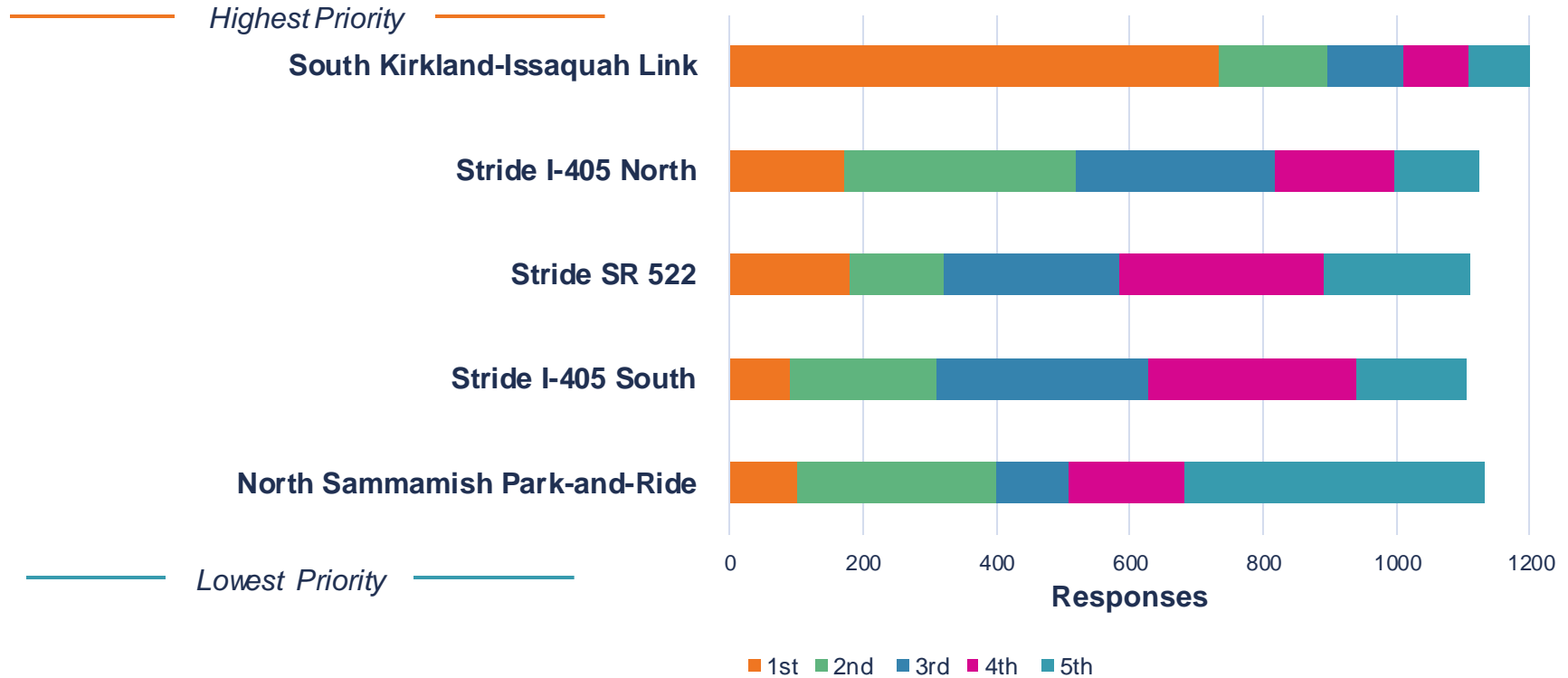


# N. King residents' Central Corridor priorities

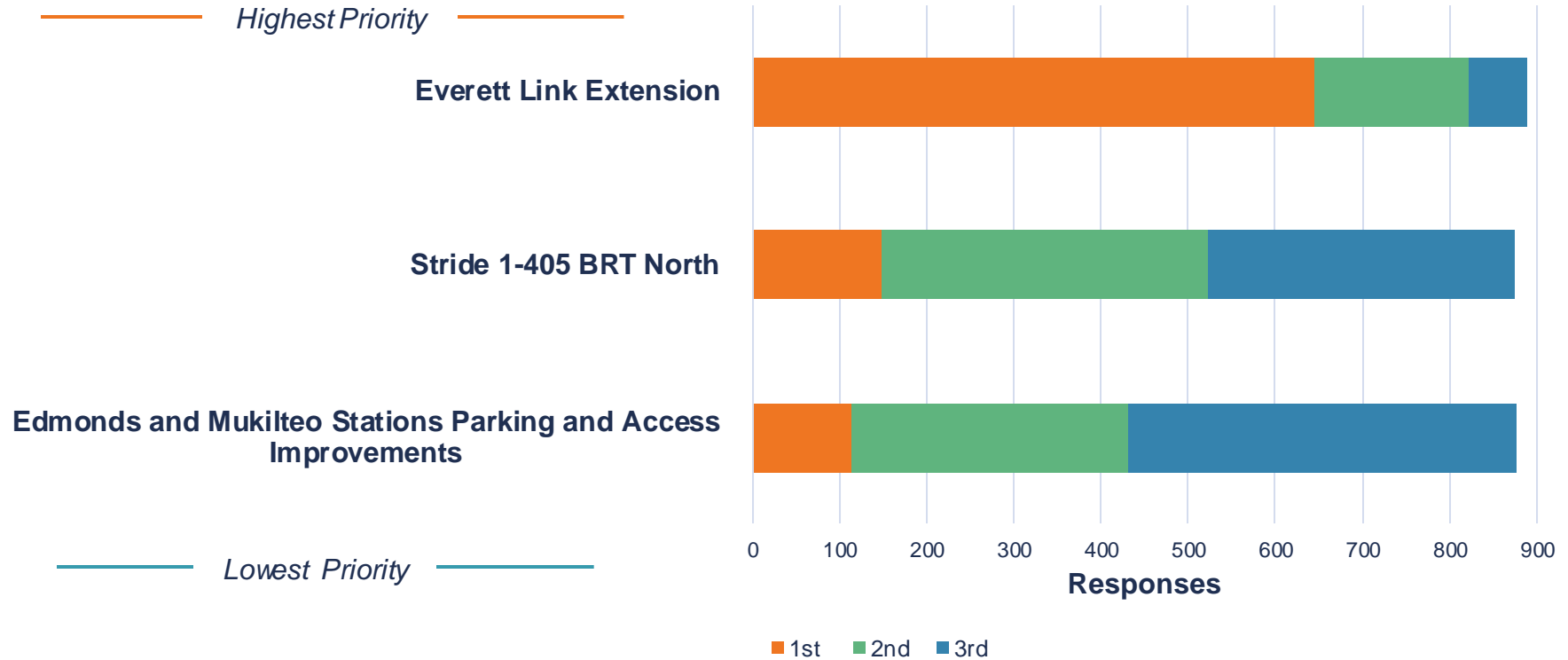




# East King residents' East Corridor priorities



# *Snohomish residents' N. Corridor priorities*



# *Reasons why people prioritized projects*

- Transit is personal:
  - How changes will impact me personally
  - I'd use the service to reach work, entertainment, friends and family, school or medical services
- Current transit options in my community are insufficient.
- We've already waited and contributed financially.
- Traffic congestion only getting worse, especially with population growth.
- Focus on projects with the greatest ridership potential.
- Prioritize transit-dependent and historically underrepresented communities.

Thank you.

*Thank you.*



 [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)

