

***West Seattle and Ballard  
Links Extensions  
Draft EIS status update***

*Board of Directors  
12/16/21*



# *Why we are here*

- To provide a Draft EIS status update
- For information only

# *Project background*

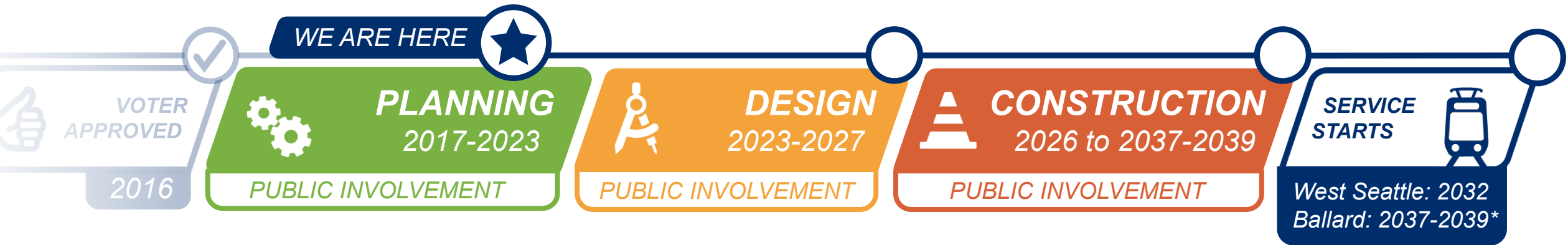


# ***West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project (WSBLE)***

- ✓ Included in Sound Transit 3 (ST3) plan.
- ✓ Two light rail extensions and new, light rail-only downtown tunnel.
- ✓ 12 miles of light rail service that will serve 14 stations.

# West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

## Project timeline





ST3  
APPROVED

2016



# PLANNING



DES

## 2017–2019

### Alternatives development

- ✓ Feb–March 2018: Early scoping
- ✓ Feb–April 2019: Scoping
- ✓ May–Oct 2019: Board identified preferred alternatives and other DEIS alternatives

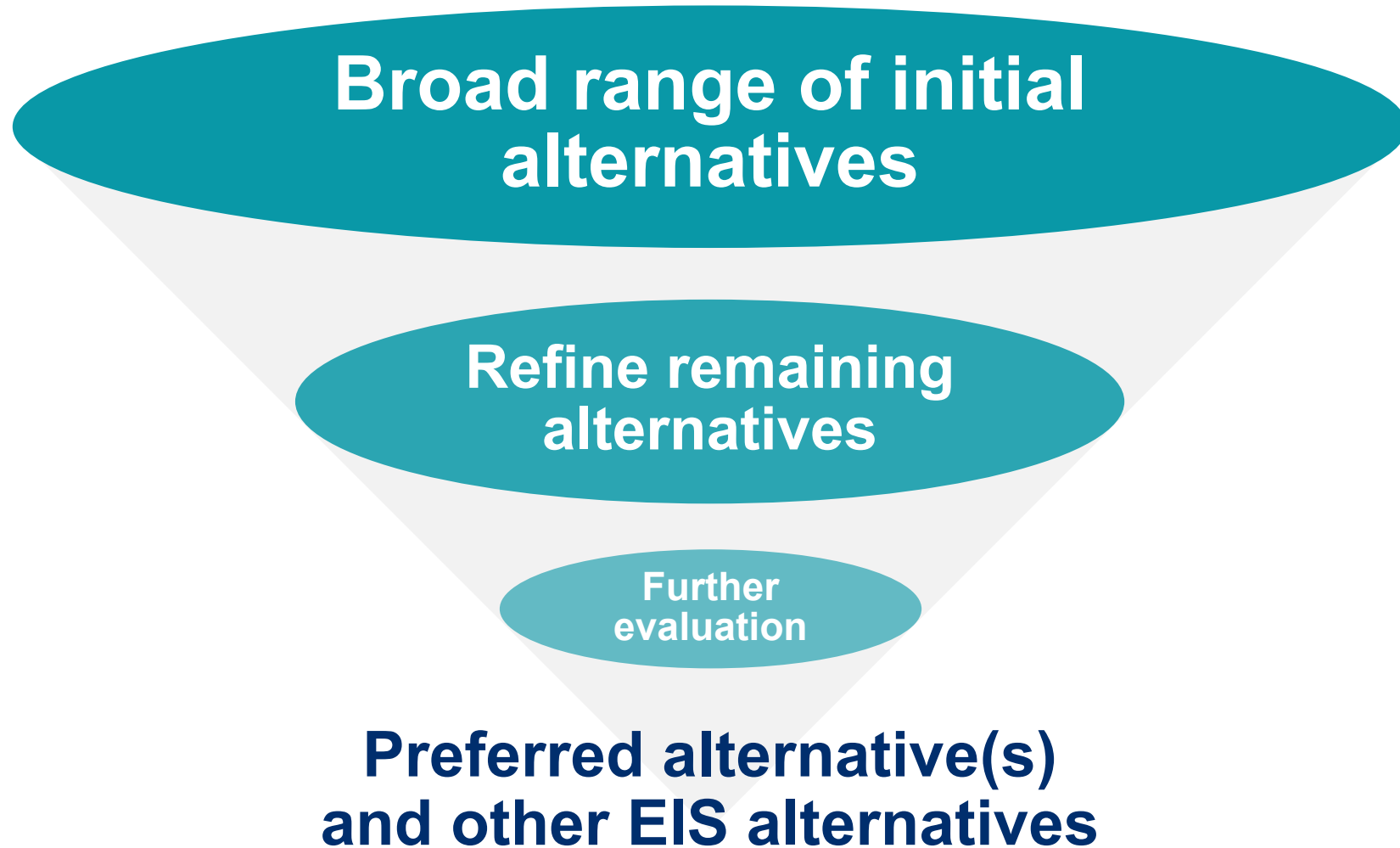
## 2019–2023

### Environmental review

- Early 2022: Publish Draft EIS
- Public comment period
- Board confirms or modifies preferred alternatives
- 2023: Publish Final EIS
- Board selects projects to be built
- Federal Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

# *Alternatives development screening process*

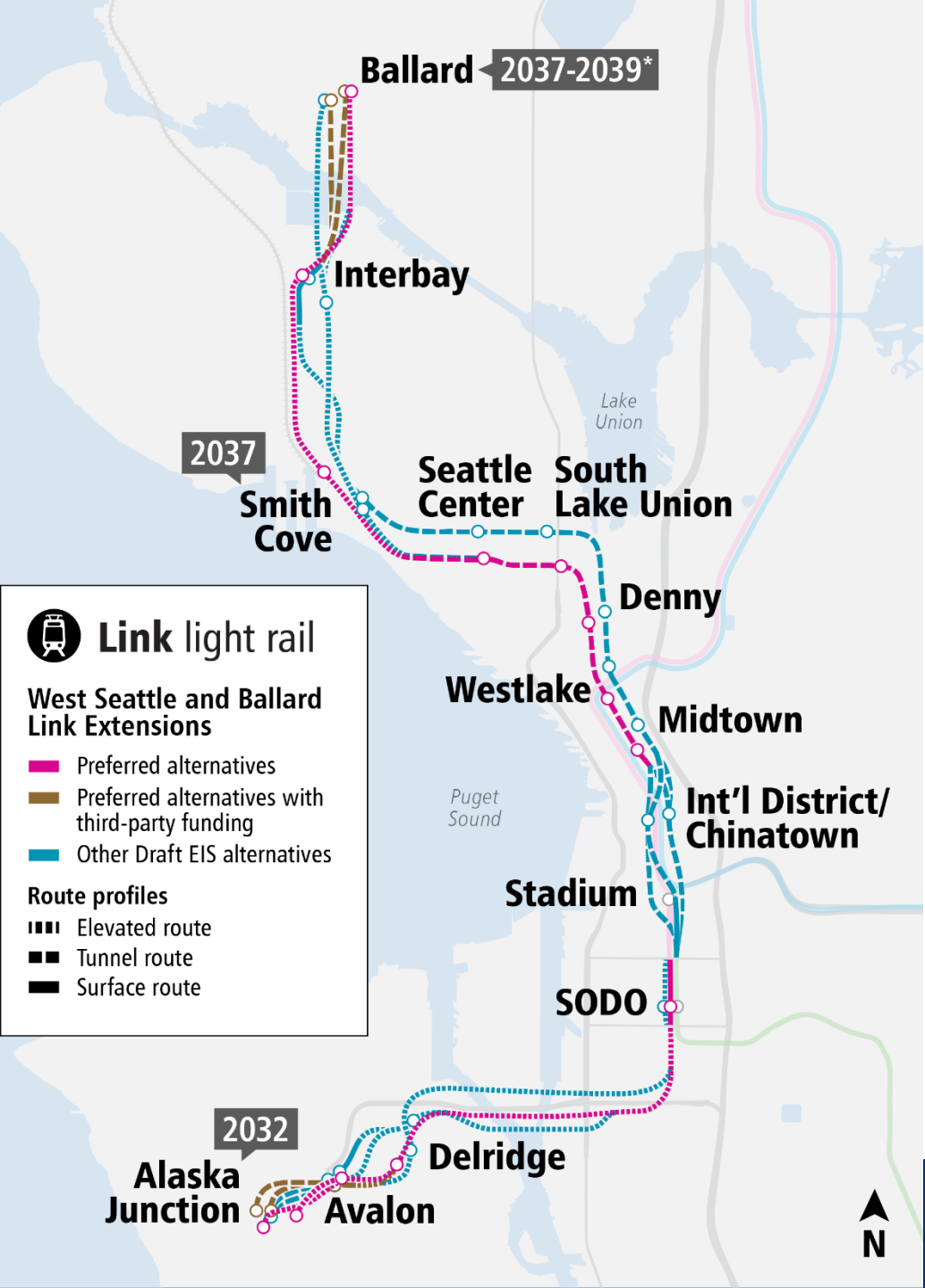


# Draft EIS alternatives

## What we're studying in this phase

- Preferred Alternatives
- Preferred Alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other Draft EIS alternatives

\*Dates reflect an affordable schedule based on current financial projections and cost estimates, and a target schedule.







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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

# What is typically studied in an EIS?

## **Transportation**

- Regional transportation
- Transit services
- Arterial and local street systems
- Parking
- Non-motorized facilities
- Navigation
- Freight

## **Natural environment**

- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Ecosystems
- Water resources
- Geology and soils

## **Built environment**

- Acquisitions, displacements and relocations
- Noise and vibration
- Economic effect
- Visual resources
- Parks and recreation
- Land use
- Energy
- Hazardous materials
- Public services
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Social resources, community facilities and neighborhoods
- Electromagnetic fields
- Utilities

***Next steps***

# *Upcoming engagement*



***Publish Draft EIS***



***Collect public feedback***

# *Current community engagement*

## *Preparing for upcoming Draft EIS publication*

- Online engagement platform: [wsblink.participate.online](https://wsblink.participate.online)
- Community briefings
- Fairs, festivals and tabling
- Partnership with City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhood's Community Liaison program
- Outreach to property owners

# ***Community Advisory Groups***

***Started: November 16, 2021***

***Four community advisory groups (CAGs),  
by geographic segment:***

- West Seattle/ Duwamish
- Chinatown-International District/ SODO
- Downtown
- Interbay/ Ballard

***Monthly meetings of each group through Spring 2022***

# Community Advisory Groups

**Build understanding and common ground** around key project decisions.


**Highlight specific issues and trade-offs** as Sound Transit works to deliver a project on the target schedule and within scope.


**Share feedback** with the Sound Transit Board before they confirm or modify the preferred alternative.





# Community engagement and collaboration

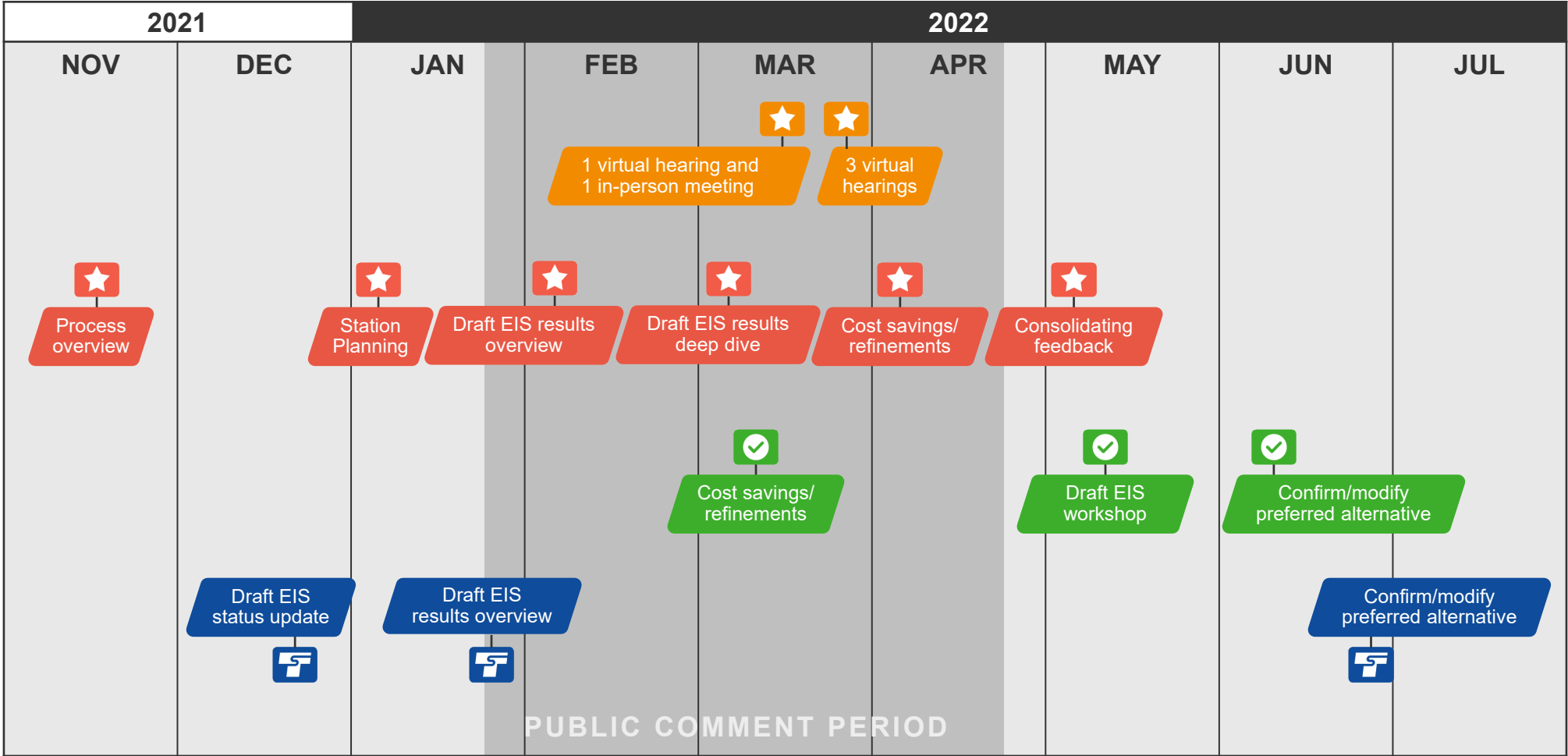
## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

 Draft EIS Public Meetings

 Community Advisory Groups

 Sound Transit System Expansion Committee

 Sound Transit Board





*Thank you.*



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

