

Ballard Link Extension

*Feasibility study of potential additional
alternative in South Lake Union*

System Expansion Committee

12/14/23



Why we are here

Motion No. M2023-109

Directing staff to assess the feasibility of an additional alternative in the South Lake Union area for potential inclusion in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ballard Link Extension

Motion No. M2023-110

Contract modification with HNTB Corporation for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions*

Prior board actions

Motion No. M2023-18 – approved in March 2023

Confirms or modifies the preferred alternative light rail route and station locations for the Ballard Link Extension for additional environmental review, including preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement

Motion No. M2023-57 – approved in July 2023

Confirms or modifies the preferred station location for the Denny Station for the Ballard Link Extension Environmental Impact Statement

Ballard Link Extension alternatives

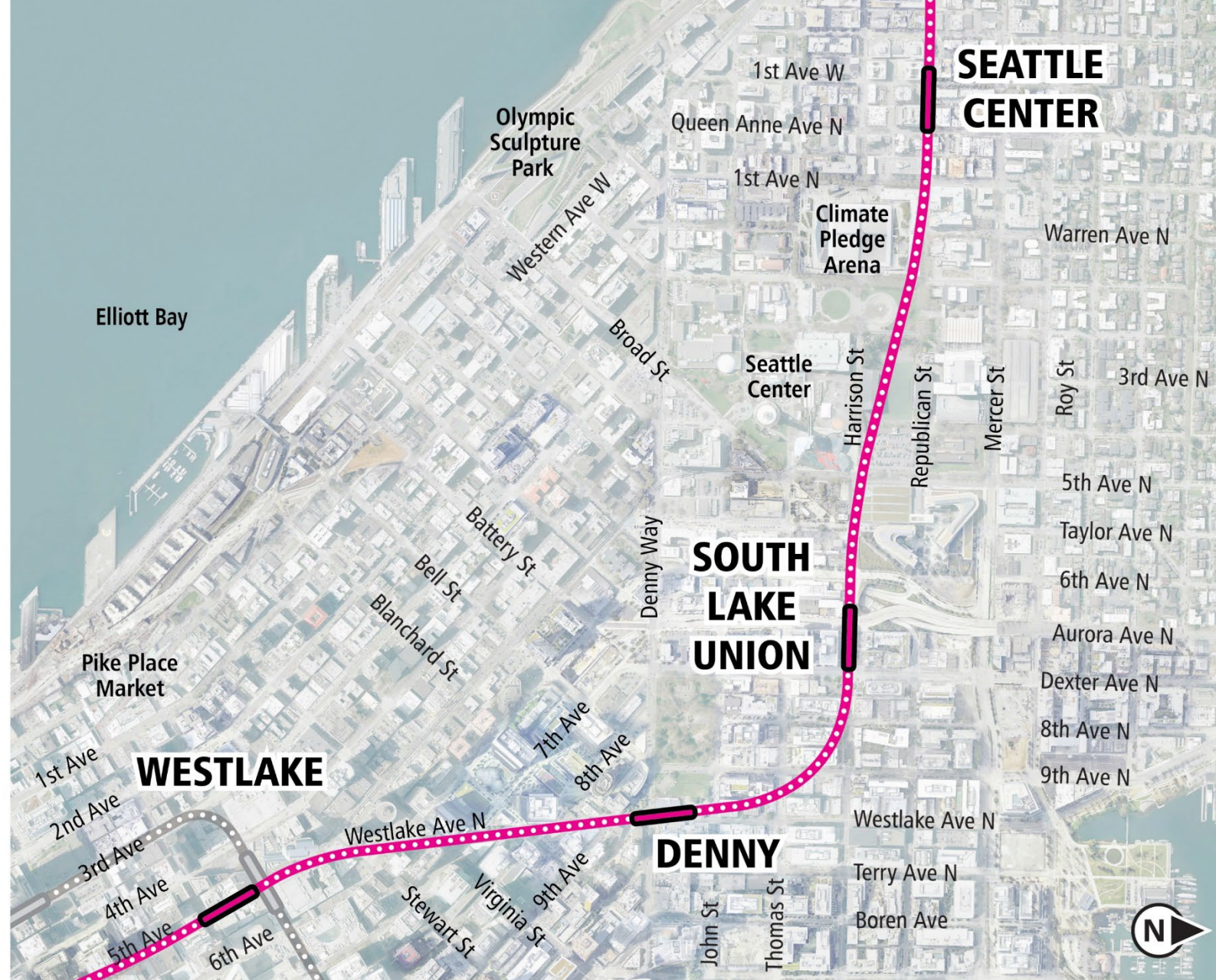
What we're currently studying

-  Preferred alternative
-  Other EIS alternatives



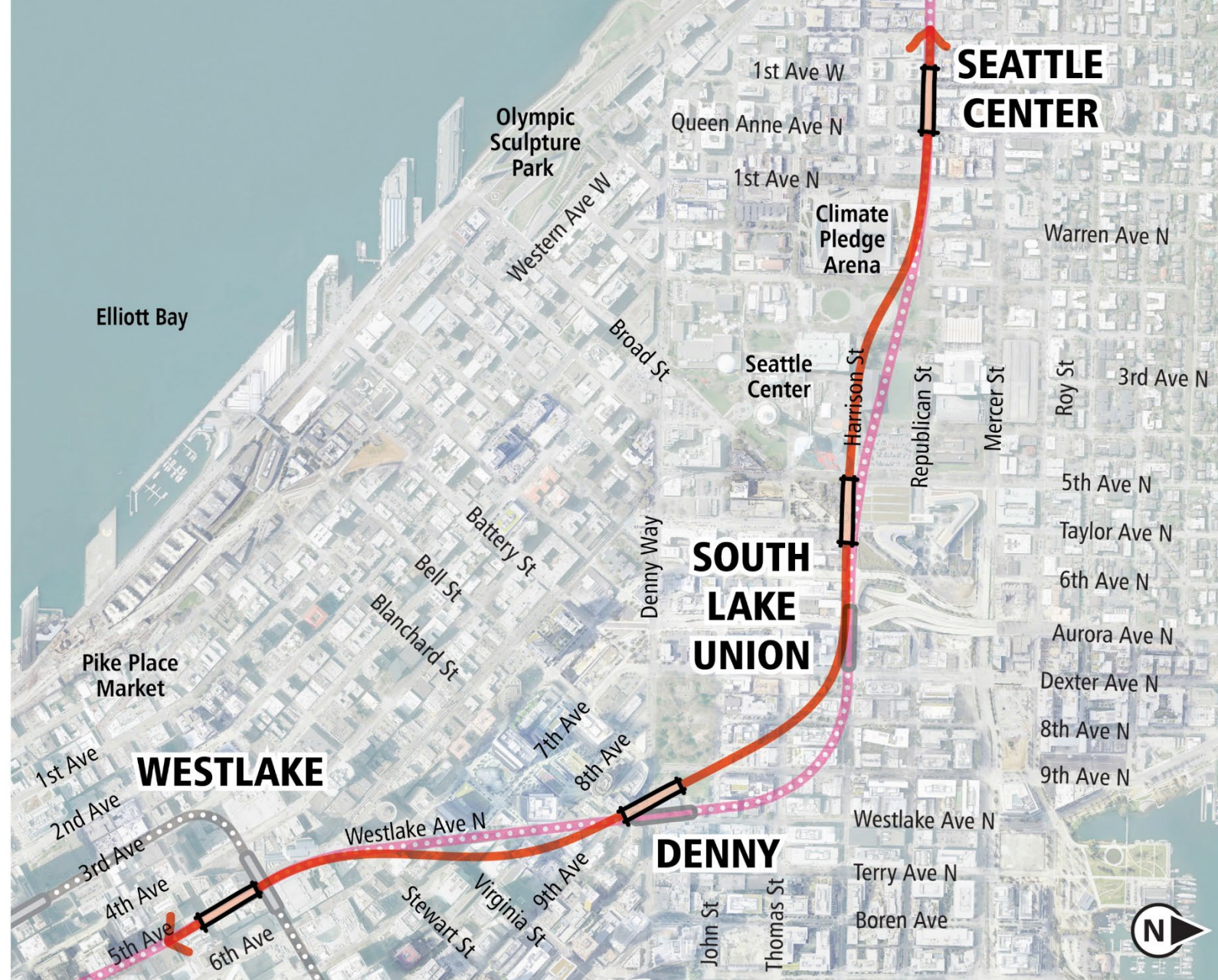
Preferred alternative

Currently in preliminary engineering design



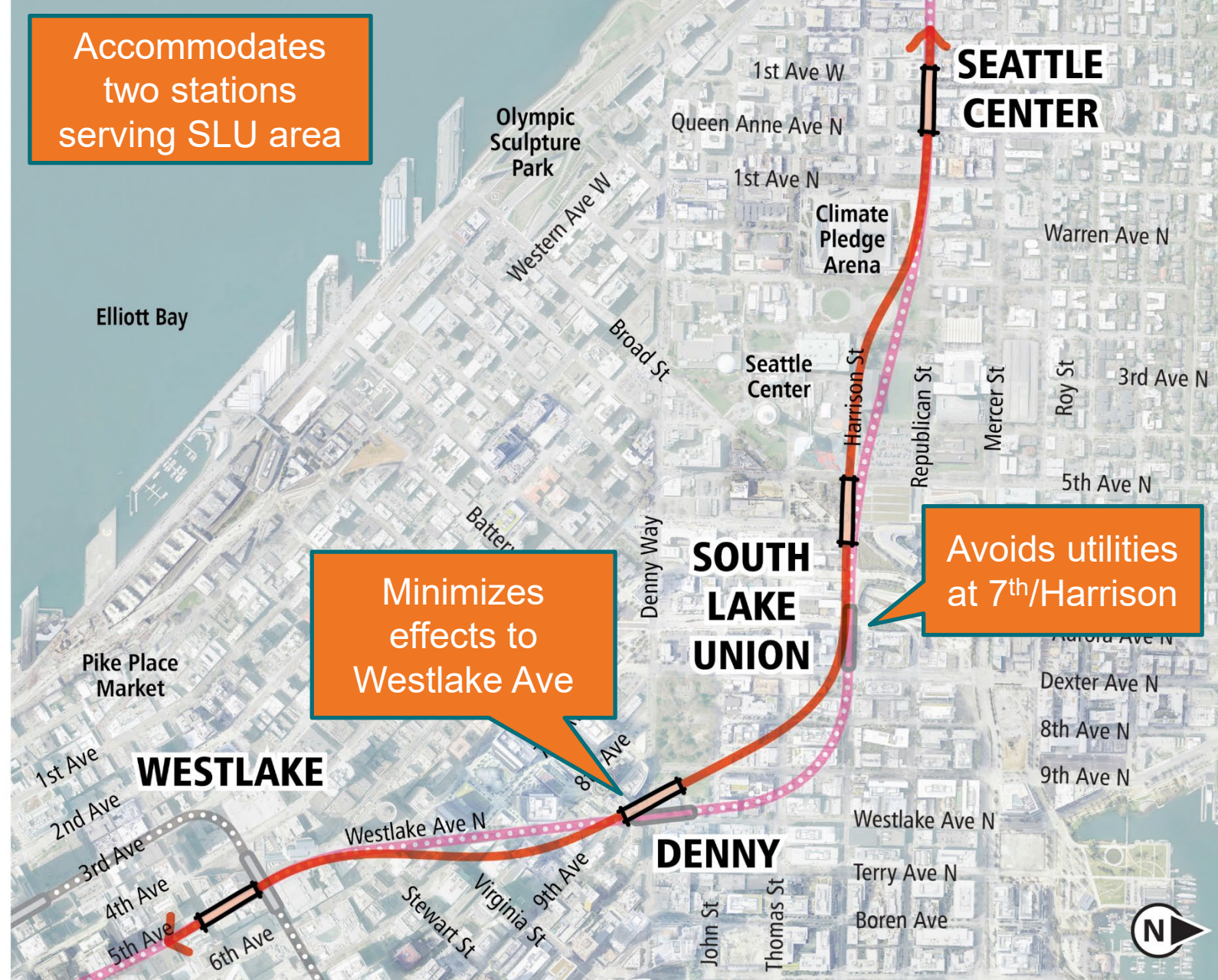
Potential additional alternative

Sketch of newly suggested concept; has not yet been designed



Potential additional alternative

Opportunities



Potential additional alternative Challenges



Schedule implications

Dec 2023: If Board authorizes **feasibility study**, would not result in **any delay** to overall project schedule

May 2024: Board considers results of feasibility study

- If Board **does not direct further study**, **no delay** to overall project schedule (2039)
- If Board **includes the additional alternative in the Draft EIS**, projected to **cause 10-month delay** to overall project schedule (2040)
- If Board **modifies preferred alternative**, projected to **cause between 10-month and 2-year delay** to overall project schedule depending on when preferred alternative is modified (2040-2041)



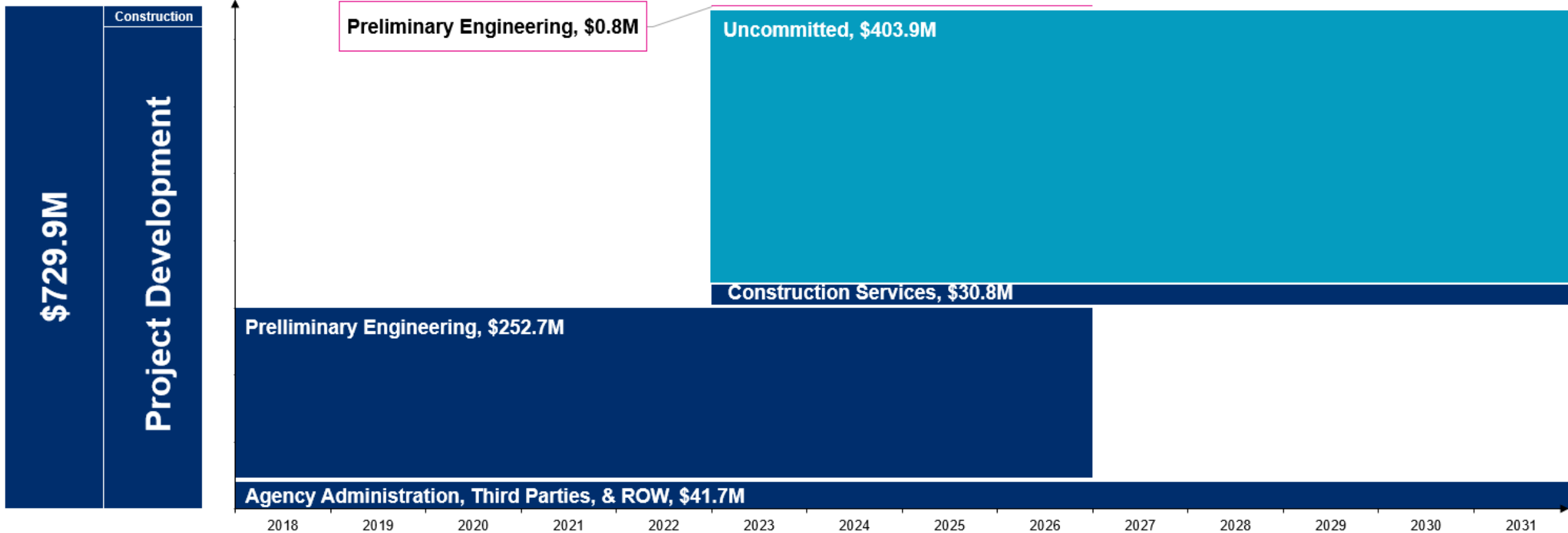
Operating Implications

Further delay to Ballard Link (and associated delay to opening of new downtown tunnel) extends the period during which:

- Trains from SW Everett, Tacoma and Redmond all need to operate through the existing downtown tunnel which will be constrained in capacity
- Trains from West Seattle operate as a shuttle to SODO

Ballard Link Extension: Board approves \$0.8M HNTB (preliminary engineering) contract

ALLOCATION \$ COMMITMENTS



Thank you.



 [*soundtransit.org/wsblink*](https://soundtransit.org/wsblink)

