Ballard Link Extension
Feasibility study of potential additional alternative in South Lake Union

System Expansion Committee
11/09/23
Why we are here

• Interest in potential additional alternative in South Lake Union area of Ballard Link Extension
Prior board actions

Motion No. M2023-18 – approved March 23
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 July 27
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

- Minimizes effects to Westlake Ave
- Accommodates two stations serving SLU area
- Avoids utilities at 7th/Harrison
Potential additional alternative

Challenges

- Traffic/access for 5th Ave, MoPop, Memorial Stadium
- Station depth
- Curves/track speeds
- Conflicts with substation & 5th Ave garage
- Transit integration
- Climate Pledge Arena foundations
**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
Thank you.

soundtransit.org/wsblink