



Link project sequencing and East Link Starter Line

*System Expansion Committee
January 12, 2023*





Why we're here

- Address key elements from December 2022 Boardmember questions
- Further discuss potential East Link Starter Line
- Next steps

Briefing only, no action required today

Boardmember questions

- Including those received at December SEC and full Board meetings, plus individual requests
- Will return at least quarterly to update the Board on progress
- Full questions and answers provided separately
- Organized into the following themes:
 - Project sequencing and openings
 - Operational questions
 - Future starter lines
 - Next steps for potential East Link Starter Line



***Key elements from
Boardmember questions***

Project sequencing

- Until the **full** East Link alignment opens, allowing access to OMF East, 1-Line service will be limited to trains operating out of OMF Central
- Results in 8-min. Lynnwood Link frequency
- These impacts + WSDOT Revive I-5 work require a regional effort to address transportation constraints in the North I-5 corridor
- ST coordinating with partner agencies (Community Transit, King County Metro, WSDOT and others)





Project openings

Why do we need a six-month period between project openings?

- Based on Northgate lessons learned and Programmatic QRA
- Two months: monitor performance of brand-new facilities, troubleshoot issues, address passenger feedback
- Four months: ensure safe commissioning of facilities, staff training, running simulated service prior to opening

Project openings

Potential three-month shift of Lynnwood Link opening due to East Link Starter Line needs continued evaluation

- Without Starter Line: Currently Summer/Fall 2024
- With Starter Line: Could be Fall/Winter 2024
- Working to determine more precise schedule as construction advances



Operations: Current planned service levels

Before full East Link/ Downtown Redmond open	After full East Link/ Downtown Redmond open
<p>Angle Lake to Lynnwood 8-min. peak, 10-min. midday</p>	<p>Chinatown/ID to Lynnwood ~4-min. peak, 5-min. midday</p> <p>Angle Lake to Chinatown/ID ~8-min. peak, 10-min. midday</p> <p>Downtown Redmond to Chinatown/ID ~8-min. peak, 10-min. midday</p>
<p>East Link Starter Line 10-min. all day</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Operations

- Staff examining mitigation options for the period between Lynnwood opening until East Link crosses Lake Washington
 - Single-tracking across lake to allow vehicle travel between OMFs is unlikely
 - Question spurred creative thinking, which will be part of further analysis with agency partners
- East Link Starter Line will not impact Stride BRT opening
- Examining opportunities to partially restructure ST Express Bus service to complement Starter Line





Future phased openings or other starter lines

Could the Board consider a “phased-opening” policy for extensions that are significantly delayed?

Yes. Factors to consider would likely include:

- Engineering and construction readiness
- Operational adjustments required, plus potential ridership changes
- Overall potential costs and benefits

Future phased openings or other starter lines

Could we open a Federal Way Starter Line to Kent/Des Moines Station?

- This is under consideration
- Staff conducting feasibility analysis: crossover tracks and sufficient tail track
- Contingent on knowing opening date of full Federal Way Link Extension
- Will update Board on results of analysis

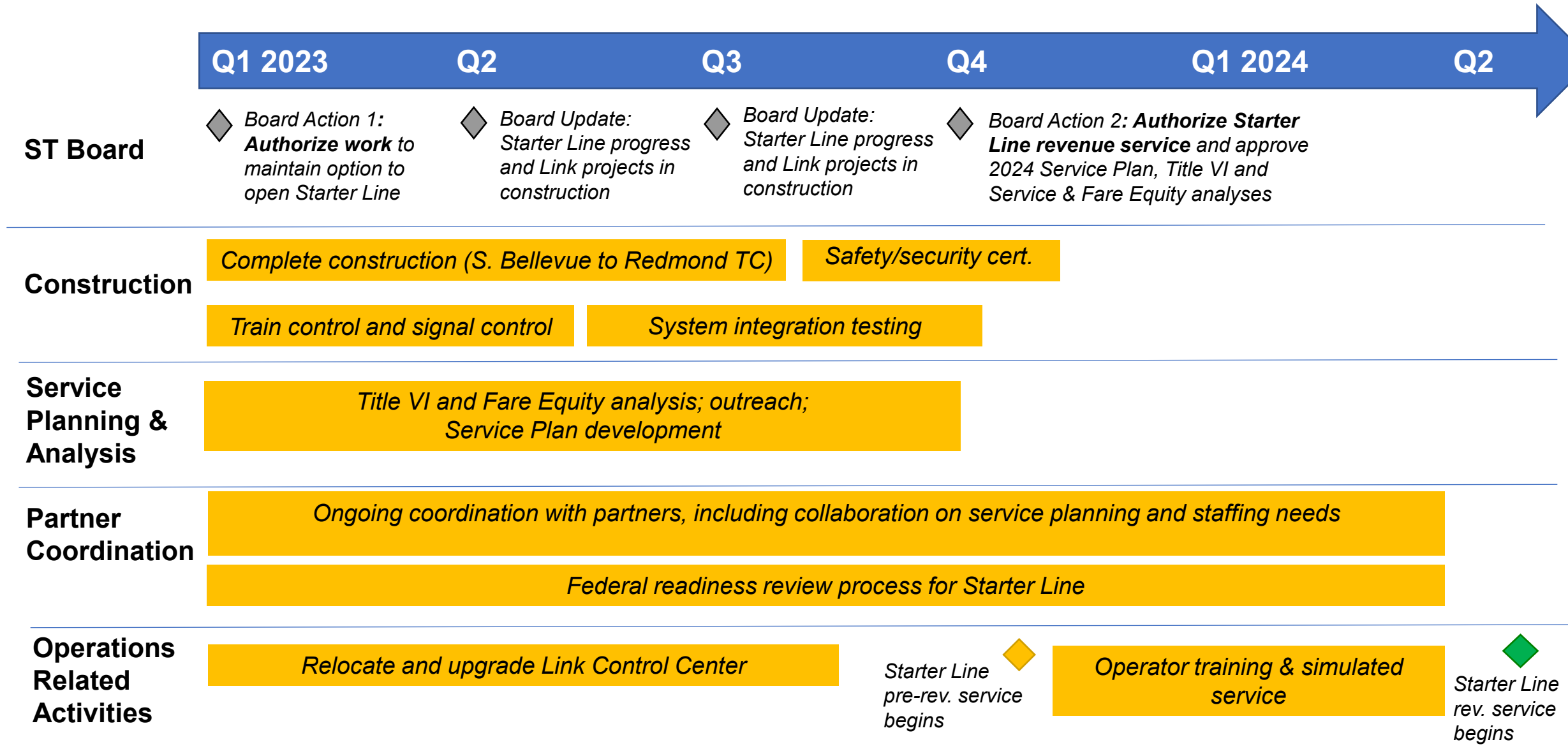


Potential next steps: East Link Starter Line

A two-step Board process

- 1. Consider action to authorize work necessary to maintain option to open Starter Line (Jan. 2023 Board meeting)**
 - Action would also authorize up to \$6 million dollars to complete activities, paid for by East King subarea
 - Requires supermajority vote
- 2. Consider action to authorize opening passenger service on East Link Starter Line (anticipated Oct. 2023)**
 - Would occur following completion and consideration of analysis required for Fall 2024 Service Plan, including Title VI and Fare Equity analysis
 - Requires another supermajority vote

Milestone schedule for East Link Starter Line (if authorized)



Thank you.



 *soundtransit.org*

