As of April 2023, the ST2/ST3 program is still affordable, but the target schedule remains unaffordable. The agency measures affordability through its ability to both issue and repay debt. While the agency’s debt capacity (see below) has increased, net debt service coverage ratio (at right) has not improved.

### Debt capacity

**Ability to take out loans/bonds**

- Minimum: 0%
- Fall 2022: 9.1%
- Spring 2023: 15.9%

### Net debt coverage

**Ability to pay back debt**

- Minimum: 1.5x
- Fall 2022: 1.67x
- Spring 2023: 1.67x

### Cost Drivers

- Historically high construction costs expected to slow due to a stabilizing economy
- Real estate values remaining higher than pre-pandemic levels but cooling due to higher interest rates and other market factors
- Increased construction labor costs due to limited availability
- Increasing operations and maintenance needs and costs (systemwide cleaning and upkeep, emerging and growing costs as operations expand)

### Portfolio Performance

- Costs are trending higher, and schedules trending longer.
- Projects in planning are experiencing scoping changes, environmental review and other permitting constraints by agency partners, and extensive work along with local jurisdictions on requirements and agreements.
- Projects in construction are experiencing quality and construction challenges delaying key Link openings, competing activation resources limiting ability to complete safety and reliability testing faster, and systemwide operational impacts due to East Link delays.
At a glance

We’re building a system with 252 TOTAL MILES of regional transit service.

80+ light rail stations CONNECTING 16 cities across 3 counties.

Voter-approved projects are forecasted to support more than 323,000 JOBS through 2046.

$145.6B total program spending* for the last 3 years.

Capital projects spending $1.6B or more per year for the last 3 years.

America’s first major light rail system to run on 100% carbon-free electricity.

UPCOMING

Project openings

Puyallup
Parking & Access Improvements
Opened in March

Hilltop Tacoma
Link Extension
This summer

Sound Transit connects more people to more places to make life better and create equitable opportunities for all.