

# Extending Sounder service Lakewood-to-Tacoma

---

Extending Sounder commuter rail service from Lakewood to Tacoma is a key Sound Transit commitment to Pierce County and the Puget Sound region.

The extension connects Lakewood and South Tacoma to the popular Sounder line that already carries more than 8,200 people every weekday on five round-trip trains from Tacoma to Seattle, and a reverse commute train that starts in Seattle and runs to Tacoma. In 2008, three more Sounder round trips will be added, including another reverse commute.

Since September 2000 when service began, 3.6 million riders have boarded Sounder trains in Pierce County.

## Extending Sounder to Lakewood

Extending commuter rail to Lakewood has been on the drawing board since 1994 and is one of the Sound Transit projects approved by voters in 1996. Sounder service to Lakewood is expected to begin by early 2012.

Operating Sounder trains between Lakewood and Tacoma would:

- Connect Lakewood to the entire Puget Sound region
- Move a projected ridership of an additional 2,400 boardings a day in 2030
- Help maintain the economic vitality of Pierce County by offering a commuting alternative to highway congestion
- Make the fewest impacts on surrounding communities, with much of the corridor already established and owned by Sound Transit
- Consolidate Sounder and Amtrak trains onto these tracks, leaving freight trains free to use other tracks for economically vital service.

Before Sounder trains start running, interim ST Express bus service will connect the Lakewood and South Tacoma stations with Freighthouse Square at Tacoma Dome Station.

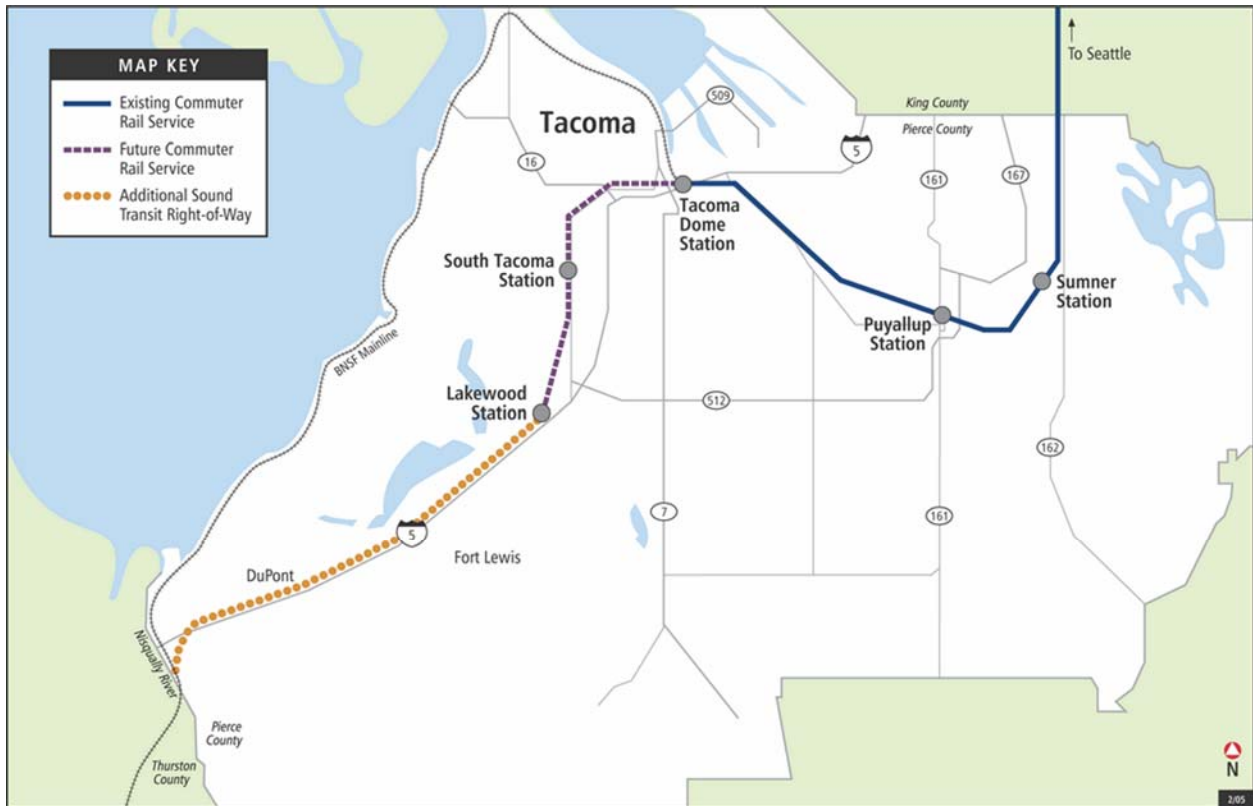
The Sound Transit projects on the Lakewood-Tacoma line that are underway or nearing startup include:

### Lakewood Station

Construction of the Lakewood Station is underway and on schedule for completion in 2008.

### South Tacoma Station

Construction of the South Tacoma Station is scheduled to begin in early 2008.



### Track and Signal Improvements

Track, signal and grade crossing improvements from M Street in Tacoma to Bridgeport Way in Lakewood, as well as a layover facility in Lakewood, are planned.

### D-to-M Street connector

Before Sounder service can begin in the Tacoma-Lakewood corridor, a rail connection must be constructed from Freighthouse Square to the start of Sound Transit-owned right of way at the Tacoma Avenue Overpass.

Sound Transit worked with City of Tacoma staff, elected leaders, affected property owners, community members as well as the state Department of Transportation, Amtrak and the BNSF Railway Company to study a number of different alignments and options on that corridor, known as the D-to-M Street connector.

Sound Transit has narrowed the D-to-M street study to a single alignment with two options: a grade separation of the rail line crossing Pacific Avenue; and an at-grade crossing of Pacific Avenue.

The Sound Transit Board is scheduled to select a preferred alternative in December, 2007. Once the preferred alternative is selected, Sound Transit will proceed with final design and construction.

Consultation with community members, business and neighborhood groups, adjacent property owners and City of Tacoma will continue throughout the process.