



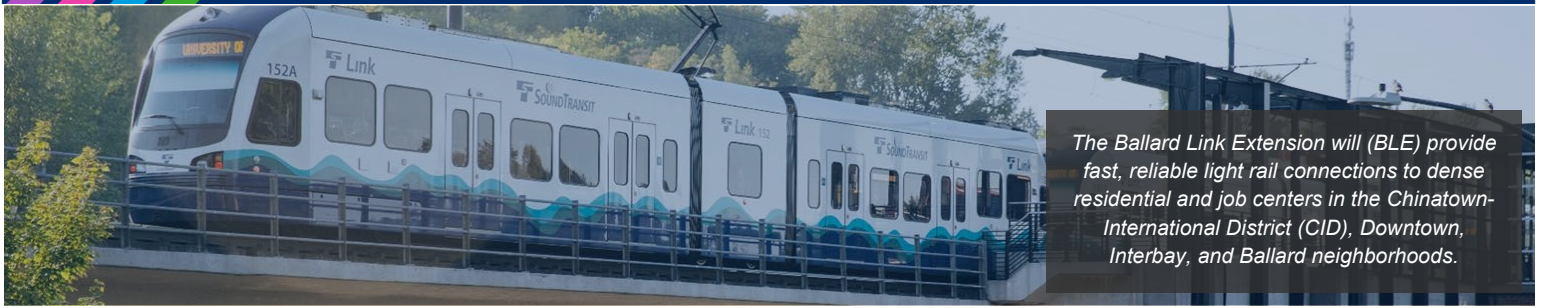
Ballard Link Extension

Q4 2024 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

October/November/December 2024



Ballard Link Extension



The Ballard Link Extension will (BLE) provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers in the Chinatown-International District (CID), Downtown, Interbay, and Ballard neighborhoods.

Activities snapshot



2 public events with **179** attendees



22 community briefings and property owner meetings



6 email updates reaching **12,000+** subscribers

1 blog post engaging **4,300+** subscribers



21 communications with questions and feedback from inbox and voicemail

166 comments during the NEPA scoping period



Ongoing fieldwork activities¹ throughout the project corridor



¹ Sound Transit is in the planning phase for the Ballard Link Extension project. As part of this phase, Sound Transit is coordinating with property owners throughout the corridor to collect and analyze information necessary to plan and design potential light rail alignments to be studied in the environmental review process.



Ballard Link Extension



Public events

Open-house scoping meetings

The project team hosted **two in-person open house scoping meetings** as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process for the Ballard Link Extension (BLE).

The purpose of these meetings was to provide updates, answer questions, and gather community feedback on the project's Purpose and Need, potential route and station alternatives, and topics for study in the BLE Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).



Each event included a short presentation, informational displays, and multiple options for community members to submit comments.

- The first meeting was held on Nov. 7, 2024, at Union Station in Downtown Seattle. On-site interpretation services were provided in Cantonese, Mandarin, and Vietnamese. About **99** people attended.
- The second meeting was held on Nov. 13, 2024, at the National Nordic Museum in Ballard. About **80** people attended.



Community briefings and property meetings

The project team attended **22** community briefings and property owner meetings during the reporting period. Briefings included meeting with community groups, such as the Downtown Seattle Association, Pioneer Square Preservation Board, and the Port of Seattle, to share general project updates and answer questions. Property owner and tenant meetings included one-on-one conversations with owners, residents, and businesses to discuss the property acquisition and relocation process and answer questions.



Email and blog updates

During the reporting period, the project team sent **six** email updates to a public listserv with over **12,000** subscribers. These updates focused on the BLE Draft EIS scoping period, which took place from Oct. 24 to Dec. 9, 2024. The emails provided information about the scoping period timeline, details for the two open house meetings, and various ways for the public to submit comments and feedback.

In addition to email updates, the project team published **one blog article** on the Platform, which engaged over **4,300** subscribers. The article provided an update on the additional studies done for the CID alternatives, including what the project team studied and what they learned.



Ballard Link Extension



Questions, comments, and feedback

BLE scoping comment period

The project team also conducted a public comment period from Oct. 25 to Dec. 9, 2024, as part of the NEPA scoping process. Community members provided comments through various channels, including in-person events, an online form, email, voicemails, and traditional mail. We sought input on route and station alternatives, project Purpose and Need, and topics to study in the BLE Draft EIS. In total, we received **166** scoping comments.

Summary of questions and feedback

The following is a summary of questions and feedback the project team received from community members through property owner meetings, community briefings, emails, and voicemails to the project inbox.

- **General project questions and feedback:**
 - Project area around the Seattle Center Station.
 - Project timeline and projected milestones.
 - Overall length of project timeline.
 - When and how to share comments and concerns.
 - Cost comparison between light rail and Bus Rapid Transit.
 - Future extension of BLE north.
- **Questions and feedback about current and ongoing construction work:**
 - Upcoming fieldwork.
 - New Downtown tunnel.
- **Questions and feedback about station design, locations, and preferred alternatives:**
 - Midtown Station design.
 - Preferred alternative and tunnel design for the Ballard segment.
 - Preferred alternative for the Downtown segment.
 - Interbay Station location.
- **Questions and requests from potentially affected residents, businesses, property owners, and tenants:**
 - Potential project impacts to property.
 - Timeline and process for property acquisition and relocation.
 - Requests for meetings.