



# *West Seattle Link Extension*

## **Q4 2024 EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

October/November/December 2024



# West Seattle Link Extension



The West Seattle Link Extension will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers in the SODO, Delridge, and West Seattle neighborhoods.

## Activities snapshot



**2** public events with **83** attendees



**22** community briefings and property owner meetings



**1** email update reaching **12,000+** subscribers



**53** communications with questions and feedback from inbox and voicemail



**Ongoing** fieldwork activities<sup>1</sup> throughout the project corridor



<sup>1</sup> Sound Transit is in the planning phase for the West Seattle 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.



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## Public events

### WSLE Final EIS drop-in events

The project team hosted **two in-person drop-in events** following the publication of the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Sept. 20, 2024.

These events allowed community members to review project materials, ask questions, and engage directly with project staff in advance of the Board's selection of final route and station locations.

Resources included maps, fact sheets, copies of the Final EIS, and visuals highlighting key elements of the Final EIS, as well as updates on the project timeline and next steps. Staff also shared how public, agency, and Tribal feedback was incorporated into the Final EIS and the broader decision-making process.

- The first drop-in event was at the Alki Masonic Center in West Seattle on Oct. 1, 2024. Onsite interpretation services were provided in Spanish and Vietnamese. About **69** people attended.
- The second drop-in event was at Gallery B612 in SODO on Oct. 2, 2024. About **14** people attended.



## Community briefings and property owner meetings

The project team attended **22** community briefings and property owner meetings. Briefings included presentations and discussions with community groups such as the West Seattle Junction Association, Avalon neighbors, and SODO BIA, 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 updates

During the reporting period, the project team distributed an email update to a public listserv with over **12,000** subscribers. The update announced the Sound Transit Board's selection of the final alignment for the WSLE, highlighting key route and station decisions, project benefits, and next steps, including final design and anticipated construction in 2027.



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## Questions and feedback summary

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:**
  - Timeline for project milestones, including the Sound Transit Board's final decision on route and station locations.
  - Project graphics and renderings.
  - Clarification following the Sound Transit Board's final decision.
  - Request for agency progress reports.
- **Questions and feedback about current and future construction work:**
  - Construction timeline.
  - Effects of the 230kv/26kv transmission line.
  - Fieldwork impacts.
- **Questions and feedback about routes, maps, and final alternatives:**
  - Final alternatives for the West Seattle project.
  - Route for the Duwamish segment.
  - Coordinate the SODO station design with the Ballard Link Extension schedule.
  - Avalon Station map details.
- **Questions and requests from potentially affected residents, businesses, property owners, and tenants:**
  - Timeline and status of property acquisition and relocation.
  - Acquisition and relocation process for businesses.
  - Hardship acquisition process.
  - Follow-up on letters sent to potentially affected property owners.
  - Requests for briefings for residents and businesses.
  - Guideway distance from properties.
  - Impacts to specific locations such as the West Seattle Health Club and Jefferson Square.