

# Kent Station Parking and Access Improvements

Overview Design Construction FAQs

## Overview

Sound Transit is building a new parking garage at East James Street and Railroad Avenue North and a new surface parking lot at Railroad Avenue and Smith Street. Together, these facilities will add over 400 new parking stalls at the station.

The project design has changed since outreach to the community in 2018-2022. Instead of realigning Railroad Avenue for the new garage, we will build a narrower, four-level structure.

- 4 stories
- ADA stalls and drop-off/pickup area
- Two vehicle access points: north and south
- Stair tower on southern façade – potential art location
- Pedestrian entry with glass canopy at southwest corner
- Arrival plaza south of garage

### Walking, rolling, bicycling

Sound Transit has added 14 new smart bicycle lockers (reservable by the hour) at Kent Station. The agency also funded an improved pedestrian crossing at 2nd Avenue North and James Street. The improvements include a crosswalk, raised median, flashing beacon, and ramps. The City of Kent completed work in 2021.

### Metro bus layover

Sound Transit is building a new bus layover space for King County Metro (KCM) along Railroad Avenue North. It will be east of the new garage where a passenger parking lot is now. The facility will have space for 10+ buses, infrastructure for zero-emission charging, and a rest area for bus drivers. This space will allow KCM to provide more transit service in Kent and South King County. (Visit the KCM website to learn more about King County Metro's plans for a new RapidRide I Line connecting Kent Station with Auburn and Renton.)

### Visit us in person

**Tuesday, September 10, 3-6:30pm:**  
Drop-in session at Kent Station platform, 301 Railroad Ave. N, Kent, WA 98032

Save the date!



Map of Kent Station Garage project area. | Click to enlarge

## Design

### You shared your perspectives, and we listened

In 2022, Kent community members and passengers commented on the visual design of the garage. Preferences included:

- Streetscape plants and greenery.
- Canopies and other forms of shelter for station users.
- A desire to incorporate features from downtown Kent.

Read more in the [Visual Design Outreach Summary](#), and the [Vision Statement](#) on pages 7-8. We responded with the following design features:

- We added a new canopy that provides continuous weather protection from the parking garage's primary lobby to the platform.
- The canopy will include trees and landscaping on either side.
- We will use favored materials to represent the city's Downtown Overlay District, character. This will include brick at the lower level of the parking facility with detailed transitions to other building materials.

In this section, you'll see artist renderings of the garage designs from several angles. Note that some details could change when we complete the final design.



Night view of the Kent Station parking garage from the southeast corner of the site, along Railroad Ave. | Click to enlarge



View of the Kent Station parking garage from the train platform. | Click to enlarge



Daytime view of the Kent Station parking garage from Railroad Ave. | Click to enlarge

## Artwork

**Ryan Feddersen** will design the garage artwork. She specializes in creating compelling site-specific installations and public artworks, which invite people to consider our relationships to history, culture, the land, and our non-human-kin. Feddersen grew up in Wenatchee and is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, from the Okanogan and Arrow Lakes bands, and of mixed European descent. She resides in Tacoma. Feddersen has created large-scale site-specific pieces and interactive installations throughout North America and has a growing body of permanent artworks in the public realm.

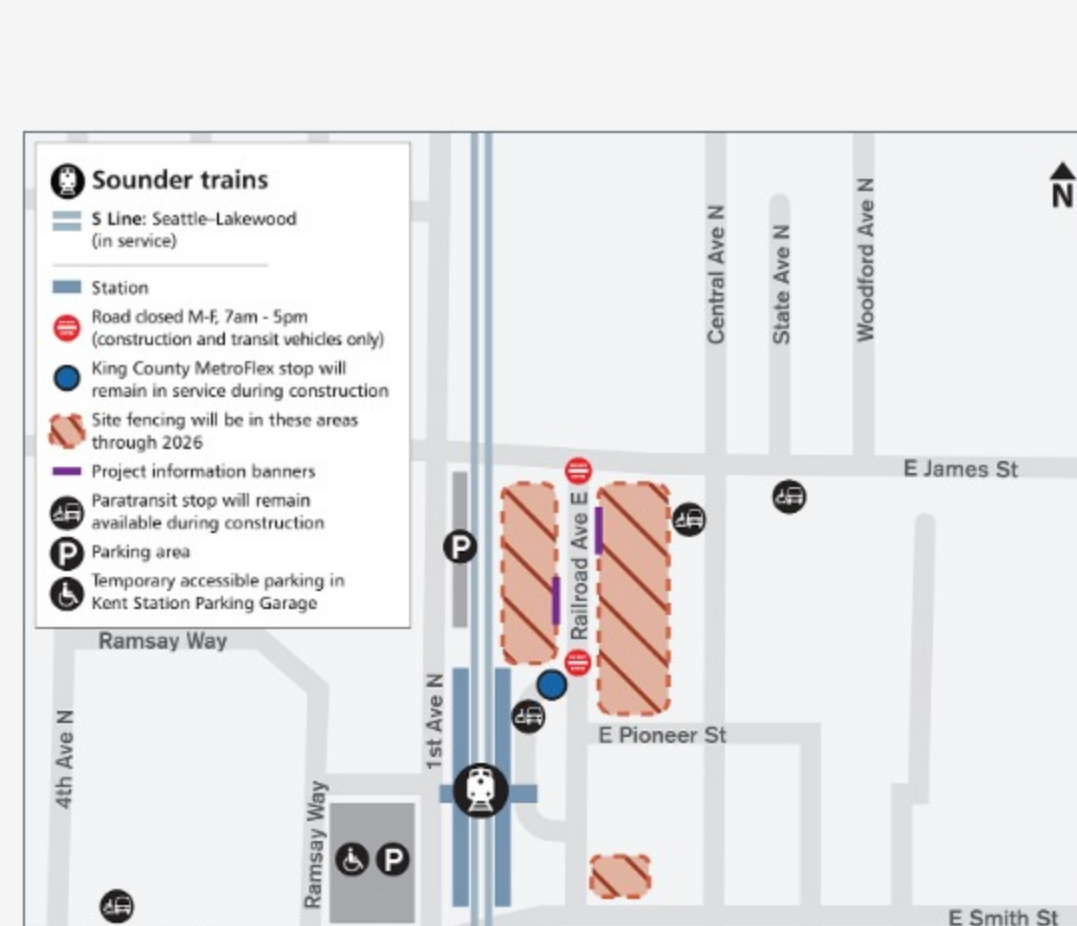


## Construction

### Stay ahead of construction

Sound Transit is building a new garage at Kent Station, so more people can conveniently access regional transit and enjoy traffic-free travel. Construction on the garage begins later this year, and we expect it to open in early 2027.

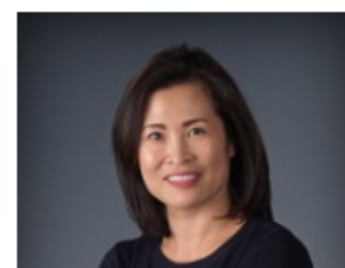
- During all project phases until completion, we will close the ADA parking stalls and pick-up/drop-off areas on Railroad Avenue for construction. Passengers are encouraged to use the existing ADA parking stalls and pick-up/drop-off area in and around the parking garage on 1st Avenue North.
- Throughout construction, partial road closures and temporary sidewalk closures could happen on streets like Railroad Avenue. We will provide notice to businesses, residents, and road users.
- Expect noise, vibration, and changes to street patterns in the area during construction. Subscribe to email alerts to stay informed: [soundtransit.org/subscribe](mailto:soundtransit.org/subscribe).



Map of construction impacts at Kent Station during this project. | Click to enlarge

### Meet the contractor

In August of 2023, the Sound Transit Board of Directors awarded the Design-Build Team of Absher Construction and WJA Design Collaborative to design and build the Kent Station Garage. Absher and WJA-dc have collaborated for 25 years on 18 projects including clients for military, federal and state organizations. Absher constructed the Northgate Station and Garage and is nearing completion of the Kent-Des Moines, Star Lake and Federal Way Stations and Garages.



#### JESSICA TIBBETS

PROJECT MANAGER

Jessica is a dedicated project manager with 20 years of construction industry experience leading diverse teams on complex and challenging projects.

- Ten years of experience completing design-build projects, leading 4 design-build, multi-disciplinary teams since 2010
- Experience working with AHJs and stakeholders on the federal, state, and local levels on Pierce Transit Maintenance Base & Operations Infrastructure and several other military projects
- Led multiple projects with adjacent residences, operational facilities, and on active military bases



#### JASON SAYLOR

SUPERINTENDENT

Jason brings 15 years of industry experience, parking garage construction, and current Sound Transit experience to his role as Superintendent.

- Experience managing multi-discipline project teams on several complex parking facilities
- Constructed 7 parking garages, totaling over 4,000 stalls



#### C. TODD ST. GEORGE, PE.

SE DESIGN MANAGER

Todd will manage the design process. He places an emphasis on integrated design to maintain seamless coordination between disciplines.

- 27 years' experience providing innovative management and structural engineering solutions to a variety of large complex projects
- Over 10 years' experience completing design-build projects with Absher, including the Pierce County Readiness Center at Camp Murray
- Parking garage experience includes: a 2,000 stall below and above grade parking structure at Microsoft St. Andrew's Complex in Redmond and a parking garage feasibility study at Seattle University

### Transit and jobs

Building transit infrastructure helps support our region's economy. This project will create about 26,300 hours of craft labor work. We expect to hire about 77 craft workers during construction.

### Schedule

**PLANNING**  
2017-2021

- Nov. 2017: Sound Transit Board identified preferred improvement package
- 2018/2019: Conceptual engineering and environmental review
- Fall 2019: Public comment
- Early 2020: Sound Transit Board selected project to build

**DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION**  
2021-2026

- Hire a firm to design and build the project
- Acquire property and obtain permits
- Groundbreaking and construction updates
- Complete parking garage design
- Complete garage construction

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**  
2027

### Our commitment

Community Outreach is a team within Sound Transit. Our mission is to represent the agency in the community, and the community's interests within Sound Transit. During construction, we will keep you informed of construction and project progress.

#### We're your point of contact for Sound Transit.

As part of our good neighbor commitments, we'll:

- Provide advanced notification of work.
- Maintain business and residential access.
- Maintain a clean work site.
- Minimize noise, dust, and debris.
- Provide wayfinding signage.
- Maintain a 24-hour construction hotline: 1-888-298-2395.

**Questions? Contact the Community Engagement team:**  
[kentgarage@soundtransit.org](mailto:kentgarage@soundtransit.org) or 253-303-3766

24-hour construction hotline: 1-888-298-2395

Sign up for alerts

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I have to pay to park at the garage?

In March 2024, the Sound Transit Board adopted a new parking management policy, including daily paid parking. We expect to begin daily paid parking in early 2025. The rollout will start at Link parking facilities.

Implementation at the Kent Sounder Station would depend on a facility meeting eligibility criteria identified in the Board's recently adopted policy. It would not begin before the new garage opens.

Learn more about the board resolution and the engagement on paid parking here.

### What safety and security features are included in this garage?

Sound Transit implements industry best practices to ensure our facilities are safe. Tactics include:

- Placing security cameras outside garages.
- Landscaping that preserves open sight lines.
- Lighting on the garage exterior and surrounding areas to ensure a visible and well-lit area for pedestrians and others.
- 24-hour lighting inside all areas of the garage.
- Ensuring visibility for stairwells and elevator shafts, such as using glass or other transparent materials.
- Monitoring of garages by security staff and encouraging customers to report any suspicious activity.

### How will the garage affect area traffic?

Sound Transit was required to complete a State Environmental Policy Act Checklist to consider impacts of the garage, including traffic. Our analysis found that the garage could impact traffic flow at the intersection of Railroad Ave North and East James Street. We have proposed several measures to mitigate that impact, including funneling exiting traffic south to East Pioneer Street and Central Avenue North, away from James Street.

### Why is Sound Transit building a new garage when the current one is not full?

This garage was promised to voters in the ST2 ballot measure in 2008, to address growing ridership on Sounder and regional bus service. While transit ridership declined during the pandemic, we expect it to rebound over the coming years, and this new garage is going to be needed when it opens in 2027.

### Why doesn't Sounder run more often?

Sounder runs primarily on tracks owned by the BNSF Railroad; they are heavily used for freight movement. We do provide special event trains for select events, like some Seahawks, Sounders FC, and Mariners games. In addition, we are updating the [Sounder South Strategic Plan](#), which may consider service midday, evenings, and/or weekends.

### Questions? Contact us:

Valerie Cortes  
Phone: 253-303-3766  
Email: [valerie.cortes@soundtransit.org](mailto:valerie.cortes@soundtransit.org)  
Web: Kent

### Need assistance online or at an in-person event?

Accessibility Inquiries:  
Phone: 253-303-3766, TTY Relay 711  
Email: [main@soundtransit.org](mailto:main@soundtransit.org)  
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Additional services:

General Rider Inquiries:  
Phone: 253-303-3766, TTY Relay 711  
Email: [main@soundtransit.org](mailto:main@soundtransit.org)  
Call or text Security 24/7: 206-398-5268  
Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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