

King Street Station Platform Area Improvements

Welcome Pedestrian connections Survey Next steps

Welcome

What's happening now?

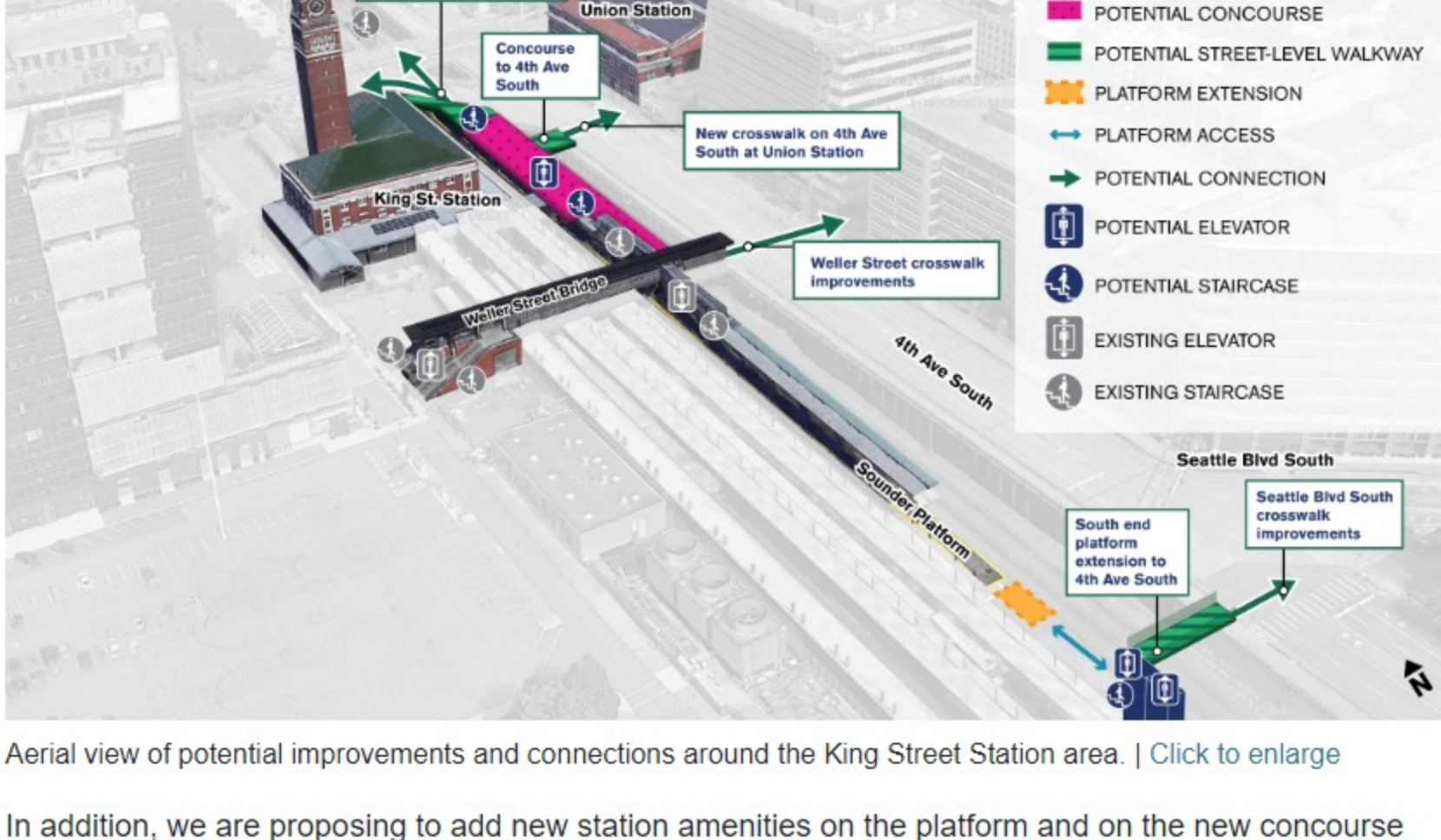
The King Street Station Platform Area Improvements project is in the planning and early design phase. Since 2022, we've refined the project's architectural, engineering, environmental, and design elements. Read on to learn more about the proposed improvements, like potential pedestrian connections, and share your feedback with us.

Overview

As a primary destination for Sounder riders from the north (N Line, four daily roundtrips) and the south (S Line, 13 daily roundtrips), King Street Station in downtown Seattle is an important hub for thousands of daily passengers each weekday and during special events. The King Street Station Platform Area Improvements project aims to make the station more accessible and ready to serve more Sounder riders in the years ahead.

The potential improvements to King Street Station include:

- More stairs and elevators** – This update will make it easier to get to and from the platform, help reduce crowding, and improve accessibility and overall rider experience.
 - Add one elevator and two staircases north of the Weller Street Bridge.
 - Add two elevators and a staircase at a new south entrance/exit with a street-level walkway over the tracks connecting to 4th Ave South.
- Concourse** – A new upper level of the station will be constructed directly above the Sounder platform to provide access to the new staircases and elevators.
- Longer platform** – Extending the Sounder platform to the south will allow the addition of another entrance/exit to the platform and serve longer trains and more riders in the future.
- Pedestrian connections** – We're studying four areas for improved pedestrian access to and from the station (learn more in the next section).



Aerial view of potential improvements and connections around the King Street Station area. | Click to enlarge

In addition, we are proposing to add new station amenities on the platform and on the new concourse level to enhance ridership experience and accessibility at King Street Station, such as:

- Audible and visible real-time arrival signage and schedule information and wayfinding signage in multiple languages.
- A second "mini-high," or raised platform area that provides Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access from the platform to the train.
- Improved tactile pavers on the platform.
- More ADA-accessible ticket machines.
- More ORCA card readers.
- Extended canopy coverage.
- Additional security cameras and improved lighting.

Connections to other projects

We are working with the Ballard Link Extension (BLE) project team and the City of Seattle on plans for developing this area. We will adjust our plans for King Street Station if necessary. Learn more about BLE from their online open house.

The BLE team and the City of Seattle are also working on a South Downtown Hub planning effort to improve accessibility through the Chinatown-International District and Pioneer Square neighborhoods and to nearby transit stations and transfer points. Learn more about the South Downton Hub from their website.



King Street Station is located next to 4th Ave South in downtown Seattle below street-level.

Stay engaged

Sign up to get email updates on this project.

Email:

[Subscribe now](#)

Come speak with us!

Find us at the open house portion of South Downtown Hub Workshop #2:

Union Station
401 South Jackson Street
July 17, 2024, 4 - 4:30 p.m. (full event 4 - 7 p.m.)

More information

[add to calendar](#)

Swing by when we table at the station:

King Street Station
4th Ave South and Weller Street Bridge
Aug. 7, 2024, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.

[add to calendar](#)

Pedestrian connections

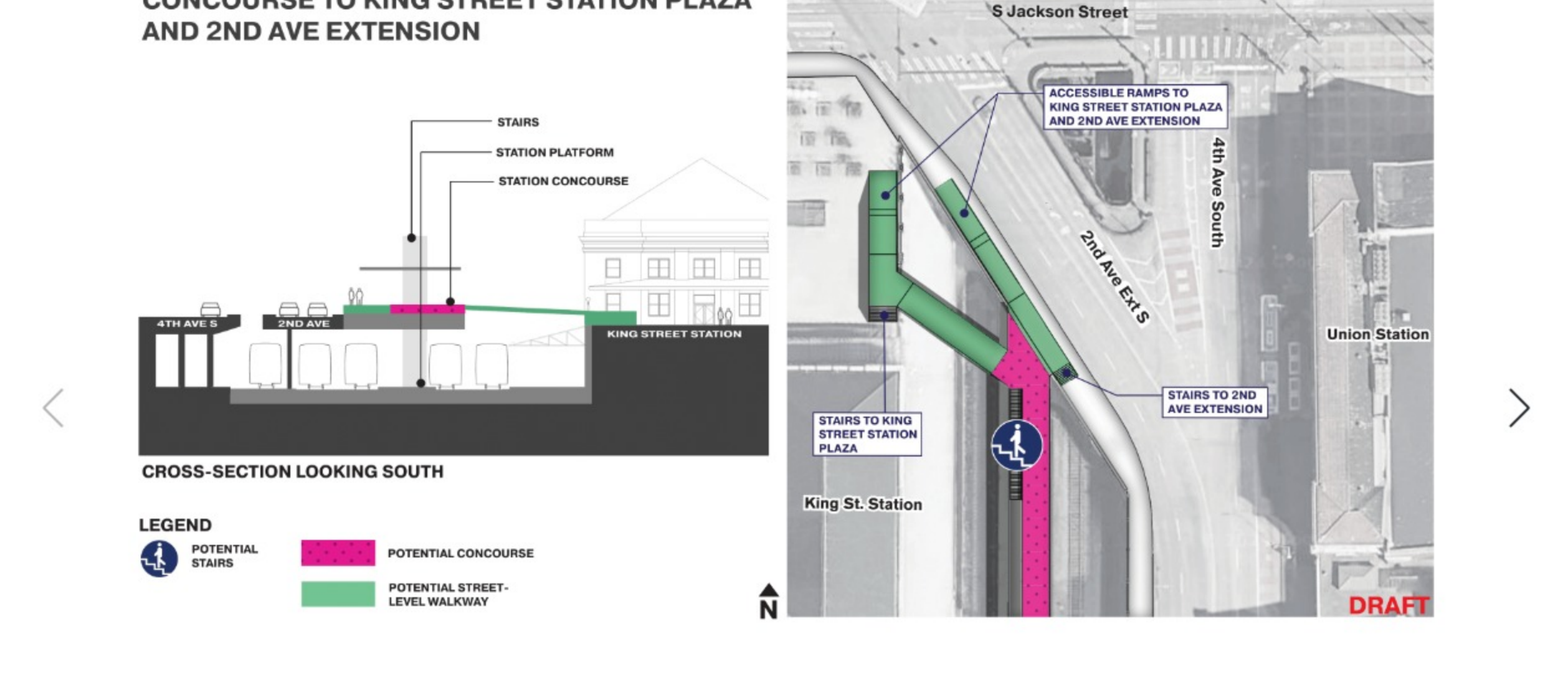
The following pedestrian connections under consideration may become direct, street-level access points from the surrounding streets to the new concourse level at King Street Station. These connections would provide entrance points to new elevators and stairs, improve transfers between the station and other nearby transit services, and enhance rider experience by providing more options to access the station.

- Concourse to King Street Station Plaza and 2nd Ave Extension** – New street-level walkway from the concourse to King Street Station Plaza and to the 2nd Ave Extension bridge girder. This would provide another access point to the north and west (in addition to the existing station entrance north of South Jackson Street).
- Concourse to 4th Ave South near Union Station** – New street-level walkway over the tracks connecting from the concourse to 4th Ave South. This connection would include a new crosswalk on 4th Ave South, close to Union Station and other transit stops.
- Weller Street crosswalk improvements** – Improvements to the existing crosswalk on 4th Ave South, such as extending the curbs (for a shorter crossing distance) and adjusting traffic signal lighting.
- South end platform extension to 4th Ave South** – New street-level walkway over the tracks to 4th Ave South at Seattle Boulevard South to provide another access point to the east. The new entrance/exit would connect to an existing crosswalk on 4th Ave South. This connection would include improvements to the existing crosswalk on 4th Ave South at Seattle Boulevard South.



Four potential pedestrian connections to improve access to King Street Station. | Click to enlarge

Preview early designs for the pedestrian connections



1: Concourse to King Street Station Plaza and 2nd Ave Extension

The street-level walkways at this pedestrian connection would provide ramp and stair access to King Street Station Plaza and the 2nd Ave Extension bridge. Click to enlarge.

1 / 4

More work in progress

We are still early in our design work, so the pedestrian connections and other proposed improvements to King Street Station platform area that eventually get built may look different from the concepts you see today.

- We'll continue additional design and engineering work and collaborate with partnering jurisdictions and agencies (such as the City of Seattle, BNSF, Amtrak, local historic boards, and design commissions) to refine our plans.
- We'll review feedback we get from Sounder riders, project neighbors, and community groups.
- We'll prepare environmental analyses reviewing the project's potential effects on transportation, noise and vibration, cultural and historic resources, views, and more.
- We'll prepare draft cost estimates to ensure the proposed improvements are within available funding.

The Sound Transit Board of Directors values this information when deciding the project's next steps, including what elements get constructed.

More about environmental review

Before Sound Transit can build improvements at King Street Station, we need to complete environmental review in compliance with the National and State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA/SEPA). As part of the environmental review, we evaluate and identify the potential effects of the project on the natural and built environment. We will be preparing a SEPA Checklist and will share it when we complete our analysis, likely next year.

Tell us what you think

Survey

Your feedback will help us understand your needs and concerns during the current planning and design phase, as well as inform future refinements during final design. Please complete the survey by Sept. 30!

Do you ride Sounder trains to or from King Street Station?

Yes, I have taken the S Line (Lakewood – Seattle) in the last 12 months

Yes, I have taken the N Line (Everett – Seattle) in the last 12 months

No, but I used to ride Sounder before my travel or commuting pattern changed due to the pandemic

No

What do you think of the potential pedestrian connections?

I am excited | I am not sure or have no opinion | I have concerns

Concourse to King Street Station Plaza and 2nd Ave Extension	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concourse to 4th Ave South near Union Station	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Weller Street crosswalk improvements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
South end platform extension to 4th Ave South at Seattle Boulevard	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please share any feedback or questions you'd like us to consider in future design.

Concourse to King Street Station Plaza and 2nd Ave Extension

Concourse to 4th Ave South near Union Station

Weller Street crosswalk improvements

South end platform extension to 4th Ave South at Seattle Boulevard

Do you have any other thoughts about the proposed improvements at King Street Station?

About you

Would you like to answer some optional demographic questions?

These questions help Sound Transit ensure we're centering the voice of those most impacted by our policies. The data will not be used for anything other than our analysis for this project. Feel free to only answer the questions you are most comfortable with.

Yes

No

Next steps

What comes next for King Street Station?

We will continue design and engineering work and identify potential environmental effects — for example, impacts on visual or historic resources and traffic patterns. We expect to publish a State Environmental Policy Act checklist with the findings of our environmental review next year.

Project schedule*



*Subject to change

Frequently asked questions

How does this project integrate with Ballard Link Extension that includes a second light rail station in the Chinatown-International District?

The Ballard Link Extension project is currently studying multiple locations for the second station that will serve the Chinatown-International District. The pedestrian connections being studied under the King Street Station Platform Area Improvements project will provide more options to exit King Street Station and make connections to the current and future light rail stations. We are coordinating closely with the Ballard Link Extension team as planning moves forward for both projects.

Can you build a lid/park over the Sounder station or a new bridge over the tracks to connect to the stadiums?

No. This will interfere with the active rail freight corridor and Amtrak passenger rail service.

Can you build a tunnel from King Street Station to the existing International District / Chinatown station?

A tunnel under 4th Ave South is not feasible, as it would require widening the platform, which would require removing one train track, thus impacting Sounder, Amtrak, and freight operations in the area. The potential pedestrian connections we're studying at street-level will help passengers make their way between the stations.

Why doesn't Sounder run during evenings or weekends?

Sounder runs primarily on tracks owned by the BNSF Railway. BNSF uses those tracks heavily during evenings and weekends for freight movements and maintenance. We do provide special event trains for special events, like some Seahawks, Sounders FC, and Mariners games. See the schedule here.

Additionally, last year we shared the Sounder South Strategic Plan Community Engagement Summary (see the summary here), the report contains feedback from the community, along with research on travel patterns, peer agency research, and ridership estimating to inform Board discussions evaluating whether to prioritize potential new trips before longer trains and platforms.

Where is the funding for this project coming from?

The Sound Transit 3 plan included funding to invest in the Sounder service including improvements to the existing King Street Station. ST3 funding comes from a variety of sources.

Will I be able to provide feedback for the design and features?

There will be opportunities in the future to provide input on the look and feel of the station area improvements. This input is typically collected at a later stage of project design.

Why won't the work be done until 2036?

Sound Transit must balance a range of capital projects for South King and Pierce County subareas with available funding. The Sounder South Platform Extension project, which includes King Street Station, is planned to be completed in 2036, though we are pursuing additional funding sources so that we can deliver these improvements earlier.



Passengers with luggage walk along the platform at King Street Station.

Questions? Contact us:
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 Web: soundtransit.org/system-
 expansion/sounder-south-capacity-expansion

Need assistance online or at an in-person event?
 Accessibility Inquiries:
 Phone: 1-800-201-4900, TTY Relay 711
 Email: main@soundtransit.org
 Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Additional services:
 General Rider Inquiries:
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 Email: main@soundtransit.org
 Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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