



West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

JUNE MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

June 2020

Activities snapshot



15 comments and questions



30 introductory calls and emails



3 community briefings



5 fieldwork activities and 2 property owner meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sound Transit has transitioned outreach with community groups, property owners and other stakeholders to virtual platforms during the reporting period. As a result of the global health crisis, many community briefings, meetings and events were postponed or cancelled. We are continuing to find creative ways to engage with the communities in which we work that support the recommendations to socially distance to enhance public safety.



The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project will provide fast and reliable light rail transit to West Seattle and Ballard and neighborhoods in between.



West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions



Comments and questions

During the reporting period, the project team received 15 comments and questions via emails and phone calls.

A few comments and questions

- Questions about when construction will begin for the West Seattle light rail.
- Questions about previous outreach conducted in the West Seattle community.
- Questions about how Sound Transit is planning to accommodate more passengers and future expansion in Downtown.
- Questions about possibly combining the new light rail bridge with a potential replacement for the West Seattle High Bridge.
- Questions about which Interbay-Ballard alternatives are being studied in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS).
- Questions about the Draft EIS process, schedule and schedule effects due to COVID-19.
- Questions about the property acquisition process and timeline.
- Requests for more information about the Draft EIS process and future outreach milestones.
- Interest in more information about the Sound Transit Board realignment process.
- Interest in more information about the Yancy/Andover alternative in West Seattle.

Introductory calls and emails

During the reporting period, the project team reached out to 30 stakeholders to inform them about the project and answer questions. This outreach primarily focused on property managers of multi-family residential buildings and hotels located near potential station options. Of the 30, the project team connected directly with 16 people through phone, email or a virtual briefing.

Common questions and comments

- I'd be interested in receiving more information about the project.
- Can I share project updates with tenants?
- Will the construction of the light rail be combined with the replacement of the West Seattle Bridge?
- We're excited to have light rail come to our neighborhood.
- I'd like to receive a briefing about the project in the future.



Sound Transit continues to virtually engage with property owners and other stakeholders as the project progresses.



Community briefings

During the reporting period, the project team participated in 3 briefings, engaging the following groups or individuals:

- Mercer Corridor Stakeholders (6/3)
- Island Tug and Barge (6/8)
- Avalon Neighborhood (6/29)

Common questions and comments

Corridor wide

- No feedback received.

Interbay/Ballard

Stations: Ballard, Interbay and Smith Cove

- No feedback received.

Downtown

Stations: Seattle Center, South Lake Union, Denny, Westlake and Midtown

- Questions about future downtown tunnel station ridership capacity given Seattle's population growth projections, including station platform and train car capacity limits.
- Questions about how property owners will be engaged over the next year.
- Questions about property owner engagement and timeline prior and during Draft EIS publication.
- Questions about the timeline for engaging the community after the Sound Transit Board realignment process.

Chinatown-International District/SODO

Stations: Chinatown-International District and SODO

- No feedback received.

West Seattle

Stations: Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction

- Questions about how the realignment process will affect the new West Seattle High Bridge replacement.
- Question about if a tunnel under the Duwamish Waterway was considered during the alternatives development phase.



West Seattle and Ballard

Link Extensions

- Questions about how third party funding is obtained and what efforts have already been made to secure additional funding.
- Questions about how Sound Transit is working with the City of Seattle on Environmental Justice.
- Questions about the Yancy/Andover alternative and potential effect on nearby residents.
- Interest in more information about how the property acquisition process works and what resources will be provided by Sound Transit.



Fieldwork activities and Property owner meetings

During the reporting period, the project team notified residents and businesses via email and phone about 5 upcoming fieldwork activities and attended 2 meetings with property owners.

Fieldwork activities

Activities

- Notified 63 stakeholders in SODO, Downtown and Interbay about upcoming geotechnical work, groundwater testing and civil surveys.

A few questions and comments

- Request for more information about fieldwork activities in the Chinatown-International District.
- Requests for information related to fieldwork in SODO and South Lake Union.

Property owner meetings

A few questions and comments

- Concerns about parking effects and traffic in SODO during light rail construction.
- Questions about whether a different preferred alternative could be identified once the Board reviews public comments and the technical analysis in the Draft EIS.
- Questions about the property acquisition process and timeline during the project's design phase.
- Questions about how the realignment process will affect the timeline of the project.
- Questions about public comment during Draft EIS publication and request for examples of public comments received during previous phase of project.
- Interest in staying involved with the project as it progresses.

[soundtransit.org/wsblink](https://www.soundtransit.org/wsblink)



 **SOUNDTRANSIT** // Powering progress