



# *West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions*

## APRIL MONTHLY REPORT: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

April 2020



# West Seattle and Ballard

## Link Extensions

### Activities snapshot



18 comments and questions



1 community briefing



2 property owner meetings



1 email update *engaging 10,508 subscribers*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and extension of the shelter in-place orders, Sound Transit continued transitioning 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.



Regional light rail expansion will help connect more people to more places.



## **Emails and phone calls**

During the reporting period, the project team received 18 comments and questions from emails and phone calls.

### **A few questions and comments**

- Support for aligning the design and construction of the West Seattle Link Extension with the design and construction of a new West Seattle High Bridge and questions about how that could occur. *(Note: The City of Seattle announced a long-term closure of the West Seattle High Bridge on March 23, 2020.)*
  - Questions about how the West Seattle Bridge closure will affect the West Seattle Link Extension timeline.
  - Question about whether the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and timeline will be modified to evaluate different bridge crossing alternatives due to the West Seattle Bridge closure.
- Support for the Yancy-Andover alignment as the preferred alternative.
- Support for tunnel alternatives in West Seattle.
- Support for a movable bridge or a tunnel across Salmon Bay to allow vessels of an unlimited height to navigate the waterway.
- Concerns about the visual effects of an elevated alternative in West Seattle.



## Community briefings

During the reporting period, the project team participated in 1 briefing, engaging the following group:

- Public Stadium Authority (4/15)

## 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*

- No feedback received.

### Chinatown-International District/SODO

*Stations: Chinatown-International District and SODO*

- Questions about the differences between shallow and deep station alternatives in Chinatown-International District and how each alternative would connect to SODO station.
- Questions and concerns about construction effects of 4th Avenue alternatives for the Chinatown-International District Station.
- Questions about SODO alternatives and potential overpasses at S Holgate Street or S Lander Street.
- Questions about traffic planning and analysis in the Draft EIS phase.

### West Seattle

*Stations: Delridge, Avalon and Alaska Junction*

- No feedback received.



## **Property owner meetings and fieldwork**

During the reporting period, the project team attended 2 meetings with property owners. The majority of fieldwork activity was paused in order to protect the safety of workers and adhere to Washington State's shelter-at-home orders.

### **Property owner meetings**

#### **A few questions and comments**

- Support for continuing to engage the Chinatown-International District community in summer station area planning workshops.
- Interest in the preferred alternative alignment along 14th Avenue NW in Ballard.
- Questions about the depth, width, and profiles of 5th Avenue tunnel options.
- Questions about the location of tunnels in Chinatown-International District.
- Question about adding new bus routes or increasing the frequency of existing bus routes to transfer riders to the Ballard station once it's in service.
- Question about how the 15th Avenue NW elevated alternative will affect businesses between the Ballard Bridge and NW Market Street.
- Question about higher property taxes in Ballard as a result of light rail expansion.

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