

# *Sound Transit Recent Accomplishments & Lookahead*

*System Expansion Committee*

*9/12/24*



# *Why we're here*

- Update the Committee on system expansion and activation progress over the past year.
- Describe how the agency has improved our internal processes, and our industry and agency partnerships.
- Look ahead to the next two years of system expansion and agency progress.

***What we've been up to***

# Unprecedented system growth

Three light rail openings in one year.

76% more stations than a year ago.

- 18 new stations.
- From 25 to 43 total stations.

Link goes 60% farther than a year ago.

- 17 new miles of track.
- From 28 to 45 total miles.



# Access to opportunity

In just one year, **173,000 more people** now live within one mile of a Link station.

- 70,000 people near the eight new 2 Line stations.
- 68,000 within a mile of the four new 1 Line stations.
- 35,000 within one mile of the six new T Line stations.



# *Catalyzing development*

- **3,470 total homes** built or in process at Sound Transit stations, 75% of which (2,670) are affordable units.
- Our first integrated joint development, an office building above U District Station, to be completed this fall
- **\$2.1 billion** in public-private TOD investments.
- **10,000 homes** either in the development pipeline, under construction, or complete, just along the Lynnwood Link alignment.



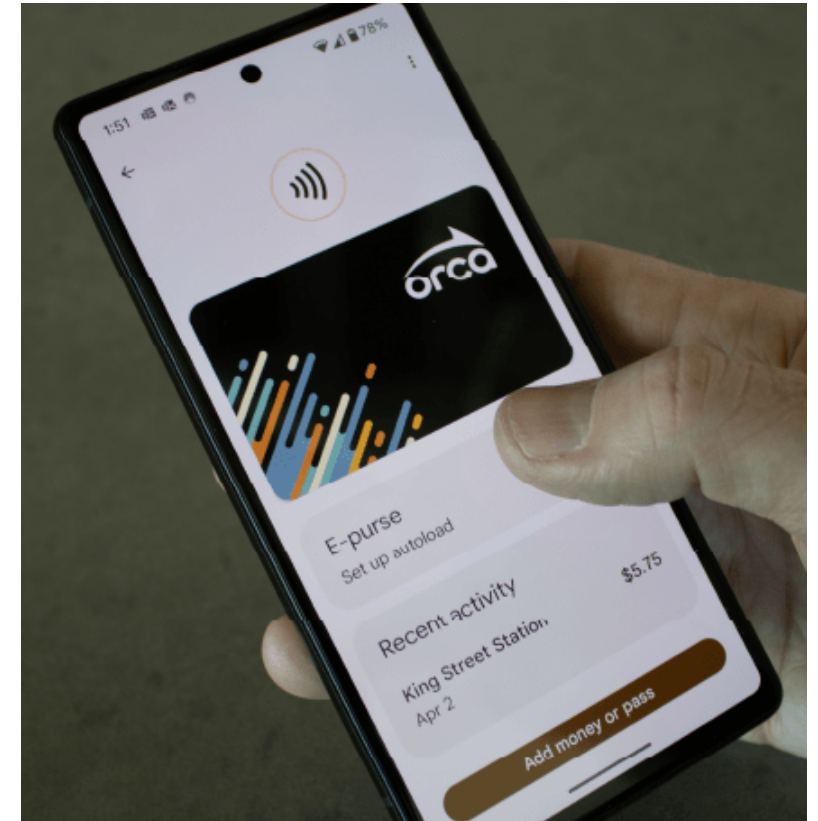
# Improving access to stations

- Installed **secure, hourly bike lockers** at all new stations, and partnered with King County and Bellevue to provide seamless access to Eastrail at Wilburton Station.
- Partnered with Community Transit, Pierce Transit, and King County Metro to design **integrated bus networks** for our three agencies that maximize access to light rail.
- Opened new parking lots/garages in Bellevue, Redmond, Shoreline (2), Mountlake Terrace, Puyallup and Lynnwood, with approximately **5,000 combined new parking stalls**.



# *Making fare payment easy and equitable*

- Implemented **\$1 ORCA LIFT** fares.
- Implemented **\$3 flat fare** on Link trains, eliminating tap-offs.
- **Lowered regional day pass prices** from \$8 to \$6.
- Introduced **mobile ORCA payment** for Android devices. Planning is in progress for adding additional payment options.





# Improving passenger experience

- Launched **real-time arrival information** at all Link stations and updated digital signage.
- **Renamed University Street Station to Symphony**, eliminating passenger confusion.
- Replaced station pictograms with new **station codes**, following global best practices for secondary station identifiers.
- **Investments in safety and security** staff have almost doubled the number of staff in the field focusing on the well-being of our customers and employees.



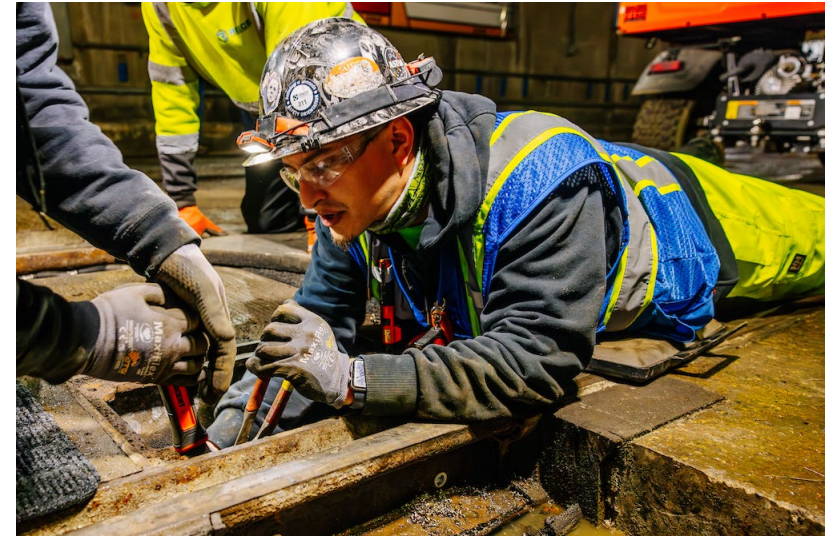
# *Our investments are paying off*

- Growth in new service and improvements to existing service are driving **record-breaking ridership**.
- The 1 Line regularly exceeds **100,000 daily boardings** in summer and during special events, and more than 85,000 year-round.
- **~71,000** people rode the system on Lynnwood opening weekend.



# Creating family-wage careers

- We're also providing benefits beyond a Great Ride: including creating high quality, family-wage careers across many skilled trades.
- Lynnwood Link Extension alone hired **8,500 union construction workers** who worked more than 6 million labor hours, **including 1,500 apprentices**.
- 20% of Lynnwood apprentices were women, and 44% were apprentices of color.
- We're seeing similar results on our Federal Way Link Extension and the I-90 East Link completion.



***Improving how we do business***

# Improving how we do business

- Brought on **national megaproject expertise**.
- Signed the **Equity in Infrastructure Project (EIP) pledge**, recommitting to equitable procurement, apprenticeship and workforce development, and strong support of small and minority-owned businesses.
- **Building the talent pipeline our growing region needs** by partnering with schools and apprenticeship programs to help youth pursue careers in design, engineering, and construction.



# *Partnering to overcome challenges*

- Worked with Metro and Community Transit to maximize 1 Line service frequency until the I-90 connection is complete and trains can access OMF East.
- Worked with industry contractors to overcome construction challenges, including:
  - Designed a new long-span bridge for the Federal Way project (Structure C).
  - Partnered to replace concrete plinths and other supporting elements of the I-90 portion of East Link.

***Looking ahead***

# ***Light rail system growth: next 24 months***

- **3 more Link extensions** – Downtown Redmond, East Link/I-90, and Federal Way.
- New 1 Line station in Seattle **at NE 130<sup>th</sup>**.
- Bringing service to new communities with **8 new Link stations**, growing 19% to 51 stations.
- Link will go 40% farther, with **18 new miles of track**.
- Serving **three new cities**: Mercer Island, Kent, and Federal Way.
- **Doubling service** between Lynnwood and downtown Seattle.





*Thank you*



 *soundtransit.org*

