

West Seattle to Ballard Link Extension: SODO to Ballard Seattle, Washington New Starts Project Development Information Prepared July 2022

The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) plans to extend the Link light rail system for 7.1 miles from the Existing SODO Link Station to Ballard, including nine new or expanded stations at International District, Midtown, Westlake, Denny, South Lake Union, Seattle Center, Smith Cove, Interbay, and Ballard. The project will also include the construction of a 3.3 miles light rail-only tunnel from International District to Seattle Center. The project is expected to cost \$9 billion, but Sound Transit has not yet identified a New Starts share amount.

The purpose of the Project is to bring improved mobility to a sector of the city that is challenged by geography and topography to provide sufficient mobility options to meet the needs of its urban neighborhoods. The Project is also intended to improve regional mobility by increasing connectivity and systemwide capacity, connect regional centers consistent with adopted regional planning goals, and expand mobility for the corridor and the region's residents, which include transit-dependent people, low-income populations, and communities of color.

A preliminary locally preferred alternative (LPA) was selected in May 2019 and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in January 2022. Sound Transit plans on adopting the LPA into the fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in late 2023 and completing the environmental review process with the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision in late 2023. Sound Transit anticipates entering in late 2023 and receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement in late 2025. Sound Transit expects to begin revenue service in late 2037.

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