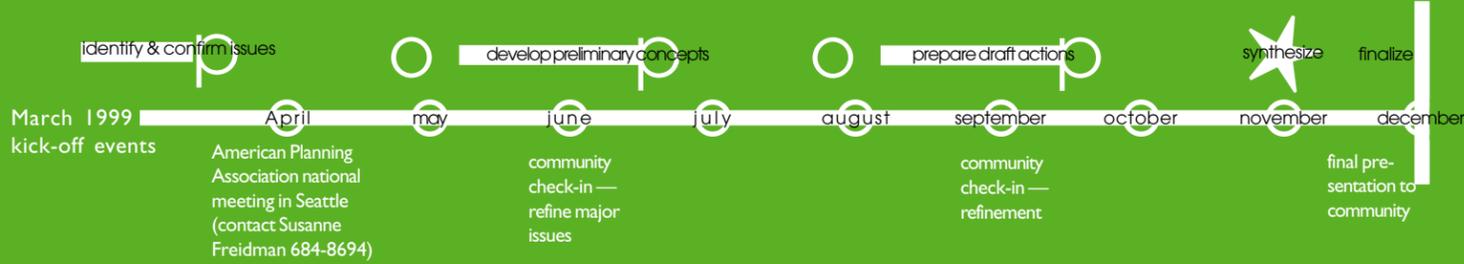


## MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Station area planning will be over before you know it. Get involved now.



# Station Area Update

City of Seattle  
Spring 1999



## Contacts



City of Seattle Station area planners have been assigned to geographic sectors. For more information, please contact the light rail station area planner in your neighborhood.

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**Websites**  
City of Seattle Strategic Planning Office  
[www.ci.seattle.wa.us/planning/home.htm](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/planning/home.htm)

**Sound Transit**  
[www.soundtransit.org](http://www.soundtransit.org)

## fast track continued from front page

### How do I get involved?

Many citizens have spent the past four years developing neighborhood plans, and defining visions and goals for our communities. We want to build on this — involving new people, focusing on partnerships, and capitalizing on the opportunities that Sound Transit's light rail system will provide.

### you can choose your level of involvement

Community advisory groups are now forming. These volunteer groups, representing a broad cross-section of neighborhood interests, will form the core of station area planning for the next nine months. They will require an extensive time commitment. If you can volunteer considerable time over the next nine months, consider joining an advisory committee.

If you want to participate but don't have that much time, you can come to kick-off events in March, periodic 'check-ins' with the community, and special events through the end of 1999. You can also monitor our progress by getting on our mailing list and checking out our website. Information about station area planning is available at Seattle branch libraries, Neighborhood Service Centers, and community centers near the rail alignment.

Atlas is available  
**An atlas describing all of the station areas in visual terms is now complete.**

**Demographic information, geographic characteristics, land uses, and parcel information are all included. Contact the Strategic Planning Office at 684-8674 for more information.**



## on a fast track

Link light rail is coming to many neighborhoods in Seattle. Sound Transit and the City of Seattle are working together with community partners to site the stations and shape development that can happen around the stations. What follows are answers to some commonly asked questions about station area planning:

### What is Light Rail Station Area Planning?

Generally, a station area is walking distance (approximately 1/4 mile) around each light rail station. Station area planning will integrate light rail stations with work done in neighborhood planning. Station area planning will produce a series of actions that may include increased choices for housing, support for existing businesses, new business development, parking management strategies, and pedestrian and public space improvements. The purpose of station area planning is NOT to create another 'plan,' but to use the light rail investment as a catalyst to achieve community goals.

### What is the schedule?

Sound Transit is working hard to meet the voter-approved mandate of designing and building a light rail system by 2006. Now that Sound Transit has identified a preferred route and stations, design and engineering will continue through 1999. A final environmental impact statement will be published in August. To influence Sound Transit's decisions and keep pace with their schedule, the City of Seattle and communities will complete station area planning in nine months. If Sound Transit doesn't keep on schedule, we lose millions of federal dollars, which affects our ability to build the light rail system.

### How will it benefit my neighborhood?

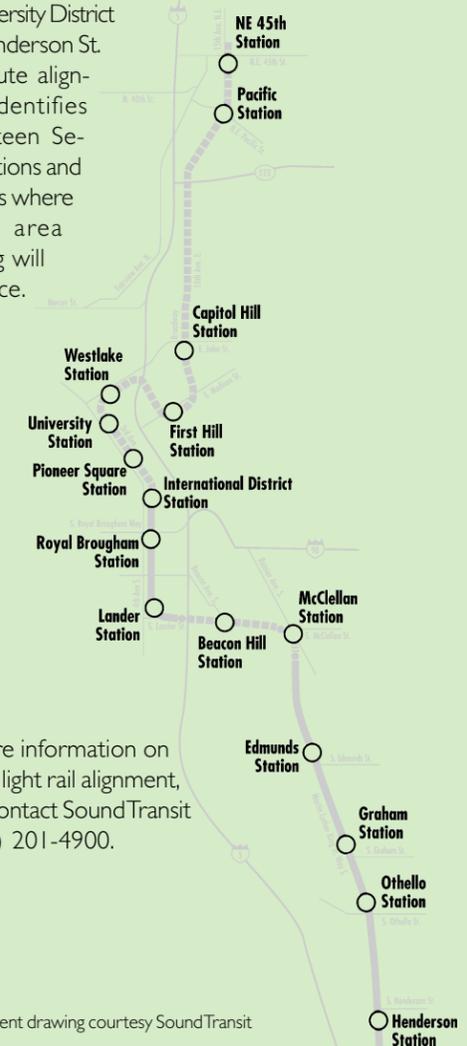
The goal of station area planning is to capitalize on the largest public investment in our generation, and to build on neighborhood plans. See feature article inside for details.

continued on back page

## Drawing the Line

### Board Selects Preferred Alignment

On February 25, the Sound Transit Board officially adopted its 'preferred' light rail alignment. Within the city of Seattle the line will extend from the University District to S. Henderson St. This route alignment identifies the sixteen Seattle stations and locations where station area planning will take place.



For more information on the Link light rail alignment, please contact Sound Transit at (800) 201-4900.

Link alignment drawing courtesy Sound Transit

# Building strong neighborhoods

What happens around Seattle's new light rail stations is important for the future of our city and for making the most of our transit investment. With this in mind, the Seattle City Council has adopted goals and strategies for light rail station areas. The City wants to encourage more people to ride transit. We want the transit system to improve the quality of life in Seattle, for those that live and work here now, and for the future.

Making that vision a reality is our job — and you can help us! On these pages we outline the City's goals for light rail station areas, and describe some of the strategies we will pursue.



## ENCOURAGE HOUSING, COMMERCIAL, AND RETAIL USES THAT SUPPORT TRANSIT AND GENERATE PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY

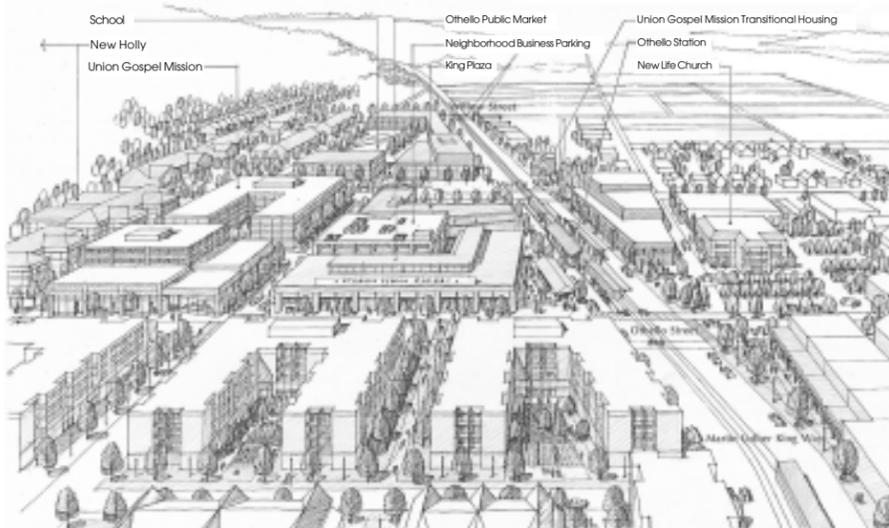
The light rail stations will become hubs of activity, and will support new development. We are going to work to see that new development is appropriate to the station area and the surrounding neighborhood. We also want to make sure that activity in the station area will encourage transit use. For housing, that probably means townhouses and mixed use buildings. Commercial development around stations will have to be supported by market demand, and be oriented to pedestrians.

## USE URBAN DESIGN TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY IDENTITY OF STATION AREAS AND MAKE THEM ATTRACTIVE, SAFE, AND CONVENIENT

Seattle is known for the strength and individuality of its neighborhoods, and it is our goal to ensure that both of those qualities are enhanced in station areas. Each station area will have its own urban design concept, based on the identity, history, and cultures of the community it serves. Features such as public art, landscaping, paving, lighting, signage, drinking fountains, and benches can all celebrate the community and make the stations easy to find and use. Design for people with different physical abilities will also be a part of the station area urban design program.

## PROVIDE PUBLIC FACILITIES THAT ENCOURAGE TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

It is our goal to connect stations to important community assets, such as libraries and public plazas, and to explore the development of new community facilities in areas near stations. We will work to provide clear, safe, and continuous pedestrian connections within the station area, and to key neighborhood destinations.



This sketch of a station area shows new housing nearest the light rail station, opportunities for existing businesses, new commercial development, as well as streetscape improvements and public places.



## CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT AROUND STATIONS

There are ways to use design to make sure the station area is both attractive and safe. We will look at the best ideas from other cities that promote security and prevent crime through design. Station areas that are lively and active promote safety by encouraging people to walk and observe the station area. We will ensure that good lighting and clear lines of sight are provided at each station area; and ensure that station areas (including public restrooms) are clean and well maintained.

## ENHANCE THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, SUPPORT TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTE GOOD WALKING, BICYCLE, AND TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

Link light rail is about moving people, and we aim to make station areas places where people will be encouraged to come by foot, bike, or bus. So we are going to make sure that these areas have great sidewalks and crosswalks, good lighting, smooth surfaces and easy grades for walking, and the best connections with local bus service. Bicycle racks and connections from the station areas to our city's extensive trail network are included in our package of strategies. Finally, we are going to look at ways of managing parking that enhance neighborhood business while promoting transit ridership.



## PROMOTE ECONOMIC VITALITY WITHIN STATION AREAS

Experience from other cities tells us that economic vitality does not automatically follow transit system investments. Some station areas will benefit from the growth of existing businesses as well as new businesses that start up in the area. We are looking at strategies that will help support existing businesses in the station areas and our neighborhoods, as well as businesses that will create jobs for the local community.

## PILOT PROJECTS

### Getting station area development off the ground

Our team has already begun working on pilot projects that will help us to achieve some of the goals we've outlined on these pages.

These demonstration projects help to 'jump-start' the station area development process, and may be useful models for other situations throughout the city.

### STARTING WITH A VISION, MOVING INTO ACTION

Two of the pilot projects underway grew from existing neighborhood visions. At Othello Station in Rainier Valley, a phased redevelopment of the public housing site is the catalyst for a station area development program. With the final phase of the redevelopment, the community will team with lenders, developers, and other public and private partners to develop a town center near the station, including more housing, commercial, entertainment, and educational opportunities.

At Henderson Street, the station area will get a boost from a King County stormwater project to begin later this year. In coordination with Sound Transit's design for the station, we will start helping the neighborhood to realize some of the vision included in its adopted plan, such as a 'Gateway to Seattle' at the station, and street improvements connecting the station to the heart of the community.

