



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

News

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Mayor opens new King Street Station Jackson Plaza to the public
Key phase completed in restoration of historic landmark, in partnership with fellow agencies

SEATTLE – Mayor Mike McGinn today opened the new King Street Station Jackson Plaza to the public, helping connect transit to neighborhoods with an environmentally sustainable plaza funded in partnership with the Federal Transit Administration, Washington State Department of Transportation, the voter-approved Bridging the Gap Levy and the Washington State Historical Society's Heritage Capital Projects Fund.

The mayor was joined by members of the City Council, Linda Gehrke of the Federal Transit Administration, Lorne McConachie of the Pioneer Square Preservation Board, Leslie Smith of the Alliance for Pioneer Square and Darcy Nothnagle from Congressman Jim McDermott's office. The Ballard Sedentary Sousa Band also joined in the festivities with a live performance to celebrate the new plaza.

"The investment in historic King Street Station is part of Seattle's transit future," said McGinn. "The new plaza connects transit lines and neighborhoods like Pioneer Square and International District/Chinatown. I'd like to thank all of our agency partners and our own Department of Transportation for creating such a great place for the public to enjoy. And the new view of Downtown is amazing."

King Street Station will feature Amtrak long distance rail, Sound Transit commuter rail and Amtrak intercity coaches, along with access to Sound Transit light rail, Metro buses and the future First Hill Streetcar, all within walking distance of several Seattle neighborhoods.

The new plaza is environmentally sustainable and is a model of partnership with other agencies. The plaza was rebuilt to current seismic codes and has been converted into a pedestrian plaza, increasing public and green space in Pioneer Square. Buried under the plaza, there are 36 geothermal wells supplying heating and cooling to the first floor of King Street Station. Granite was salvaged from an old building foundation to repair the granite balustrade that flanks the plaza and form new seating benches. Finally, the

plaza was deconstructed instead of demolished, allowing for 98 percent of material to be recycled. Deconstruction is the systematic removal of materials to maximize recycling as opposed to a non-discriminate, speed oriented demolition.

The construction cost for the phase of the King Street Station Restoration Project that includes the plaza was about \$15 million and was financed in partnership with the above agencies and funding sources.

The next major milestone of the King Street Station Restoration Project is in early September with the reopening of the fully rehabilitated grand staircase linking Jackson Plaza to the station's entrance on S King Street.

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