



Route 40



Route 40 Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor Project

Frequently Asked Questions

July 2020

FAQ1. Why is this project needed?

- *As the third-busiest bus route in the King County Metro system, the Route 40 serves approximately 3 million passengers every year, and is projected to grow even more in the next few years. The bus also currently is late between 10-33% of the time, depending on time of day and direction traveled.*

FAQ2. How has ridership with Route 40 changed since the COVID-19 pandemic started? Does it still make sense to continue with this project?

- *A safe, reliable, and fast transit system will remain a priority for King County Metro. At this time, the project is currently on schedule to be completed with construction in year 2024. While ridership has significantly dropped during COVID, SDOT and King County Metro are currently still prioritizing this route for improvements for implementation in 2024.*

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Route 40 is still one of King County Metro's highest ridership routes with about 3,900 people per average weekday (as of June 15, 2020). We know working from home and alternative work schedules may become more common post-COVID, and those changes would affect both single-occupancy vehicle and transit ridership patterns. Our project concepts consider safety components in addition to transit speed and reliability improvements, which we see as necessary even if ridership remains lower than pre-COVID levels.



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FAQ3. How will the Route 40 be affected by changes in the STBD?

- *In September 2020, the Seattle Transportation Benefit District is reducing its transit service investment by 50%, removing roughly 175,000 service hours from King County Metro's network. These reductions will impact service on more than 70 routes, including the Route 40. Future changes will depend on the availability of new or additional funding sources to continue the program beyond its current sunset at the end of 2020. For more information about the service changes coming to King County Metro in September, please read the blog post here: <https://kingcountymetro.blog/2020/06/11/metro-plans-september-service-change-amid-budget-challenges/>*

FAQ4. Is this still going to become a RapidRide route? Why was that delayed?

- *Due to budget and timing issues with the Move Seattle Levy, the Route 40 is one of four routes now slated to be a Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor until the City of Seattle and King County have the resources to convert those routes into a RapidRide service. We currently do not have a date planned for when Route 40 will be a RapidRide route. You can learn more about RapidRide and Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridors here: <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/transit-program/transit-plus-multimodal-corridor-program>*

FAQ5. What is reliability?

- *Reliability is the ability to depend on a bus to come when the route schedule says it will. Bus riders rely on bus service to come frequently and consistently, and we know reliable transit with competitive travel times is critical to encouraging more people to use transit and meet the region's climate goals. King County Metro identifies on-time bus service as buses coming no more than one minute early or six minutes late.*



FAQ6. What are peak hours for buses?

- *Peak hours are 5-9 AM and 3-7 PM on weekdays (aside from holidays).*

FAQ7. How did you choose which neighborhoods to focus improvements on?

- *We chose the specific study segments based on where our research showed there were the greatest delays, as well as which locations had the most people get on and off the bus.*

FAQ8. How are you considering equity in this project?

- *We acknowledge most of the neighborhoods along Route 40 is not as racially diverse and has residents with a higher income than Seattle's average. That said, we understand the route serves a lot of people from a diverse range of races and socioeconomic statuses. The project team will use the City's Racial Equity Toolkit to develop and implement a strategy to engage with historically disadvantaged communities and community-based organizations throughout the planning and implementation phases. To ensure we're responding to the needs of all riders and community members, we are working to engage a diverse range of stakeholders by translating materials into Arabic and Spanish (with other languages available upon request) and advertising opportunities for input online and in person to accommodate varying schedules.*

FAQ9. What is SDOT's Vision Zero Program?

- *Vision Zero is Seattle's plan to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on city streets by 2030. While Seattle is one of the safest cities in the country, we still see more than 10,000 crashes a year, resulting in an average of 20 people losing their lives and over 150 people seriously injured. We believe crashes are preventable through smarter street design, targeted enforcement, partnerships, and thoughtful public engagement. In December 2019, Mayor Durkan renewed the City's commitment to achieving its Vision Zero goals. To achieve Vision Zero, she pledged to reduce speed limits to 25 miles per hour throughout the city, double the number of safety-enhanced traffic signals, invest in engineering changes to create safer streets, create a new crash review task force, and launch*



additional traffic safety education and enforcement tactics. Read more about Vision Zero at <http://www.seattle.gov/visionzero>.

FAQ10. When will this project begin construction and when will it be complete?

- We currently anticipate construction lasting from mid-2023 to mid-2024, although we will work in segments, so the entire route will not be disrupted the entire time.

FAQ11. Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns about the project?

- You can contact Christa Dumpys, Communications and Outreach Lead, and the project outreach team by emailing Route40@seattle.gov or by calling 206-775-8731.

FAQ12. What's the best way to stay updated during construction?

- Construction is currently scheduled to occur in 2023 and 2024. Please visit our webpage at <https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/route-40> and sign up for email updates at <https://sdotforms.envirolytical.com/projects/route-40-transit-plus-multi-modal-corridor>.