West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Further Studies Key findings and community feedback

Seattle Design Commission 3/2/2023



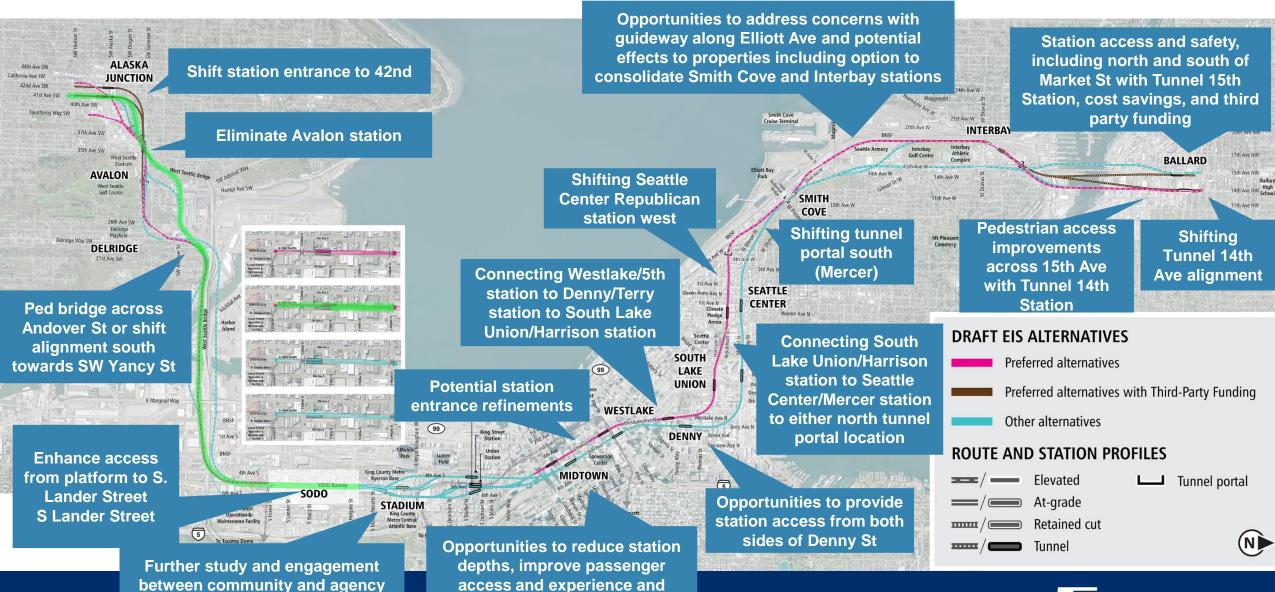
Motion No. M2022-57

Confirms or modifies the preferred light rail route and station locations for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Final Environmental Impact Statement and requesting further studies in some areas to inform potential additional future Board action to confirm or modify the Preferred Alternative.



Areas of Further Study

partners



refine Midtown station entrance



Further studies corridor-wide engagement

July 28, 2022 - Feb. 17, 2023



12 open houses / workshops



4 online surveys with more than 2,000 responses



100+ community briefings, tours, property owner meetings



fairs, festivals and other tabling events



engaging more than 11K+ subscribers



8 posts on social media platforms, with 783K+ impressions



200 businesses engaged through door-to-door outreach



180 residents engaged through in-language forums

Chinatown-International District (CID) Further Studies and Community Feedback



CID Further Studies Focus

Based on the Board Motion, the following study elements guided the further studies in CID:

- Seek to address remaining questions, minimize potential impacts, and maximize community benefits
- Explore how to create an integrated, well-connected hub for all modes, opportunities to enhance ridership and access, activate or modify use of Union Station and plaza, as well as funding and cost savings opportunities
- Include study concepts requested by community and agency partners, including but not limited to work to define a 4th Avenue shallow tunnel option with the goal to maximize benefits while minimizing costs and impacts

CID Engagement Snapshot

Engagement activities, 7/28/22 - 2/17/23

- Workshops & open houses = 6
- Community briefings & meetings = 35+
- Online surveys = 3
- Door to door outreach = 100+ businesses
- In-language residential and business forums = 5
- Survey responses = 650+



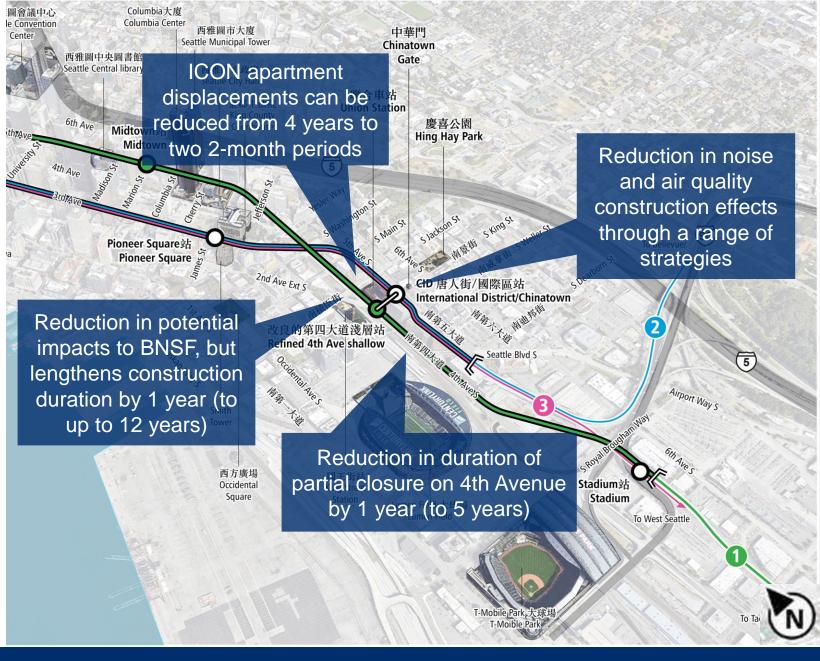


Refinements to 4th Ave Shallow (CID-1a)

Maximize community benefits while minimizing costs and impacts

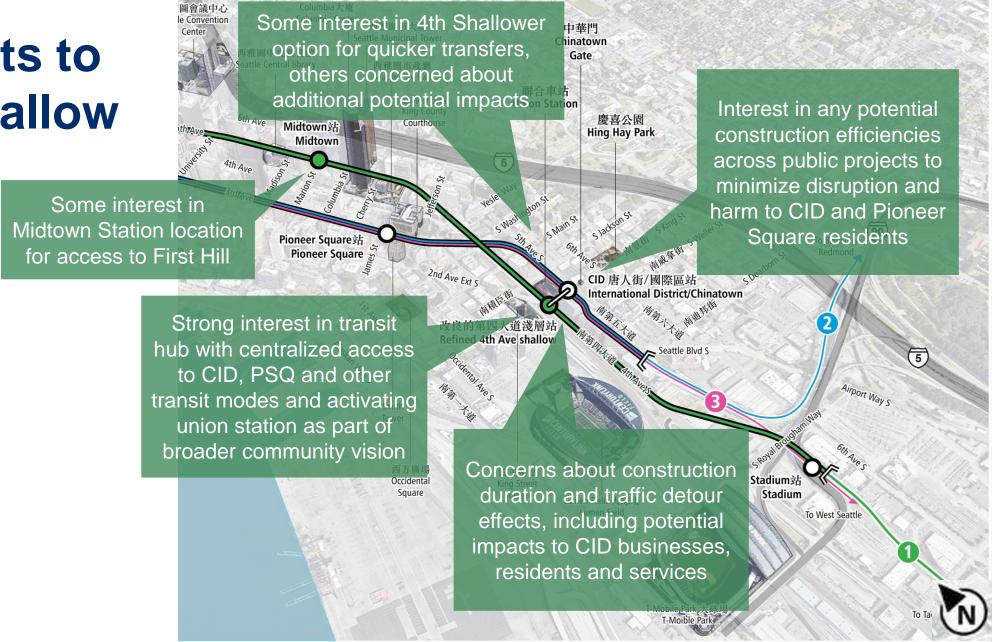
Cost (Pike to Holgate): \$3.1 billion

Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: **+\$700 million**





Refinements to 4th Ave Shallow (CID-1a)





Station North of CID

Other ideas from community and agency partners

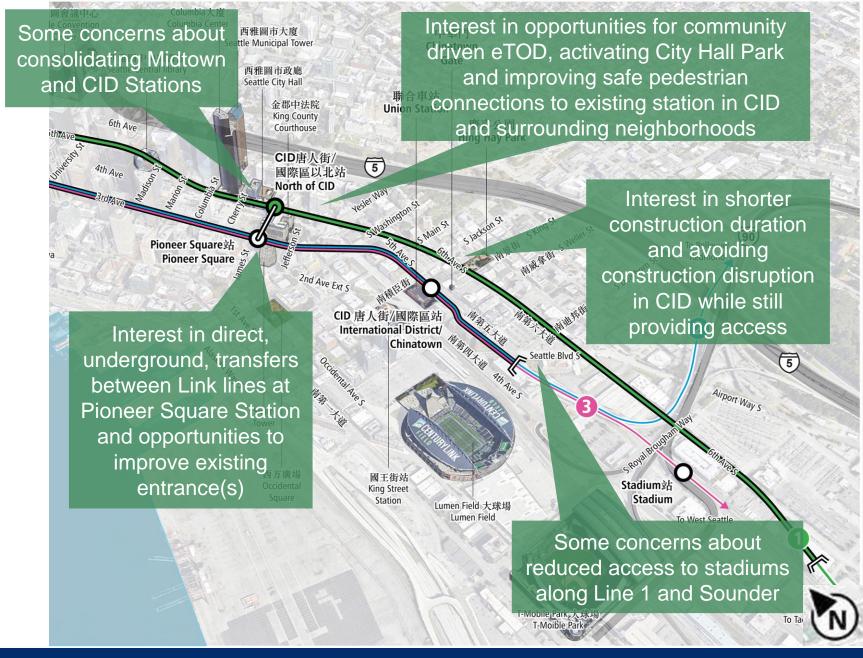
Consolidates **Displaces King County** Midtown and Admin building and **CID Stations** social services Courthouse CID唐 eTOD opportunity 5 North of CID Temporary closure of Avoids direct station James St for 4 years construction 2nd Ave Ext S disruption in CID **Accommodates** CID 唐人街/國際區立 direct transfers International District/ Chinatown at Pioneer **Square Station** Could facilitate transit integration with Madison BRT Stadium站 Within 10-minute walk to CID, Pioneer Square, Colman Dock, and south end of Downtown/Midtown T-Moible Park

Cost (Pike to Holgate): **\$2.05 billion**

Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: **-\$360 million**



Station North of CID

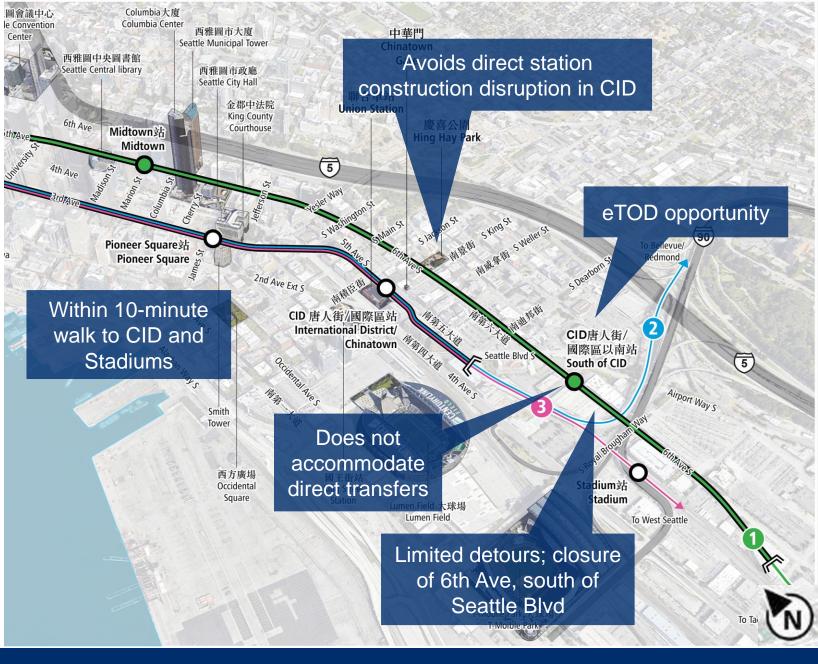




Station South of CID Other ideas from community and agency partners

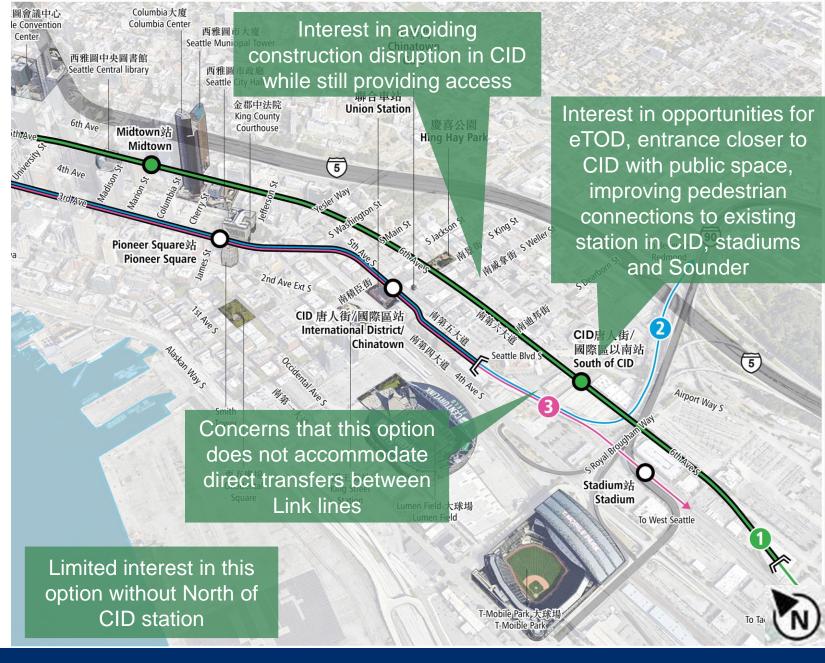
Cost (Pike to Holgate): \$2.5 billion

Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: +\$80 million





Station South of CID

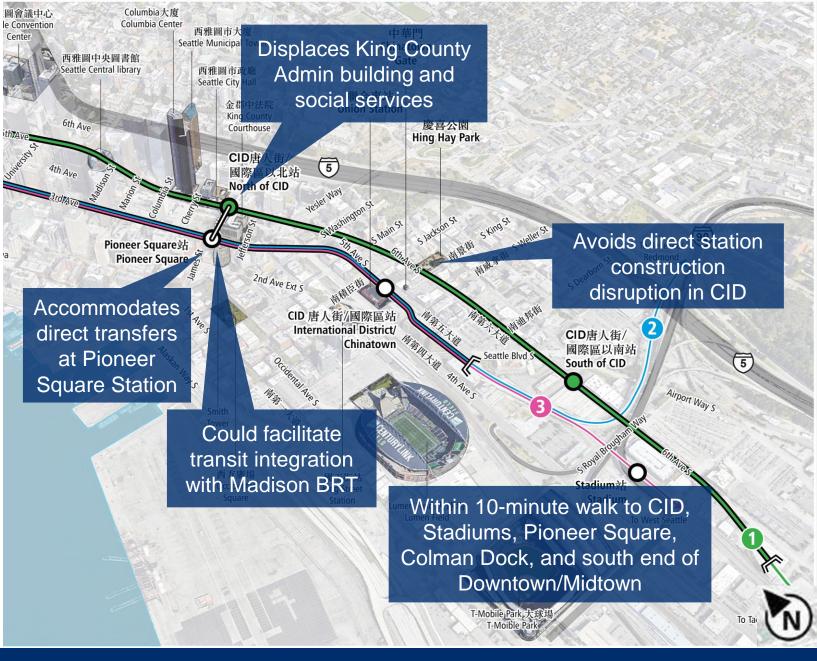




Station North of CID and Station South of CID Other ideas from community and agency partners

Cost (Pike to Holgate): \$2.55 billion Cost delta compared to realigned financial

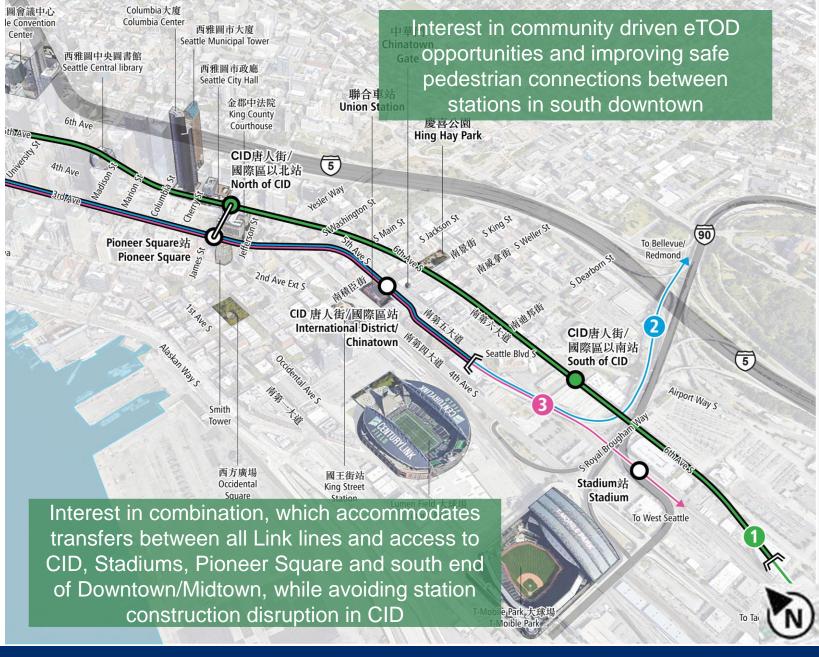
plan: +\$160 million





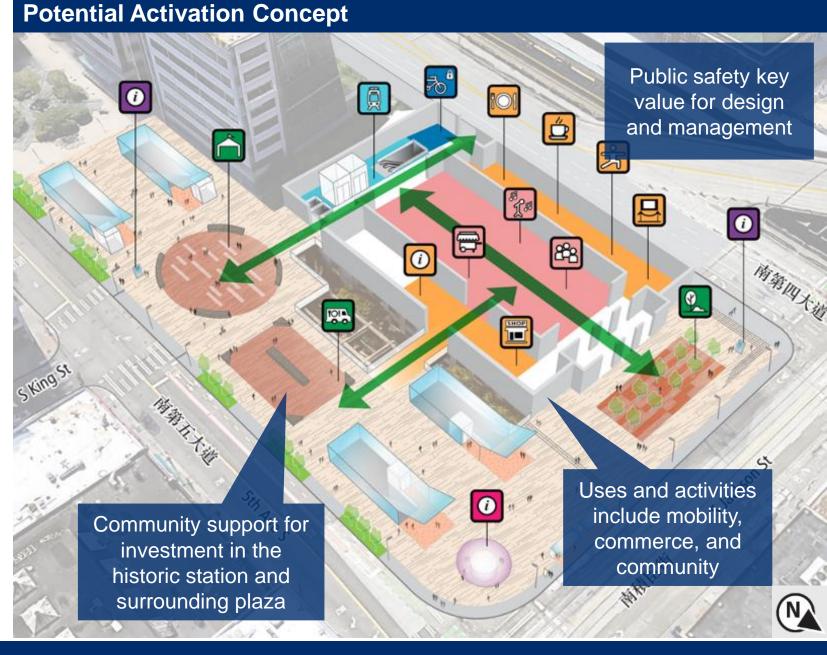


Station North of CID and Station South of CID



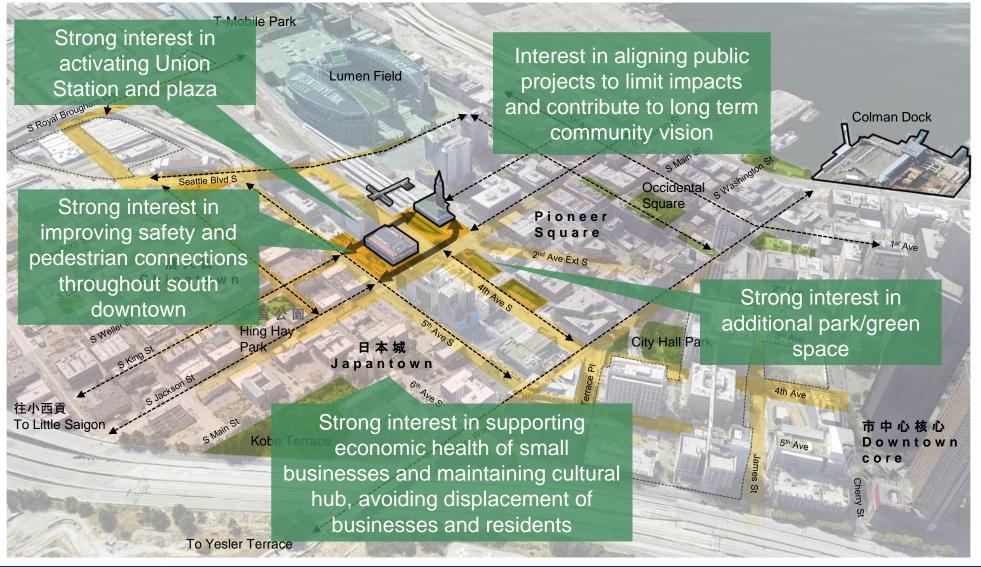
Union Station Activation

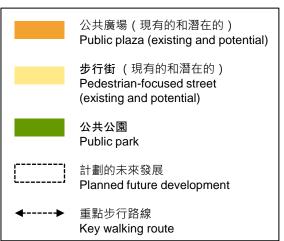
Activate and/or modify uses of **Union Station and** the adjacent plaza





Historic station hub and neighborhood connections Additional community feedback







CID: Results comparison

	Refined 4th Avenue Shallow Station (CID-1a)	Station North of CID Only	Station North of CID and Station South of CID
Feasibility 🏠	Construction and schedule risk	-	-
Passenger Experience	 Shallow CID (80') and deep Midtown station (195-205') 3.2 min transfer time btw Link 	 Shallower station (80-105') 3.3 min transfer time btw Link* Fully below-grade Link transfer Adds transfer btw 1 Line and Sounder 	 Shallower stations (80-115') 3.3 min transfer time btw Link* Fully below-grade Link transfer Adds transfer btw 1 Line and Sounder
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	No expected change in ridershipLink light rail closure (6 to 7 weeks)	Small reduction in ridershipeTOD potential north of CID	Small reduction in ridershipeTOD potential north and south of CID
Future Expansion	Does not preclude	Does not preclude	Does not preclude
Environmental 🗹	 Construction duration of 10-12 years Full closure of major traffic spine 4th Ave S for 4 years plus partial closure for 5 years Reduces displacement of ICON apartments (to two 2-month periods) 	 Full closure of James St for 4 years 	 Construction duration of 6-7 years Full closure of James St for 4 years and closure of 6th Ave S (south of Seattle Blvd) for 5-6 years Displacement of KC Admin building and social service providers
Equity ! †	 Centralized access to CID, PSQ, and transit modes 4th Ave S traffic detour effects 	 Avoids direct station construction disruption and traffic detours in CID 	 Avoids direct station construction disruption and traffic detours in CID
compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019 (Pike to Holgate)	+\$700M	-\$360M	+\$160M

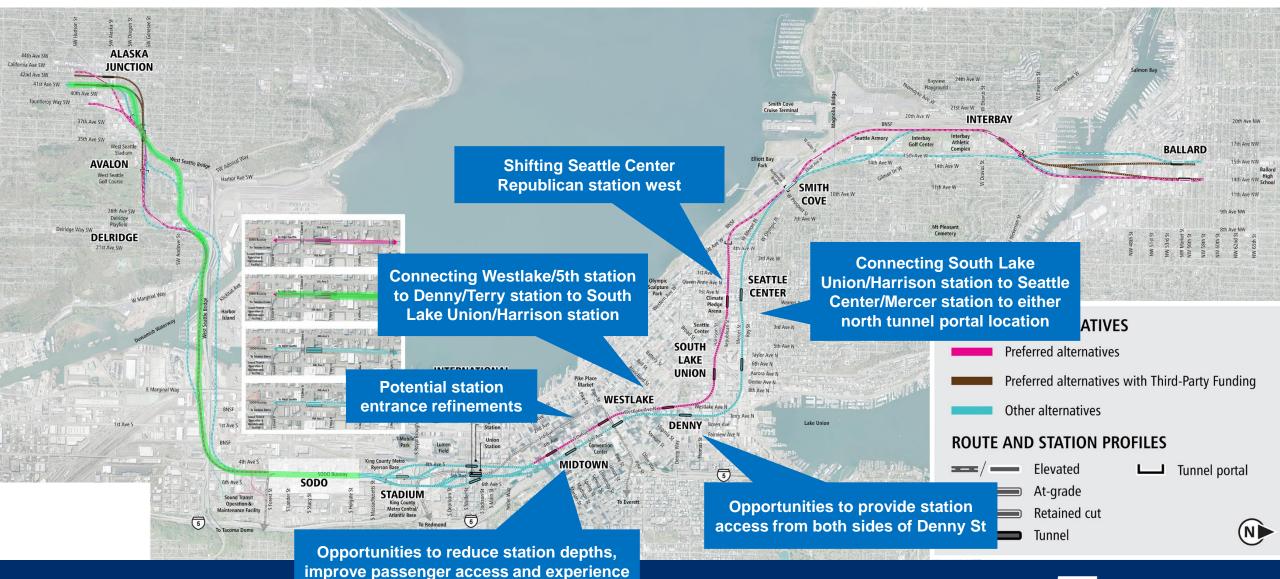


CID: Results comparison

	Refined 4th Avenue Shallow Station (CID-1a)	4th Avenue Shallower Station	Station North of CID and Station South of CID
Feasibility 🏟	Construction and schedule risk	 In addition to impacts of CID-1a, added risk to DSTT and BNSF 	-
Passenger Experience	 Shallow CID (80') and deep Midtown station (195-205') 3.2 min transfer time btw Link 	 Shallower CID (40-45') and Midtown stations (140-145') 2.5 min transfer time btw Link 	 Shallower stations (80-115') 3.3 min transfer time btw Link* Fully below-grade Link transfer Adds transfer btw 1 Line and Sounder
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	No expected change in ridershipLink light rail closure (6 to 7 weeks)	 No expected change in ridership eTOD potential north of CID Link light rail closure (6 to 7 weeks) 	 Small reduction in ridership eTOD potential north and south of CID
Future Expansion	Does not preclude	 Does not preclude 	 Does not preclude
Environmental 🗹	 Construction duration of 10-12 years Full closure of major traffic spine 4th Ave S for 4 years plus partial closure for 5 years Reduces displacement of ICON apartments (to two 2-month periods) 	Washington St for two yearsAdds reconstruction of Yesler Bridge	 Construction duration of 6-7 years Full closure of James St for 4 years and closure of 6th Ave S (south of Seattle Blvd) for 5-6 years Displacement of KC Admin building and social service providers
Equity ! †	 Centralized access to CID, PSQ, and transit modes 4th Ave S traffic detour effects 	 Centralized access to CID, PSQ, and transit modes 4th Ave S traffic detour effects 	 Avoids direct station construction disruption and traffic detours in CID
compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019 (Pike to Holgate)	+\$700M	+\$800M	+\$160M

Downtown Further Studies and Community Feedback

Ballard Link Extension: Further studies - Downtown



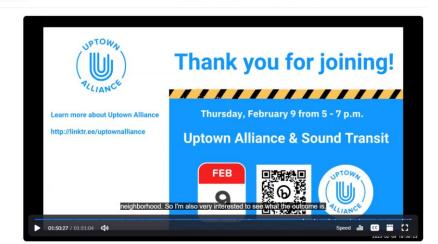
and refine Midtown station entrance



Downtown Engagement Snapshot

Engagement activities, 7/28/22 - 2/17/23

- Community briefings & meetings = 25+
- Workshops & open houses = 5
- Online surveys = 1
- Door to door outreach = 85+ businesses
- Survey responses = 265



February 9th - Sound Transit and Uptown Allianc...



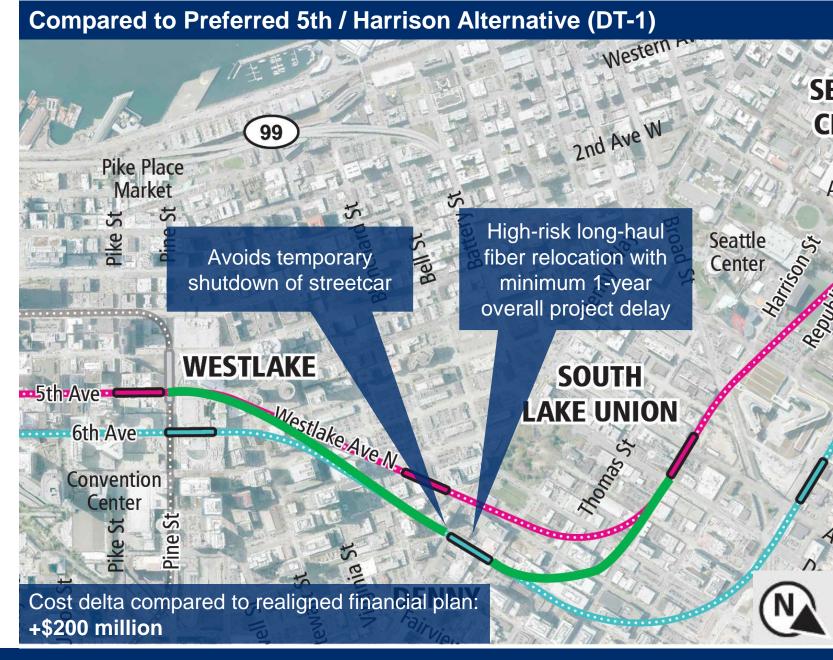


South Lake Union: Mix-and-Match

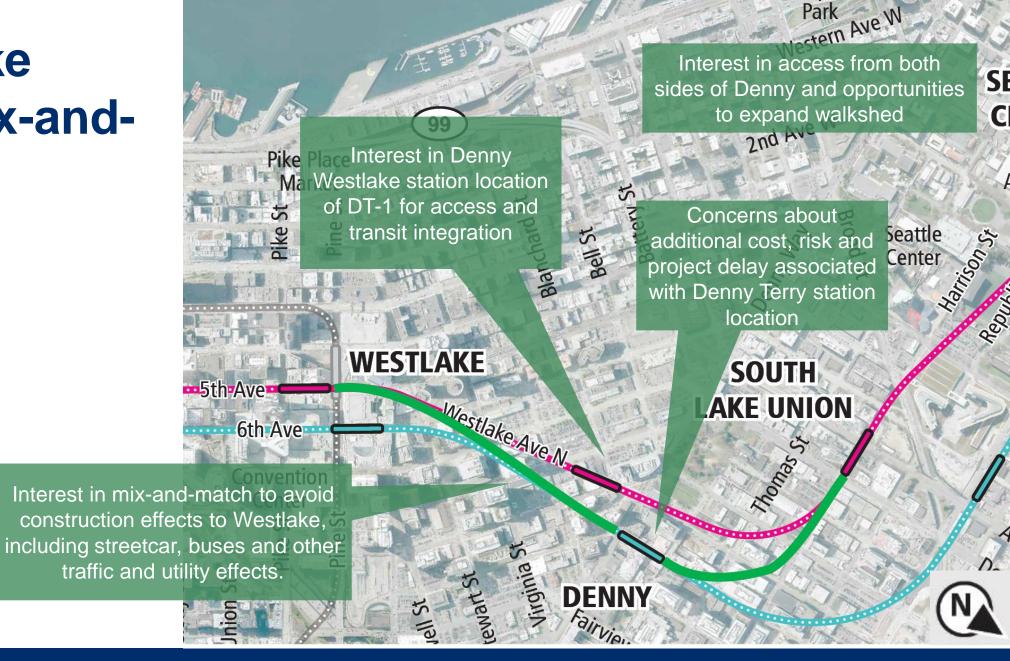
Connecting Westlake/5th station to Denny/Terry station to South Lake Union/Harrison station

Study focus:

Feasibility of mix-and-match



South Lake Union: Mix-andMatch



South Lake Union: Results comparison

	Denny Station at Westlake Ave (DT-1)	Denny Station at Terry Ave (DT-2) with Mix-and-Match	Denny Station at Terry Ave (DT-2) with Mix-and Match and Entrance Refinements
Feasibility 🏠	-	Construction and schedule risk	Construction and schedule risk
Passenger Experience	Convenient transfer to transit on Westlake Avenue	Less convenient transfer to transit on Westlake Avenue	 Shortens walk to transit lines on Westlake Avenue Adds station access to both sides of Denny Way
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	-	Minimal impact to ridership	Minimal impact to ridership
Future Expansion 🔀	 Does not preclude 	 Does not preclude 	Does not preclude
Environmental 🗸	 Full closure of Westlake Ave between 7th Ave and Denny Way for 4 years Streetcar effects 	 Full closure of Terry Ave between Denny Way and Thomas St for 4 years Avoids streetcar effects 	 Full closure of Terry Ave between Denny Way and Thomas St for 4 years Avoids streetcar effects
Equity 🛔 🛊	-	-	-
compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019	-	+\$200M	+\$190M

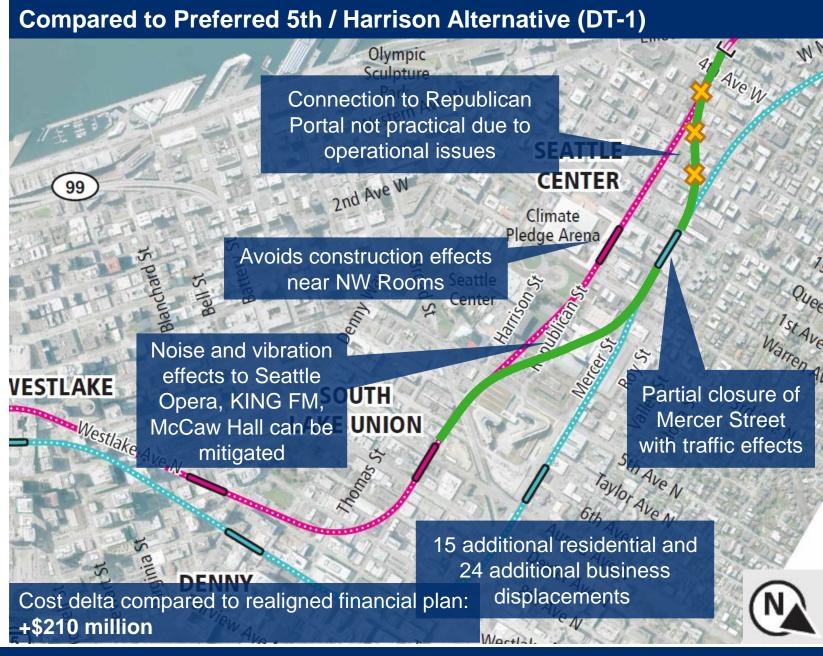


Seattle Center: Mix-and-Match

Connecting South
Lake Union/Harrison
station to Seattle
Center/Mercer
station to either
north tunnel portal
location

Study focus:

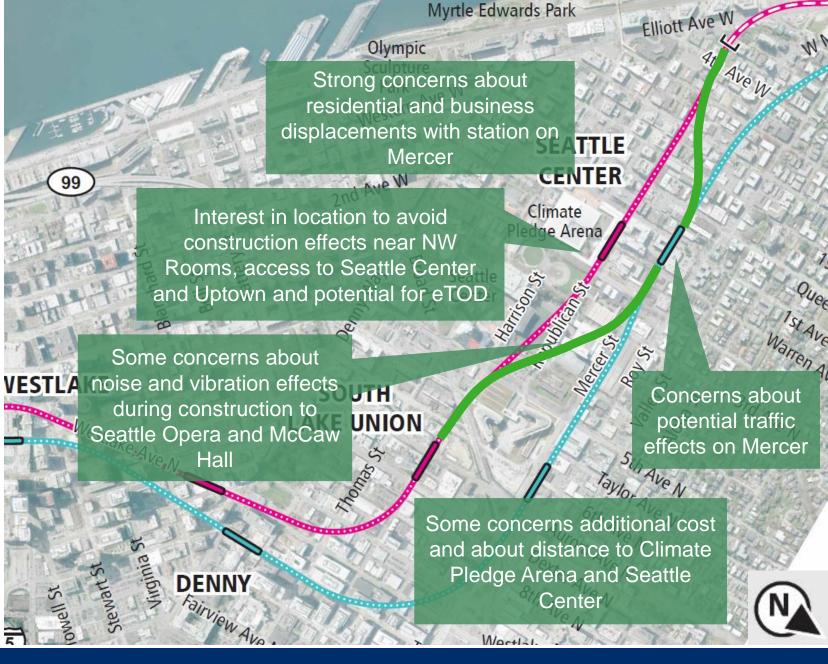
Feasibility of mix-and-match







Seattle Center: Mix-and-Match



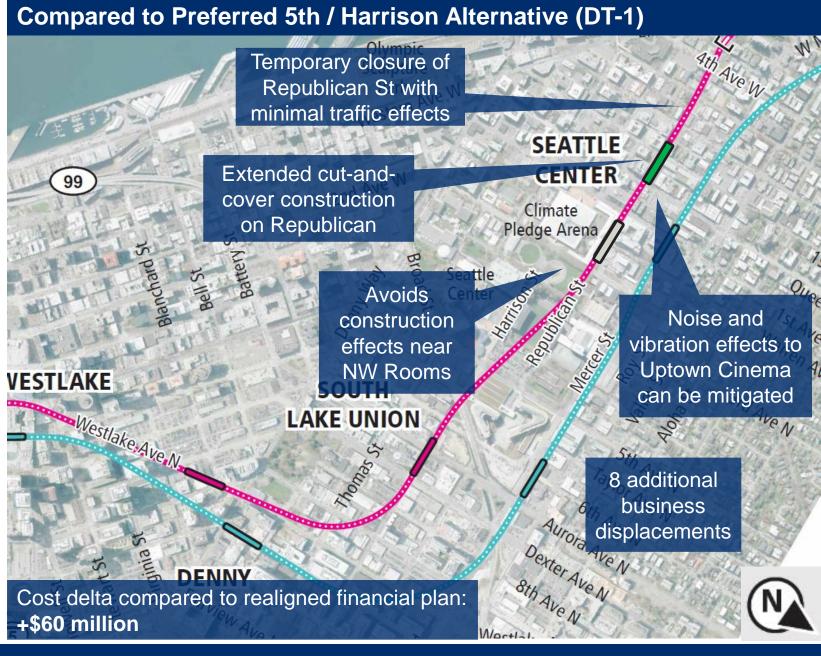


Seattle Center: Republican West

Shifting Seattle
Center Republican
station west

Study focus:

Feasibility of shifting station west







Seattle Center: Republican West





Seattle Center: Results comparison

	Seattle Center Station at Republican (DT-1)	Seattle Center Station Shifted West on Republican	Seattle Center Station at Mercer (DT-2) with Mix-and-Match
Feasibility 🏠	-	-	-
Passenger Experience	-	-	-
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	-	-	-
Future Expansion	Does not preclude	 Does not preclude 	Does not preclude
Environmental 🗸	 Full closure of Republican St between Queen Anne N and Warren Ave N for 5 years Affects Seattle Center/ NW Rooms during construction 	 Full closure of Republican St between 3rd Ave W and Queen Anne Ave N for up to 5 years Avoids effects to Seattle Center Affects Uptown Cinema during construction 	 Partial closure of Mercer St between Warren Ave N and 1st Ave W for 3.5 years Avoids effects to Seattle Center Fewer residential and more business displacements than DT-1
Equity 🛔 🛊 🛉	-	-	-
Cost compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019	-	+\$60M	+\$210M



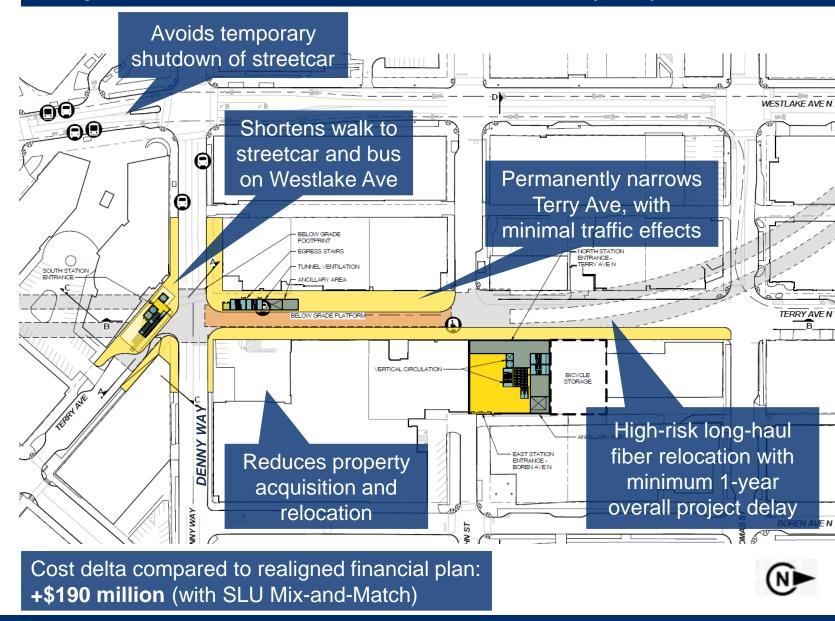
Denny Station: Entrance on Both Sides of Denny

Opportunities to provide station access from both sides of Denny Way

Study focus:

Improve passenger access

Compared to Preferred 5th / Harrison Alternative (DT-1)







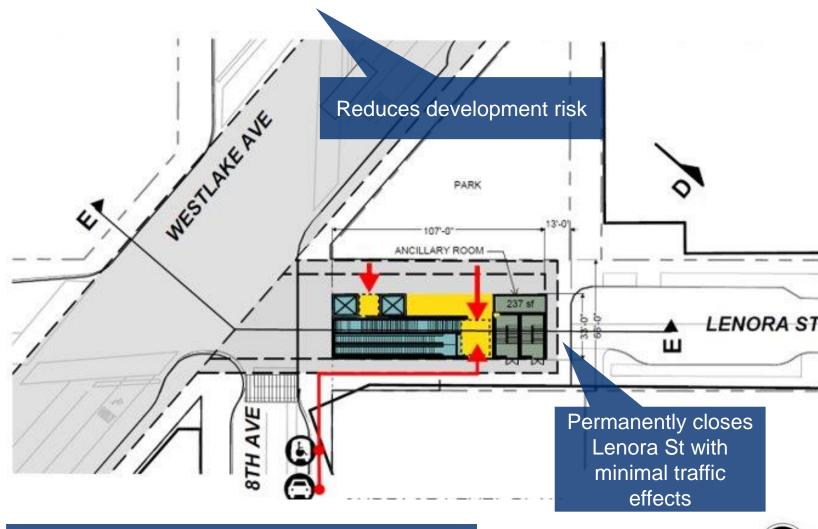
Denny Station (DT-1): Lenora Street Right-of-Way

Shift station entrance into public right-of-way

Study focus:

Reduce costs

Compared to Preferred 5th / Harrison Alternative (DT-1)



Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: -\$20 million

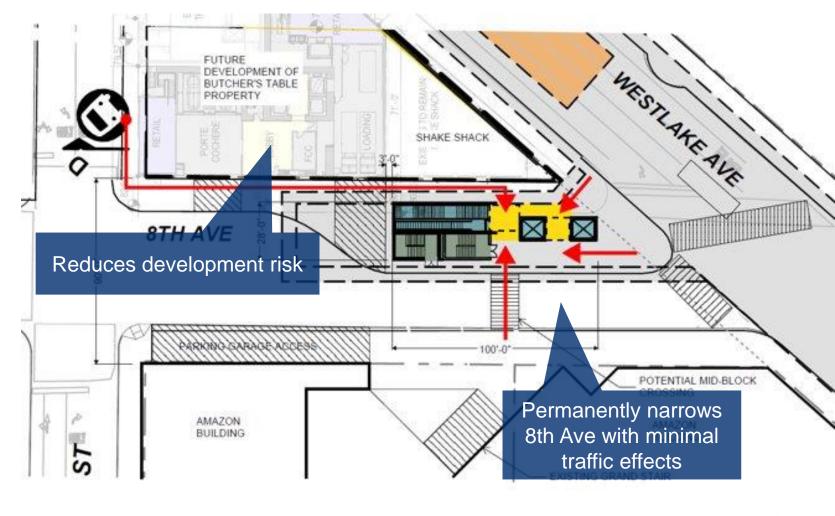


Denny Station (DT-1): 8th Ave Right-of-Way

Shift station entrance into public right-of-way

Study focus: Reduce costs

Compared to Preferred 5th / Harrison Alternative (DT-1)



Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan:
-\$60 million



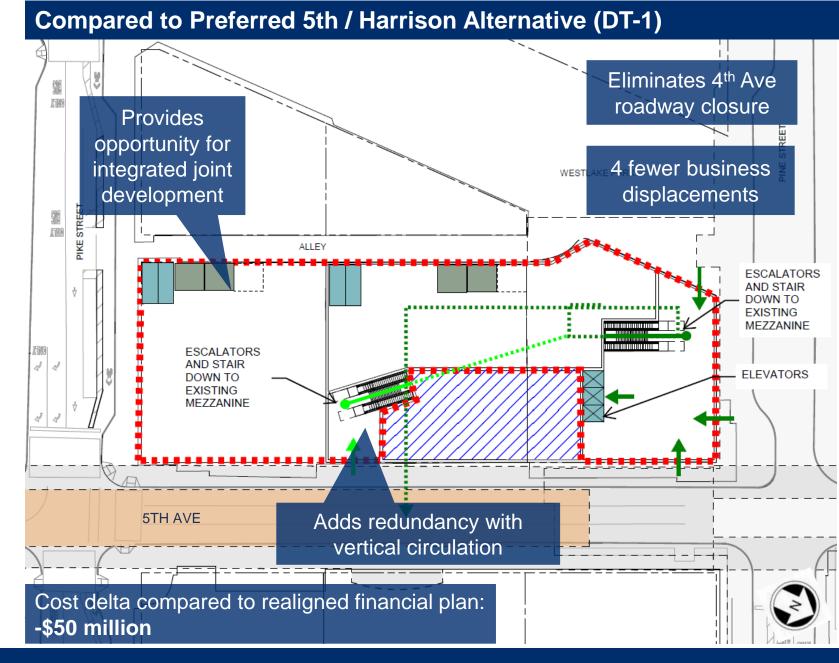


Westlake Station (DT-1): Entrance Consolidation

Consolidate station entrances

Study focus:

- Reduce costs
- Improve passenger experience





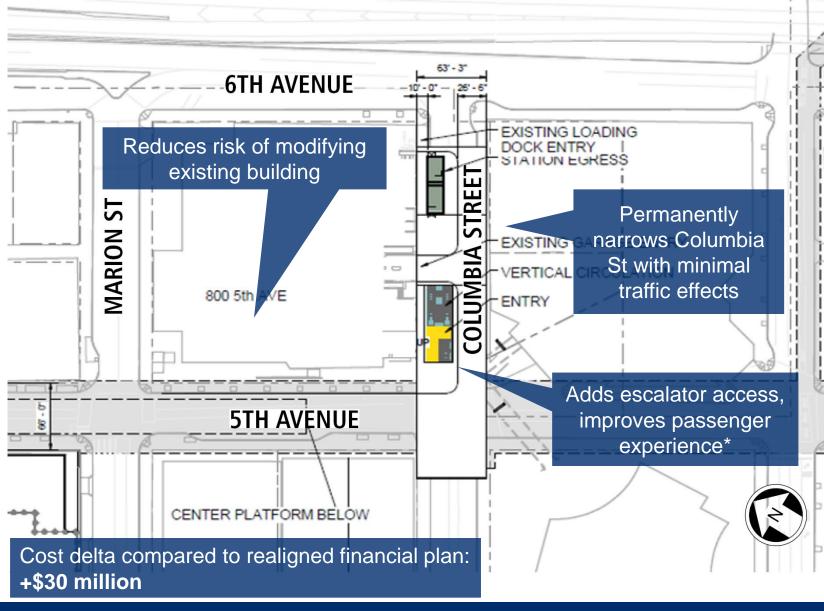
Midtown Station (DT-1): Columbia St Right-of-Way

Shift station entrance into public right-of-way

Study focus:

- Reduce costs and schedule risk
- Improve passenger experience





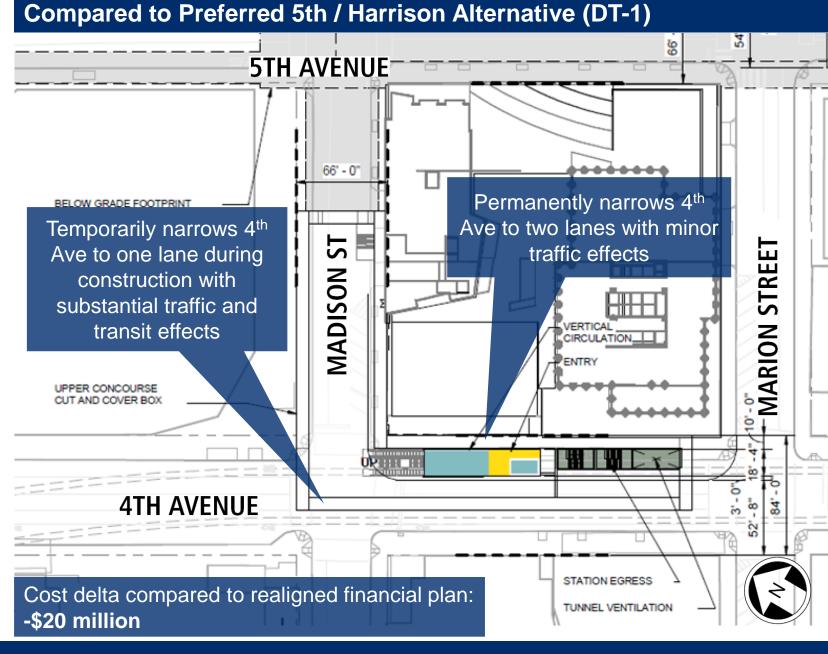


Midtown Station (DT-1): 4th Ave Right-of-Way

Shift station entrance into public right-of-way

Study focus:

Reduce costs and schedule risk

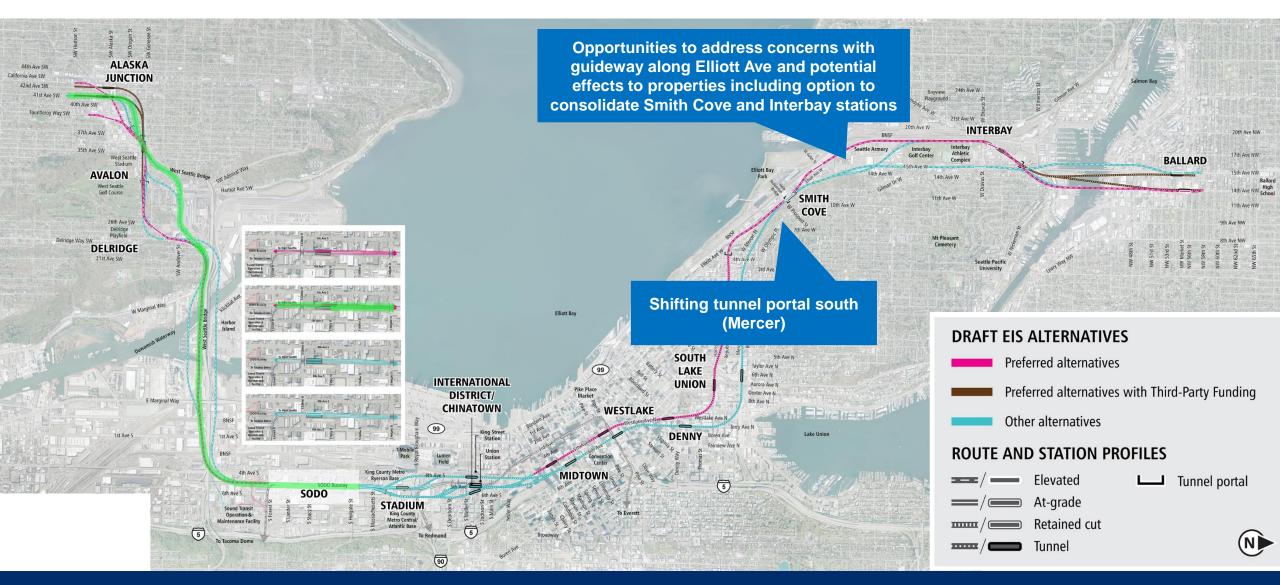






Interbay-Smith Cove Further Studies and Community Feedback

Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – South Interbay



Interbay/Ballard Engagement Snapshot

Engagement activities, 7/28/22 - 2/17/23

- Workshops & open houses = 3
- Community briefings & meetings = 8+
- Online surveys = 2
- Survey responses = 700+







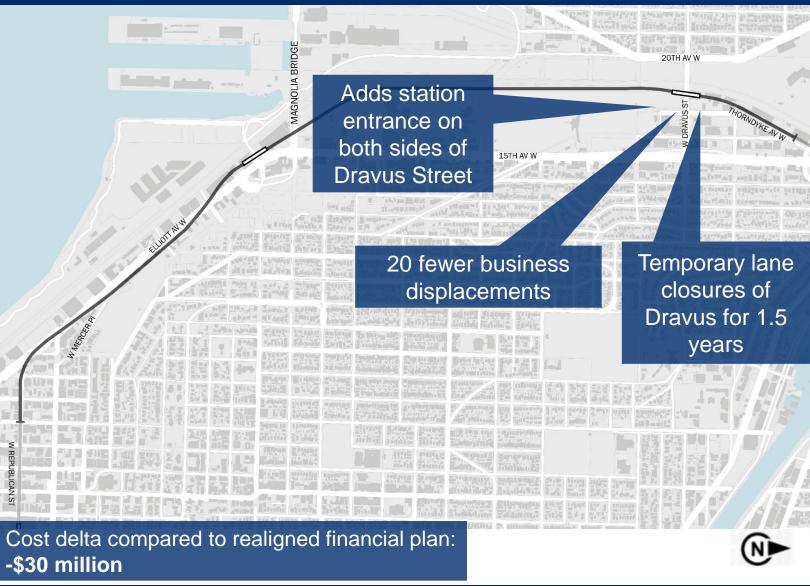
Modified SIB-1 Alignment

Shift Interbay Station south to straddle below Dravus St

Study focus:

Avoid Seattle City Light and Seattle Storm properties

Compared to Preferred Galer Street Station/Central Interbay Alternative (SIB-1) to Preferred Tunnel 14th/15th Avenue (IBB-2a/b)



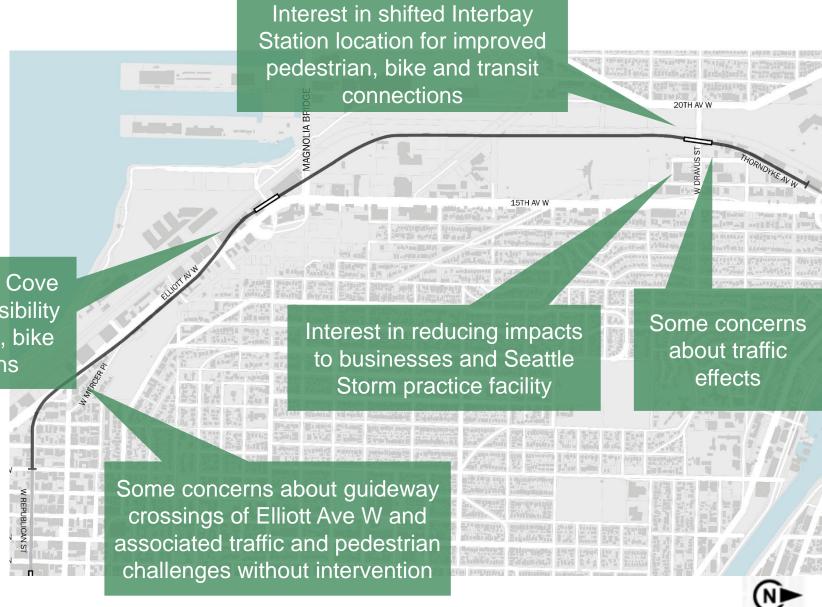




Modified SIB-1 Alignment

Interest in Galer St Smith Cove Station location for accessibility and improved pedestrian, bike and transit connections

Interest in maintaining two stations in Interbay to support access and future development



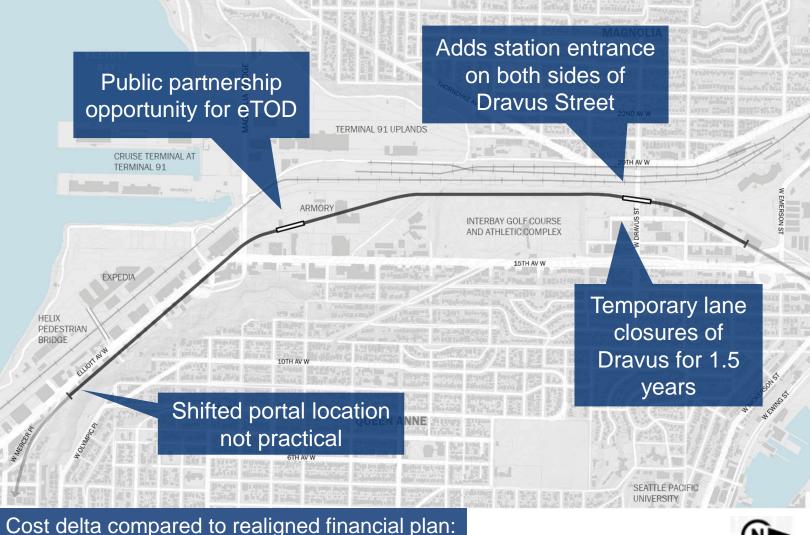
Modified SIB-3 Alignment

Shift north portal location south and shift Smith Cove Station north of Magnolia Bridge

Study focus:

- Avoid unstable slope risk on Queen Anne hillside
- Avoid Seattle City Light and Seattle Storm properties

Compared to Prospect Street Station/Central Interbay Alternative (SIB-3) to Preferred Tunnel 14th/15th Avenue (IBB-2a/b)



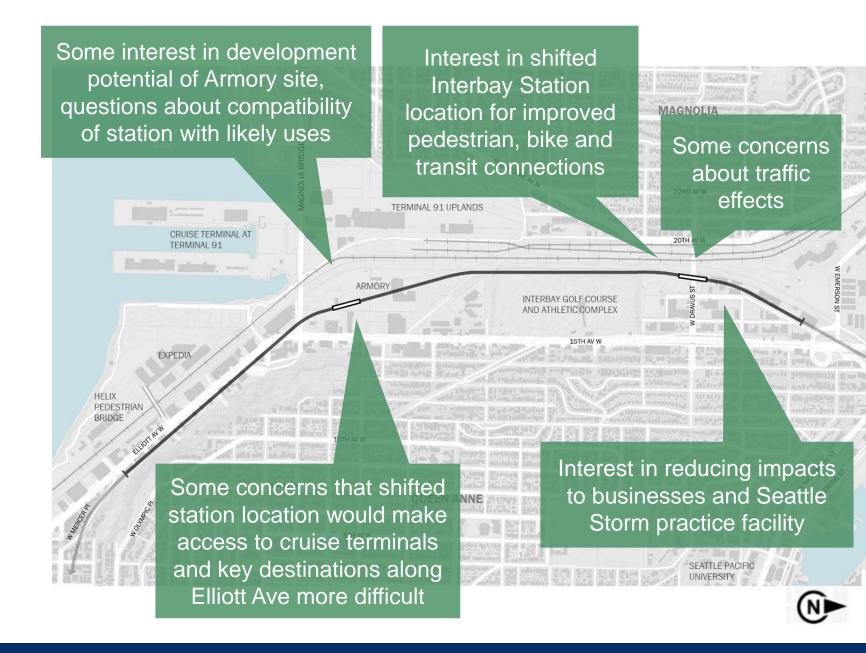




N/A



Modified SIB-3 Alignment





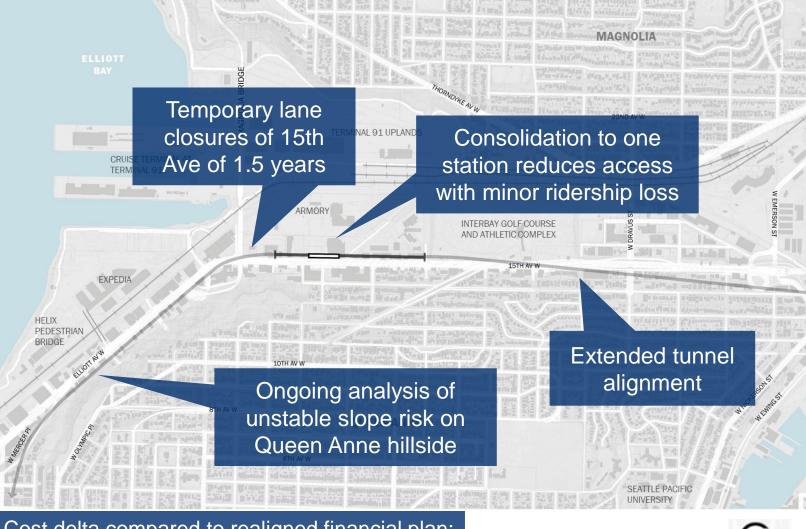
Consolidated Alignment

Consolidate Smith
Cove and Interbay
Stations with below
grade alignment

Study focus:

- Avoid concerns with guideway along Elliott Ave
- Avoid unstable slope risk on Queen Anne hillside
- Avoid Seattle City Light and Seattle Storm properties

Compared to Preferred Galer Street Station/Central Interbay
Alternative (SIB-1) to Preferred Elevated 14th Ave Alternative (IBB-1a)



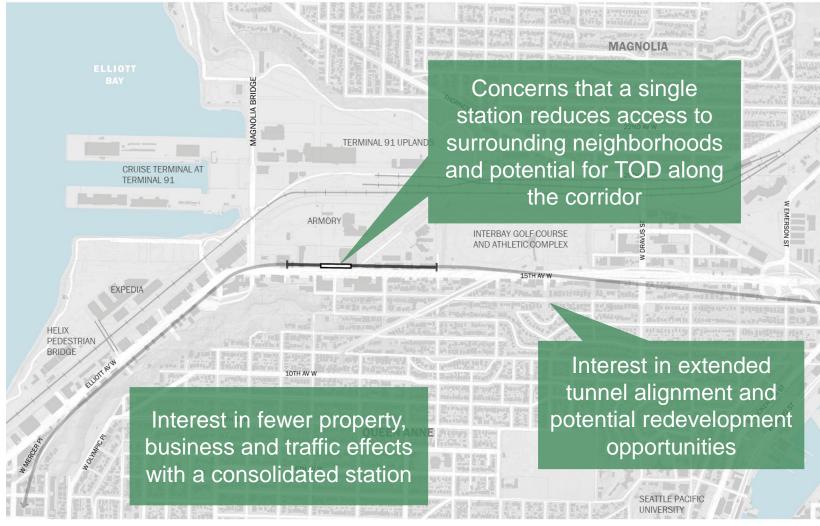
Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: +\$210 million







Consolidated Alignment







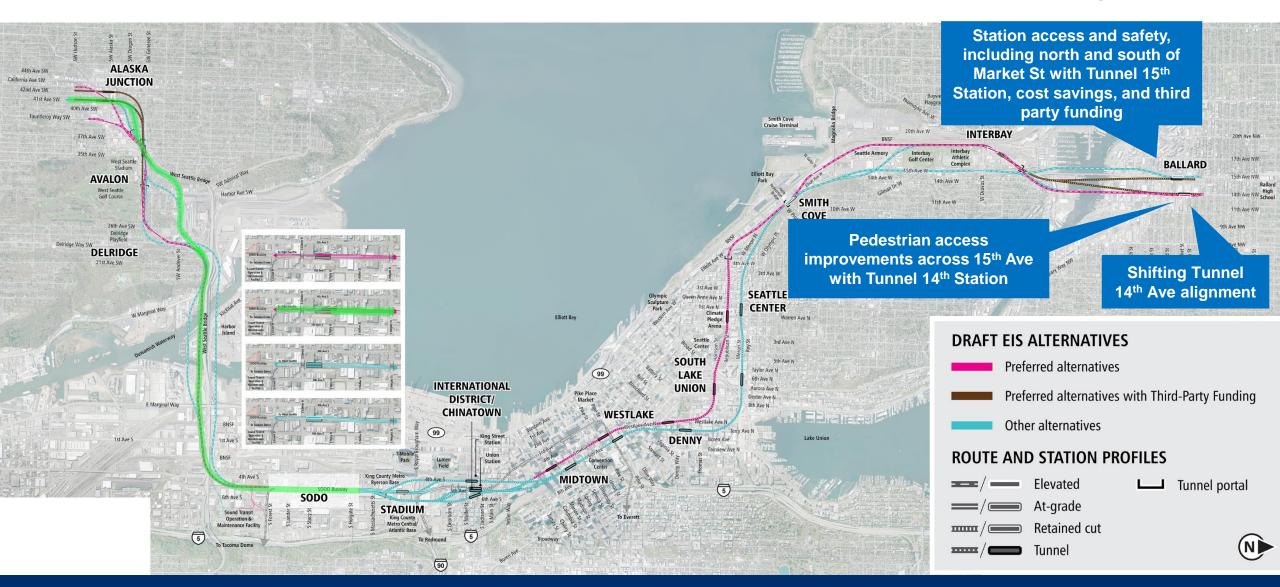
Interbay-Smith Cove: Results comparison

	Smith Cove Station at Galer Street (SIB-1)	Modified SIB-1 Alignment	Consolidated Alignment
Feasibility 🍖	-	-	 Ongoing analysis of unstable slope risk on Queen Anne hillside
Passenger Experience	-	 Adds entrances on both sides of Dravus St at Interbay Station 	-
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	 Allows some development adjacent to station 	Allows some development adjacent to station	 Reduces access due to single consolidated station in Interbay Allows development adjacent to station
Future Expansion 💢	Does not preclude	Does not preclude	Does not preclude
Environmental 🗹	 Affects SCL, Seattle Storm, and KCWTD properties Permanent columns within Elliott Ave and park effects in Interbay 	 Avoids SCL and Seattle Storm properties Permanent columns within Elliott Ave and park effects in Interbay Partial closure of Dravus Street for 18 months 	 Avoids SCL, Seattle Storm, and KCWTD properties Avoids columns within Elliott Ave and park effects in Interbay Fewer residential and more business displacements than SIB-1 Partial closure of major traffic spine 15th Ave W for 18 months
Equity i i i	-	-	-
compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019	-	-\$30M	+\$210M



Ballard Further Studies and Community Feedback

Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – Interbay/Ballard

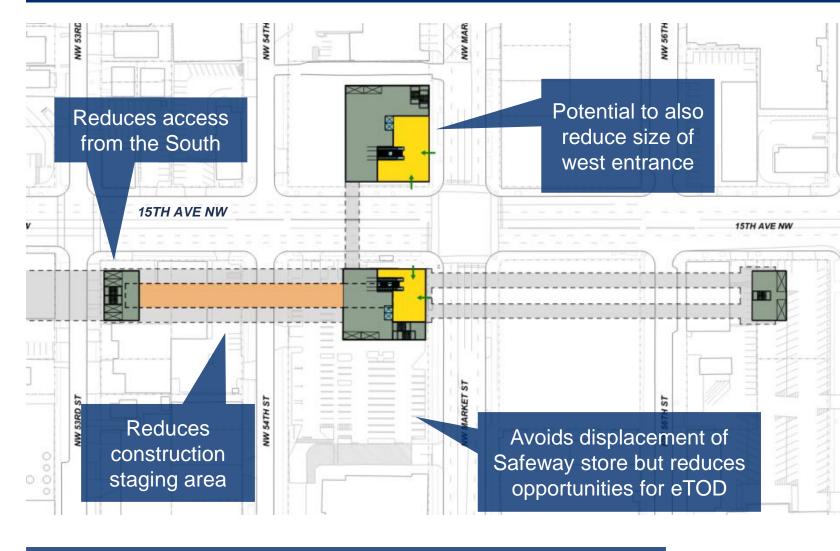


Tunnel 15th Ave Cost Savings: Draft EIS Station Entrance Refinements Reduce size of east station entrance and eliminate south entrance

Study focus:

Reduce costs

Compared to Preferred Tunnel 15th Avenue Station Option (IBB-2b)



Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan:

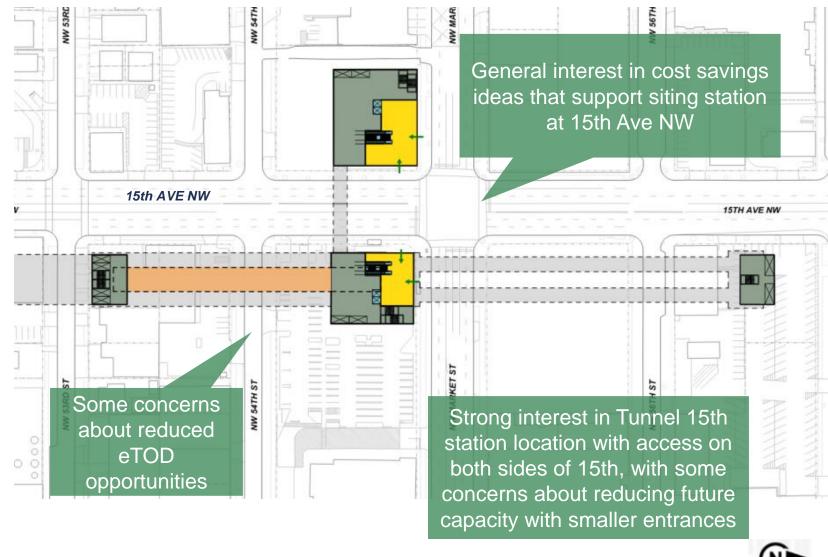
+\$70 million (or **+\$30** million with optional smaller west entrance)







Tunnel 15th Ave Cost Savings: Draft EIS Station Entrance Refinements





Tunnel 15th Ave Cost Savings: Station in **Right-of-Way** Shift station construction into 15th Ave NW and eliminate south entrance

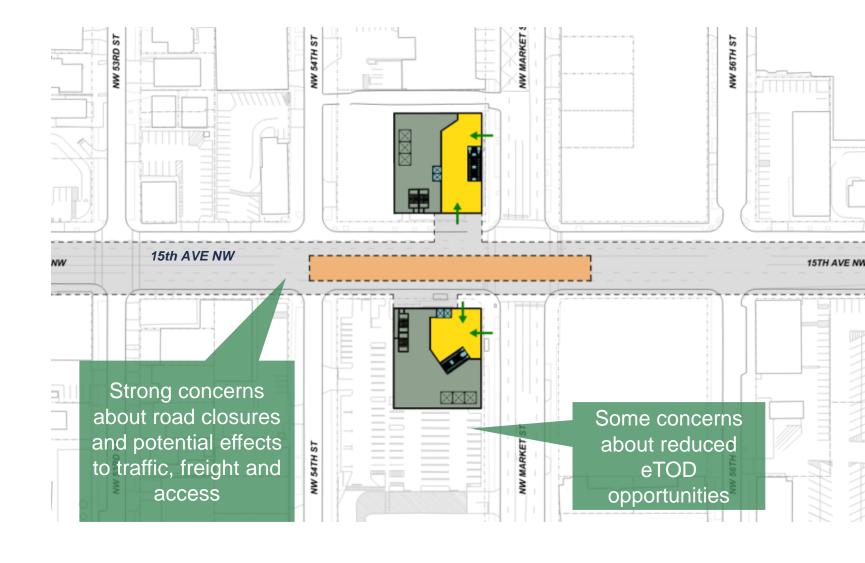
Study focus: **Reduce costs** **Compared to Preferred Tunnel 15th Avenue Station Option (IBB-2b)** Reduces access Potential to also from the South reduce size of west entrance 15TH AVE NW Temporary closure of intersection during construction Partial closure of 15th Ave for 4 years Avoids displacement of Safeway store but reduces opportunities for eTOD

Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: **+\$70 million** (or **+\$30** million with optional smaller west entrance)





Tunnel 15th Ave Cost Savings: Station in Right-of-Way





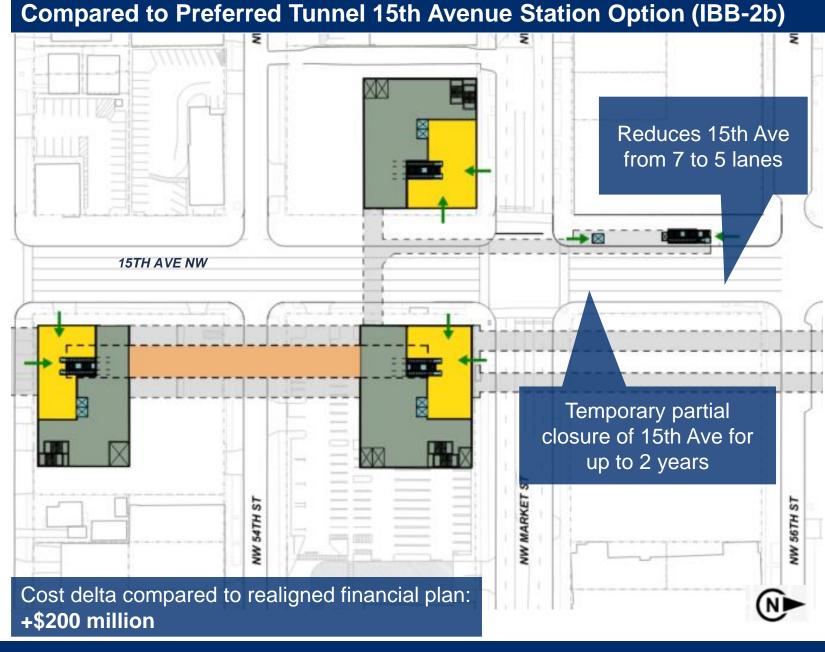


Tunnel 15th Ave Entrance North of Market

Add station entrance to NW corner in public right-of-way

Study focus:

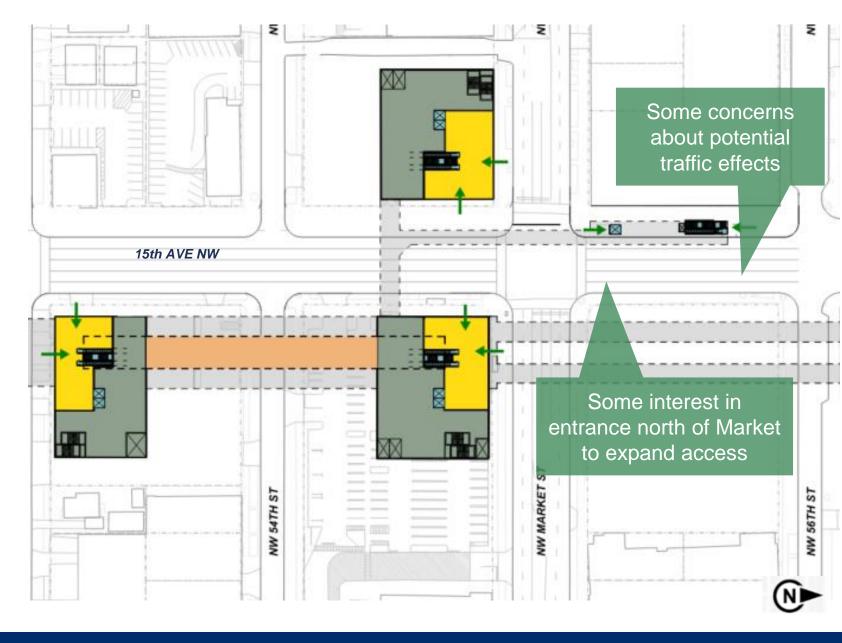
Improve passenger access to the north







Tunnel 15th Ave Entrance North of Market



Compared to Preferred Tunnel 14th Avenue Alternative (IBB-2a)

Tunnel 14th Ave Station Access

Pedestrian access improvements across 15th Ave with Tunnel 14th Station

At-grade improvements may reduce pedestrian travel time, but have minor effects on traffic and transit operations

Grade-separated improvements may add travel time, but reduce passenger-vehicle interactions

Study focus:

Improve passenger access to the west













Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan:

- +\$0.5-1 million for at-grade improvements
- +\$20-100 million for grade-separated improvements (+ O&M costs)



Tunnel 14th Ave Station Access

Pedestrian access improvements across 15th Ave with Tunnel 14th Station

Some interest in grade-separated improvements to reduce passenger-vehicle interactions; others prefer at-grade improvements for sense of safety













Shifted Tunnel 14th Ave Station

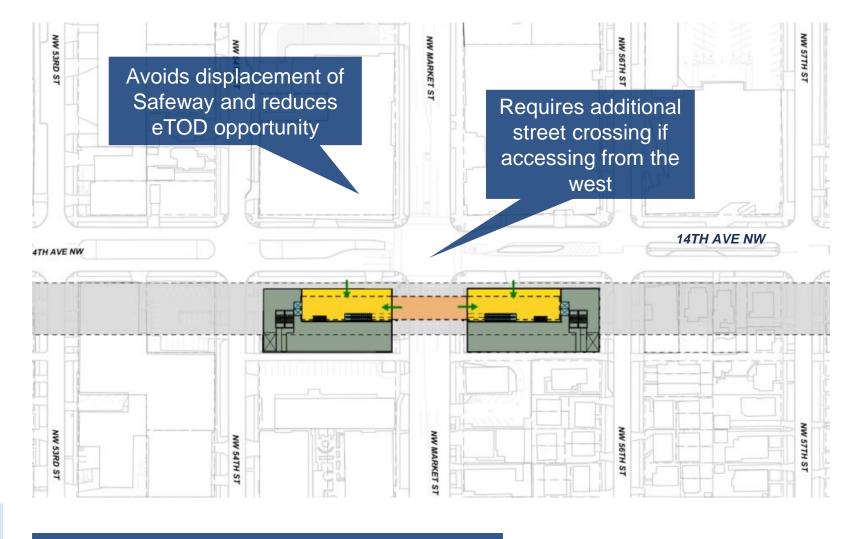
Shift tunnel alignment to the east and eliminate western station entrance

Further Studies Results

Study focus:

Reduce costs

Compared to Preferred Tunnel 14th Avenue Alternative (IBB-2a)

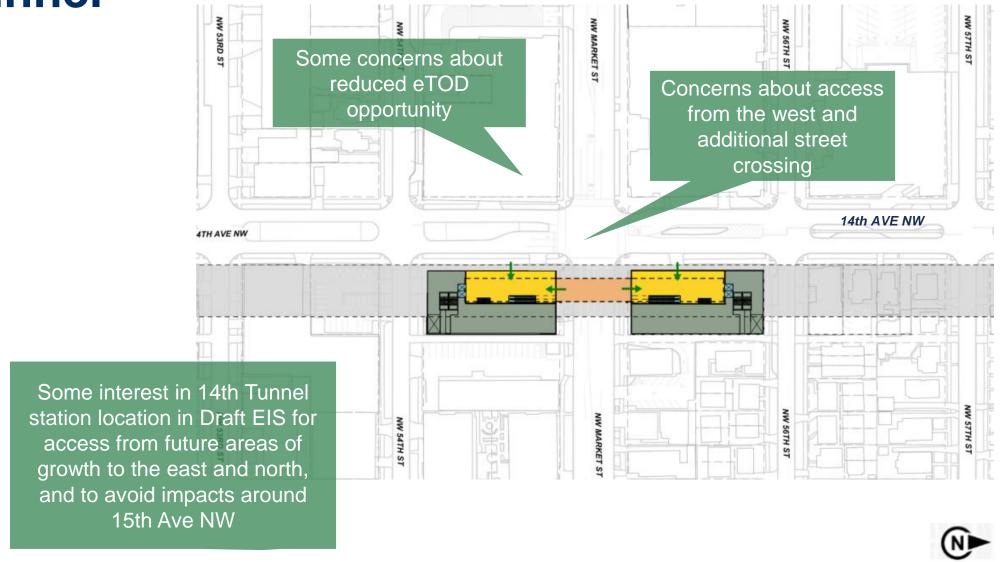


Cost delta compared to realigned financial plan: -\$140 million





Shifted Tunnel 14th Ave Station





Ballard Tunnel 15th Ave: Results comparison

	Tunnel 14th Ave (IBB-2a)	Tunnel 15th Ave (IBB-2b)	Tunnel 15th Ave Cost Savings
Feasibility 🏠	-	-	-
Passenger Experience	Convenient bus transfer	Less convenient bus transfer	 Less convenient bus transfer Optional smaller west entrance could limit vertical circulation capacity
Ridership, Access, eTOD Potential	 15-min walk to Ballard core with crossing of 15th Ave W eTOD potential on Safeway and other sites 	 10-min walk to Ballard core eTOD potential on Safeway and other sites 	 10-min walk to Ballard core Reduces access from southeast Reduces eTOD opportunity
Future Expansion	Does not preclude	Does not preclude	 Optional smaller west entrance may not accommodate future ridership growth
Environmental 🗸	 Displaces Safeway store Full closure of 14th Ave NW btw 52nd and 58th for 3 years Partial closure of NW Market St at 14th Ave NW for 9 mo. 	 7 more residential and 2 more business displacements than IBB-2a Partial closure of NW Market St at 15th Ave NW for 3 years 	 7 more residential displacements than IBB-2a Partial closure of NW Market St at 15th Ave NW for 3 years Avoids Safeway store displacement
Equity 🛔 🛊 🛊	-	-	-
Cost compared to realigned financial plan in \$2019	+\$0M	+\$200M	+\$70M (or +\$30m with optional smaller west entrance)



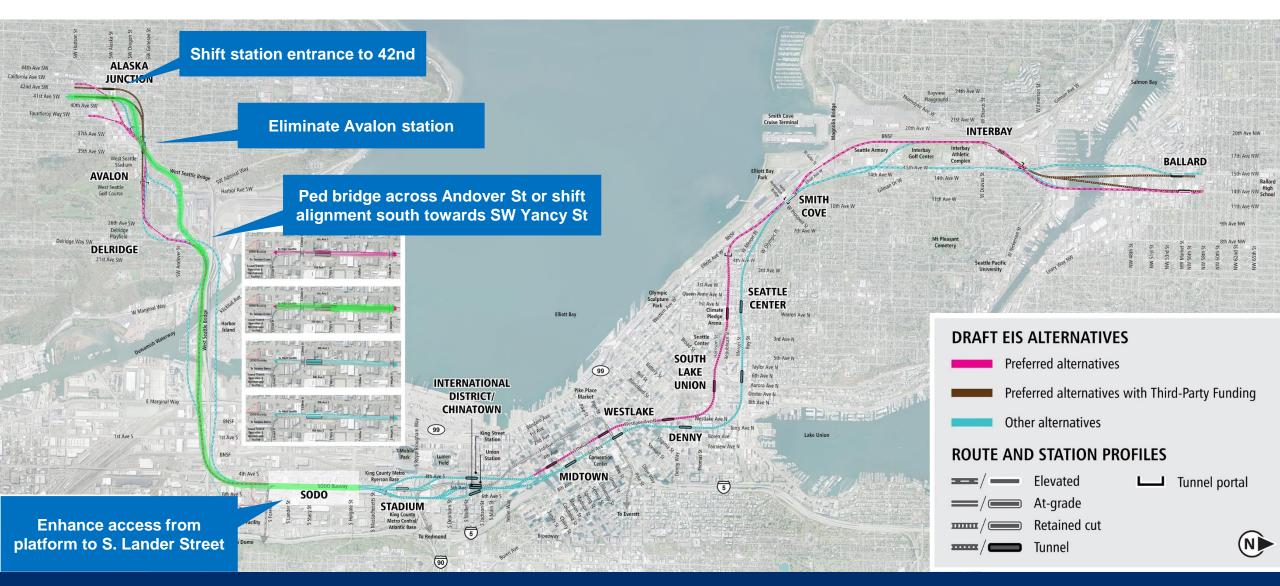
West Seattle Extension Further Studies and Community Feedback

West Seattle Link Extension: Preferred Alternative





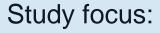
West Seattle Link Extension: Further studies



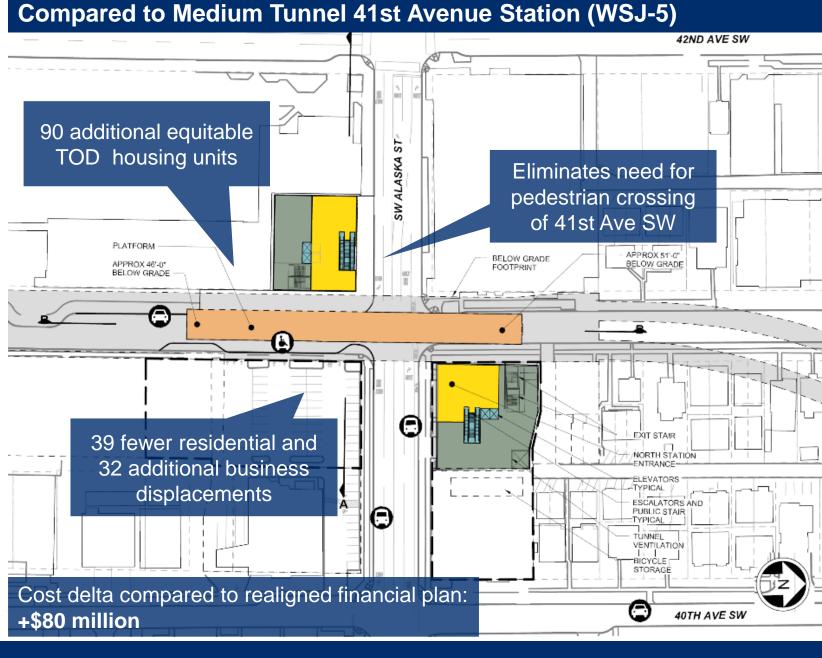


Alaska Junction Station Access Refinement

Shift station entrance to 42nd Ave SW

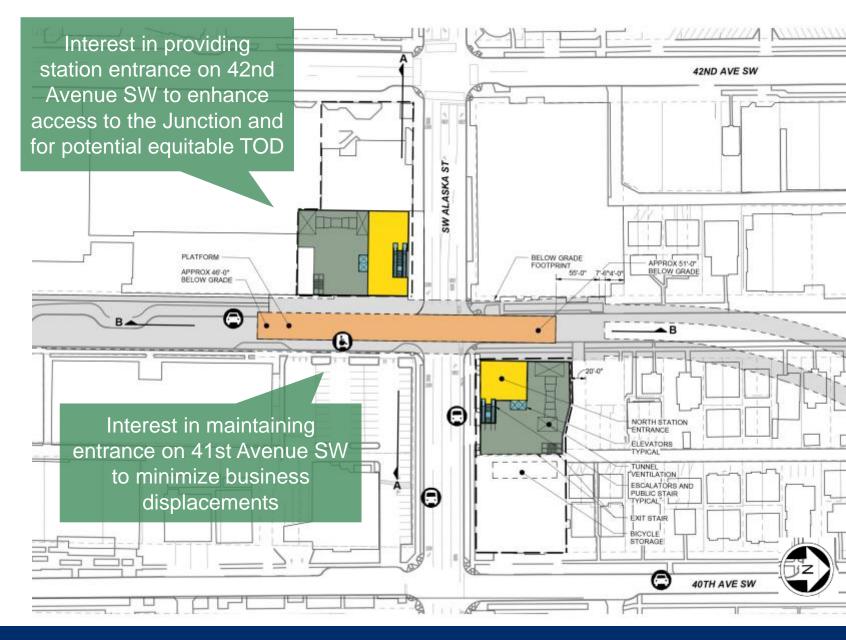


Improve passenger access



Alaska Junction Station Access Refinement

Shift station entrance to 42nd Ave SW



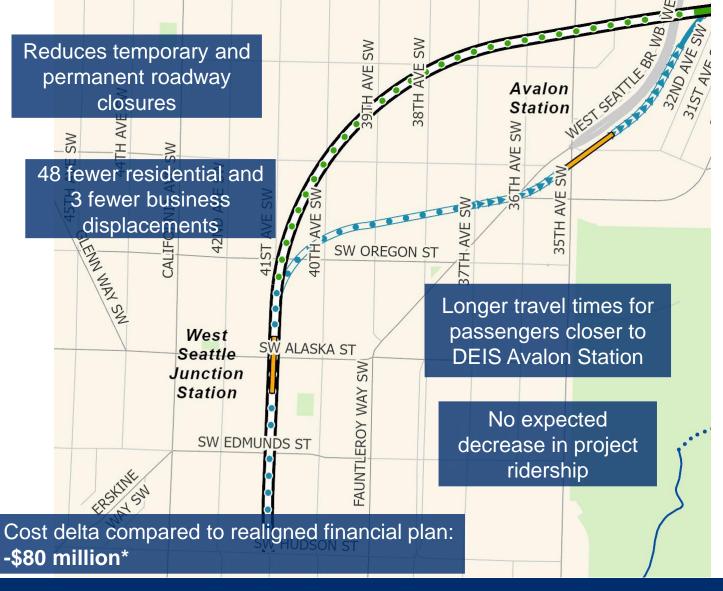
Eliminate Avalon Station

Eliminate station and optimize alignment

(assumes shifting alignment south towards SW Yancy St)

Study focus: Reduce costs

Compared to Andover Street Station Lower Height Alternative (DEL-6) and Medium Tunnel 41st Avenue Station Alternative (WSJ-5)



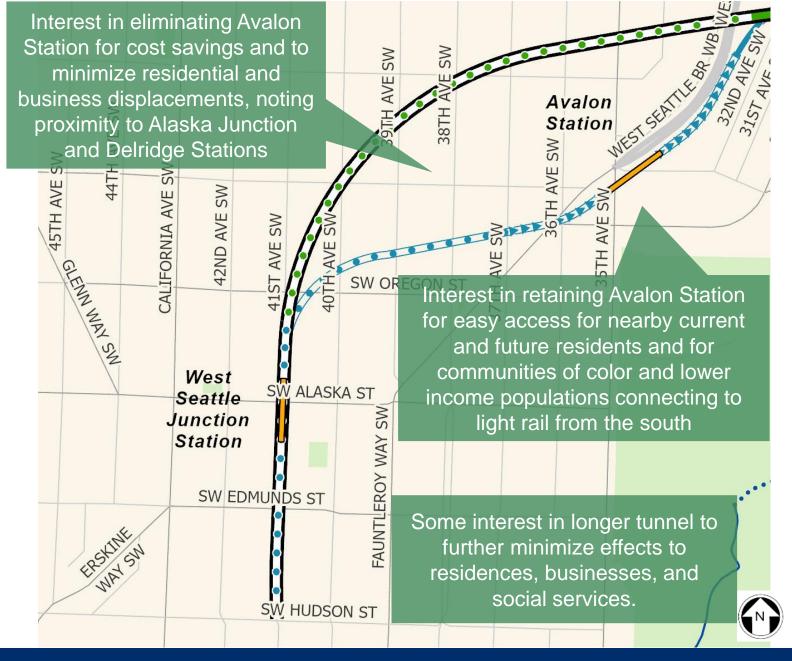




Eliminate Avalon Station

Eliminate station and optimize alignment

(assumes shifting alignment south towards SW Yancy St)





Delridge Access, Integration, and Alignment Refinement

Shift alignment south towards SW Yancy St

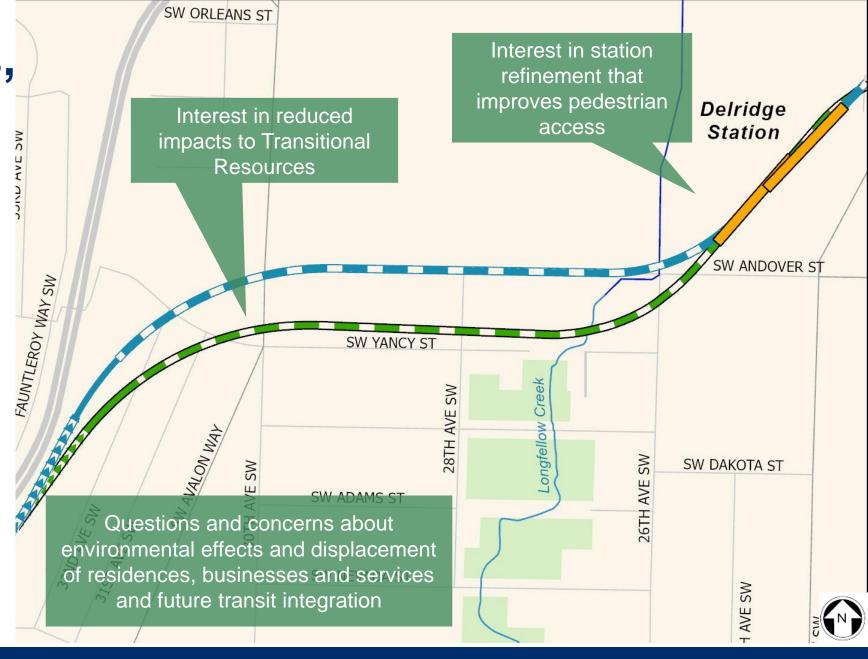
Study focus:

- Improve passenger access and transit integration
- Reduce effects to organizations serving lowincome and communities of color



Delridge Access, Integration, and Alignment Refinement

Shift alignment south towards SW Yancy St





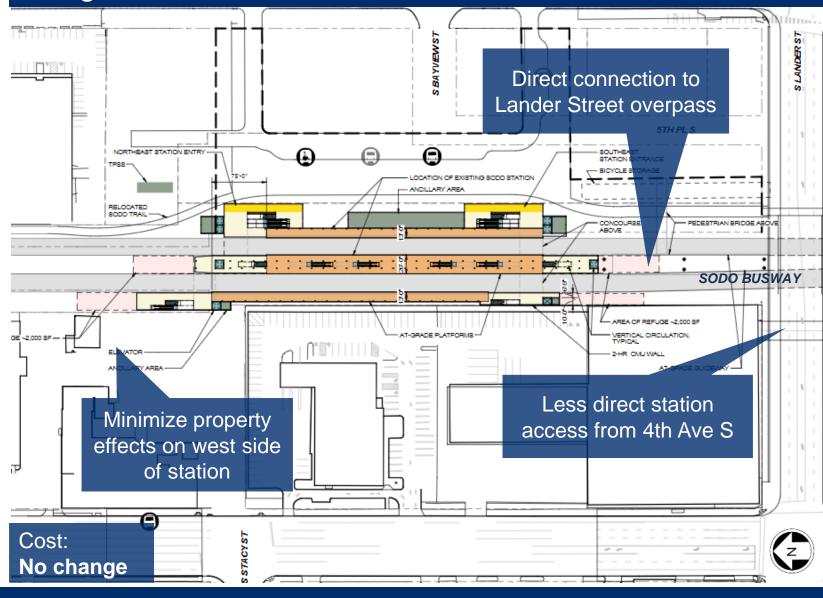
SODO Access to S Lander Street

Enhance access from platform to S Lander Street

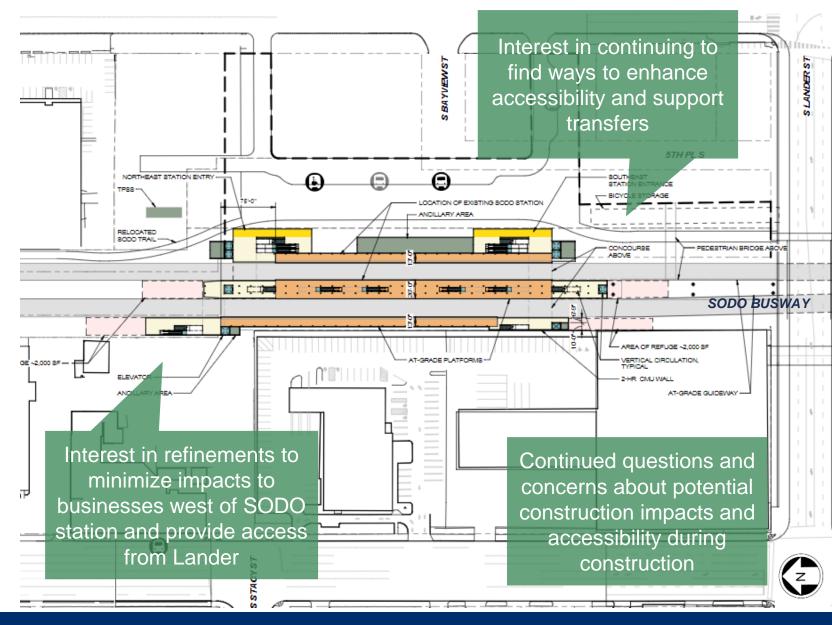
Study focus:

- Minimize property effects on west side of station
- Add connection to Lander Street

Compared to At-Grade Alternative (SODO-1a) Staggered Station Configuration



SODO Access to S Lander Street



Cost and schedule

Comparative estimates

- To inform comparison of further study concepts and end-to-end scenarios
- Consistent methodology to Draft EIS (2019\$), based on limited design
- Project budget established during realignment: \$12.2 billion

Schedule implications

Environmental phase:

 Additional environmental review is likely under any end-to-end scenario (~1 yr on top of already-incurred 10-month further studies delay)

Design phase:

 Scenarios including South Lake Union mix-and-match and CID 4th Shallow(er) will require additional time for coordination with third parties

Construction phase:

- Scenarios including CID 4th Shallow(er) will require additional time for construction (~2 yrs) due to 4th Ave viaduct reconstruction, traffic detour phasing, etc.
- Potential risk of additional delay for CID 4th Shallow(er) due to poor ground conditions, deep Midtown station, proximity to BNSF and existing downtown transit tunnel, phasing of Link closures

Q&A / Discussion

Next steps

Board process

Jan 26, Board: Further Studies results overview

Jan 26 – Feb 17: Gather additional community feedback

Feb 9, SEC: Further Studies results deeper dive

Feb 23, Board: Community feedback summary

Mar 9, SEC: Recommendation to Board

Mar 23, Board: Board identifies preferred alternative for Ballard Link Extension

Thank you.



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