



Memo

Date: August 15, 2024

To: Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board

From: Jennifer Meulenbergh, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

Subject: City Coordination on Sound Transit 3 Link Extension Projects

Purpose

To provide an overview of two elements of current and upcoming City of Seattle coordination with Sound Transit on projects included in the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) program, including the West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE) alignment and stations.

Although Sound Transit is siting and building the light rail stations, the City is planning multi-modal access projects and designing public realm improvements around the stations. The City has a shared goal with Sound Transit to support delivery of the project on time and within budget. This memo summarizes the City's coordination with Sound Transit on these two elements and provides background for the West Seattle Light Rail Area Street Concept Plan and an overview of the WSLE Station Access Project work.

West Seattle Light Rail Area Street Concept Plan

To capitalize on the investments of light rail expansion in Seattle, the City partnered with Sound Transit and community members to develop the West Seattle Light Rail Area Street Concept Plan. The plan re-envisioned the streets around the future light rail stations and will guide future project implementation in these areas. SDOT developed the plan over several years based on community input through an online survey, open houses, and stakeholder conversations. In March and June 2024, we shared street designs and heard feedback that refined our proposed design at each station area, and this input is reflected in our draft plan.

Across the station areas, we heard that people wanted us to make intersections safer, add more greenery and trees, and provide structures for shade or cover from the rain, just to name a few. We heard that people wanted us to reduce conflicts between vehicles and people walking and biking, and that it was important that we maintain access to businesses.

We have attached a draft of the street concept plan that will be shared for public comment in the next few weeks. If you have questions about the street concept plan or would like to have a staff member attend a Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board meeting please let us know. You are also invited to provide comments through the public comment process once the plan is posted publicly.

West Seattle Light Rail Station Access Projects

Sound Transit has \$95 million in a "Non-motorized Access Allowance" for WSLE and the Ballard Link Extension (BLE), which will be used to design and construct projects that create safe, direct

walking and bicycling routes from the future stations to surrounding neighborhoods, businesses, and community gathering places. SDOT has been working to develop 10% designs and cost estimates for several projects in West Seattle that received strong support through public engagement, and we will be working with Sound Transit this summer and fall to determine the package of access projects in West Seattle to formally fund through this allowance.

Next Steps

We will be sharing information on the West Seattle Light Rail Area Street Concept plan with other City advisory boards over the coming weeks. We plan to publish the draft street concept plan and accompanying environmental documents for public comment in the next few weeks. We will share the link to the published public version of the plan when it's available. Following a public comment period, we will make final plan revisions and are targeting plan adoption this fall.

The Station Access Project work is ongoing, and we plan to continue broader station area planning work into 2025, which will involve additional community engagement opportunities.