



Preparing for Light Rail

New Standards for Station Design

The City of Seattle is setting new requirements for how light rail stations are designed. These standards cover important aspects like station size, shape, lighting, access, parking, signs, and overall appearance. The goal is to create stations that are functional, accessible, and enhance the look of our neighborhoods.

In addition to the new standards, we adopted Light Rail Design Guidelines. These guidelines, along with input from the Seattle Design Commission (SDC), help ensure each station fits seamlessly into its local context.

Why are new standards needed?

- The West Seattle and Ballard Light rail segments pass through 19 different zoning areas, each with its own rules. A single set of standards is necessary to simplify and streamline station design across the city.
- Current building standards for residential, commercial, or industrial use don't work well for light rail stations.
- The new code creates consistent baseline requirements for all light rail stations, no matter their location.

How will stations fit into their neighborhoods?

- The new guidelines help Sound Transit design stations that reflect the unique character of each neighborhood.
- The SDC will review station designs to ensure they work well in their surroundings.
- Public input is welcome! The SDC holds meetings where community members can share their thoughts.

What will the new standards cover?

The proposed standards will address key factors like:

- Bicycle and scooter parking
- Accessibility for everyone
- Weather protection
- Clear signs
- Pedestrian-friendly lighting
- Easy bus connections

What visual features will be included?

The standards will ensure stations look great and match their surroundings with:

- Thoughtful shapes, sizes, and materials
- Well-planned layouts
- Landscaping that enhances the area
- Integration with nearby streets and public spaces
- A design that reflects the neighborhood's character

We are committed to creating light rail stations that are not only practical and accessible but also enhance the communities they serve. With clear standards and guidelines in place, Seattle is taking a proactive approach to managing light rail station design.

