Project Update

Improving transit with RapidRide J Line

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) is partnering with King County Metro (KCM) to upgrade the existing Route 70 bus service to Metro RapidRide J Line. RapidRide buses offer frequent and reliable service, fast boarding and upgraded bus shelters. RapidRide J Line (previously RapidRide Roosevelt) will connect Belltown, South Lake Union, Eastlake and the U District.

RapidRide J Line shortened to U District Station

Due to budget shortfalls brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, SDOT and KCM decided to shorten the RapidRide J Line route to end at the U District Link light rail station instead of at the Roosevelt Station. This planned shortening will only affect the route north of University Bridge and the rest of the planned route will remain unchanged. Riders traveling between the Roosevelt and U District neighborhoods will be able to take transit alternatives offered through the North Link Connections Mobility Project improvements planned for fall 2021.

Roosevelt Line

Why RapidRide J Line?

The existing bus service cannot support current population and ridership demand growth. During peak hours before the COVID-19 pandemic, 30% of trips were late and 63% were overcrowded. RapidRide J Line addresses these issues with:

- Buses every 7.5 minutes or sooner during peak periods
- 24 hour service, 7-days a week
- Bus-only lanes and traffic priority signals help keep buses moving
- All-door boarding lets riders get on the bus faster

Frequent and reliable service, all day, every day

Safer and more comfortable

- Easy access for riders with mobility aids
- New well-lit bus stations with real-time arrival information
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle safety and connections to transit with protected bike lanes on Fairview Ave E, Eastlake Ave E, and 11th Ave NE

More connections

Better connections to Link light rail, other RapidRide lines, and Seattle Streetcar simplifies transfers and makes it easier to reach more places.

Reduced emissions

Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Seattle and RapidRide J Line will provide a zero emissions transportation option.

Want to stay informed? Check for the latest project information and sign up for email updates: seattle.gov/Transportation/RapidRideJLine

If you need this information translated, please leave a voicemail in your preferred language at (206) 256-5563 and a project member will call back with an interpreter.
Frequent and more reliable transit

Have you ever waited for a bus only to have 2 show up back-to-back 20 minutes late? This is called bus bunching, and in addition to making you late, it often discourages people from riding transit. RapidRide J Line’s planned transit improvements, including stop optimization, will help reduce occurrences of bus bunching and make transit a more attractive option.

These improvements include 5 queue jumps: bus-only lanes at intersections that allow buses to bypass traffic at stoplights. This helps your bus run smoothly, reliably, and on time.

What is a queue jump?

Service starting as soon as 2026

Check out Seattle’s existing bike facilities to see how RapidRide J Line will improve safety and connections.

www.seattle.gov/bikemap