Route 40 Transit-Plus Multimodal Corridor

Making bus trips faster, more reliable, and improving safety

Background

The Route 40 is 13.5 miles long and passes through the neighborhoods of Northgate, Crown Hill, Loyal Heights, Ballard, Fremont, South Lake Union, Downtown Seattle, and Pioneer Square. With three million annual rides prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Route 40 had the third highest number of annual rides of all King County Metro’s bus routes. Ridership on Route 40 remains one of Metro’s top highest ridership routes, serving an average of 3,800 customers each weekday.

The Route 40 is currently scheduled to arrive every 10 minutes or sooner, but buses on this route can be slow and unreliable. On average, Route 40 is late approximately 20% of the time. At busier times of the day, it can be late up to 35% of the time.

Project overview

Route 40 corridor improvements were first identified as part of the Levy to Move Seattle and King County’s METRO CONNECTS program. Based on the results of the 2018 Levy Workplan Report, Route 40 will not be transitioned to RapidRide as part of this project. In response, SDOT and Metro will implement transit speed and reliability upgrades in this corridor.

The Seattle Department of Transportation and Metro plan to make the following improvements to this vital corridor:

▶ Reduce bus travel times by 5–10% during peak traffic hours
▶ Improve service reliability to:
  – Make the time between buses more consistent
  – Ensure that no matter the time of day, trips take about the same amount of time

Schedule

We reached our 30% design milestone in 2021, and are reaching out to community members to gather feedback on updated designs in Spring 2022. We plan to use this feedback to shape the 60% design concepts, which will be shared later on this year. The selected improvements will move forward to final design and construction, with work scheduled to be complete in 2024.
Funding

This project is being funded by a combination of local and state funds. The source of the local funding is the 9-year Levy to Move Seattle, approved by voters in 2015 to improve safety for all travelers, maintain our streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city. SDOT is also seeking additional grant opportunities to allow more investment in the corridor. Learn more about the levy at www.seattle.gov/LevyToMoveSeattle.

For translation and interpretation, please call (206) 775-8731.

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