

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

*International Special Review
District (ISRD) briefing
February 23, 2021*



ST3 – A Regional Investment

116-mile network across the Puget Sound by 2041

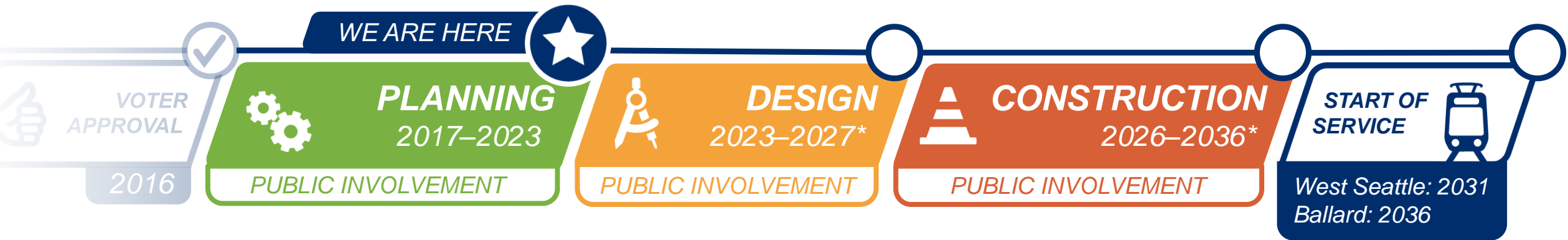
Currently under construction in Seattle:

- Northgate (3 stations, opening this year).
- East Link (10 stations, 2023).
- Lynnwood (4 stations, 2024).



West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Project timeline



Project scope and schedule subject to change.

 **VOTER
APPROVAL**

2016

***Project scope
and schedule
subject to
change.***



PLANNING



DESIGN

2017–2019

Alternatives development

Feb–March 2018:
Early scoping

Feb–April 2019:
Scoping

May–Oct 2019: Board
identifies preferred
alternatives and other
DEIS alternatives

2019–2023

Environmental review

Mid-2021: Publish Draft EIS

Board confirms or modifies
preferred alternatives

2023: Publish Final EIS

Board selects projects
to be built

Federal Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

 **VOTER
APPROVAL**

2016

***Project scope
and schedule
subject to
change.***





 **DESIGN**

Realigning expansion plans

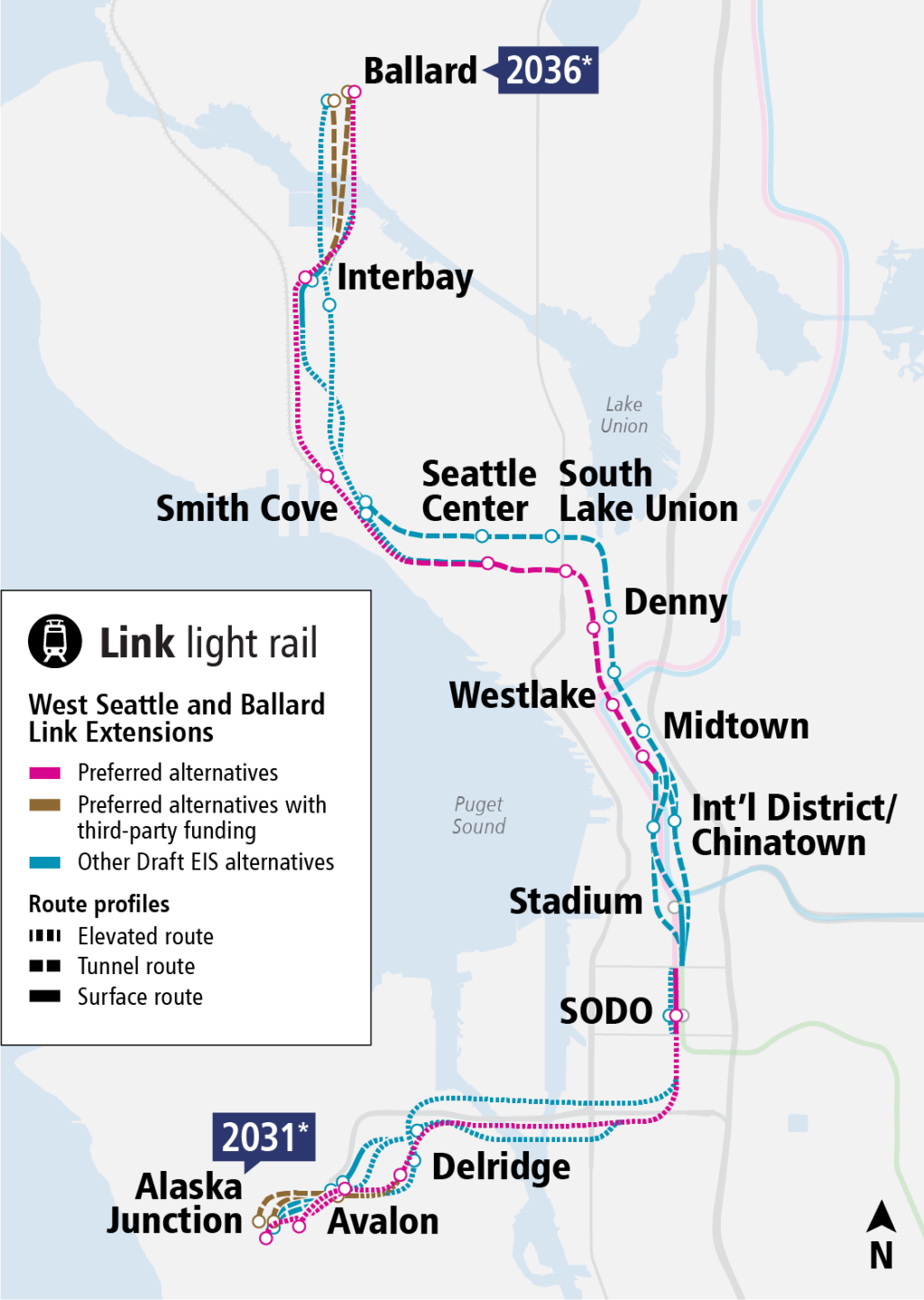


Draft EIS alternatives

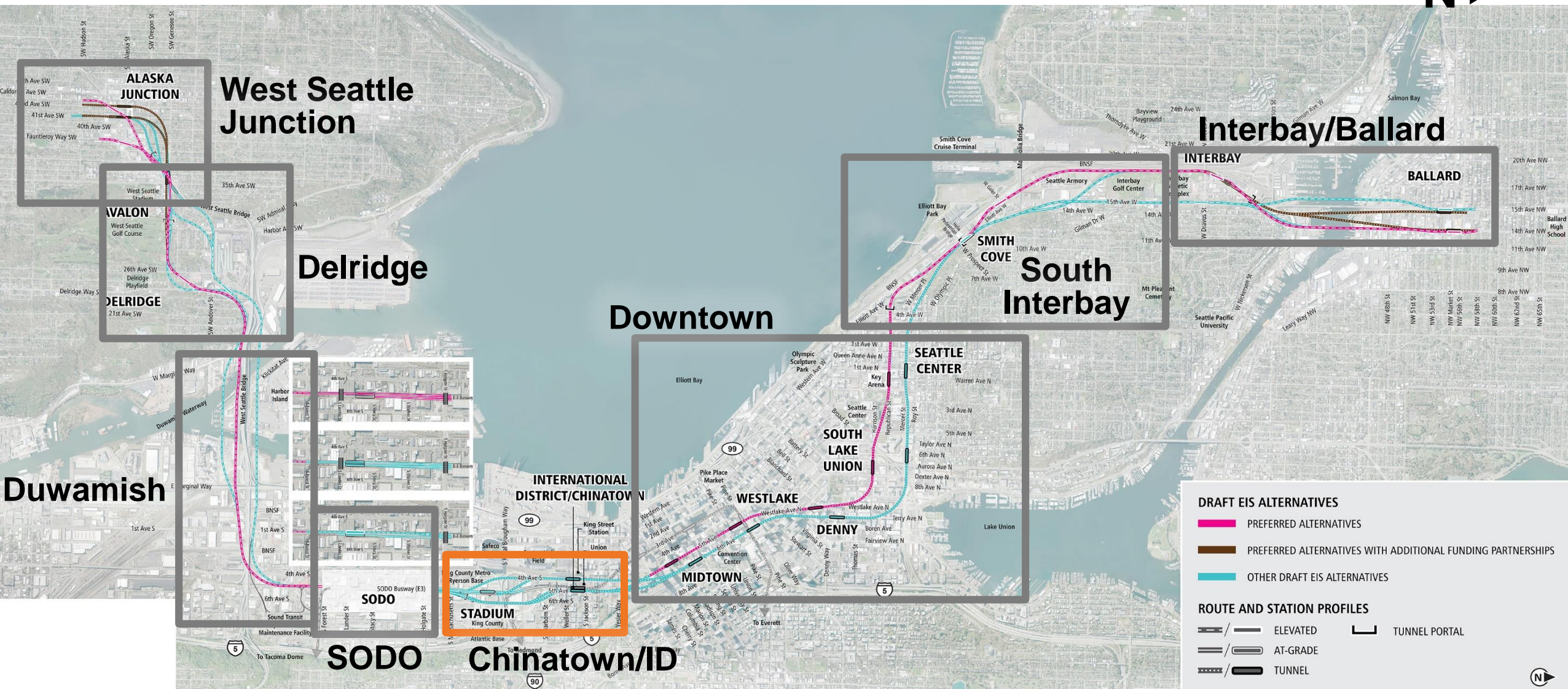
What we're studying in this phase

-  Preferred Alternatives
-  Preferred Alternatives with Third-Party Funding
-  Other Draft EIS alternatives

*Project delivery dates currently under review due to the COVID-19 recession.



Draft EIS alternatives



*How Sound Transit and the
City of Seattle are working
together*

Roles



- Evaluate potential alignment and station locations.
- Conduct planning, environmental review, and design of the light rail system.
- Build and operate new light rail system.

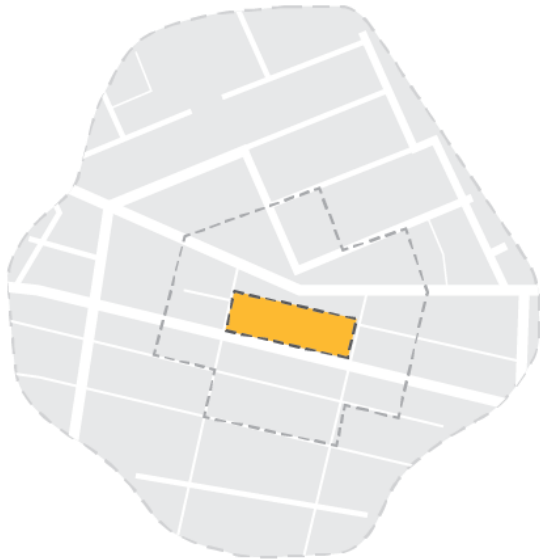
**Center racial
equity for better
outcomes
+
Co-planning
stations with
communities**



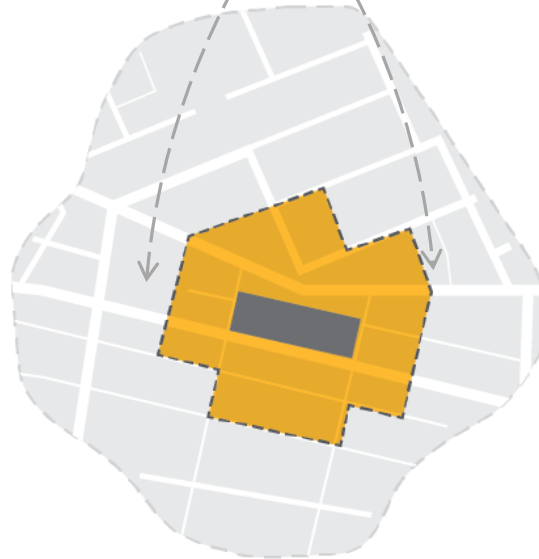
Seattle

- Mayor Jenny Durkan & Councilmember Debora Juarez sit on the Sound Transit Board that will make final decisions.
- Plan housing, businesses, and open spaces to make great neighborhoods around new stations.
- Issue permits to Sound Transit to build stations and track.

Co-planning partnership



Station



Station context



City of Seattle



Station area

Current City Work to Support ST3

- Establishing strong relationships with Sound Transit to identify issues early and craft solutions
- Creating teams for permitting, planning, and public engagement
- Working to support delivering light rail faster and within budget
- Collaborating with Sound Transit on a Racial Equity Toolkit to center issues of race



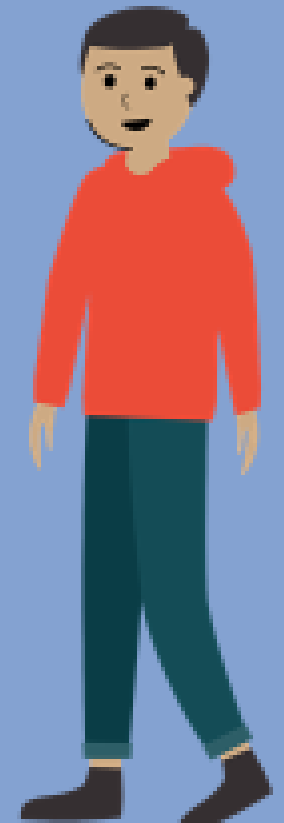
Guiding Principles

- Equity
- Dependable Transit
- Vibrant Communities
- Climate Action

[Community Survey Results: seattle.gov/lightrail](https://seattle.gov/lightrail)

What is racial equity?

When social, economic and political opportunities are not determined by a person's race.



***Chinatown-International
District segment***

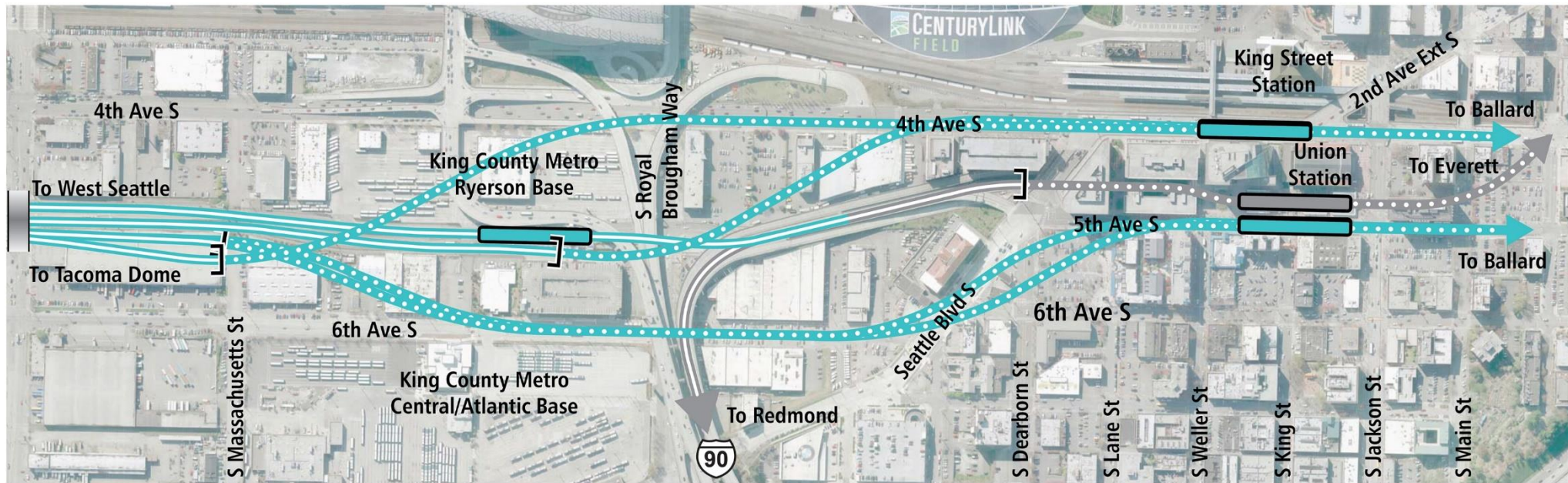
Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



KEY MAP

Red line / Red circle: West Seattle extension/Station area

Green line / Green circle: Ballard extension/Station area



Note: The Chinatown-International District Station 4th Avenue Shallow Alternative would necessitate reconstruction of the existing Stadium Station.

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES

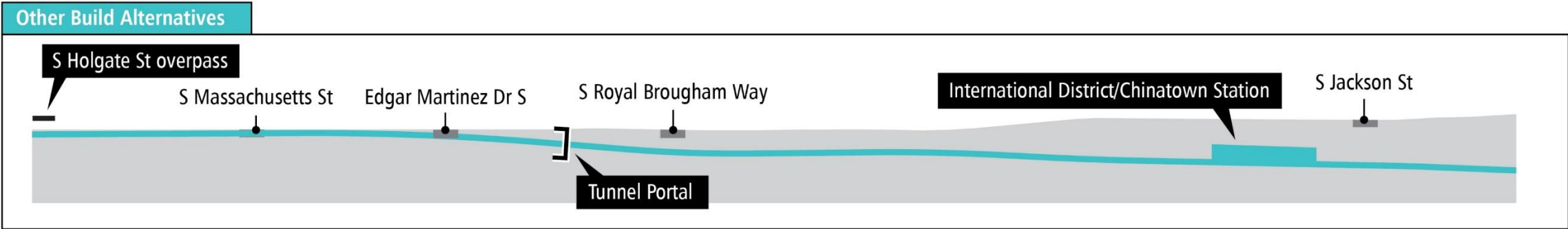
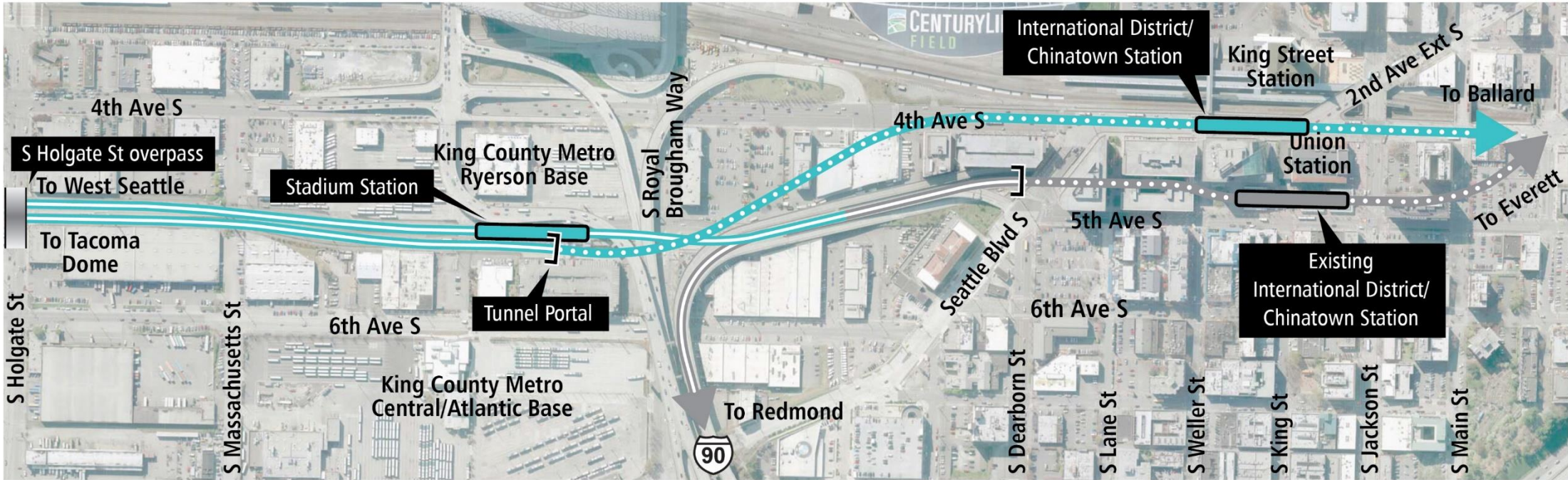
OTHER DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

- ELEVATED
- AT-GRADE
- TUNNEL
- TUNNEL PORTAL



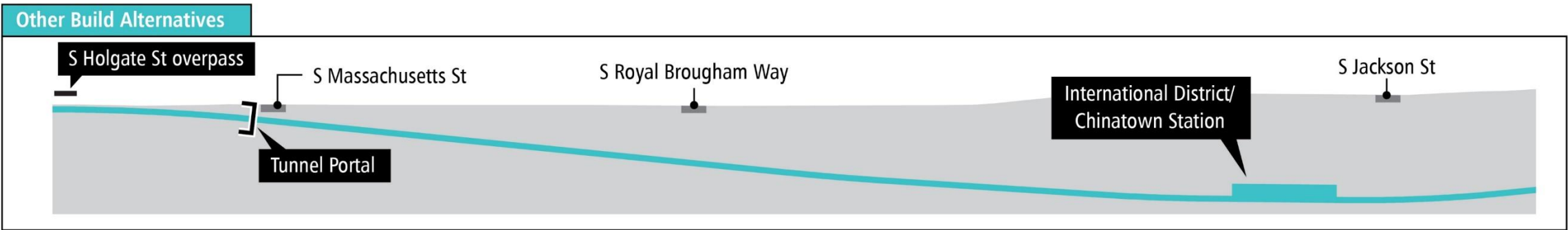
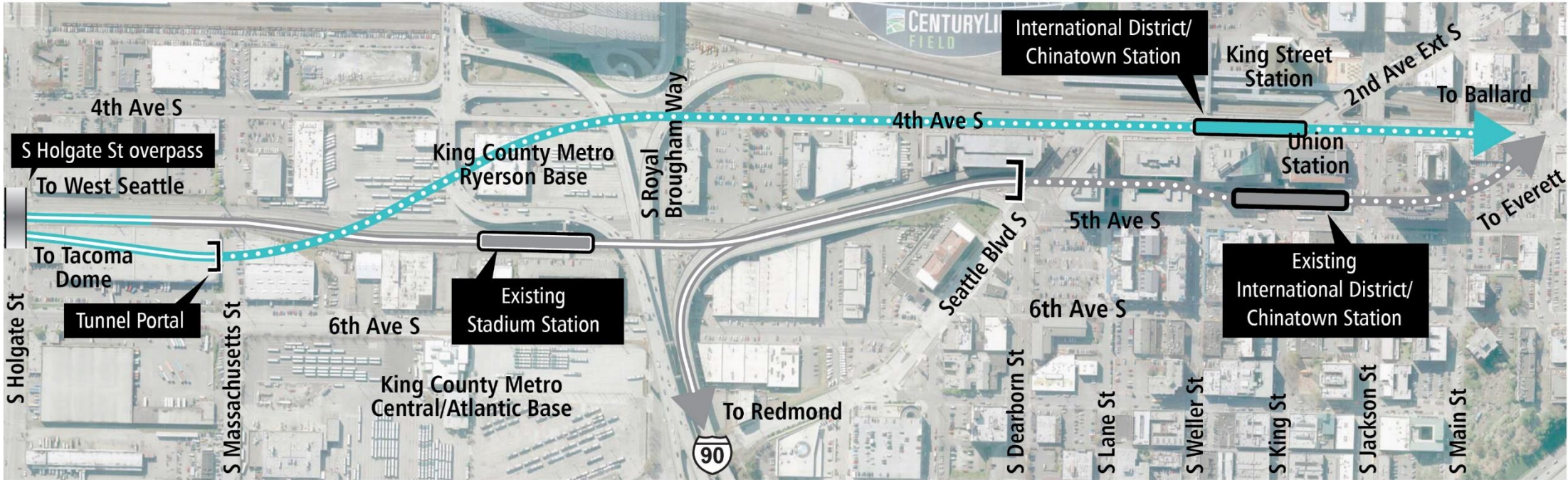
Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



4th Avenue Shallow (CID-1a)

Diagrams are not to scale. All measurements are approximate and are for discussion purposes only.

Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

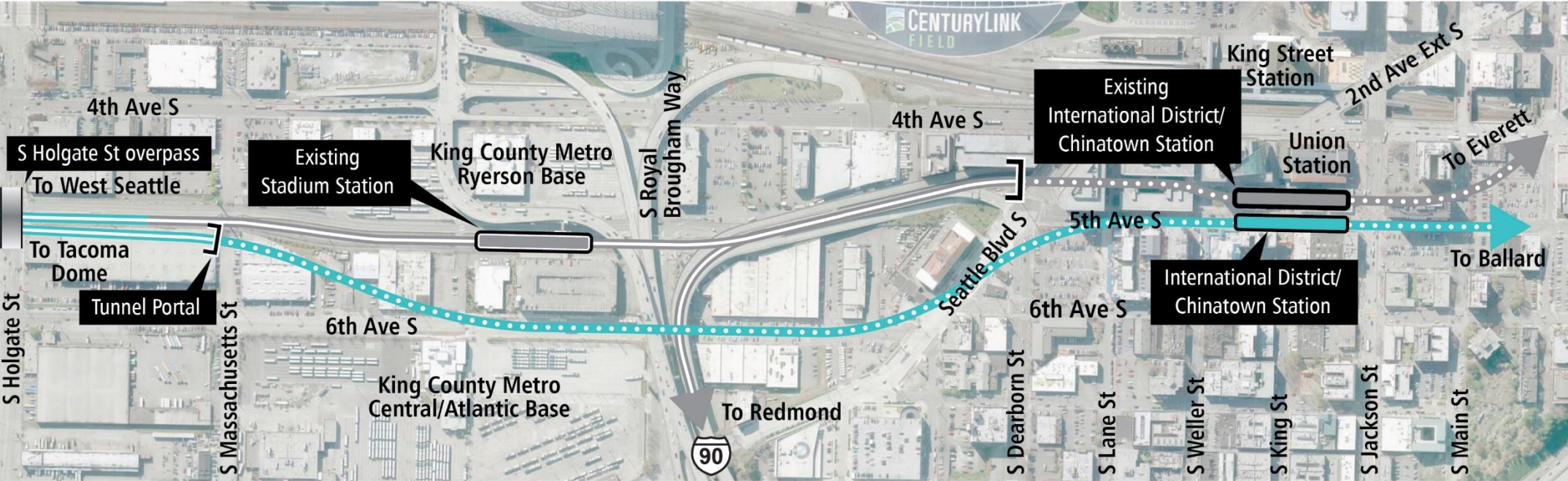


4th Avenue Deep Station Option (CID-1b)

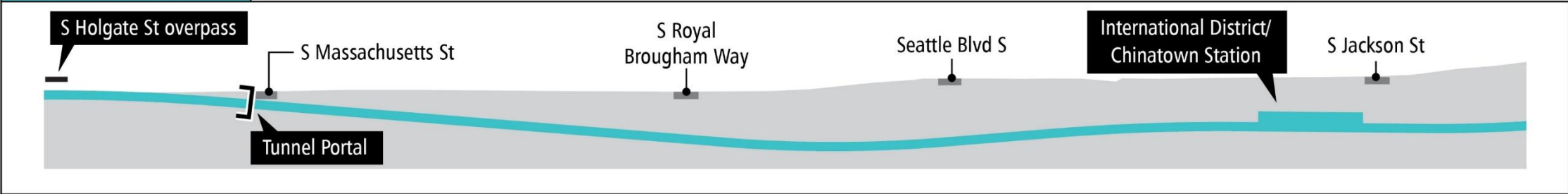
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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



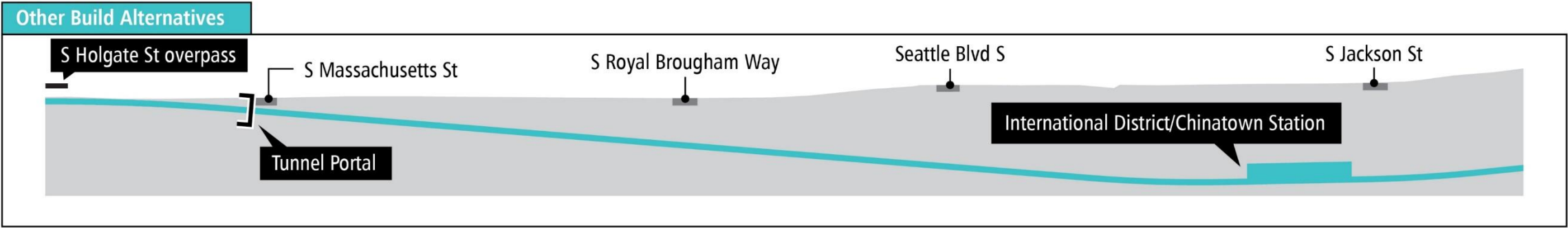
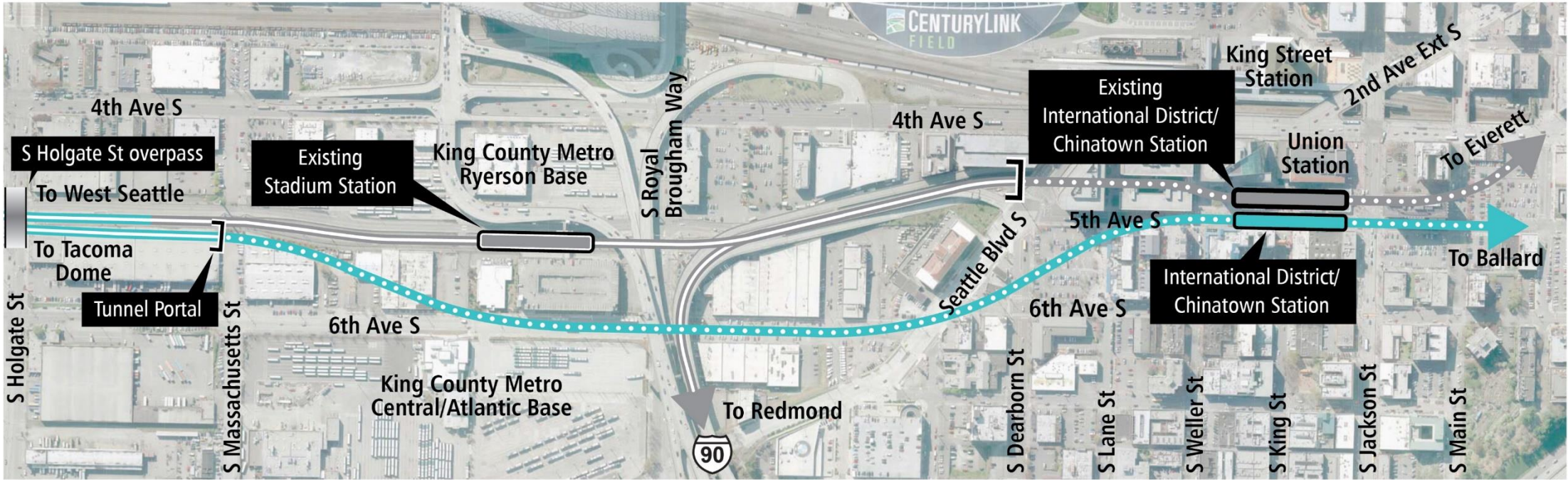
Other Build Alternatives



5th Avenue Shallow (CID-2a)

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



5th Avenue Deep Station Option (CID-2b)

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Environmental review

So, what's an Environmental Impact Statement?

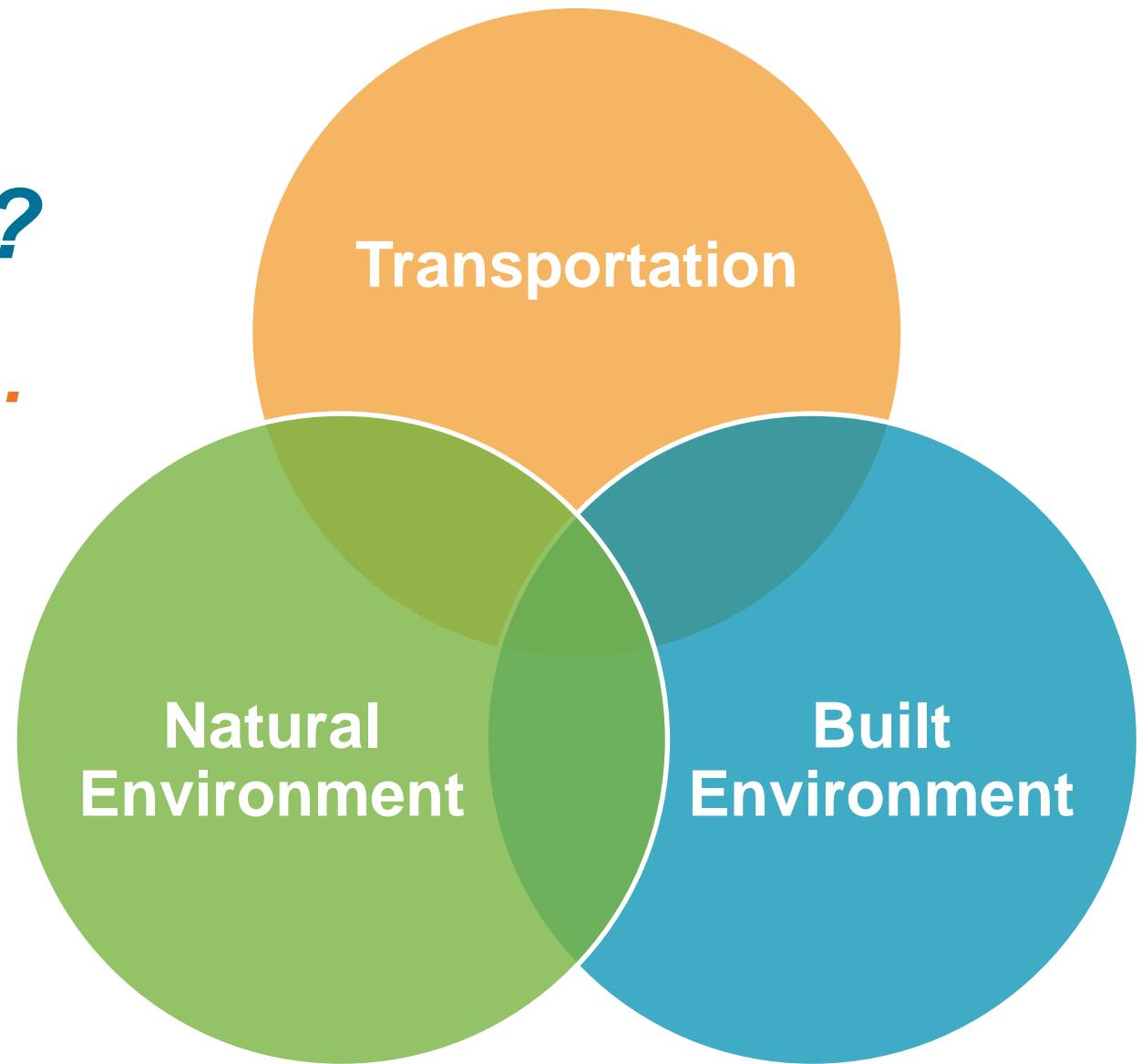
Or, “EIS” for short.

Provides agencies and the public an understanding of environmental consequences and assists in decision-making.

- 
- ✓ Scope
 - ✓ Range of alternatives
 - ✓ Potential impacts
 - ✓ Potential mitigation

What is typically studied in an EIS?

How a project affects...



EIS studies:

Transportation impacts

- ✓ Ridership
- ✓ Transit operations
- ✓ Regional and local traffic
- ✓ Non-motorized facilities and modes
- ✓ Freight movement
- ✓ Marine navigation
- ✓ Parking

EIS studies:

Natural environment impacts

- 
- ✓ Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
 - ✓ Ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat
 - ✓ Water resources
 - ✓ Geology and soils

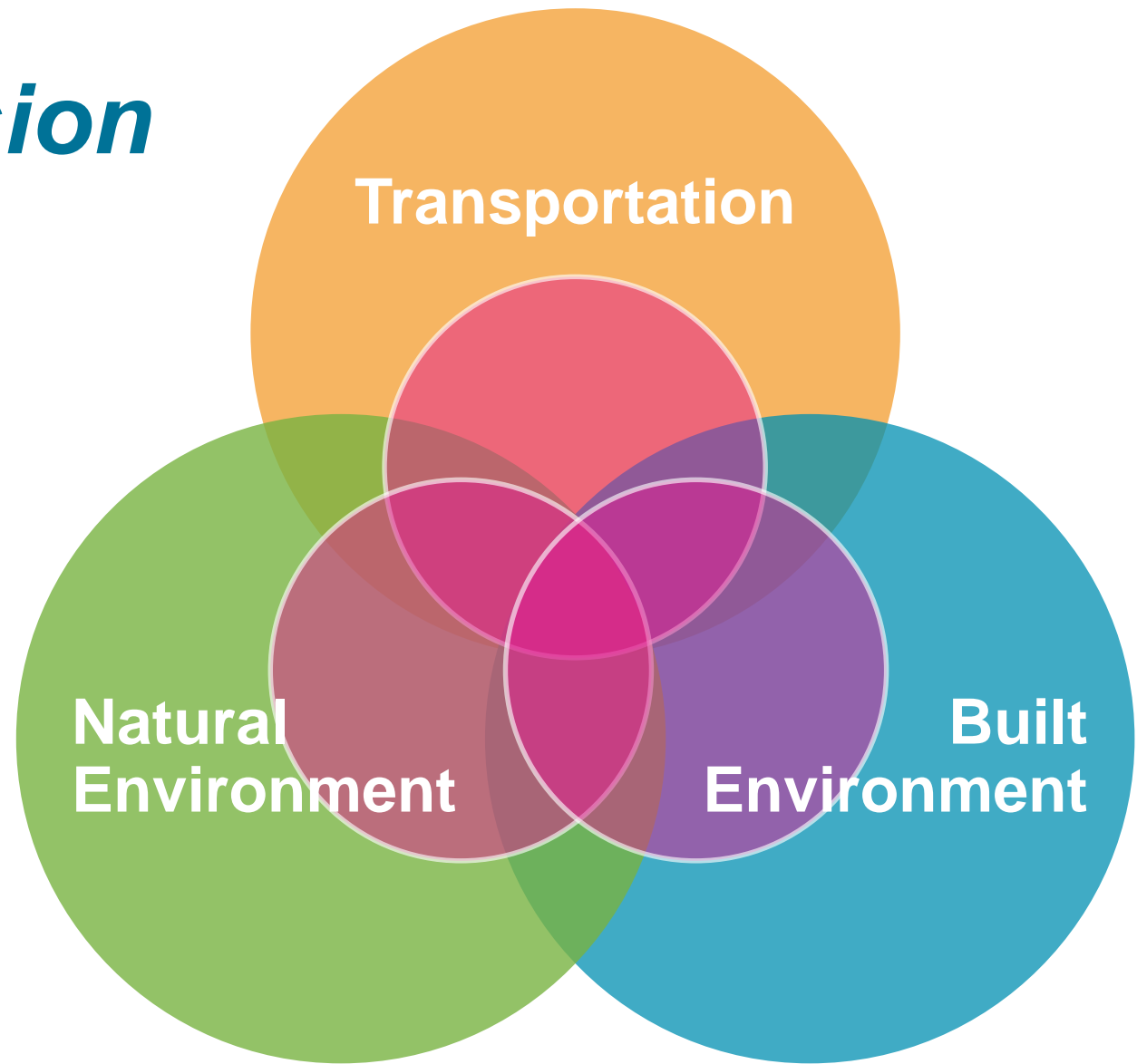
EIS studies:

Built environment impacts

- ✓ Noise and vibration
- ✓ Economic effects
- ✓ Visual resources
- ✓ Parks resources
- ✓ Land use
- ✓ Acquisitions, displacements and relocations

Equity and inclusion

***Environmental justice
focus within each
area of the EIS***



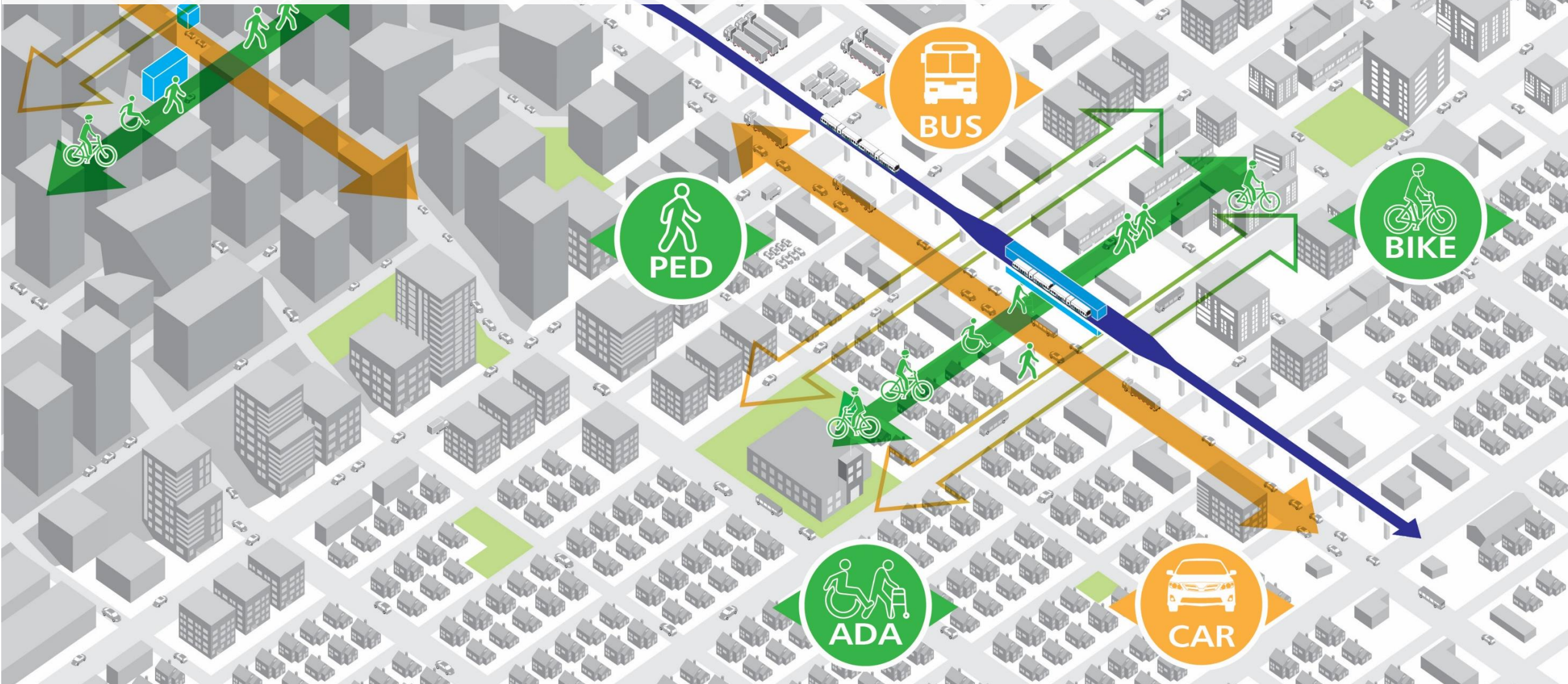
EIS studies:

Environmental justice

- ✓ Describes demographics
- ✓ Evaluates whether project disproportionately impacts minority and low-income communities
- ✓ Considers potential project benefits such as improved access to opportunity
- ✓ Documents what we hear from outreach efforts

Station Planning

Stations serving communities



wsblink.participate.online

Community engagement & collaboration

Coming up (Winter/Spring 2021)

Focus: Prepare the community for publication of the DEIS, including updates around station planning and how to engage

- Online engagement platform (**wsblink.participate.online**)
- **Community briefings**
- **Equitable engagement approaches**
- ***Near Neighbor*** mailer
- Outreach to **property owners** (Mid-2021)

DEIS publication (Mid-2021)

Focus: Share information found in Draft EIS and collect feedback

- Seek formal comments on the Draft EIS to share with the Sound Transit Board and Federal Transit Administration
 - Share information in a variety of formats (including online), focus on accessibility
 - Provide several ways for people to provide comments. For example, online, voicemail, email, in-language, public comment and more.

Questions?

Thank you!

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