

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Seattle Design Commission

10/20/2022



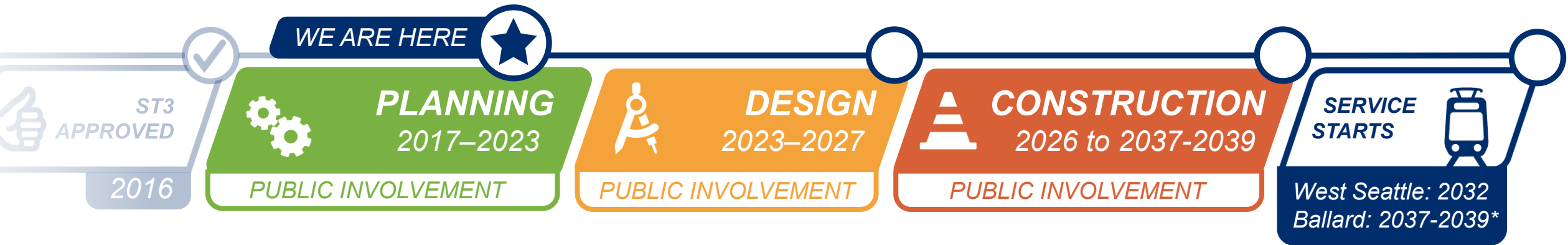
Why we're here

- West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project update
- Board direction on preferred alternative and further studies

Project update

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Project timeline





PLANNING



DES

2017–2019

Alternatives development

- ✓ Feb–March 2018: Early scoping
- ✓ Feb–April 2019: Scoping
- ✓ May–Oct 2019: Board identified preferred alternatives and other DEIS alternatives



2019–2023

Environmental review

Early 2022: Publish Draft EIS

Public comment period

Board confirms or modifies preferred alternatives

2023: Publish Final EIS




Board selects projects to be built

Federal Record of Decision

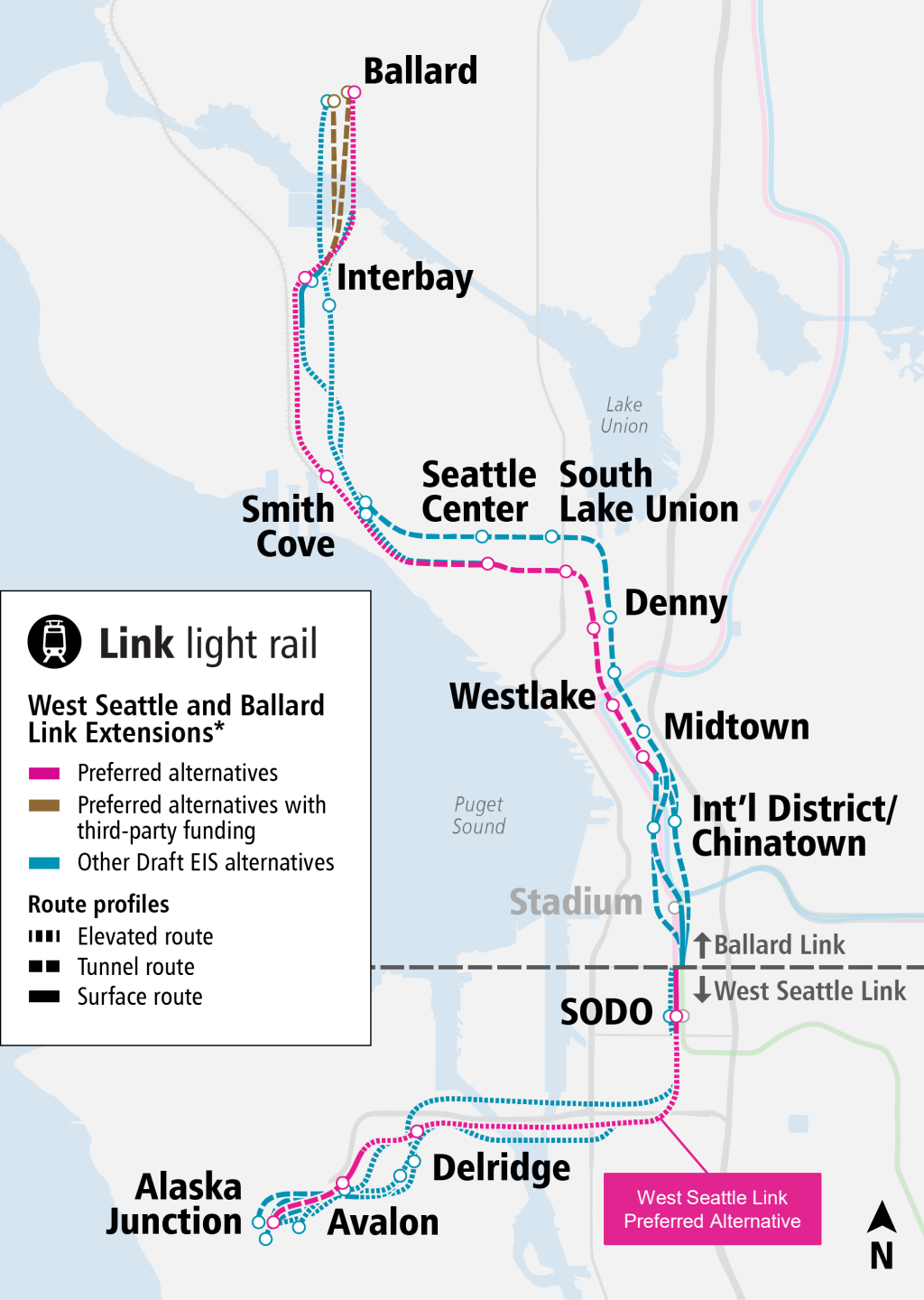
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Draft EIS alternatives

What we're studying in this phase

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

*July 2022: The Sound Transit Board identified the preferred alternative for the West Seattle Link Extension and will also consider the At-Grade South Station Option (SODO 1-b) as a possible Preferred Alternative. Further study and community input are required before the Board confirms or modifies the preferred alternative for the Ballard Link Extension.



Board motion

Motion No. M2022-57

Confirms or modifies the preferred light rail route and station locations for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Final Environmental Impact Statement and requesting further studies in some areas to inform potential additional future Board action to confirm or modify the Preferred Alternative.

West Seattle Link Extension

Preferred Alternative for the West Seattle Link Extension is:

- **West Seattle Junction segment:** Medium Tunnel 41st Avenue Station (WSJ-5)
- **Delridge segment:** Andover Street Station Lower Height (DEL-6)
- **Duwamish Segment:** South Crossing (DUW-1a)
- **SODO segment:** At-Grade Alternative (SODO-1a) Staggered Station Configuration*

These alternatives are affordable within the realigned financial plan for the West Seattle Link Extension

SODO Station

The Board will also consider the At-Grade South Station Option (SODO 1-b) as a possible Preferred Alternative with future endorsement contingent on resolving with partner agencies federal property acquisition requirements and project funding needs in a manner that does not impact the West Seattle Link Extension schedule.

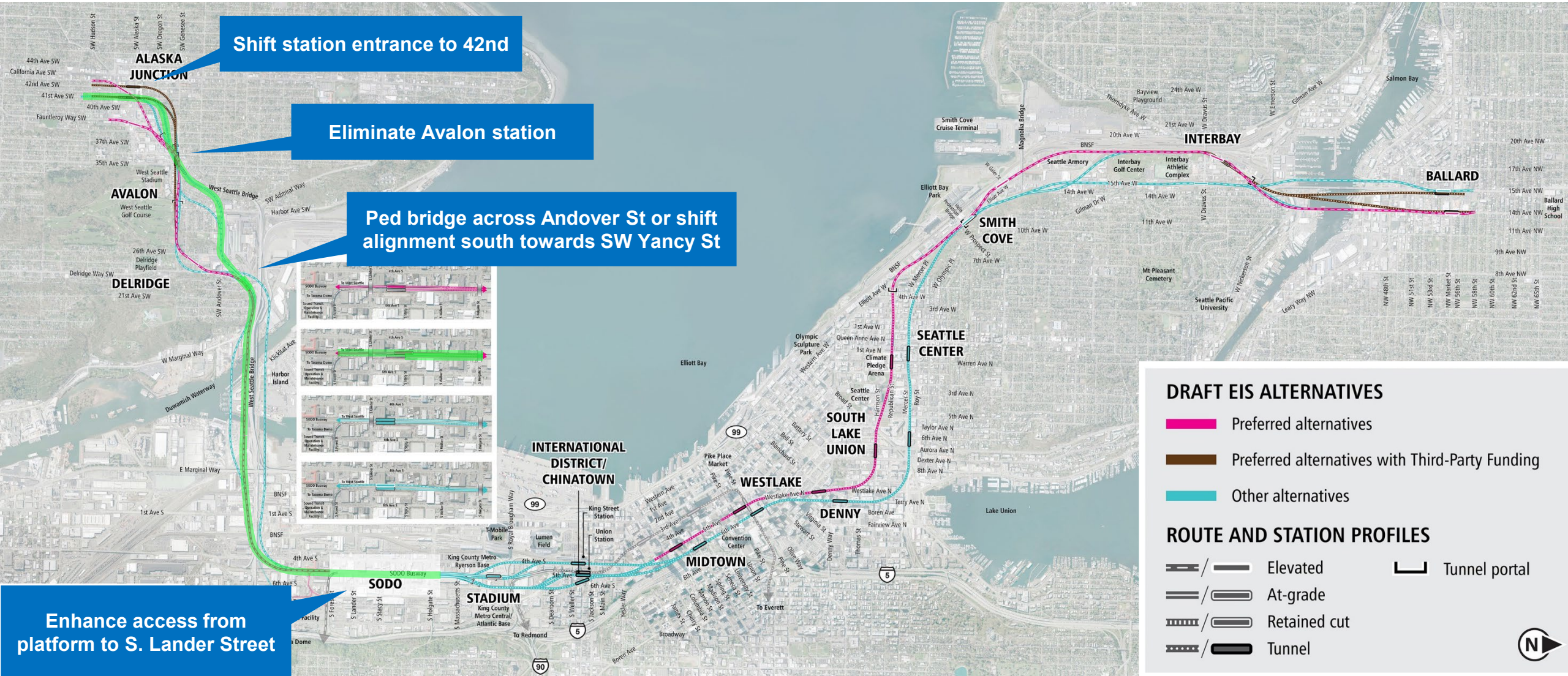
West Seattle Link Extension: Preferred Alternative



SODO:
**At-Grade Alternative Staggered
Station Configuration**
or
At-Grade South Station Option*

*The Board will also consider the At-Grade South Station Option (SODO 1-b) as a possible Preferred Alternative with future endorsement contingent on resolving with partner agencies federal property acquisition requirements and project funding needs in a manner that does not impact the West Seattle Link Extension schedule.

West Seattle Link Extension: Further studies



Ballard Link Extension

Before confirming or modifying the Preferred Alternative, limited further study and engagement is requested in certain areas including:

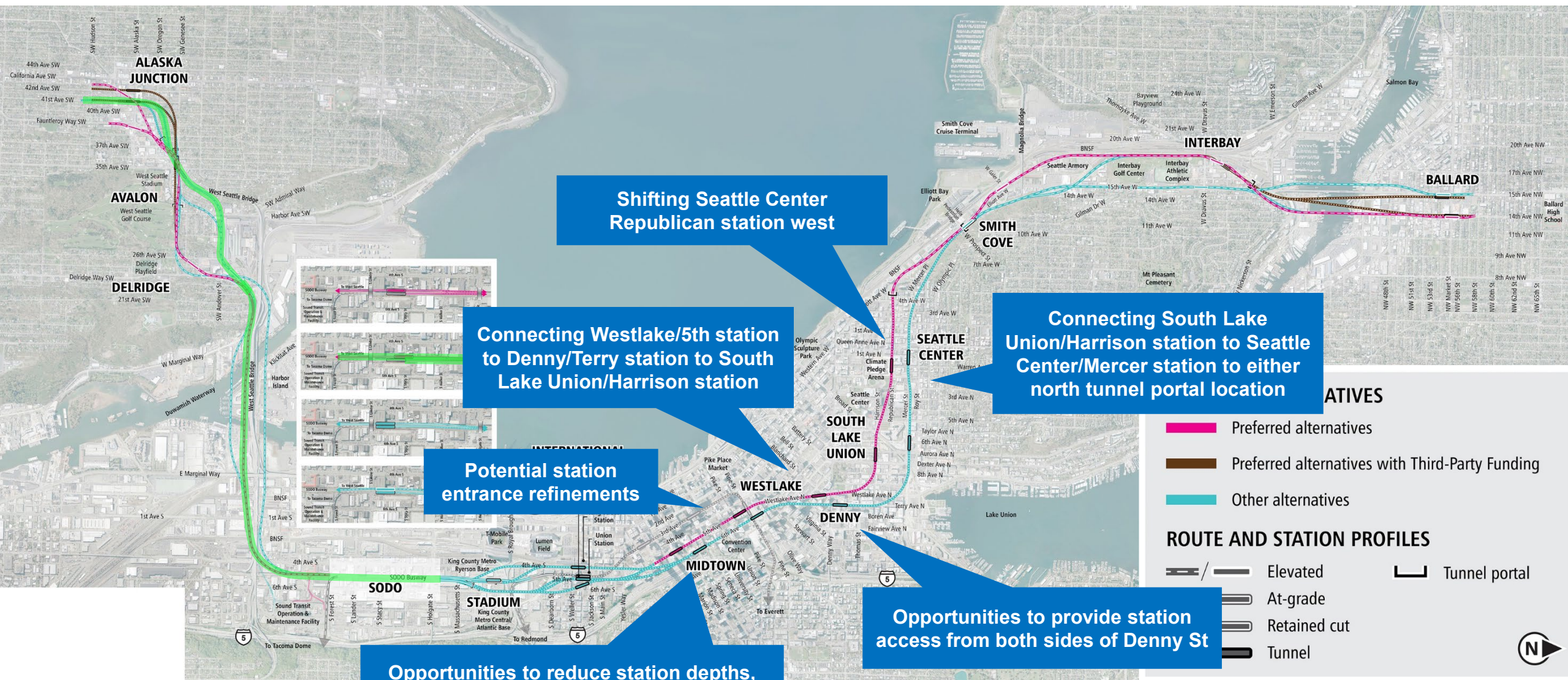
- **CID segment**
- **Downtown segment**
- **South Interbay Segment**
- **Interbay/Ballard segment**

Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – CID

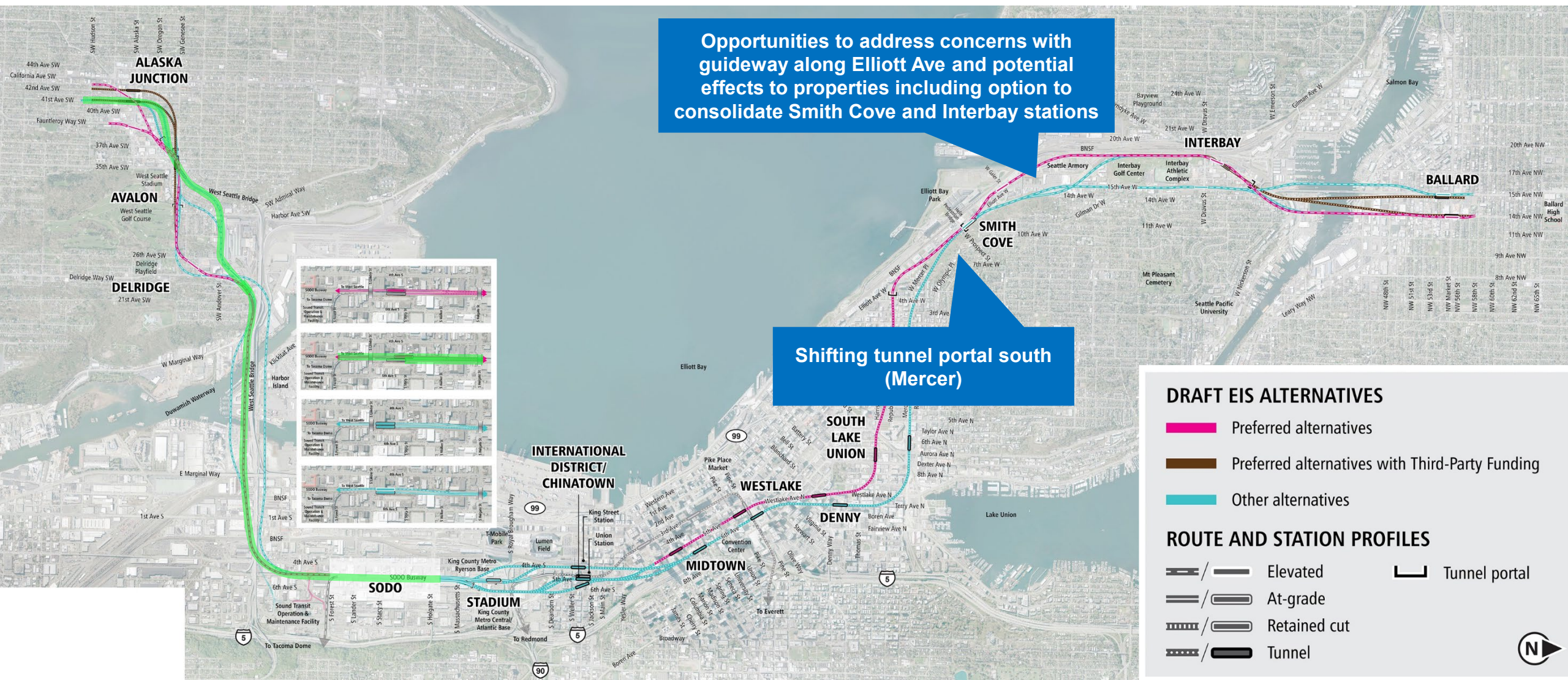
Further study and engagement between community and agency partners focused on the shallow CID options to:

- Seek to address remaining questions, minimize potential impacts and maximize community benefits
- Explore how to create an integrated, well-connected hub for all modes, opportunities to enhance ridership and access, activate or modify use of Union Station and plaza, as well as funding and cost savings opportunities
- The study should include concepts requested by community and agency partners, including **but not limited to** work to define a 4th Avenue shallow tunnel option with a goal to maximize benefits while minimizing costs and impacts

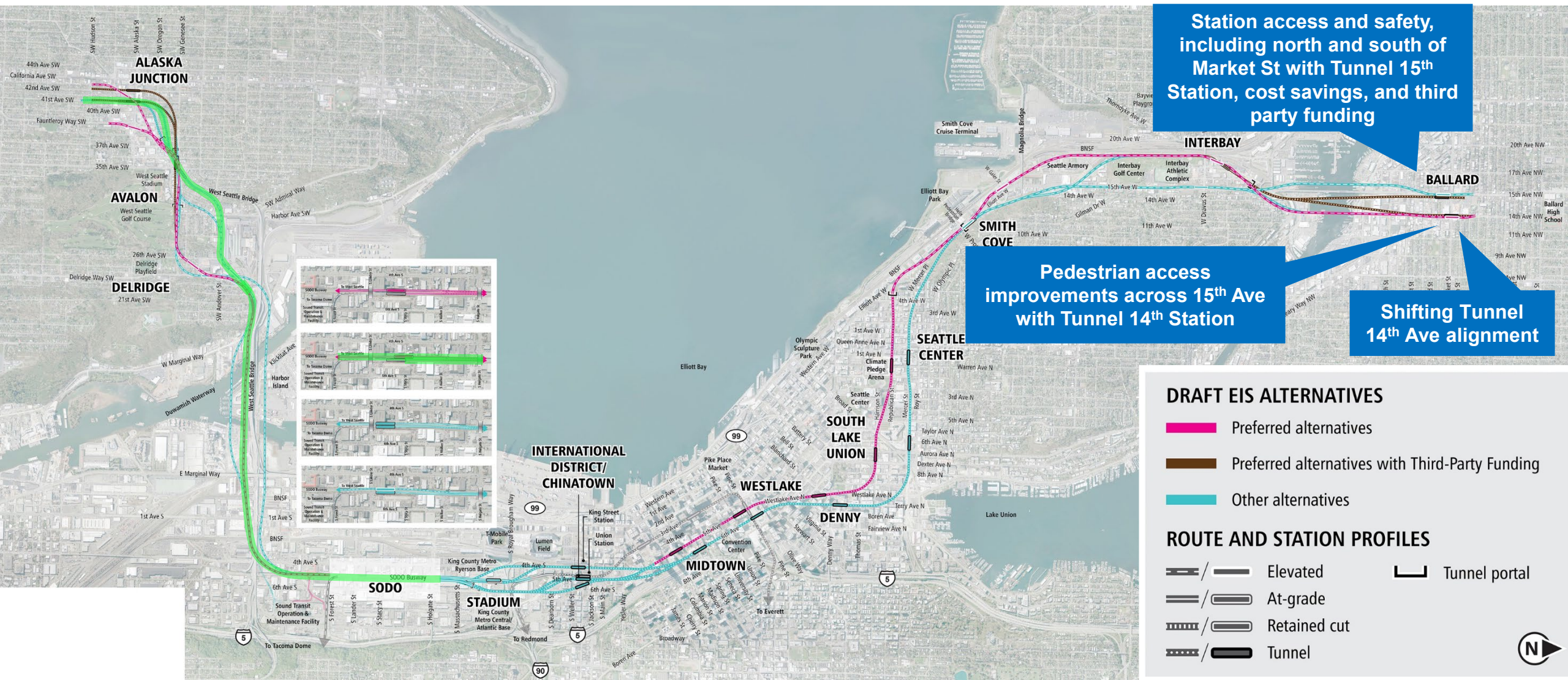
Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – Downtown



Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – South Interbay



Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – Interbay/Ballard



Additional Board direction

- Requests that City of Seattle, King County and other potential partners collaborate with Sound Transit to identify potential third-party funding sources should cost of project from end to end, including potential refinements, exceed assumptions in realigned financial plan
- Authorizes staff to advance the Final EIS and Preliminary Engineering for the West Seattle Extension. Staff is also authorized to advance efforts in support of Final EIS development for the Ballard Link Extension to the extent possible, consistent with Board direction regarding the preferred alternatives
- Authorizes staff to advance station planning activities and work to respond to comments received on the Draft EIS

Additional Board direction

- Evaluation of potential refinements will be conducted consistent with project purpose and need which builds upon the criteria established in the ST3 ballot measure (Resolution No. R2016-17) and the five core principles identified in both Motion No. M2020-36 and Motion No. M2020-37
- Board directs staff to continue public engagement and planning to address other project-wide interests and concerns including encouraging more biking and walking mode share; accommodating future expansion; advancing equitable TOD, particularly community-led/driven TOD; design of shallower tunnel stations and fast and reliable transit transfers; enhancing station accessibility and reliability of vertical conveyances

Engagement and Board updates

Next steps – Board meetings

September 2022: SODO station update

October 2022: CID station engagement update

November 2022: Status update on areas of further study

February 2023: Status report on areas of further study

CID Engagement Process



*Process informed by
CID Engagement
Toolkit and discussions
with community*

Key Questions

- What hasn't worked with previous engagement?
- What does a transparent process look like?
- What would you like to see in the process?
- Would you like a facilitator?



WHAT COULD THIS PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

Iterative, facilitated, and responsive process adapts as needed to serve community



SUPPORTING THE PROCESS



*Targeted Level of Community Engagement: Involve
We will aim to engage at a Collaborate level wherever possible.*

Thank you.



 *soundtransit.org*

