

Sept. 24 RapidRide J Line presentation script

Slide 1

RYAN

Thank you for joining the RapidRide J Line online open house for September 24, 2024.

I'm Ryan Bianchi, and I am the meeting moderator. We appreciate your patience while we get everyone transferred from the waiting room to the meeting.

As people continue to join, I want to go over a few items that will help with translations and how we will conduct the meeting.

Slide 2 – Translations intro slide

RYAN

This presentation software has a translations function for webinars that provides real-time translated captions. This image shows a standard meeting view. The red arrow at the upper right of the screen is pointing to three dots that you can click to get to “language and speech.”

Slide 3 – Translations details

Zooming in for a little more detail... and going back to the first step to find translations of tonight's meeting. Click on the three dots labeled “more.” Second, select language and speech. Third, choose “show live captions.” Fourth, pick the language you want by opening the caption settings on the left side of the screen and clicking on your preferred language.

Slide 4 – Asking Questions

Now, let's go over how to participate in tonight's meeting by going back to our typical meeting view. This time the red arrow in the upper right side of the screen is pointing at the Q&A button. We're going to take a moment to walk through the details about the Q&A.

Slide 5 - Webinar Participation

RYAN

To reduce background noise, improve everyone's experience, and to ensure everyone has a chance to ask questions, all attendees are muted. We encourage you to ask questions as they come to you throughout the presentation using the Q&A window. We will be responding to questions and comments after our presentation. We are not monitoring the chat for questions and comments but it is available if you need technical help.

Slide 6 - Agenda

RYAN

Let's take a look at the agenda for today's meeting.

- First, I'll introduce our presenters and those who will be available to help answer and questions in the Q&A portion of our program.

- We will review what the RapidRide J Line project is and why we're building it.
- We will talk through what to expect through construction and how to keep in contact with us.
- At the end we'll leave time to respond to Q&As.

Now let's introduce our panelists for today...

- Darrell Bulmer is the community engagement lead for the project.
- Garth Merrill is the J Line project manager.
- Chris Barnes is the J Line construction manager
- We are hear from Amanda Hohlfeld from the Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods
- and Phillip Sit from the Seattle's Office of Economic Development
- Ryan Whitney from King County Metro is also online with us to help answer any bus service related questions we may get.

Slide 7 - Why RapidRide

DARRELL

Thank for joining us today. This will be a reminder for some and a brief overview for new neighbors who maybe finding out these details for the first time today.

Our City is growing, and changing, and with that comes the need for improved transportation options.

The RapidRide J Line project will upgrade King County Metro's Route 70 and install a RapidRide level of service that will enhance bus access, reliability, and station amenities.

The project improves pedestrian and cyclist safety through the installation of protected bike lanes and provides connections to existing modes of transportation, such as Link light rail and Seattle Streetcar.

The project also improves neighborhoods by improving infrastructure, and we'll look at some of this in a moment.

Slide 8 – RapidRide Key features

DARRELL

Convenient and easy to use

Service starts early and runs late, every day

Buses come at least every 10 minutes during busiest hours

All-door boarding is available on all coaches to shorten loading times

Riders with mobility aids can secure themselves easily

Safe and smart

Stations have real-time arrival signs

Transit signal priority synchronizes traffic lights with buses

Shelters are well lit, and all buses have security cameras

Move more, stop less

Bus station spacing helps speed up your ride

Street and traffic improvements make it easier to get to/from the bus

Slide 9 – By the numbers

DARRELL

Completing this project requires significant levels of construction and renovation of the roadway, sidewalks and intersections. To minimize continuous neighborhood disruptions, the city of Seattle determined that aging water mains beneath the roadway, some of which are more than 100 years old, should be replaced during RapidRide J Line construction. When complete, pedestrians, people riding bikes, and those driving will all enjoy safer intersections, more abundant trees and better lighting.

Slide 10 – What we heard/how we responded

DARRELL

Preserved and increased the number of planted medians on Eastlake Ave E, adding more trees to these wherever possible

Identified loading zones for businesses, both on Eastlake Ave E nearest to businesses and on adjacent streets

Worked with the community through various parking mitigation measures, including an RPZ study

Updated plans to plant 190 trees to mitigate the loss of trees removed to widen sidewalks. There will be a net gain of 98 trees upon project completion

Added additional bike lane protection south of the University Bridge

Slide 11 – Construction overview transition

Now I'm going to hand it over to Garth Merrill to talk through what we know about the contractor plans to build J – Line and have it operating by 2027.

Slide 12 – Project area

GARTH

Please note: Work does not include University Bridge

Slide 13 – Project timelines and plan views

GARTH

Please note: Construction schedules are variable from week to week.

Slides 14 – 24 – Plan views

GARTH

Slide 25 – What to expect during construction

DARRELL

- Typical work hours – 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Occasional evening and weekend work may be necessary.
- Parking restrictions
- Shifting load zones
- Shifting traffic lanes and driveway access
- Flaggers directing traffic around work areas
- Detours for people walking, biking, and rolling
- Temporary bus detours and bus stop relocations for Route 70
- Construction staging for materials, equipment and vehicles
- Utility shutoffs
- Changes to waste pick-up locations
- Noise, dust and debris

Slide 26 – Future communications and coordination

Our engagement staff is out in the community. Through construction, we will continue to engage businesses and residents along the project with emails, door-to-door outreach and regular public meetings.

Construction schedules are variable.

Our engagement team will work with the contractor to determine what activities will likely be disruptive for residents and businesses along the project and then deliver notice about the effects.

Slide 27 – DON OED transition slide

DARRELL

We want to make sure we're doing all we can to help businesses and residents through the construction phase of the project. To help with the project, we are joined by the department of neighborhoods and the office of economic development.

Slide 28 – Partnership with the Department of Neighborhoods

AMANDA – Hi, I'm Amanda Hohlfeld with the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. We're partnering with SDOT to help support community engagement for this project.

As part of this partnership, we provide guidance on inclusive outreach & engagement strategies. We have the support of our Community Liaisons (community leaders who help bridge people & city government)--who you might see & talk to when they're out & about in the area; we help with best practices for communicating with diverse audiences—so if you or someone you know has translation needs or other accessibility needs we can help with that; and finally we help build relationships & collaborate with community on solutions, so if you're running into issues we can try to help troubleshoot.

And I'll pass it over to [Phillip/Maria] at the Office of Economic Development.

Slide 29 – Office of Economic Development

Slide 30 – Consulting Services

Slide 31 – Business Development Program

Slide 32 – DON Contact page

Slide 33 – Contact information

RYAN

In a few moments we'll get to Q&A so I want to take a moment to remind you to send your questions our way.

Our last slide before Q&A shows how you can reach us -

Project related questions should be sent to our email - RapidRide@Seattle.Gov - or call - 206-257-2202. Our project website is also on your screen or you can search for RapidRide J Line Seattle in any search engine.

We also encourage you to keep participating in events like you are today. Event information is shared through our email updates and project website.

Slide 34 – Q&A

RYAN

Now, it's time for the question-and-answer portion of the program.

Please submit questions and comments through the Q&A box and I will read them to the panelists for answers. When submitting questions, please send them individually and try to keep them a

sentence or two in length. Questions that are too long or specific to an individual can be difficult to answer in the moment and we may need to follow up with you offline.

AT END OF QUESTIONS HOST TO SAY: Those are all of our questions for today. Thank you for participating in our monthly meeting.

Slide 35 – CONTACT INFORMATION (CLOSING SLIDE)