

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Discussing the King County Metro North Link Connections Mobility Project
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PRESENTED BY:	Randy Witt, Public Works Director Nytasha Sowers, Transportation Services Manager
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The King County long-range plan for transit service, Metro Connects, plans for a significant increase of bus service in the City of Shoreline. Since adoption of this plan, King County Metro has been working with other regional transit agencies and local jurisdictions to implement the Metro Connects vision, including more service and capital projects.

In 2021, Sound Transit will open three new light rail stations in north Seattle, extending service from the current terminal at the University of Washington (Husky Stadium) to the Northgate Transit Center. King County Metro is evaluating its routes in this area in order to complement light rail service by adding connections and eliminating duplicate routes. The service changes will support Metro Connects service recommendations and will prioritize improving mobility and access for historically underserved populations. King County Metro has named this evaluation process the North Link Connections Mobility Project.

King County Metro is currently having conversations with jurisdictional partners, agency partners, and community-based organizations about the North Link Connections Mobility Project, its goals, and special considerations. Tonight, Dave VanderZee, Project Manager, and Maha Jahshan, Senior Community Relations Planner, from King County Metro will provide an overview of the North Link Connections Mobility Project.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with tonight's discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required with this agenda item. Staff recommends that Council discuss the North Link Connections Mobility Project with King County Metro staff.

Approved By: City Manager: **DT** City Attorney: **MK**

BACKGROUND

The King County Council adopted its long-range plan for transit service, entitled Metro Connects, on January 23, 2017. Metro Connects plans for a significant increase of bus service in the City of Shoreline, identifying bus routes and levels of service in Shoreline based on the years 2025 and 2040. Metro Connects was endorsed by the Shoreline City Council on May 9, 2016. This staff for this Council discussion can be found at the following link:

<http://cosweb.ci.shoreline.wa.us/uploads/attachments/cck/council/staffreports/2016/staffreport050916-9b.pdf>.

Since adoption of this plan, King County Metro has been working with other regional transit agencies and local jurisdictions to implement the Metro Connects vision, including more service and capital projects.

DISCUSSION

In 2021, Sound Transit will open three new light rail stations in north Seattle, extending service from the current terminal at the University of Washington (Husky Stadium) to the Northgate Transit Center. King County Metro is evaluating its routes in this area in order to complement light rail service by adding connections and eliminating duplicate routes.

As part of their scope, King County Metro will evaluate and consider major changes to over 30 routes serving communities within Seattle, Shoreline, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Bothell, and Woodinville (see Attachment A for a map of the area under study for service changes). The service changes will consider Metro Connects service recommendations and will prioritize improving mobility and access for historically underserved populations. King County Metro has named this evaluation process the North Link Connections Mobility Project (Project).

The goals of the Project are as follows:

1. Improve mobility for historically un(der)served populations,
2. Equitably inform and engage with current and potential customers traveling in the Project area, and
3. Deliver integrated service that responds to light rail expansion and meets custom needs.

The Project is a collaborative effort between King County Metro, Community Transit, the University of Washington, and the Seattle Department of Transportation, working with affected jurisdictions such as the City of Shoreline. Service network scenarios will be developed to be adaptable to multiple revenue scenarios, including different levels of funding from the Seattle Transportation Benefit District.

The Project is being implemented in four phases, with the first phase having already been completed. An overview of these phases is presented below with more detailed information provided in Attachment B.

- Phase 1 (June to September 2019). The objective of Phase 1 was to inform and receive initial input from the community on the Project's goals and recruit members for two advisory boards, the Mobility Board and the Partner Review Board. Community members were recruited from the Project's study area (Attachment A) for the Mobility Board and jurisdictions and several regional entities served by King County Metro provide representatives for the Partner Review Board. The City of Shoreline is represented on the Partner Review Board. These advisory boards will inform the refinement of the Project's goals, decision making approach, and service improvement recommendations. Information collected from the public, stakeholders, and the two advisory boards during this phase was used to develop draft concepts for proposed changes to bus routes that will be further refined during Phase 2.
- Phase 2 (mid-October to December 2019). During this phase, King County Metro will develop and ask for more community feedback on draft transit service network concepts.
- Phase 3 (March and April 2020). During this phase, King County Metro will engage its advisory boards to prepare a final proposal and communicate its proposal to the affected study area community.
- Phase 4 (June 2020 to March 2021). During this phase, King County Metro will continue work on presenting its new service plan to the affected community.

King County Metro will be engaging the public during the duration of the Project, including focused outreach to historically underserved populations. King County Metro has identified the following three community engagement goals for the Project:

- Build authentic and lasting relationships with historically un(der)served populations in the Project study area.
- Design final changes in partnership with historically un(der)served communities in order to build a strong transit network that increases access and mobility, especially for those who are disproportionately affected by transit inequities.
- Communicate the service proposal goals and King County Metro goals related to equitable outcomes to the broader-affected communities, demonstrating how the service proposal helps King County Metro advance equitable outcomes in the study area.

After all Project phases are completed and service modifications are determined, these changes will be implemented at Metro's service change in either March or September 2021, whichever date most closely follows the opening of the Northgate light rail extension.

Tonight, Council will be joined by Dave VanderZee, Project Manager, and Maha Jahshan, Senior Community Relations Planner, from King County Metro who will provide Council with an overview of the North Link Connections Mobility Project. A copy of their PowerPoint presentation is included with staff report as Attachment C.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with tonight's discussion.

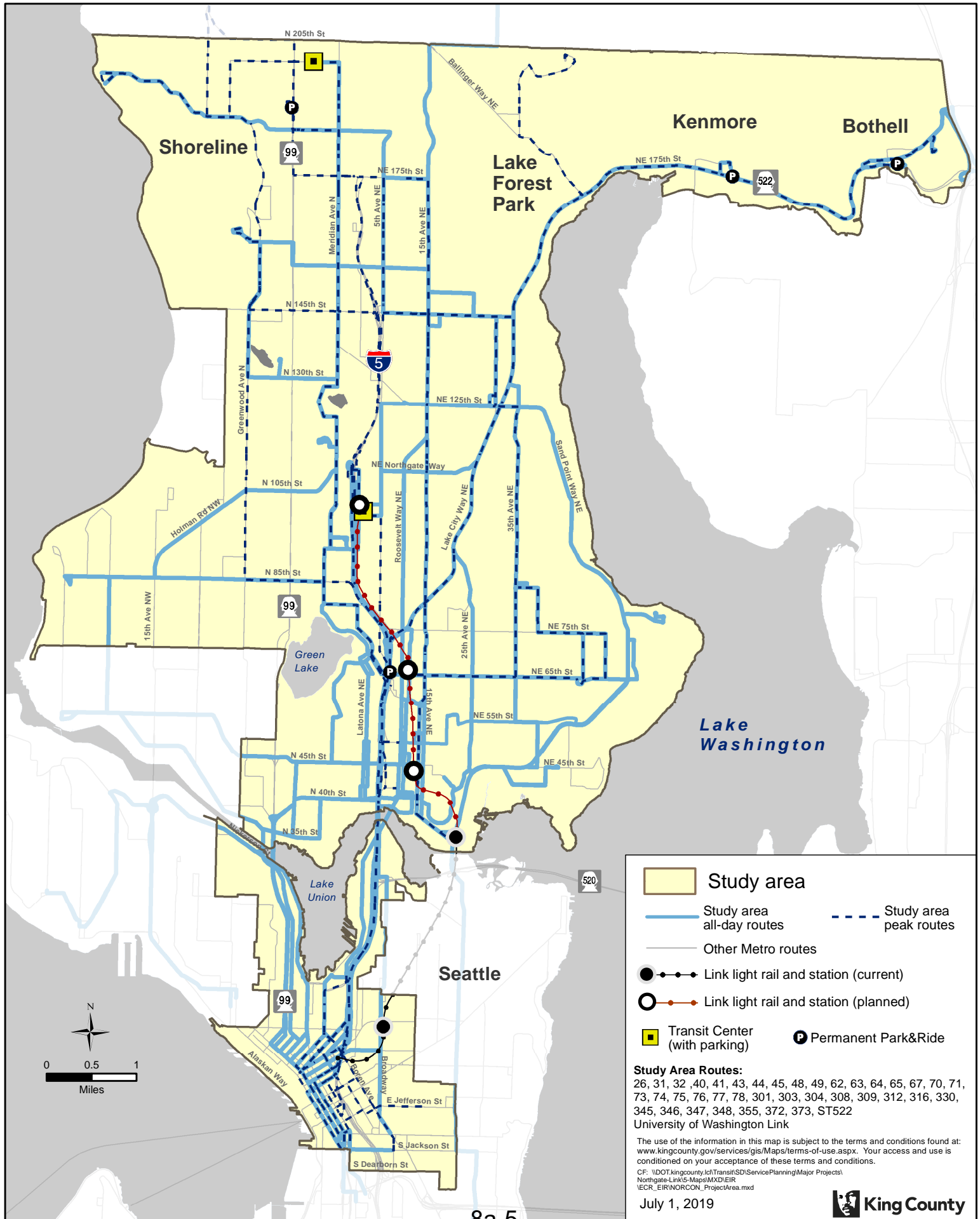
RECOMMENDATION

No action is required with this agenda item. Staff recommends that Council discuss the North Link Connections Mobility Project with King County Metro staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: North Link Connections Mobility Project Study Area
Attachment B: North Link Connections Community Engagement Plan Overview
Attachment C: King County Metro North Link Connections Mobility Project
Presentation

North Link Connections Mobility Project: Study Area



Community Engagement Plan Overview

Project Summary

- Sound Transit will open three new Link light rail stations in north Seattle in 2021, extending from the current terminal at University of Washington – Husky Stadium to Northgate Transit Center. Metro is assuming a March 2021 opening.
- In order to prepare for the Northgate Link opening, respond to changing transportation needs, and improve mobility and access for historically underserved populations, Metro is initiating a mobility project in north Seattle and north King County. The project will be done in coordination with Sound Transit, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), the University of Washington, Community Transit, and many other partners.
- The updated mobility network will be implemented at Metro's service change in either March or September 2021, whichever most closely follows the opening of the Link light rail extension.

Project Scope

Metro will evaluate and consider major changes to over 30 routes serving communities within Seattle, Shoreline, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Bothell, and Woodinville. Service network scenarios will be developed to be adaptable to multiple revenue scenarios, including different levels of funding from the Seattle Transportation Benefit District.

Goals & Objectives

1. Improve mobility for historically underserved populations, centering on people of color
 - a. Increase accessibility to community assets for priority populations
 - b. Increase accessibility to jobs, especially family wage jobs, for priority populations
 - c. Increase access to frequent service for priority populations
2. Equitably inform, engage, and empower current and potential customers traveling in the project area
 - a. Employ an equity-focused approach to planning & decision making
 - b. Evaluate project using an Equity Impact Review (EIR)
3. Deliver integrated service that responds to Link expansion and meets customer needs
 - a. Minimize duplication of Metro service with Link light rail
 - b. Improve connections to Link, including development of facilities that support easy, comfortable, and convenient transfers between modes
 - c. Redesign existing fixed-route service to respond to current and future mobility needs, consistent with the METRO CONNECTS service network vision
 - d. Plan for changes that encompass the full range of Metro mobility services including fixed-route, flexible service, ridesharing, and accessible services



March to May 2019

Project Planning

June 2019

Finalize Project Management Plan & Public Involvement Plan

June to July 2019

Phase 1 Outreach

September to November/December 2019

Phase 2 Outreach

March to April 2020

Phase 3 Outreach

June to July 2020

Finalize plan and draft service change legislation

Sept 2020

Service change ordinance adopted by Council

Oct 2020

March 2021 Service Change Package published

March 2021

New changes implemented



Moving forward together





Community Engagement Plan Overview



Goals

- Build authentic and lasting relationships with historically un(der)served populations in project study area
- Design final changes in partnership with historically un(der)served communities in order to build a strong transit network that increases access and mobility, especially for those who are disproportionately affected by transit inequities
- Communicate the service proposal goals and Metro's goals related to equitable outcomes to the broader-affected communities, demonstrating how the service proposal helps Metro advance equitable outcomes in the study area

Main Activities

	PHASE 1 June–July 2019	PHASE 2 September–December 2019	PHASE 3 March–April 2020	June 2020–March 2021 and beyond
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project goal conversations with jurisdictions, King County Council, Executive's Office, Institutions, and Community Based Organizations • Inform & engage with community within project area of goals and opportunities to shape decision-making • Recruit Mobility Board, and identify and collect community priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop draft network concepts based on Mobility Board recommendation • Engage with community more broadly to further modify/improve draft network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Mobility Board to make final trade-off decisions • Site qualitative and quantitative data gathered from community engagement for significant network choices • Communicate final network concept and next steps to community (with Mobility Board) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to be present in the community at events and meetings to continue to build relationships • Update communications as needed
				
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders and general public aware of project scope, goals, and what their role may be in the outreach and engagement process • Mobility Board convened and developed list of priorities and needs related to a transit network based on community input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A transparent and iterative concept drafting process where the community and major stakeholders understand where and how changes are being made, as well as how and why their feedback was or was not incorporated • Trade-offs are understandable and the ability to choose between priorities is achievable by both Service Planning and the community at large 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities affected understand how their feedback has shaped final outcome and what next steps are • Planners prepared to make recommendation with knowledge of risks/benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and Community Based Organization stakeholders trust and see Metro as a partner • Metro is prepared for Northgate Link light rail extension implementation • Council adopts service changes

North Link Connections Mobility Project

Metro Transit Department
October 14, 2019

Introduction

What is the North Link Connections Mobility Project?

- Respond to changing mobility needs and integration with 3 new Link light rail stations opening in 2021
- Metro's largest service restructure since March 2016 U-Link extension
- Partnership with ST, SDOT, UW, and other partners

Project Goals

What are we trying to do through this effort?

- Improve mobility for historically un(der)served populations, centering on people of color
- Equitably inform, engage, and empower current and potential customers traveling in the project area
- Deliver integrated service that responds to Link expansion and meets customer needs

Sound Transit Integration

Sound Transit Northgate Link Extension

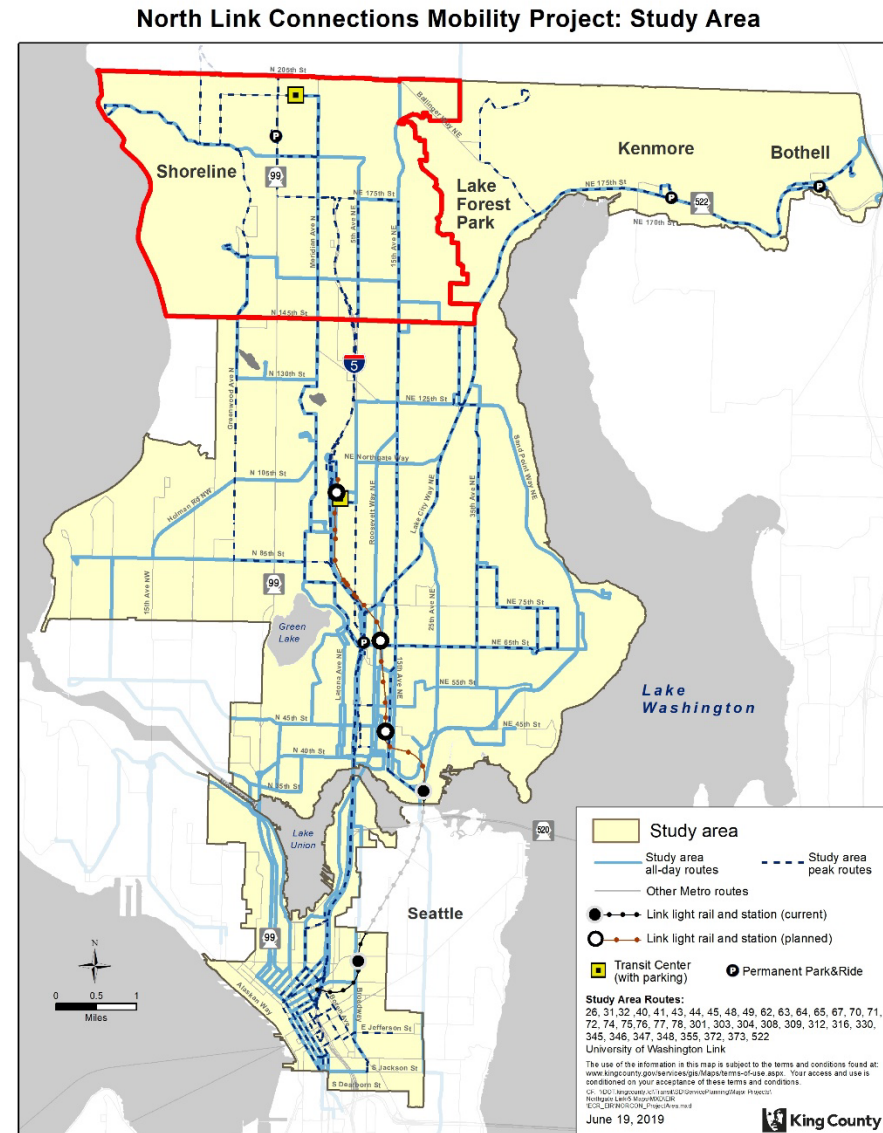
- **Open:** 2021
- **Length:** 4.3 miles; 3 stations
- **Service:** Every 6 minutes during peak hours.
- **Projected travel times:**
 - Northgate to University of Washington - 7 minutes
 - U District to Westlake - 8 minutes



Project Scope

Where would service change or be impacted?

- Focused on:
 - Seattle, Shoreline, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Bothell
- Over 30 Routes
- Includes Metro Routes 77, 301, 303, 304, 316, 330, 345, 346, 347, 348, 355, and 373 in Shoreline
- Sound Transit will also evaluate possible changes to ST Route 522



Equity Impact Review (EIR)

EQUITY IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS



Community Engagement Overview

**Phase 1 (June-Aug 2019):
Community Needs & Priorities,
Mobility Board workshopping**

**Phase 2 (early 2020):
Iterative, Community-Driven
Concept Design**

**Phase 3 (fall 2020):
Final trade-off decisions,
Prepare proposal**

**2021 & beyond:
Continue being present in
community**

Next Steps & More Information

What's happening now?

- Wrapping up Phase 1 of the project
 - Collecting and organizing input from the public, stakeholders, and the Mobility Board
 - Using that information to develop concepts for proposed changes to bus routes that will be shared in Phase 2—to be further refined in that phase
 - Phase 2 Launch anticipated for January 2020

Mobility Project Contacts

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