



Lynnwood Link Extension preferred alternative identified, options still being evaluated

In November 2013, the Sound Transit Board identified a preferred light rail route and station alternative (shown at right), based on several proposed options evaluated in the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and public comments.

Identifying the preferred alternative is an important milestone that enables the project team to focus on advancing designs and refining analysis of environmental impacts and mitigation. These findings will be included in a Final EIS expected to be issued in early 2015. Identification of the preferred alternative keeps the project on track to begin construction in 2018 and open for service in late 2023.

Identification of the preferred alternative is not the final decision on the light rail route and stations for the Lynnwood Link Extension. The Sound Transit Board of Directors will confirm or modify the preferred alternative after taking into account the findings in the Final EIS, which may include using aspects of an alternative previously considered, and/or study options still under review (see bottom right). This final decision will occur after the Final EIS is published when the Board selects the project to be built and the Federal Transit Administration issues a Record of Decision.

The Final EIS will include the potential benefits, impacts and mitigation for all alternatives considered including those in the Draft EIS.

Community input: Shaping the project

Sound Transit received 640 sets of comments from the public, agencies, tribes, businesses and organizations through the Draft EIS comment period, and these comments helped influence the preferred alternative. The Sound Transit Board of Directors made its decision on a preferred alternative based on Draft EIS findings, public comments submitted on the Draft EIS from interested citizens, agencies, tribes and organizations, and other information including potential project costs.

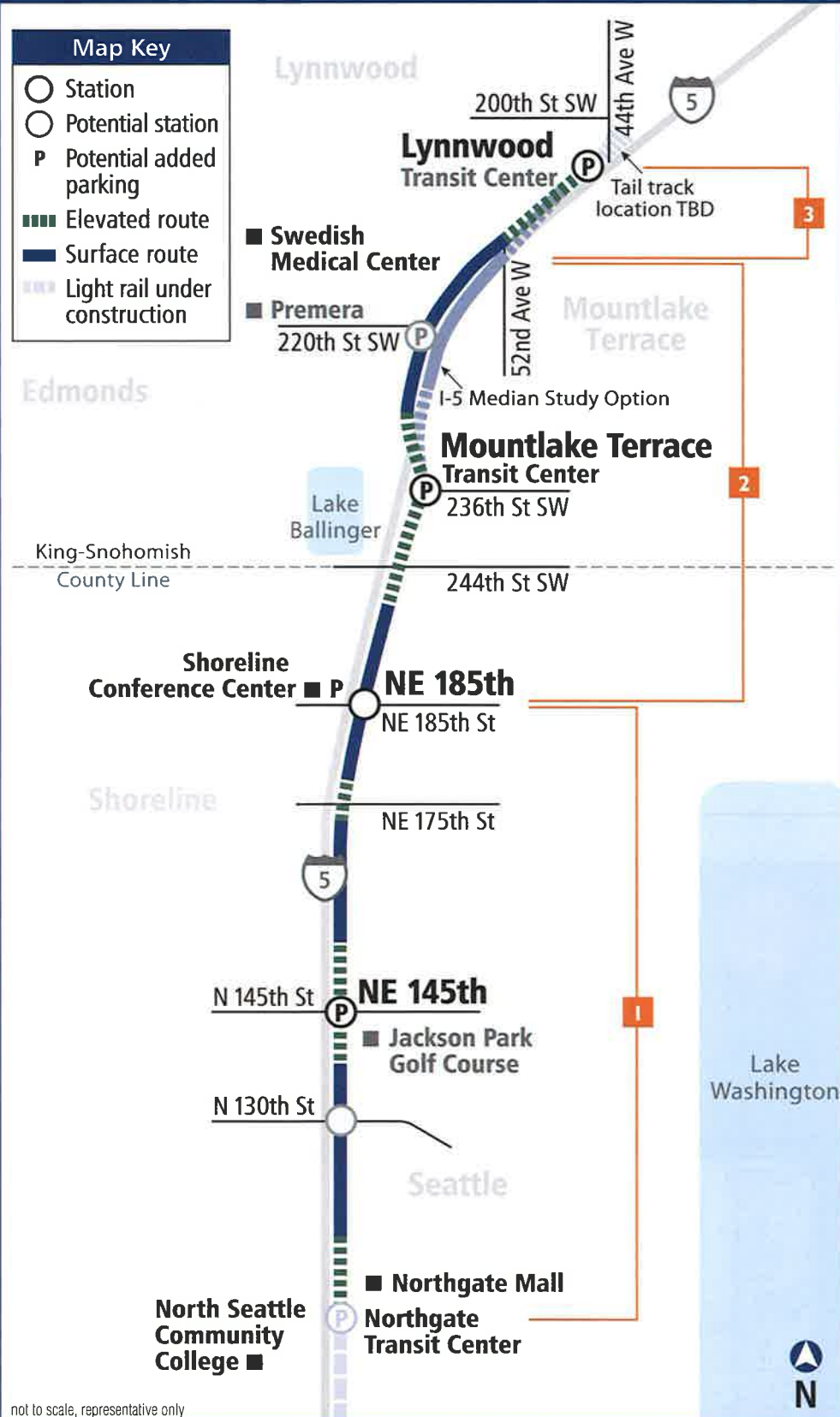
Outreach by the numbers

- Four Draft EIS public meetings, approximately 400 attendees, and more than 45 people who testified during public hearings
- Letters to nearly 250 potentially-affected property owners, leading to meetings with over 100 property owners
- Briefings and meetings with 40 community groups and agencies, and contacts made with 70 more in Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood
- Informational kiosks displayed at 12 rotating locations throughout the project area and 70 posters advertising the release of the Draft EIS
- One online "Tech Talk" forum
- Conversations with over 1,650 people through five summer fairs and festivals, and four visits with commuters at transit centers

What we heard: Frequent themes

- The most favored Draft EIS alternatives were Alternative A1 (route using 145th and 185th stations), Alternative B2A (Mountlake Terrace Transit Center station and west of I-5 alignment to 220th) and Alternative C3 (route along I-5 to Lynnwood Park-and-Ride station)
- Potential impacts to the Seattle Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church and Community Center
- Concerns about noise and vibration impacts for homes near the potential alignment
- Potential impacts to parks and wetlands in Lynnwood
- Desire for pedestrian and bicycle amenities
- Concerns about on-street parking conflicts between local residents and commuters
- Visual and aesthetic resource impacts on homes near the potential alignment
- Interest in the project timeline
- Interest in potential property acquisitions

Preferred alternative route and stations



What is the preferred alternative?

- 1 Northgate to NE 185th Street: At-grade and elevated with stations at NE 145th and NE 185th streets (Alternative A1)
- 2 NE 185th Street through Mountlake Terrace: East side of I-5 to Mountlake Terrace Transit Center station to west side of I-5 (Alternative B2)
- 3 Lynnwood: West side of I-5 to Lynnwood Park and Ride station (Alternative C3)

The Sound Transit Board directed these changes to the alternatives:

- Maintain access to the Seattle Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church and Community Center after the project is complete
- Avoid impacts to Scriber Creek Park in Lynnwood
- Reduce residential property impacts in Lynnwood
- Avoid several freeway bridges along the alignment

In addition to the preferred alternative, the Board directed staff to further evaluate these potential modifications:

In Seattle and Shoreline:

- Include or provide for a future station at NE 130th Street
- Pedestrian improvements on the NE 185th Street bridge over I-5

In Mountlake Terrace:

- Re-align the preferred alternative closer to I-5 and under the 220th Street SW bridge
- Include or provide for a future station at 220th Street SW
- Transit parking expansion options at or near the Mountlake Terrace Transit Center
- A route that uses the median of I-5 between the Mountlake Transit Center and 212th Street SW

In Lynnwood:

- Further transit parking expansion at or near the Lynnwood Transit Center beyond what is included in the preferred alternative



Lynnwood Link Extension Update

Major milestone reached

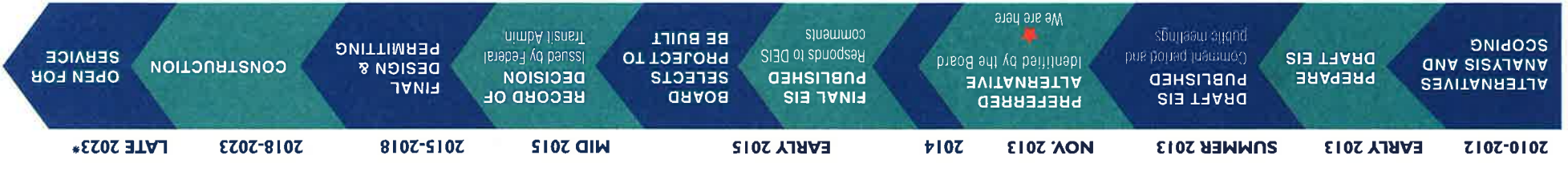
Project on schedule
In November 2013, the Sound Transit Board identified a preferred light rail route and station alternative for further design and environmental study. This important milestone keeps the project on track to begin construction in 2018 and open by 2023.

What was identified? See inside!



Winter 2014

PROJECT MILESTONES



*Schedule subject to change



Lynnwood Link Extension Update

Project background

The Lynnwood Link Extension is part of the voter-approved Sound Transit 2 Plan to extend mass transit throughout the region. When complete in 2023, a station in Lynnwood will be the northernmost point of a light rail system with more than 50 miles of service to the north, south and east of Seattle. The Lynnwood Link Extension will add 8.5 miles of light rail, providing an alternative to congested roadways in one of the region's most densely developed urban areas. Stations are planned in Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Shoreline and potentially north Seattle.

Since 2011 Sound Transit has been gathering input from the public, local community groups, stakeholders and jurisdictions including the cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Mountlake Terrace, Edmonds and Lynnwood, as well as King and Snohomish counties. In 2013, Sound Transit and the Federal Transit Administration released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review and comment.

Stay informed about the Lynnwood Link Extension:

Visit our website: soundtransit.org/LE

Sign up for project updates: soundtransit.org/subscribe

Email the project: lynwoodlink@soundtransit.org

Have specific questions or a community group we should visit? Call Roger Iwata, Sound Transit Community Outreach: 206-689-4904



What's next?

Project design
Work will be underway to refine designs and document potential impacts and mitigation for the preferred alternative as part of the Final EIS.

Fieldwork
You may see project staff completing field work and analysis in several communities in the coming months. This includes geotechnical borings/drilling work to better understand soil types along the proposed light rail alignment and work by biologists to better define edges of wetlands. Any work conducted on private property will be coordinated with property owners.

Property owners
Sound Transit will contact people who own properties that may potentially be impacted by the project prior to release of the Final EIS. Contact Roger Iwata at 206-689-4904 if you have any questions.

Project outreach
Outreach and coordination will continue as project designs are refined.



Lynnwood Link Extension Update

Light rail route and station preferred alternative identified!



Visual simulation, light rail in future Lynnwood Link Extension.

Learn more about this light rail project: soundtransit.org/LE

Si usted desea hablar con Sound Transit en el idioma español acerca del tren de riel ligero entre Northgate y Lynnwood llame al 1-800-823-9230.
 如果您想與 Sound Transit 查詢或反映有關 Northgate 和 Lynnwood 之間輕軌列車的情況，請致電 1-800-823-9230。
 Nếu quý vị muốn nói chuyện với Sound Transit bằng tiếng Việt về hệ thống hóa xe nhẹ từ Northgate đến Lynnwood, xin gọi số 1-800-823-9230.
 Kung mins niyang makipag-usap sa Sound Transit sa Tagalog na wika ukol sa tren na light rail na nasa pagitan ng Northgate at Lynnwood tunggag ang 1-800-823-9230.
 Northgate와 Lynnwood 간 라이트 레일 기차에 관하여 한국어로 Sound Transit에 문의하시려면 1-800-823-9230으로 전화하십시오.
 Northgate dan Lynnwood antara stesen kereta api ringan (LRT) yang akan dibina oleh Sound Transit. Untuk maklumat lanjut, hubungi 1-800-823-9230.

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