West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

West Seattle/Duwamish Community Advisory Group
4/12/2022
Agenda

- Welcome and review CAG progress
- Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
- City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review
- Potential cost savings and refinements ideas
- Next steps and next meeting
Why we’re here today

• Engage with fellow CAG members in small groups to begin to identify issues and tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives

• Preview draft City of Seattle comments on the Draft EIS

• Learn about the potential cost savings and refinement concepts that Sound Transit has been exploring
Agenda

• Welcome and review CAG progress
• Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
• City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review
• Potential cost savings and refinements ideas
• Next steps and next meeting
Community engagement and collaboration
Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Updated February 2022. Meeting dates/topics subject to change.
November CAG

Process Overview

• Introduction to project timeline, environmental review, and alternatives

• Overview of CAG timeline and expectations
January CAG

Station Planning

• Presentation of co-planning partnership and roles between Sound Transit and City of Seattle and Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) outcomes

• Presentation and discussion on station planning for the West Seattle segments
February CAG

Draft EIS results overview

• Presentation and discussion of Draft EIS findings for the West Seattle segments

• Introduction to the City’s role in engaging in the Draft EIS process
March CAG

Draft EIS results deep dive

• Presentation and discussion of Draft EIS deep dive topics based on CAG feedback in February

• Presentation and discussion of City review of the Draft EIS and potential tradeoffs
April CAG

Draft EIS, cost savings and refinements

• Breakout group discussions to identify and discuss key tradeoffs between alternatives
• Preview of draft City comments on the Draft EIS
• Staff presentation on potential cost saving and refinement ideas
May CAG

Consolidating feedback

We will invite you to answer the following:

• What are your thoughts on **issues** and **tradeoffs** between the alternatives?
• What are your thoughts on a **preferred alternative**?
• What are your thoughts on the **cost saving and refinement ideas**?
Agenda

• Welcome and review CAG progress
• *Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives*
• City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review
• Potential cost savings and refinements ideas
• Next steps and next meeting
Small Group Discussions

Thomas Valdriz is inviting you to join Room 2

Breakout Rooms

Breakout Rooms will close in 47 seconds

You will be returned to the main session automatically.

Leave Breakout Room
Small Group Discussions

CAG members are currently participating in breakout groups and will return at 5:50pm to report out on their discussions.

Please stay tuned!
Report Back to Full Group

What issues and tradeoffs did your group begin to identify as you compare the Draft EIS alternatives?
Agenda

• Welcome and review CAG progress
• Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
• **City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review**
• Potential cost savings and refinements ideas
• Next steps and next meeting
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

City of Seattle DEIS Review

West Seattle/Duwamish Community Advisory Group Meetings | April 2022
WSBLE DEIS + City Partnership

WSBLE is the **biggest infrastructure project** in our City’s history—bringing both **transformative opportunity** and **significant impacts**.

The DEIS is a **critical early juncture** for the City to uphold our Partnering Agreement with Sound Transit “...to ensure that **environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures** are identified during the environmental review process...[and]...to work together to ensure that there are **no surprises later** in project permitting...”
Context for City Comments

The City is both a **reviewer** and **regulator**. Our aim is to:

- Help advance the best project to meet community and City interests.
- Facilitate the streamlined permitting and construction of the eventual project. **Critiquing the DEIS now is normal and necessary to facilitate permitting and construction later.**

In April, the City is sharing **draft** comments with community members and stakeholders—we want your feedback to help shape the City DEIS comments and eventual position on a preferred alternative.

The City is a **committed partner** to Sound Transit to support WSBLE and will work collaboratively to resolve outstanding DEIS issues in the coming months.
City Scope of WSBLE DEIS Review

Review for compliance and adequacy:
1. Does the DEIS demonstrate compliance with City Codes/Director’s Rules?
2. Does the DEIS adequately identify and evaluate project impacts and include appropriate mitigation?
3. Does the DEIS meaningfully compare alternatives?

Review for additional strategic questions for the City:
4. Does the DEIS adequately analyze impacts to BIPOC communities, propose mitigation, and further the joint Racial Equity Toolkit outcomes?
5. How does new DEIS information shape City position on alternatives?
1. Does the DEIS demonstrate compliance with City Codes/Director’s Rules?

More analysis is needed to ensure compliance with:

- Guideway Impacts
  - Noise regulations related to elevated and at-grade guideway sections
  - City stormwater regulations
  - Height bulk and scale
  - Light, glare and shading; SEPA view corridors
- Visual and aesthetic impacts
  - SEPA view corridors and scenic routes
- Environmentally Critical Areas
  - Steep slopes, flood plain, peat settlement zone regulations
  - Great Blue Heron habitat
- City Low-Income Housing regulations
2. Does the DEIS adequately identify and evaluate project impacts and include appropriate mitigation?

More analysis is needed to fully assess impacts and propose mitigation for:

- Construction impacts to traffic and transit
- Residential displacements for all alternatives
- Business displacements particularly maritime businesses along the Duwamish
- Impacts to Fire Station 36 (access/possible relocation)
- Impacts to parks and natural areas
  - Duwamish Waterway (visual - height, bulk, scale, in-water work)
  - West Seattle Golf Course
  - Longfellow Creek (and trails system)
  - West Duwamish Greenway (tree removal, Great Blue Heron colony)
3. Does the DEIS meaningfully compare alternatives?

The DEIS does provide sufficient information to meaningfully compare alternatives in Duwamish and West Seattle segments, however...

For the Delridge segment alternatives, would like to see additional analysis using an expanded study area to capture impacts to communities of color who will access the station from further south.

The City is interested in refinements that would further Racial Equity Toolkit outcomes at Delridge station alternatives to optimize transit integration and provide opportunities for equitable TOD.
What do these comments mean?

The City is a strong supporter of the WSBLE project and intends to support eventual project permitting and construction. Between the Draft EIS and Final EIS, the City is committed to work with Sound Transit to ensure that the project:

- Complies with codes and regulations through additional analysis or modifications.
- Avoids/minimizes/mitigates impacts through modifications or a Mitigation Plan.

We look forward to working with Sound Transit on the additional analysis and mitigation flagged here and in our detailed comments.

The City Team will continue our work with community throughout this time. We aim to ensure that City decisions on WSBLE are centered in racial equity and co-created and truth-checked with community. City staff listen through a range of engagement opportunities: briefings, one-on-one conversations, letters, and workshops.
Next Steps

City DEIS Review Comments
• Continue internal staff review of DEIS.
• Share staff review comments at 4/19 City Council T+SPU Committee meeting and community meetings through April.
• Transmit comments to Sound Transit by 4/28.

City position on a Preferred Alternative
• Joint Council Resolution on WSBLE alternatives in May/June.
• Mayor Harrell and CP Juarez engage in Sound Transit Board discussions in June.
Additional questions please contact Nicole Kistler, Neighborhoods
Nicole.Kistler@Seattle.gov
Agenda

- Welcome and review CAG progress
- Begin to identify issues, tradeoffs of Draft EIS alternatives
- City of Seattle: Draft EIS Review
- *Potential cost savings and refinements ideas*
- Next steps and next meeting
Cost saving and refinement concepts
Context for looking at cost savings

• In response to steep rise in real estate and construction costs, Board adopted a realignment plan in August 2021
**Realignment plan**

- Board identified affordable program schedule, as well as affordability gaps to target schedules
  - WSBLE has an estimated project-level affordability gap of $1.8B, based on current financial projections and cost estimates
  - Smith Cove to Ballard: Target delivery 2037; affordable delivery 2039
- Includes Board direction to intensively pursue additional financial capacity and identify opportunities to reduce cost
Work purpose and limitations

• Initial assessment of **feasibility** and **potential cost savings**
• Based on limited engineering design
• Would require **further study** of environmental, passenger experience and other implications
Concepts we’ll discuss today

Cost savings

• Potentially help address affordability gap

Other refinements

• Potentially address other risks or opportunities
Desired feedback

• Seeking Board direction on **whether to study any of these ideas further**

• Not seeking Board direction to adopt these ideas now
Cost savings concepts
Concepts we’ll discuss today

Cost savings
• Potentially help address affordability gap

Other refinements
• Potentially address other risks or opportunities
Cost savings concepts summary

1. Shift Elevated Fauntleroy Station
2. Eliminate Avalon Station
3. Consolidate Denny and South Lake Union stations
4. Potential station entrance refinements
5. Shift Tunnel 14th Ave alignment

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- Elevated
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel portal
- Tunnel
West Seattle Junction segment
Cost savings concepts West Seattle Junction

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
1 Shift Elevated Fauntleroy Station

Cost savings: -$200M

Estimates shown in 2019 dollars, based on conceptual design, and subject to change.
Cost savings concepts West Seattle Junction

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- Elevated
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
Eliminate Avalon Station (and shift Elevated Fauntleroy Station)

Cost savings: - $325M*

*includes $200M savings from shifting Elevated Fauntleroy Station

Eliminating station allows lower height guideway and Delridge station

Avoids multi-family development; approx. 300 fewer displacements

Similar overall ridership

Daily Trips on Project

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<tr>
<th>DEIS Alternative</th>
<th>Refinement</th>
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Estimates shown in 2019 dollars, based on conceptual design, and subject to change.
Eliminate Avalon Station (with Medium Tunnel 41st)

Cost savings: - $60M

Similar overall ridership

Eliminating station reduces property effects and displacements

Daily Trips on Project

- DEIS Alternative: 27,000
- Refinement: 27,000

Estimates shown in 2019 dollars, based on conceptual design, and subject to change.
Other refinement concepts
Concepts we’ll discuss today

Cost savings

• Potentially help address affordability gap

Other refinements

• Potentially address other risks or opportunities
Other refinement concepts summary

- **Provide access north and south of Andover Street**
- **Shift Seattle Center Republican station west**
- **Midtown station entrance refinement**
- **Shift tunnel portal south (Mercer)**
- **Connect South Lake Union Harrison to Seattle Center Mercer**
- **Consolidate Smith Cove and Interbay stations**
Delridge segment
Other refinement concepts Delridge

Provide access north and south of Andover Street

DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES
- Elevated
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel

Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.
a.1 Provide access north and south of Andover Street

Consider pedestrian bridge across Andover Street
a.2 Provide access north and south of Andover Street

- Facilitates lower height of station and guideway
- Potential closure or reroute of 32nd Avenue SW
- Shift station and alignment south
Discussion: Hearing from CAG members

Questions or reflections on the potential cost savings and refinement concepts?
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## Community engagement and collaboration

### Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

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*Updated February 2022. Meeting dates/topics subject to change.*
Upcoming Community Advisory Groups

CID/SODO Community Advisory Group
Draft EIS, Cost Savings and Refinements
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

Interbay/Ballard Community Advisory Group
Consolidating Feedback
Tuesday, May 4, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

Downtown Community Advisory Group
Consolidating Feedback
Thursday, May 5, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

West Seattle/Duwamish Community Advisory Group
Consolidating Feedback
Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 5pm to 7pm

Advisory group meetings are livestreamed and recorded. For more information and meeting links, visit: wsblink.participate.online
Looking ahead to our final meeting

Please consider these questions:

• What are your thoughts on *issues and tradeoffs* between the alternatives?
• What are your thoughts on a *preferred alternative*?
• What are your thoughts on the *cost saving and refinement ideas*?