

# North Link Light Rail Project

Capitol Hill Station Open House

October 27, 2004

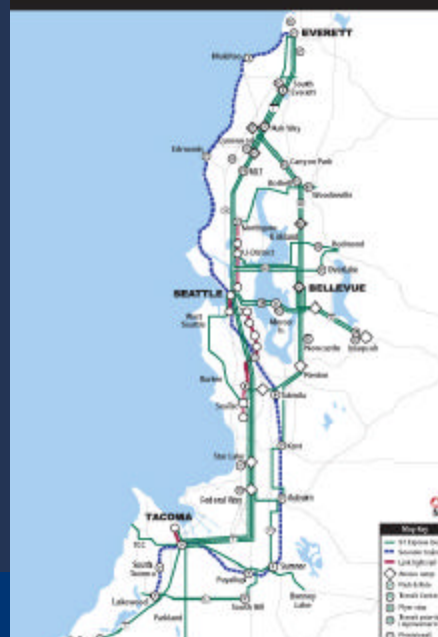


## Sound Transit is :

- ✍ Moving 6.3 million express bus riders a year
- ✍ Moving 1/2 million commuter train riders a year
- ✍ Making track and signal upgrades
- ✍ Operating light rail in Tacoma
- ✍ Building the Initial Segment



## SOUND MOVE THE REGIONAL TRANSIT PLAN



## Central Link Light Rail

- Initial Segment
  - 11 stations
  - 14 miles of track
  - 42,500 daily riders
  - Service starts in 2009
- North Link
- Airport Link



Tacoma Link

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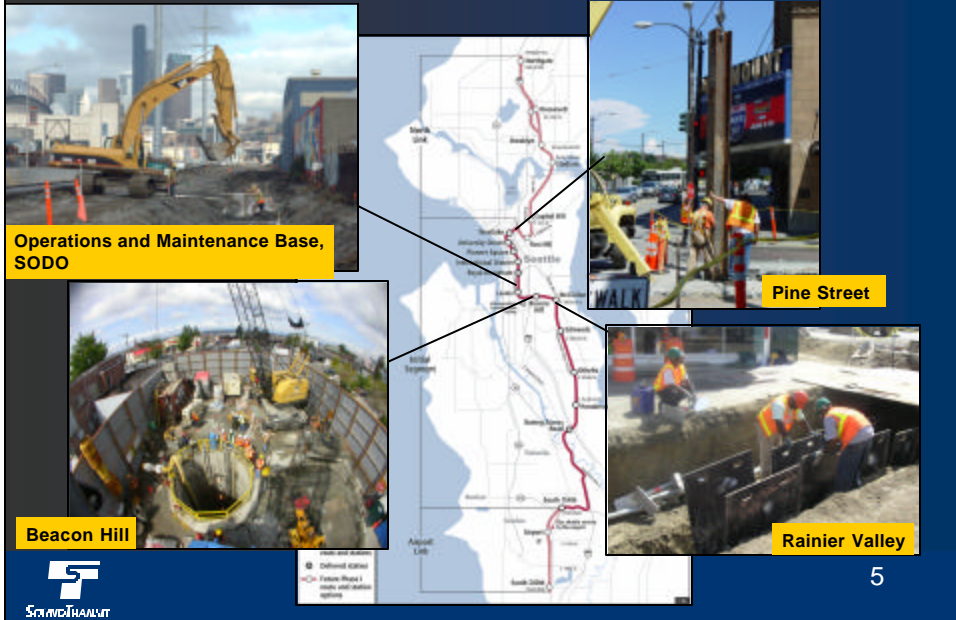
## Link Light Rail Status Report

- Agreement with King County to operate Link
- Tacoma Link started service on August 2003
- Full Funding Grant Awarded - October 2003
- SODO groundbreaking November 8, 2003
- Rainier Valley groundbreaking June 8, 2004
- Over \$1 billion in construction underway



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## Link Initial Segment Under Construction



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## North Link Regional Benefits

- Connects four urban centers
- Adds needed capacity in the highest ridership corridor in the region
- Improved reliability and travel time
- Increased job access



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# North Link Will Improve Transit Speed and Reliability

- North Link average train speed: 32 mph
- Travel times to downtown Seattle (examples):
 

– Northgate Station	Bus: 26 min	Rail: 16 min
– NE 45 <sup>th</sup> Station	Bus: 22 min	Rail: 12 min
– Capitol Hill Station	Bus: 14 min	Rail: 6 min
- Rail service would be much more reliable than buses
- North Link would save users over 20,000 hours of travel time each weekday

Source: King County Metro data, Sound Transit ridership model



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## North Link Preferred Alternative

(Board direction received on 5/20/04)

**University District to Northgate:** >  
8<sup>th</sup> Ave Route or 12<sup>th</sup> Ave Route

**Ship Canal to University District:** >  
Modified Montlake Route (with South Brooklyn station)

**Montlake Vent:** at the Hop-In site

**Convention Place to Ship Canal:** >  
First Hill Route (with Nagle station)



# Preliminary Engineering

- Primary purpose: define project adequately to set baseline budget
- Focus areas:
  - Impacts on Cal Anderson Park
  - Southern station entrance(s) location
  - ‘Cross-over’ requirements
  - Construction strategy for North Link
  - Size and location of construction staging areas

## Capitol Hill Station



## Project Description

- North Link adds – 109,000 light rail daily boardings
  - 12,000 at Capitol Hill Station
- Capitol Hill Station ~ 90' deep
- Two entrances on east-side of Broadway
- Potential third entrance on west-side of Broadway
- Vents and emergency stairs
- Open cut station construction, bored tunnels



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## Revised Station Design

- Avoids impacts to Cal Anderson Park
- Improves station design
  - Locates southern entrance at signalized cross-walk
  - Shortens distance from entrance to platform
- Eliminates crossover tracks
  - unless Capitol Hill is an interim end-of-the-line station
- Consolidates construction staging areas
- Increases displacements
  - 68 additional residential units and 7 additional businesses
  - Relocation may be preferable to 5 years adjacent to construction site



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## Capitol Hill Station

May 2004 Design



**Construction Areas Under  
Evaluation As Design  
Advances**

## Capitol Hill Station

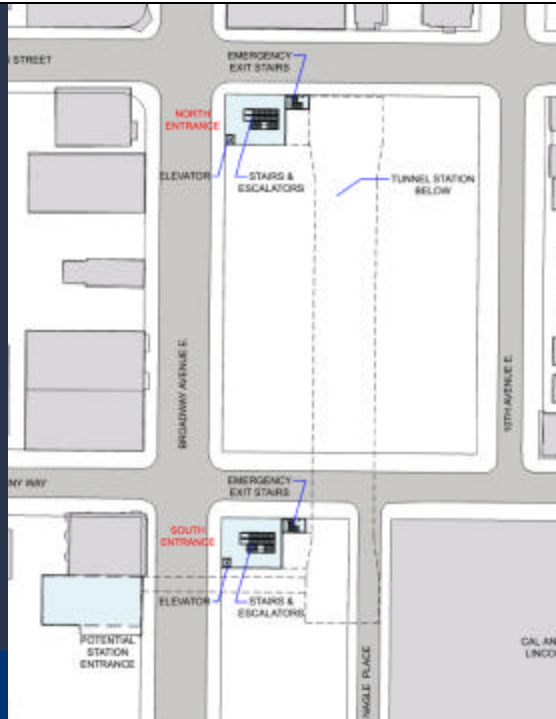
October 2004 Design



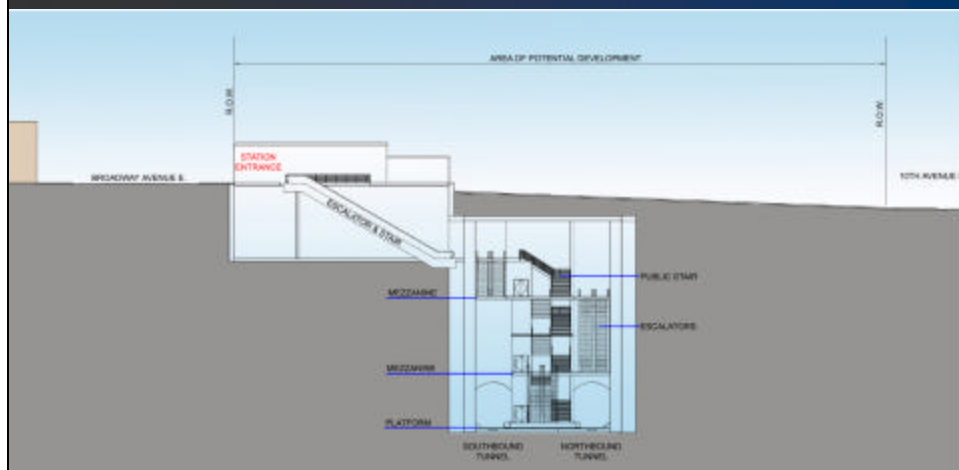
## Capitol Hill Station

### Above ground facilities:

- entrances
- two vents
- emergency exits
- covered bike storage



## Capitol Hill - section





## Redevelopment Opportunities

- Opportunity to replace lost housing at the station when complete
- Sound Transit will consult with public agencies, non-profit agencies, property owners and the neighborhood on transit oriented development opportunities



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## Residential Displacements

- Would affect 68 residential units in three apartment buildings
- Replacement housing available nearby
  - A recent survey of residential rental properties indicated 299 residential rentals were available in the Capitol Hill and surrounding areas
- ST would pay relocation expenses and provide assistance in finding new housing



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## Relocation Benefits-Rental Assistance/Down Payment Benefit for Tenants

- Relocation benefits for tenants may include:
  - Rental assistance payment or down payment for tenants who have been in occupancy at least 90 days prior to the initiation of negotiations or owner occupants of 90-179 days
  - Displacees may be eligible for a Rental Assistance or Down Payment Benefit up to \$5,250



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## Relocation Benefits-Replacement Housing Payments for Owner Occupants

- Owner occupants of 180 days or more may be eligible to receive a purchase supplement payment up to \$22,500 to enable them to purchase a decent, safe and sanitary comparable dwelling
- Also eligible for reimbursement of incidental expenses necessary for the purchase of the replacement property



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## Relocation Benefits- Residential Moving Expenses

- Actual, reasonable moving expenses to move personal property
  - Limited to 50 miles and can include packing and unpacking, disconnecting and connecting household appliances
  - Insurance while property is in transit or in storage
  - Transfer of phone service and other similar utility disconnect and reconnect fees
  - Displacee can also elect to take a fix payment based on the number of rooms containing significant amounts of personal property



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## Business Displacements

- Would affect 7 additional businesses units in four buildings
- ST would pay relocation expenses and provide assistance in finding new business location



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## Relocation Benefits-Displaced Businesses

- Reimbursement of actual, reasonable moving expenses
- Relocation Advisory Assistance to help locate a replacement property
- Search expenses for the replacement property
- Re-establishment expenses up to \$50,000 or
- Fixed payment in lieu of other moving expenses



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## Next Steps

- Brief Sound Transit Board on October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Advance station design and prepare additional environmental documentation
- Early 2005
  - Publish additional environmental documentation
  - Open house and public comment period
  - Additional Board review



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## Schedule Milestones

Preliminary Engineering	Fall 2004-Spring 2005
Station Open Houses	October 2004
Station Open Houses	Early 2005
Publish Final SEIS	Spring 2005
ST Board adopts project	Mid-2005
Start Construction*	2007-2008
Start service*	Between 2013-2015

\*subject to board approval



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## Questions?

