

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension Light Rail Project Update		
DEPARTMENT:	City Manager's Office		
PRESENTED BY:	Juniper Nammi, Light Rail Project 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 Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) Light Rail Project construction is about 86% complete with approximate 200 days remaining until substantial completion set for the end of November 2023. Train systems installation will be completed by the end of January 2024, at which time Sound Transit operations will take over the extension and start their testing phase. In October, the Sound Transit Board will be considering whether to change the revenue service date for this project from the current start date in July 2024.

Following a brief update on permitting from City staff this evening, Council will hear from Randy Harlow, Executive Project Director, and Erik Ashlie-Vinke, Government and Community Relations Manager, with Sound Transit on the remaining construction and testing phases of the light rail project. They will provide the Council with a brief update on light rail construction to date and what the community can expect to see develop and change this year.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

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

RECOMMENDATION

No formal action is required for this agenda item. Staff recommends that Councilmembers ask questions of Sound Transit and City staff for a better understanding of both the remaining construction and testing phases of the LLE project in Shoreline.

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

BACKGROUND

The Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) Light Rail Project was originally approved by voters as part of the Sound Transit 2 plan for system expansion. Environmental review occurred between 2001 and 2016 when the final route and station locations were selected by the Sound Transit Board. As our community is well aware, the LLE Project has been under construction since April 2019 and is now in the last year of construction activities. The project is nearing culmination of this two decades long effort.

The Shoreline City Council was last updated on the LLE Project at the June 15, 2020, Council Meeting. The staff report for this prior Council discussion can be found at the following link:

[June 15, 2020, Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension Project Update.](#)

DISCUSSION

The Sound Transit Lynnwood Link Extension (LLE) Light Rail Project construction is about 86% complete with approximate 200 days remaining until substantial completion set for the end of November 2023. Train systems installation will be completed by the end of January 2024, at which time Sound Transit operations will take over the extension and start their testing phase. In October, the Sound Transit Board will be considering whether to change the revenue service date for this project from the current start date in July 2024.

Over the past three years since the last City Council LLE Project update, construction of the LLE Project has focused on utility relocations and modifications, light rail guideway (track and supporting structures), stations and garages, roadway restoration, and landscape and critical areas restoration with grading and planting.

The City has issued over 50 Land Use approvals and approximately 350 construction permits for the LLE Project to date. Of the construction permits, 249 are finished and closed, 200 are open and construction activities are still underway or closeout paperwork is pending, and one permit is in review. Over 4,000 inspections have been requested to document progress under these construction permits. The City anticipates only three or four additional land use permit submittals for the remaining City right-of-way (ROW) street vacations and lot mergers that are associated with the LLE Project. Currently, City staff is aware of at least one sign permit not yet submitted and a few other miscellaneous construction permits are still needed.

Construction Highlights and Forthcoming Project Work

Some highlights of completed and forthcoming LLE Project construction work include:

Completed Work

- Guideway, including support structures (columns, girders, walls), tracks, underdrains, systems duct banks, and vaults.
- Undercrossing structure at NE 185th Street where the train goes under the roadway.

- Station and garage buildings and foundations for systems buildings.
- Installation of most of the new utilities serving the LLE facilities.
- Realignment of 5th Avenue NE between NE 180th and NE 185th Streets.
- Restoration of NE 155th Street under Interstate-5.
- Wetland and stream restoration/mitigation completed between Interstate-5 and 3rd Avenue NE between NE 152nd and NE 155th Streets and within the southeast lobe of the Interstate-5 interchange at SR 104/NE 205th Street.

Work Underway/Forthcoming

- Construction of remaining noise walls and installation of fences throughout the project area.
- Installation of the overhead power lines and systems to run the trains is ongoing.
- Finish work on the guideway structures such as painting, installing downspouts, and fire standpipes continues as schedules for other work allow access.
- Installation of the systems, walls, elevators and escalators, handrailing, signage, artwork installation, and painting for the stations and garages continues.
- Paving of the bus transit centers and pick up/drop off loops at both stations is underway.
- Utility lines will be moved from overhead to underground by SCL, Lumen and Comcast where new duct banks have been constructed and poles added or removed as part of this work. Permanent power is expected to be turned on in the next couple of months to both station sites.
- Restoration of City owned sidewalks and roadways including segments of 1st Avenue NE, 3rd Avenue NE, 5th Avenue NE, and related cross streets.
- Replacement of traffic barriers and restoration of the Interstate-5 shoulder is also ongoing.
- Reconstruction of NE 185th Street at 5th Avenue NE and 8th Avenue NE will include significant grade adjustments and installation of a signal at 5th Avenue NE and a roundabout at 8th Avenue NE. The phasing of traffic control for this work is still being determined but will have significant impacts between June and at least September 2023, and possibly longer.
- Traffic signals will also be installed or modified on 5th Avenue NE at the north bound onramp to Interstate-5, at NE 148th Street, and on NE 175th Street at the east side of the Interstate-5 interchange.
- Final grading and landscape planting or grass seeding will occur throughout the project area.
- Ridgecrest Park restoration, including installation of an irrigation system, drinking fountain, parking lot lighting, park identification signage, restoration of the small slide area, and reseeding of the grass areas will occur. Portions of the park will be turned over to the City for the upcoming parks bond project.
- The community will continue to experience traffic delays, construction noise and vibration, and will continue to see construction vehicles of all types up and down the project alignment.

Approximately six months prior to start of revenue service, Sound Transit will initiate studies of the current parking and traffic patterns in the neighborhoods within a quarter mile of the stations to identify if mitigation is needed and if so, what mitigation will best

address the parking and cut through traffic on local streets expected to result from opening of the light rail stations to the public. Implementation of any parking or traffic mitigation can be expected approximately three to six months after the start of revenue service and will be based in part on actual changes to parking and traffic patterns after stations open.

Tonight's Council Meeting

Tonight, Council will hear from Randy Harlow, Executive Project Director, and Erik Ashlie-Vinke, Government and Community Relations Manager, from Sound Transit on the remaining construction and testing phase of the LLE Project. They will provide Council with a brief update on light rail construction to date and what the community can expect to see develop and change this year. City staff will also provide a brief update on the permitting and remaining mitigation for the LLE project.

STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Shoreline community can reach Sound Transit outreach with questions or complaints on the LLE Project at any time via phone or email at:

- Community Outreach – (206) 398-5300,
- lynnwoodlink@soundtransit.org, and
- 24-hour Construction Hotline – (888) 298-2395.

Project information is also available online and the public can sign up for construction alerts at: <https://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion/lynnwood-link-extension>.

Sound Transit outreach staff are actively implementing the project outreach plans, providing regular Construction Alerts and Project Updates as well as responding to community questions and complaints. When more significant impacts are scheduled, outreach staff directly distribute flyers or knock on doors to keep adjacent residents informed of what they can expect. Community complaints and issues with light rail construction activities in the recent past include nighttime construction noise, construction vehicle speed and haul routes, as well cut through traffic and access issues.

Sound Transit continues to work with property owners and concerned community members to document the issues raised and communicate with their contractors to identify and implement a solution. Sound Transit is addressing these concerns in a number of ways, including adjusting construction methods to reduce impacts, changing traffic control signage to reduce cut through traffic, offering noise tool kits (including earplugs, white noise machines, and noise dampening curtains) to affected residents, placing sound dampening noise blankets near work sites and areas with increased noise levels, and responding to all 24-hour Construction Hotline reports in a timely manner.

COUNCIL GOAL(S) ADDRESSED

This project addresses Council Goal 3: Prepare for regional mass transit in Shoreline, and specifically Action Step #2: “Work collaboratively with Sound Transit on the

Lynnwood Link Extension Project, including negotiation of remaining project agreements and coordination of project construction, inspection, and ongoing permitting.”

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

RECOMMENDATION

No formal action is required for this agenda item. Staff recommends that Councilmembers ask questions of Sound Transit and City staff for a better understanding of both the remaining construction and testing phases of the LLE project in Shoreline.