

East Link Connections

East Link Connections is a coordinated, co-led process for improving transit connections throughout the Eastside as Link light rail service expands through 2024.



Project goals:

- Improve mobility for priority populations, as defined by Metro’s [Mobility Framework](#), including un(der)served populations
- Equitably inform, engage, and empower current and potential customers
- Deliver integrated service that responds to Link expansion
 - Minimize duplication of bus service with Link
 - Improve connections to Link
 - Be consistent with Metro Connects, and current and future mobility needs

Areas: Bellevue, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Duvall, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle (Chinatown/International District, Central District, Mt Baker, and Rainier Valley), Woodinville, Yarrow Point

Affected routes: 8, 111, 114, 167, 204, 212, 214, 216, 217, 218, 219, 221, 224, 225, 226, 232, 237, 240, 241, 245, 246, 249, 250, 252, 257, 268, 269, 271, 311, 342, 541, 542, 544, 545, 550, 554, 555, 556, 630, B Line, 930, 931.

About the project

The purpose of the project is to implement a coordinated regional transit network on the Eastside that gets people where they need and want to go.

By 2024, Sound Transit will open 12 new light rail stations connecting downtown Seattle and the Eastside. In 2023, East Link, or the 2 Line, will connect to the existing alignment at Seattle’s Chinatown/International District, and will expand to Judkins Park, across I-90 to Mercer Island and South Bellevue, through downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red area to Redmond Technology Station. In 2024, the Downtown Redmond Link Extension will add two more light rail stations to the 2 Line serving Marymoor Village near Marymoor Park in southeast Redmond, and the downtown Redmond residential and retail core. More information about the [East Link](#) and Downtown [Redmond Link](#) extensions is available on the Sound Transit website.

To prepare for the extension of Link light rail service, respond to changing mobility needs, and improve mobility and access for historically underserved populations, Metro and Sound Transit are initiating a mobility project on King County’s Eastside serving communities from Bothell and Woodinville to Issaquah and Mercer Island. The project will deliver an updated mobility network that integrates with and complements Sound Transit’s new Link light rail service. Metro and Sound Transit are co-leading the project in coordination with our many agency and jurisdictional partners. Implementation for the updated mobility network will start in 2023 in conjunction with the first service change immediately following the opening of light rail service

between International District/Chinatown Station and Redmond Technology Station, followed by two additional stations in 2024 serving SE Redmond and downtown Redmond.

What's happening now

East Link Connections Transit Needs Survey: Open April 5 – 25, 2021

Help plan the future of transit on the Eastside; tell us how to improve Eastside connections as Link light rail service expands through 2024. The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#) and [Traditional Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Hindi](#) and [Tagalog](#), and is open until April 25, 2021.

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Mobility Board Selection

Metro and Sound Transit are in the process of selecting community members to be a part of the East Link Connections Mobility Board.

Current Network

Area map

Below is a map of how the buses in this project currently move in and out of the area.

East Link Connections Phase 1 Study Area and Routes



East Link Connections Phase 1 West Study Area and Routes



What will not change

There are many bus routes, and other mobility services not listed above, that are not changing as part of this project. Examples include pilot flexible services, Vanpool, a number of I-405 bus services, and bus routes that do not serve areas near the new light rail stations, such as Route 230.

Community engagement

East Link Connections Mobility Board

Metro and Sound Transit are convening a Mobility Board that equitably represents groups of people historically left out of decision-making conversations related to transit and who are disproportionately affected by these decisions. The Mobility Board's primary role is to collaborate with Metro and Sound Transit staff to develop and refine a coordinated regional transit network on the Eastside.

Mobility Board members include:

- Those who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; people with physical and/or cognitive disabilities; people with low- to no-income; people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity; immigrants and/or refugees; and people with linguistic diversity.
- Those transit riders and potential transit riders who live, work, or travel within affected communities (including but not limited to areas east and south of Kenmore, east of the I-90 and SR 520 bridges, north of east Renton, and west of Sammamish and Issaquah).
- Those who bring their perspective as an individual, not representing the interests of a larger group or organization.
- Those who can draw connections between racial equity, transportation issues, and access to opportunities.

East Link Connections Partner Review Board

In addition to individual engagement with project partners and stakeholders, Metro and Sound Transit are convening a team to serve as a concept review board of external stakeholders. The Partner Review Board's primary role is to review and provide comment on service concepts developed by the Mobility Board, Metro and Sound Transit as well as provide guidance on both engagement opportunities and implementation plans that will ultimately result in successful adoption and implementation of the service change.

The board includes representatives from jurisdictions and major institutions in the project area, leaders of community-based organizations, and representatives from partner transit agencies.

Timeline

- December 2020 – February 2021

Identify community stakeholders, needs, and priorities. Metro and Sound Transit will collect quantitative and qualitative data and identify barriers to transit use, as well as improvements that would encourage more transit use.

- **SPRING 2021**
Develop proposed concepts for service changes and collect public feedback through surveys, on board engagement, and at community events.
- **SUMMER 2021**
Present a proposed network of service changes to the public and gather feedback through surveys, virtual community meetings and at community events (pending [Healthy Washington – Road to Recovery](#)).
- **WINTER 2021-2022**
Revise and finalize a recommended network based on public input and the Mobility Board’s recommendation.
- **SUMMER - FALL 2022**
Metro’s recommendation for changes to be presented to King County Council.
Sound Transit presents recommended changes to Sound Transit Board of Directors.
- **2023 – 2024**
Adopted changes to scheduled bus service will coordinate with the opening of Sound Transit’s Link extensions between International District/Chinatown Station and Redmond Technology Station in 2023 and the following extension to Redmond Town Center in 2024.

Community involvement

Upcoming Events and Activities

April 5 – 25, 2021: East Link Connections Transit Needs Survey

The survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Simplified Chinese](#) and [Traditional Chinese](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Hindi](#) and [Tagalog](#).

Contact us

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