



ST3 City Team | Seattle Design Commission

January 15, 2026 | Hybrid/MS Teams

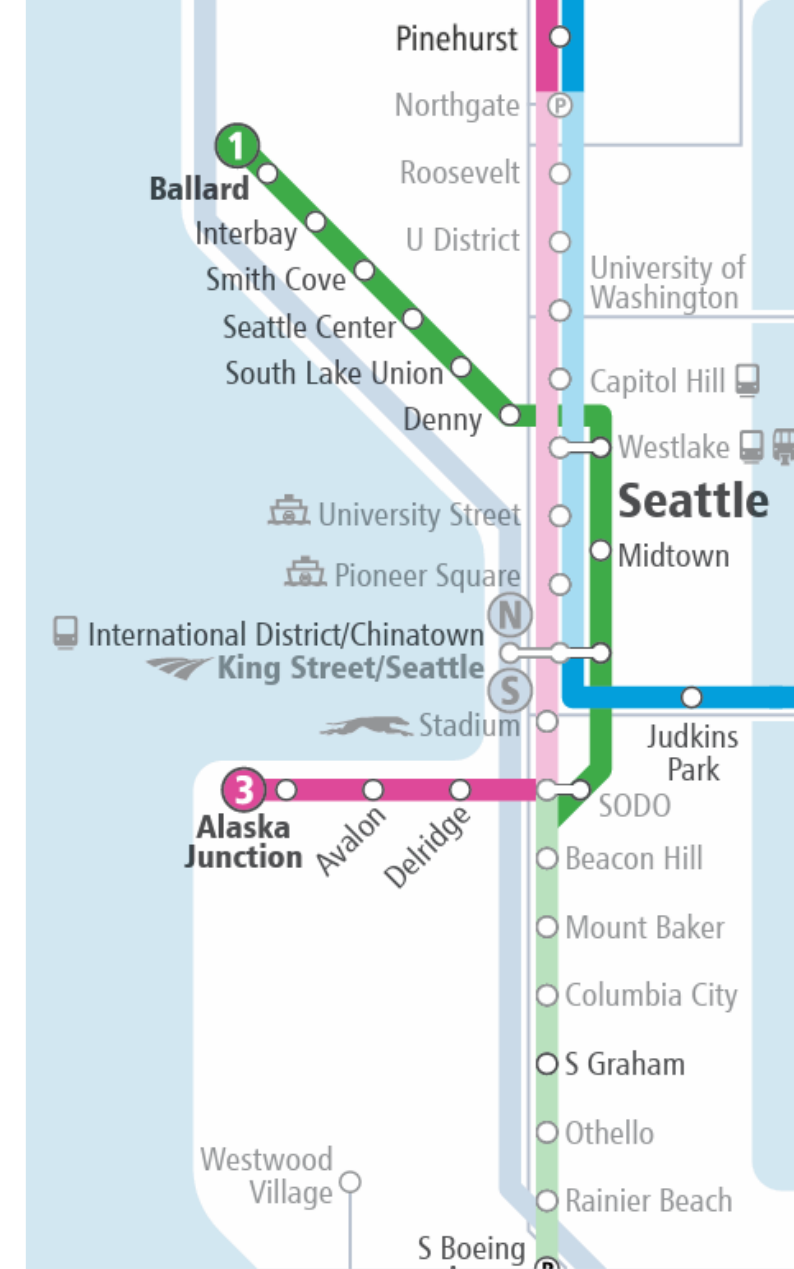
ST3 Projects At-A-Glance

OPENING in 2026!

- Judkins Park Station and ST2 East Link Crosslake Connection
- ST3 Pinehurst Station (2-Line and 3-Line infill)

ST3 Projects in Planning/Design/Permitting phases

- 2031. South Graham Street Station: infill station on 1-Line.
- 2032. West Seattle Link Extension: 4.1-mile extension of 3-Line from Alaska Junction to SODO, including 4 new/expanded stations, a tunnel in West Seattle, and new Duwamish Waterway bridge crossing.
- 2039. Ballard Link Extension: 7.7-mile extension of the 1-Line from CID to Ballard, including 9 new/expanded stations, and new tunnels beneath Downtown and the Ship Canal.



Overview

1. ST3 City Team
2. 2026 Major Activities:
 - Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative
 - BLE Draft EIS + BLE RET
 - WSLE Final Design + Permitting
 - City-led Planning Efforts
3. Discussion + Future briefings



ST3 City Team

ST3 is the largest infrastructure program in Seattle's history. These projects bring tremendous opportunity to transform how people reach their homes, jobs, and destinations.

While Sound Transit is the regional agency delivering these capital investments, the **ST3 City Team** is an interdepartmental *One Seattle* effort that partners with Sound Transit to help bring these projects to Seattle communities.

Led by the Office of the Waterfront, Civic Projects, and Sound Transit, the ST3 City Team relies on subject matter expertise and leadership from across City departments.



ST3 City Team

TRANSITIONS

- Mayor Wilson will begin her appointment to the Sound Transit Board at the January 22 meeting.
- Mayor Wilson has appointed Angela Brady to the Interim SDOT Director position. Director Brady will remain the ST3 Designated Representative for the City of Seattle. Our ST3 City Team will continue to work under her leadership.



ST3 City Team

STAFF EXPANSION

- Ordinance 127304 (adopted September 2025) creates position authority for 50 FTE to support the necessary growth of the ST3 City Team to meet the upcoming surge of permitting and design work for light rail expansion in Seattle.
- We expect about 80% of the positions will receive some reimbursement from Sound Transit though permit fees or partnership agreements. Many positions are on hold until Sound Transit Board makes project decisions later this year.



Sound Transit Enterprise Initiative

The ST3 program has an affordability gap of \$30+ Billion (YOE\$) and the agency has challenges to meet operations and maintenance needs.

The Enterprise Initiative (EI) will implement planning, capital, operations, maintenance, and finance changes to meet current and future regional mobility needs.

2026 Milestones include:

Q2:

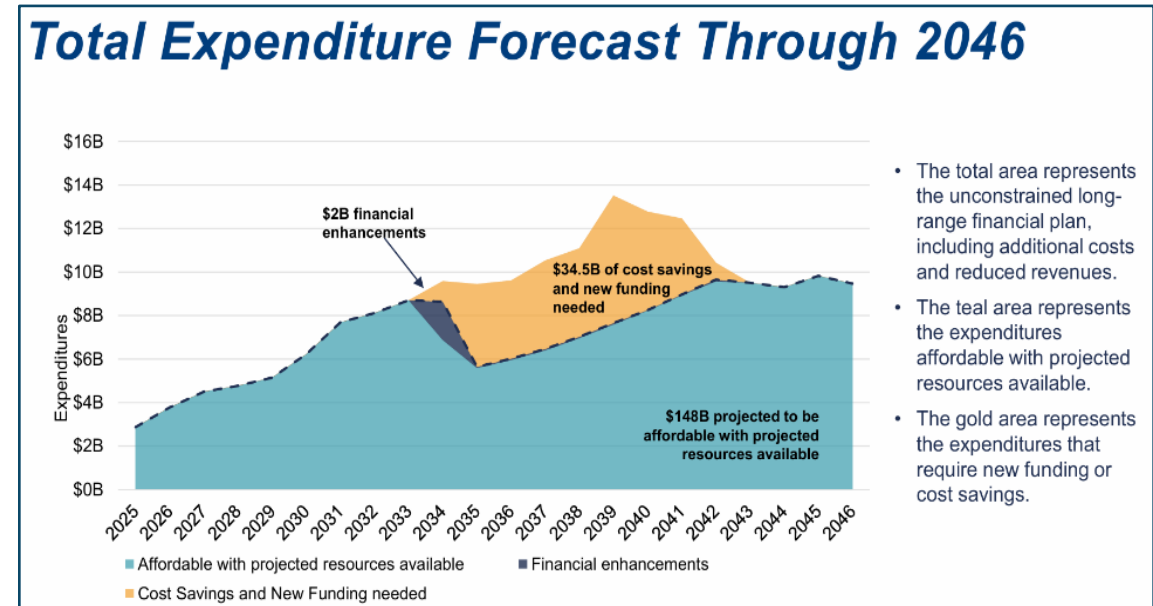
Updated ST3 System Plan →

Q3:

Regional Transit Long-Range Plan →

Q4:

Long-Range Financial Plan



ST3 Projects

Ballard Link Extension

- BLE Draft EIS + RET
- Planning: Non-Motorized Access and Station Area Planning, other planning efforts

West Seattle Link Extension

- Planning: Non-Motorized Access and Station Area Planning, other planning efforts
- Permitting: WSLE Submittal

Graham Street Infill Station



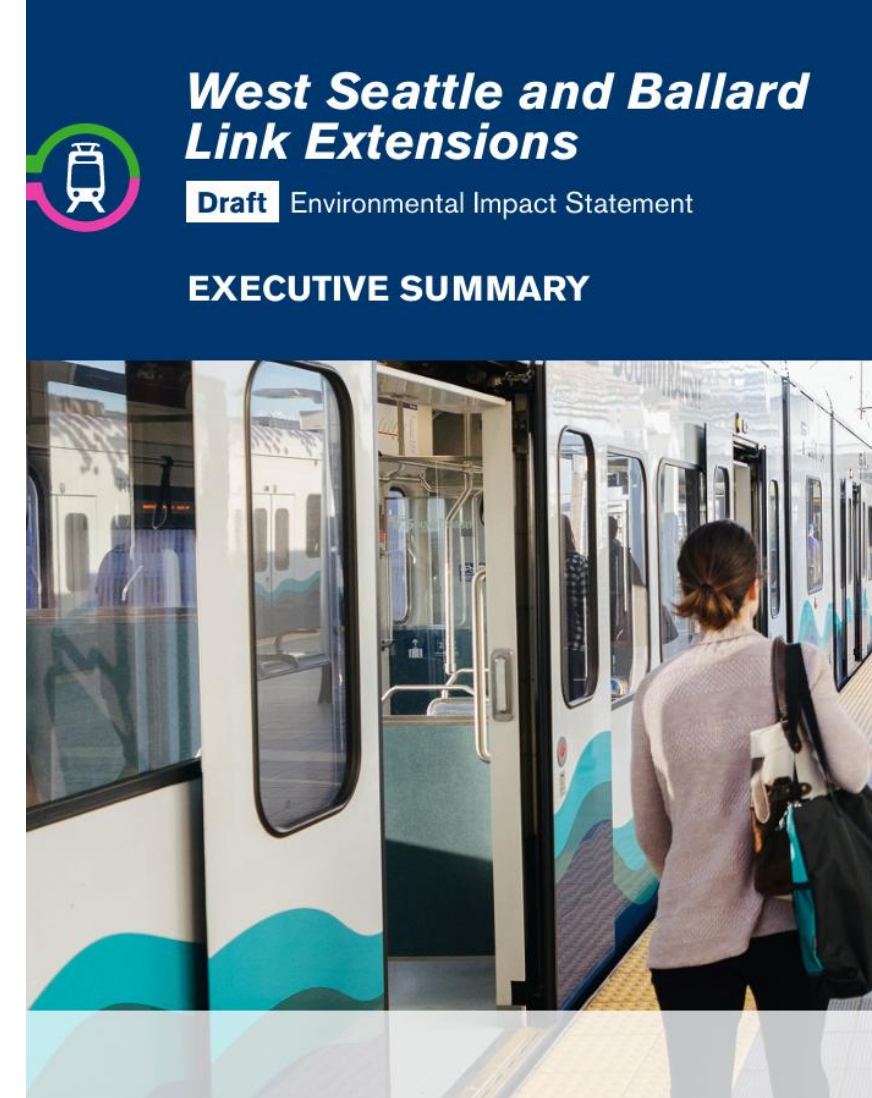
2026 MAJOR ACTIVITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL

BLE Draft EIS

As a designated *Cooperating Agency* and an *Agency Having Jurisdiction*, the City of Seattle is obligated to review and comment on the *Draft* EIS to ensure that the data, impacts, and mitigation analyses are appropriate and to identify conflicts with City code.

The City has also used the DEIS process as an opportunity to share with community members and stakeholders the project's benefits and impacts, and the trade-offs between alternatives.

We expect Sound Transit to publish the Draft EIS in Q1 2026, followed by a public comment period.

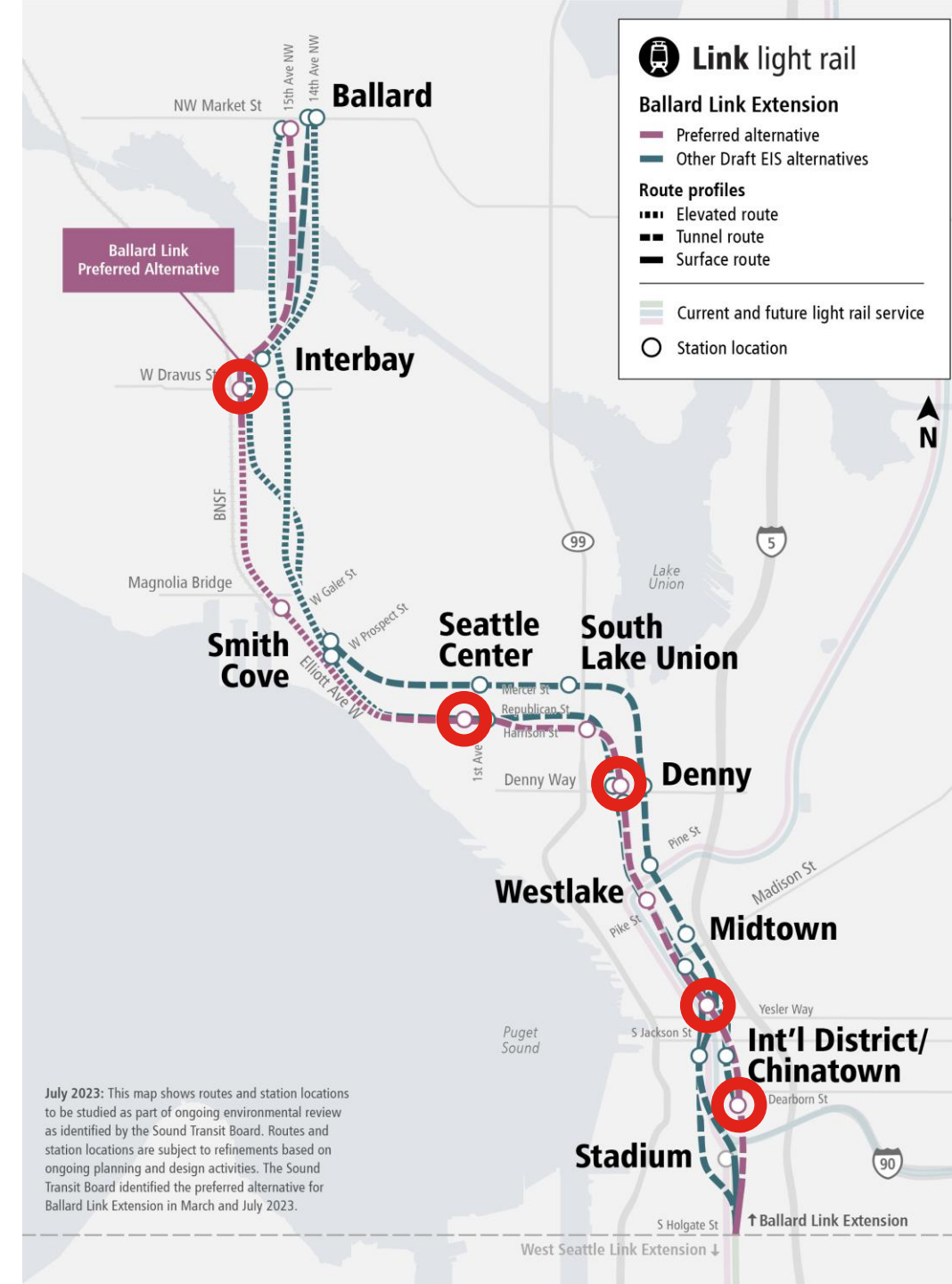


2026 MAJOR ACTIVITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL

BLE DEIS Focus Areas

City review will focus on impacts and mitigation of the Preferred Alternative and lowest-cost alternatives for each station/segment.

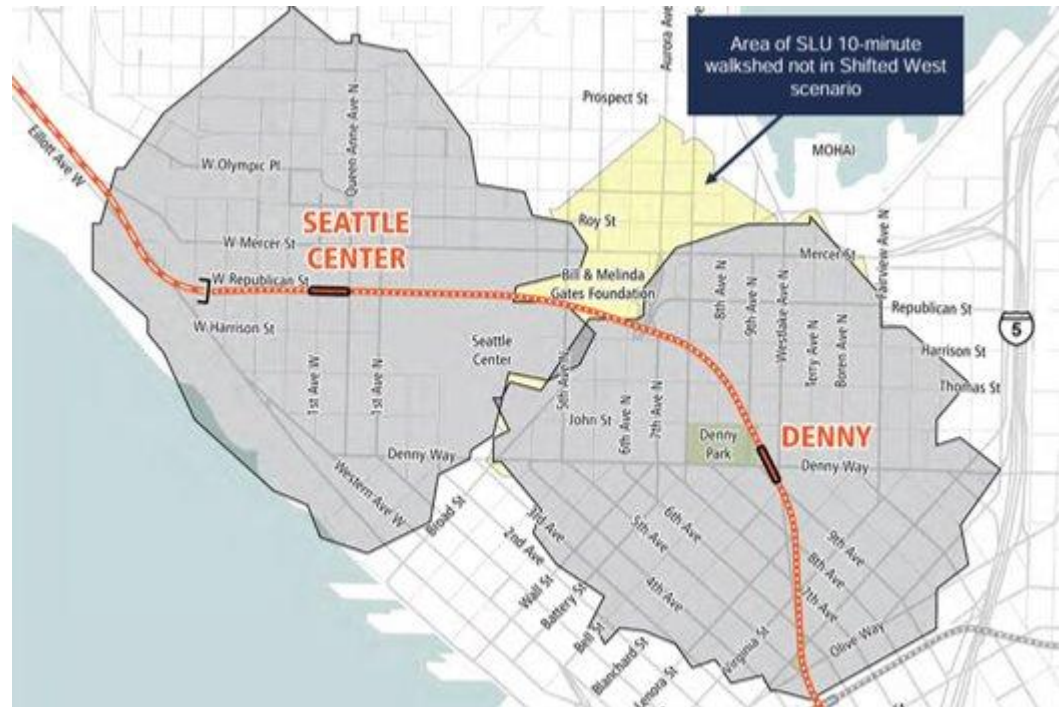
- Preferred Alternative includes 5 station alternatives not considered in the 2022 DEIS: (CID/Dearborn, Midtown/James, Denny/Westlake-North, Seattle Center/Republican-West, Interbay/Dravus)
- DEIS includes lower-cost alternatives for which City has expressed concerns in past: Denny/Westlake Shifted West and SLU Consolidation, and Minimum Operable Segment (terminating at Smith Cove Station)



Example: SLU/Denny Station Consolidation



Preferred Alternative (DT-3a) includes tunnel stations at Denny (Westlake) and SLU (7th & Harrison). Alternative DT-4 consolidates Denny and SLU stations at Denny (Westlake/9th).



Eliminating the SLU station at 7th and Harrison would avoid significant impacts and cost but also limit access and reduce ridership in the fastest growing job center in the region.

2026 MAJOR ACTIVITIES: RACIAL EQUITY

BLE DEIS RET Update

Sound Transit is advancing the Joint Agency BLE RET Report alongside the BLE DEIS.

- Round 1 City review completed (Q4-2025): Interdepartmental review led by the ST3 Equity Lead, focused on RET framing, continuity, and readiness for additional DEIS-related content.
- Round 2 review planned (2026): Following DEIS publication and public comment period, with emphasis on EJ content, public comment summary, and RET–DEIS alignment.
- Ongoing City–Sound Transit coordination to support clear, accessible, and community-centered materials.

Sound Transit will continue to share updates on how WSLE RET outcomes are being tracked, as well as ongoing engagement activities that inform those outcomes. The City team remains committed to supporting and co-facilitating with Sound Transit on plans and strategies to track WSLE RET outcomes moving forward.



Station Access Planning

Improving access to future light-rail stations is done through several related but separate efforts.

Non-Motorized Access Allowance (NMAA)

- Access projects funded by ST as part of ST3
- More design work done earlier and projects completed by station opening

Station Area Planning

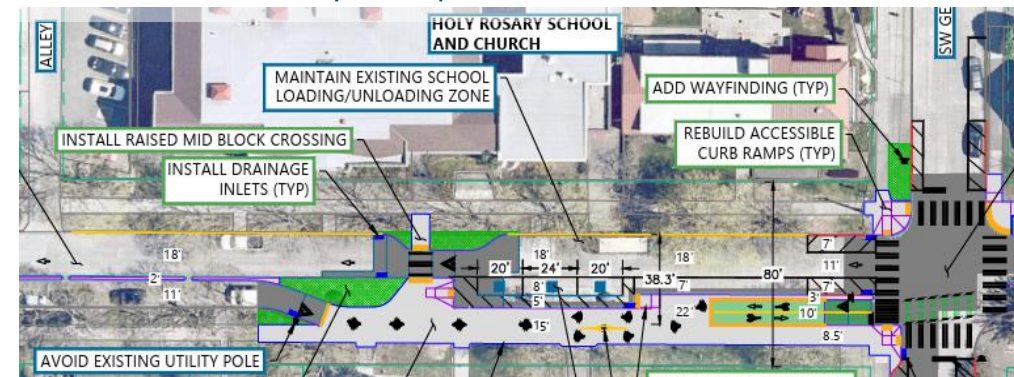
- ID access improvements in broader station area
- Implemented before or after station opening

Street Concept Plans

- City-led redesign of streets adjacent to stations
- Partially implemented through ST construction



SW 42nd Ave Greenway Concept



Non-Motorized Access Allowance (NMAA) Projects

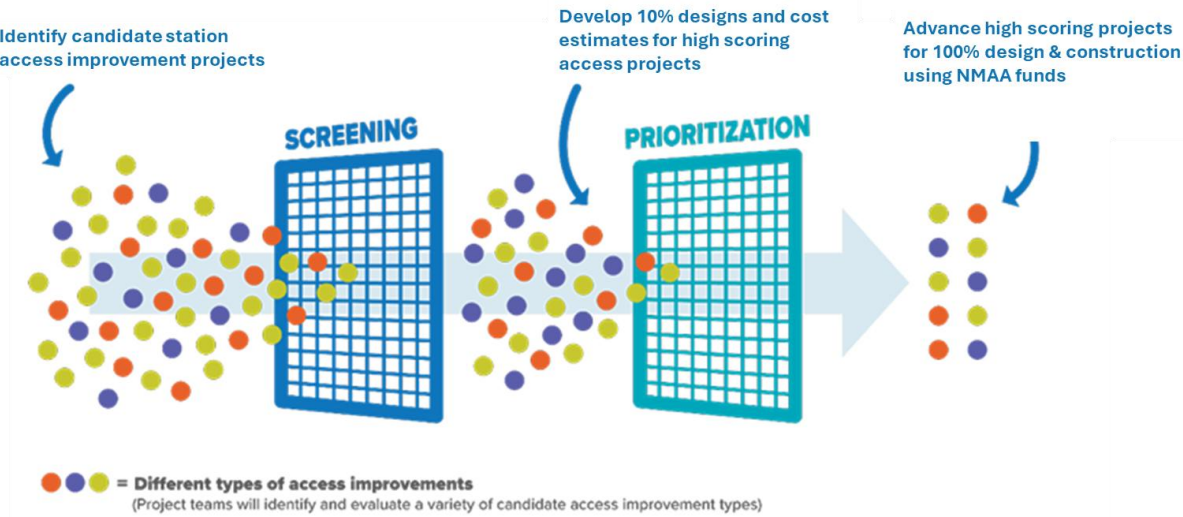
Finalized methodology and criteria for selecting NMAA projects with Sound Transit

WSLE

- Completing prioritization this winter
- Advance design on prioritized projects after more known about stations and headhouse locations

Graham Station

- Screening step this month
- Public engagement planned for March (coordinated with station area planning)



Segment	Allowance
Ballard Link Extension	\$60,000,000
West Seattle Link Extension	\$30,000,000
S Graham St	\$5,500,000

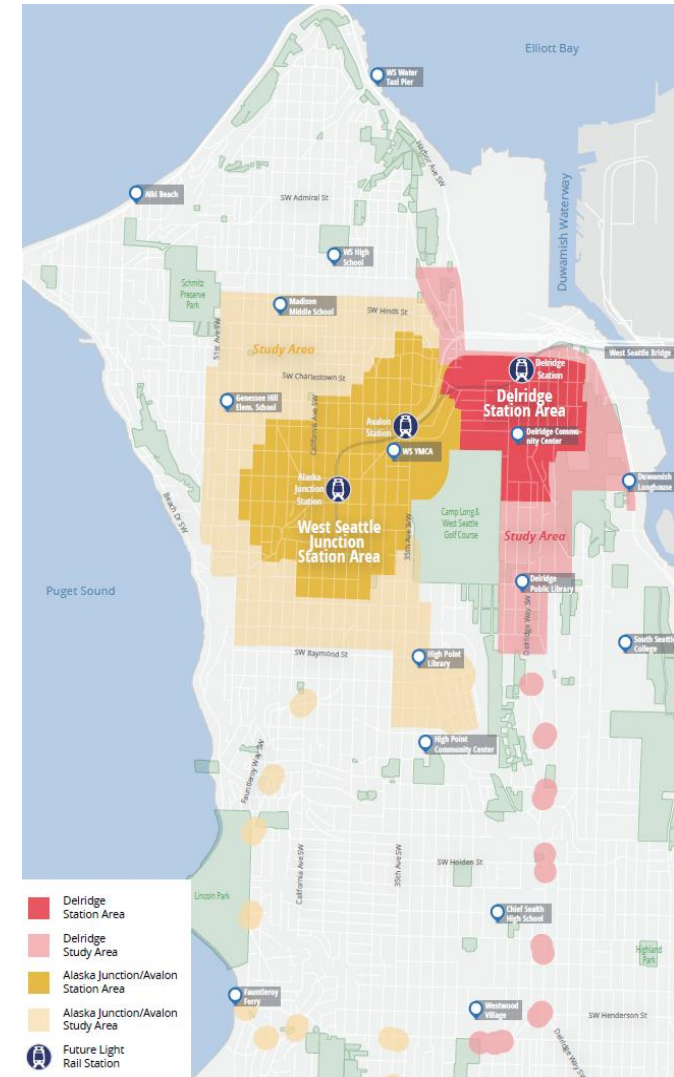
Station Area Planning: *S Graham and WSLE*

OPCD and SDOT are coordinating on community planning processes to explore opportunities to grow neighborhoods and improve mobility around future light rail stations.

Graham Street Infill: Wrapped up Phase 1 of engagement, working on developing strategies & ideas to take back to community

West Seattle:

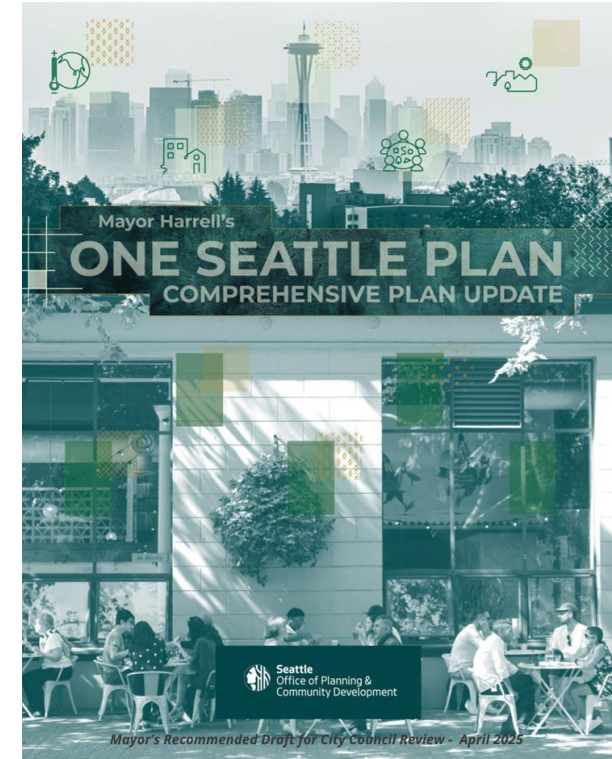
- Launched CBO focus group cohort
- Launching survey late Feb!
- Reaching out to orgs and key audiences to share info
- Updated website with mini survey



Additional planning efforts

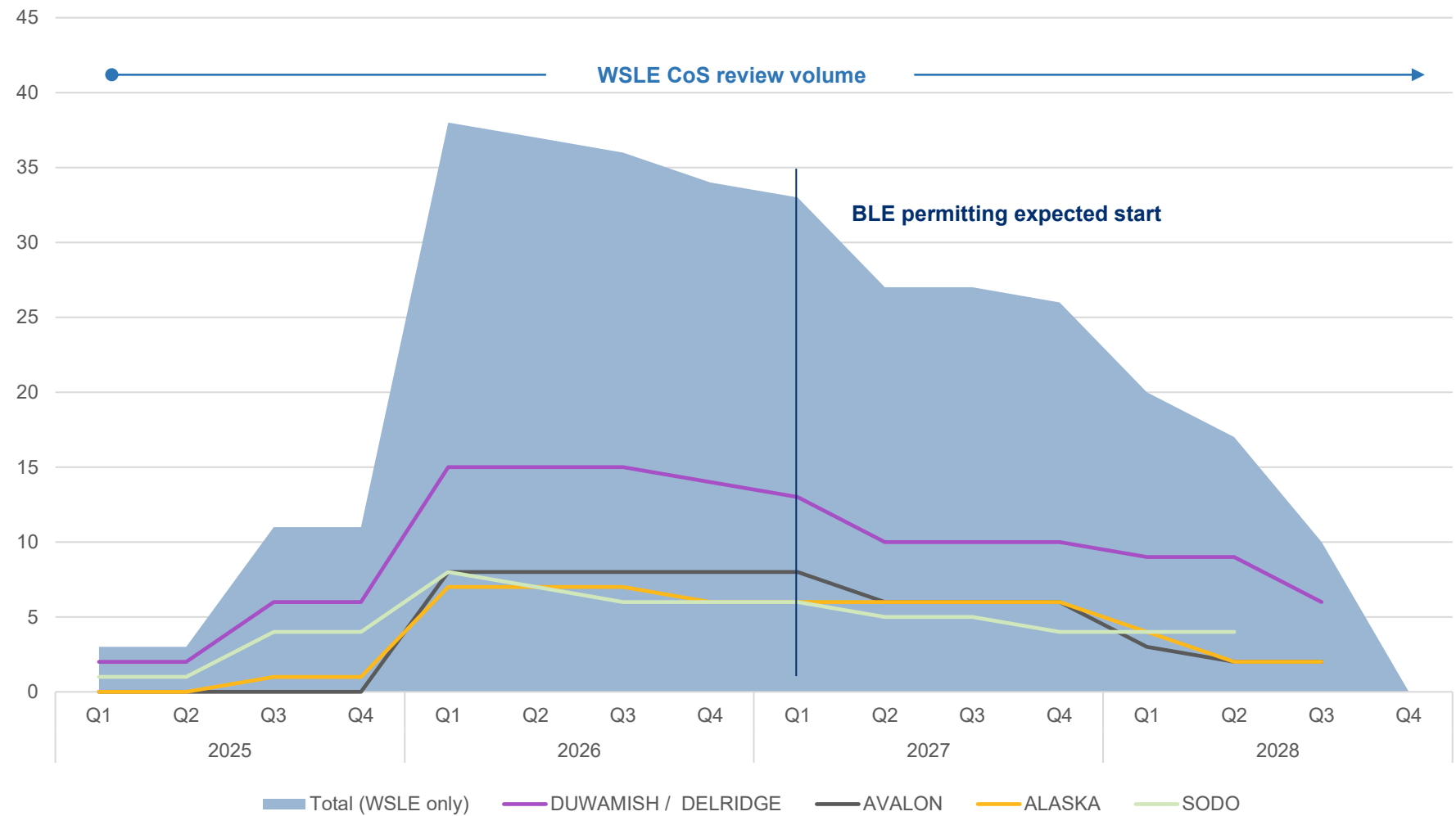
In addition to Station Area Planning, the City of Seattle has recent, current, or imminent planning efforts that touch every ST3 station in the city. (Lead: OPCD)

- Centers Planning: The City is updating long-range plans for its regional centers, including Downtown, South Lake Union, Uptown, U-District, Cap Hill/First Hill, Northgate, and new regional center at Ballard. Downtown Plan is out now for review!
- Centers & Corridors Planning: The Comprehensive Plan identifies the Pinehurst Station area as a new center to promote future growth and implement land use changes coming out of station area planning.



2026 MAJOR ACTIVITIES: **PERMITTING**

WSLE Design Packages



Upcoming SDC Touchpoints

Upcoming Formal Project Reviews*

- 2026: South Graham Street infill station PE/pre-permitting project review
- 2026 TBD: WSLE 30% project reviews (4)
- 2027 TBD: BLE PE/pre-permitting project reviews, including station context briefings (# TBD)

Other SDC Touchpoints

- Special topics during BLE DEIS comment period: Elliott Guideway, City DEIS comments
- Quarterly Updates from City Team





THANK YOU!

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