



ST3 City Team | Seattle Design Commission

June 4, 2025 | Hybrid/MS Teams

Overview

1. ST3 City Team
2. City Legislation
3. 2025 Major Activities
4. Discussion + Future briefings



ST3 in Seattle

In 2016, over 70% of Seattle voters said yes to ST3.

2026: Pinehurst infill station (2&3-Lines)

2031: South Graham Street infill station (1-Line)

2032: West Seattle Link Extension

4-station extension of 3-Line (West Seattle to Everett), with Duwamish River crossing and West Seattle tunnel

2039: Ballard Link Extension

9-station extension of 1-Line (Ballard to Tacoma), with new transit-only downtown tunnel from CID to Seattle Center) and new Ship Canal tunnel crossing



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.



City Legislation to Support ST3

The ST3 City Team will transmit several bodies of legislation to support ST3 project delivery in 2025-2027.

Why is City legislation necessary?

- RCW 36.70A.200 identifies light rail transit as an essential public facility that may be “typically difficult to site” and provides that “no local comprehensive plan or development regulation may preclude the siting of essential public facilities.”
- The 2018 City and Seattle and Sound Transit Partnering Agreement (Council Resolution 31788) establishes our mutual interest of collaboration in advance of permitting to streamline the permit review process.



Land Use Code Amendments

Council Bill 120975 culminates 5+ years of interdepartmental collaboration, agency partnership, and community engagement to amend the land use code guide light rail design, streamline permitting, and resolve code conflicts.

Process-related improvements	<div>1. Streamline Master Use Permit process</div> <div>2. Create project-level Preliminary Construction Management Plan</div> <div>3. Create project-level Tree & Vegetation Management Plan</div>
Design-related improvements	<div>4. Establish light rail-specific development standards</div> <div>5. Revise bicycle parking requirements</div> <div>6. Identify Seattle Design Commission as advisory review body</div>



Next steps:

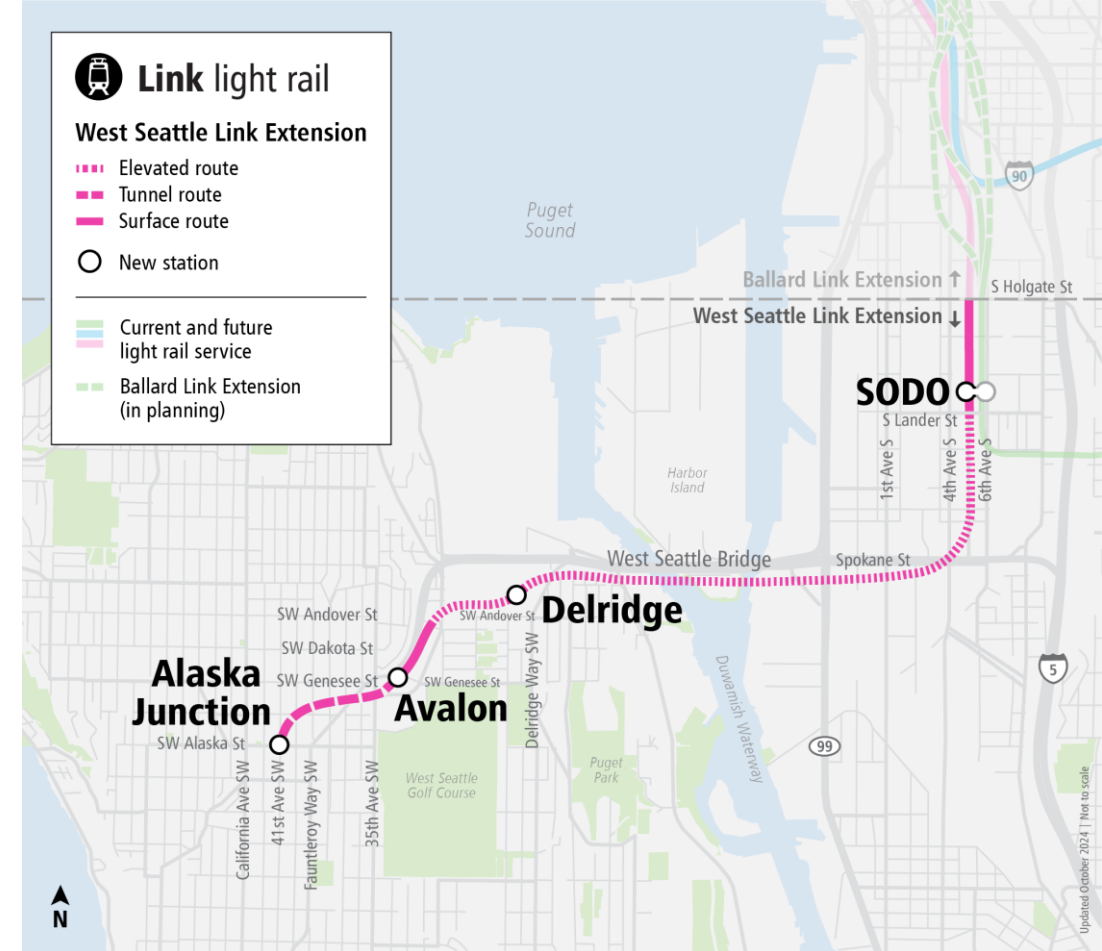
- 5/29: Public hearing
- 6/4: Committee vote
- 6/10: Full Council vote

CITY LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT ST3 PROJECTS

Adopting the WSLE Project

City departments may not issue permits to Sound Transit for construction until City Council adopts the project. Necessary steps:

- Sound Transit Board adopts a Project to Be Built.
- Federal Transit Administration publishes a Record of Decision.
- **Seattle City Council appends the project into the Transit Way Agreement by ordinance and adopts the project by resolution.**
- City departments may issue permits.



Next steps:

- 6/17 and 7/1: Expected Committee meetings
- July: Council vote

Additional Legislation 2025-2027

2025

- ST3 City Team staff and resource plan (*Leads: OWCP&ST, SDOT, CBO*)

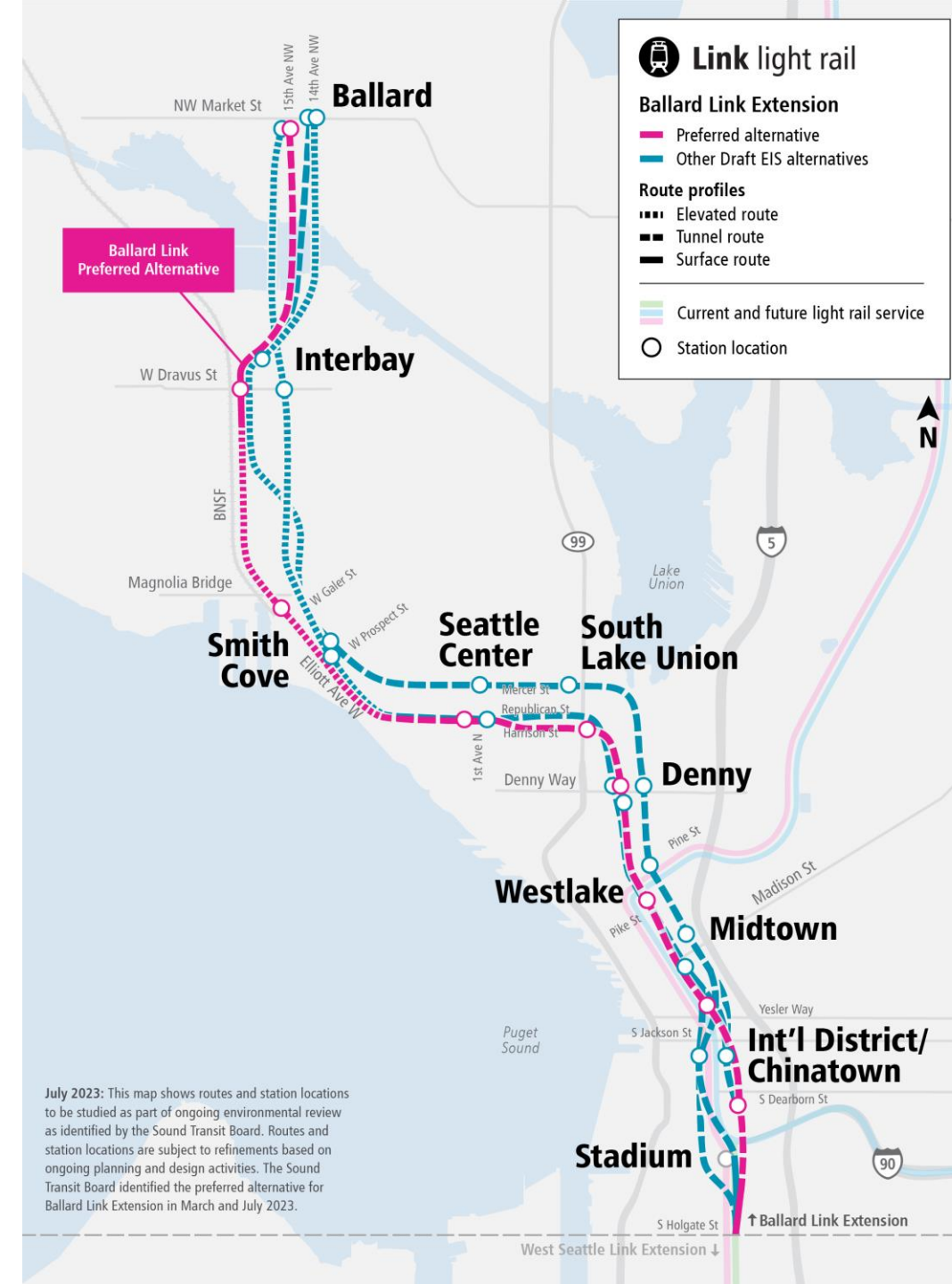
2026-2027

- Adoption of the S Graham St station project (*Leads: OWCP&ST, SDOT*)
- Adoption of the Ballard Link Extension project (*Leads: OWCP&ST, SDOT*)
- Various agreements for real property and right-of-way transfers, joint development, other partnership agreements for all projects (*Leads: FAS, SPR, OPCD, others*)



BLE EIS Process

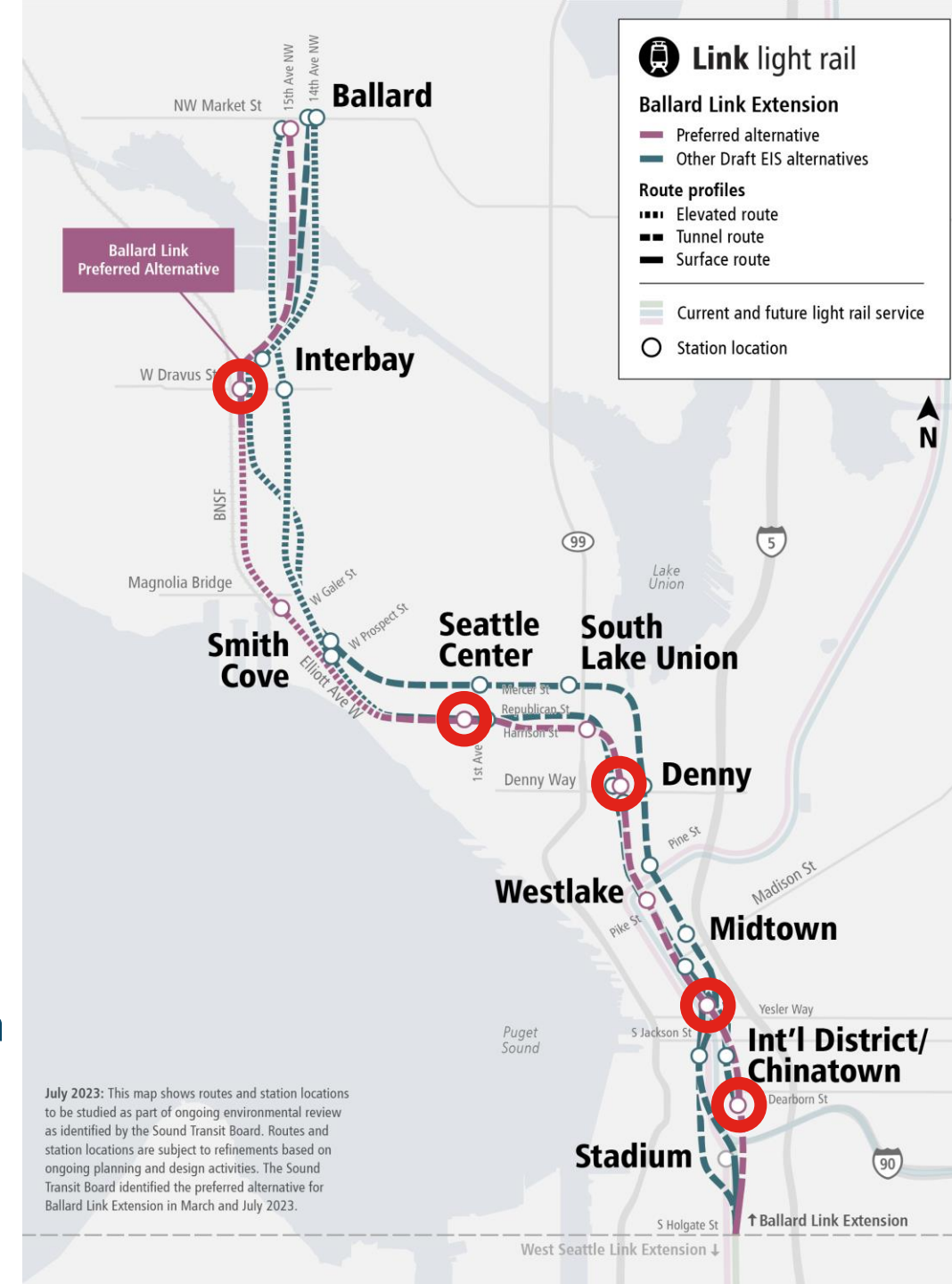
- **2022:** ST3 City Team provided comprehensive comment letter during WSBLE DEIS process
- **2022/2023:** ST Board actions selecting preferred alternative for study → prompting new DEIS for BLE
- **2025:** ST3 City Team will prepare comment letter during new BLE DEIS process
- **2025/Early 2026:** ST Board action selecting preferred alternative for Final EIS



BLE DEIS Focus Areas

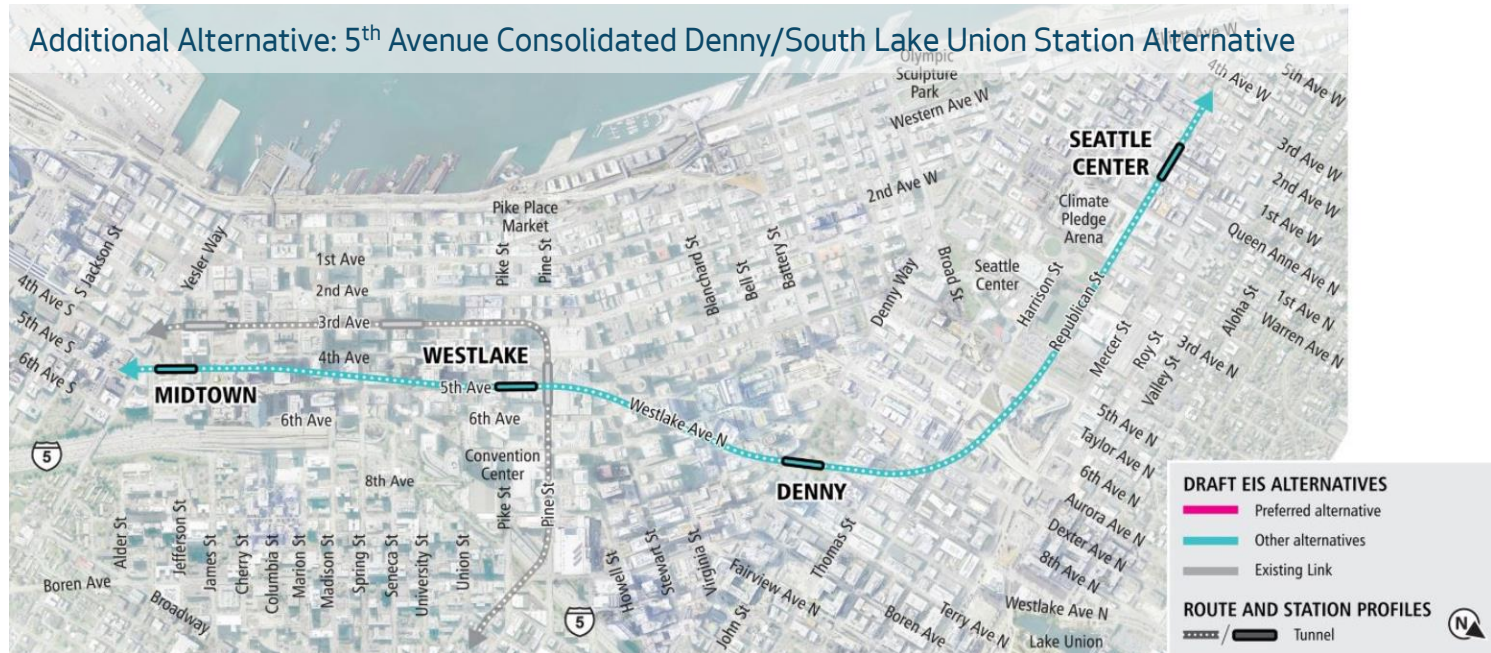
City review will focus on impacts and mitigation of preferred alternative and lowest-cost alternatives for each station/segment.

- 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 additional lower-cost alternatives for which City has expressed concerns in past
 - CID/5th Avenue Shallow Diagonal, Denny/Westlake Shifted West and SLU Consolidation, Ballard/14th Ave NW, Minimum Operable Segment (terminates at Smith Cove Station)



Example: Downtown Segment

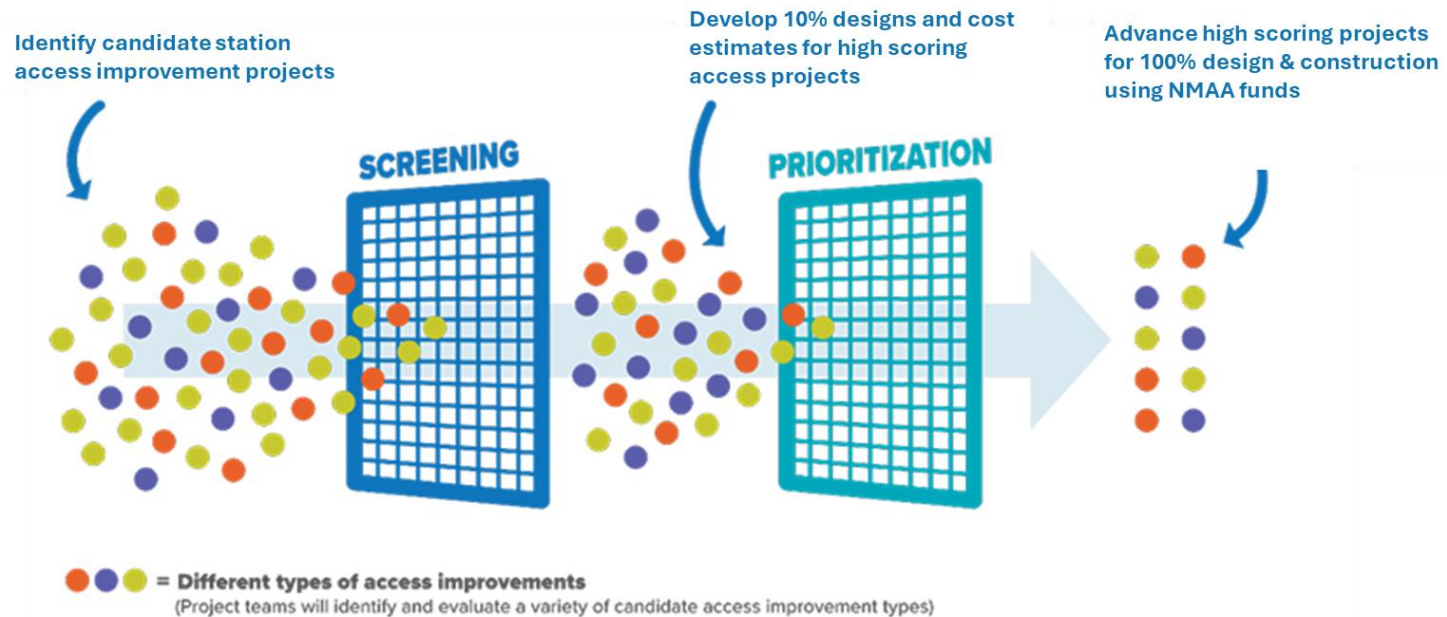
Additional alternatives include one option (bottom) that would eliminate the SLU station—reducing construction impacts and costs, but also impacting service

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Non-Motorized Access Allowance (NMAA) Projects

Working with ST to refine and finalize the methodology for selecting NMAA projects (Screening step and Prioritization step)

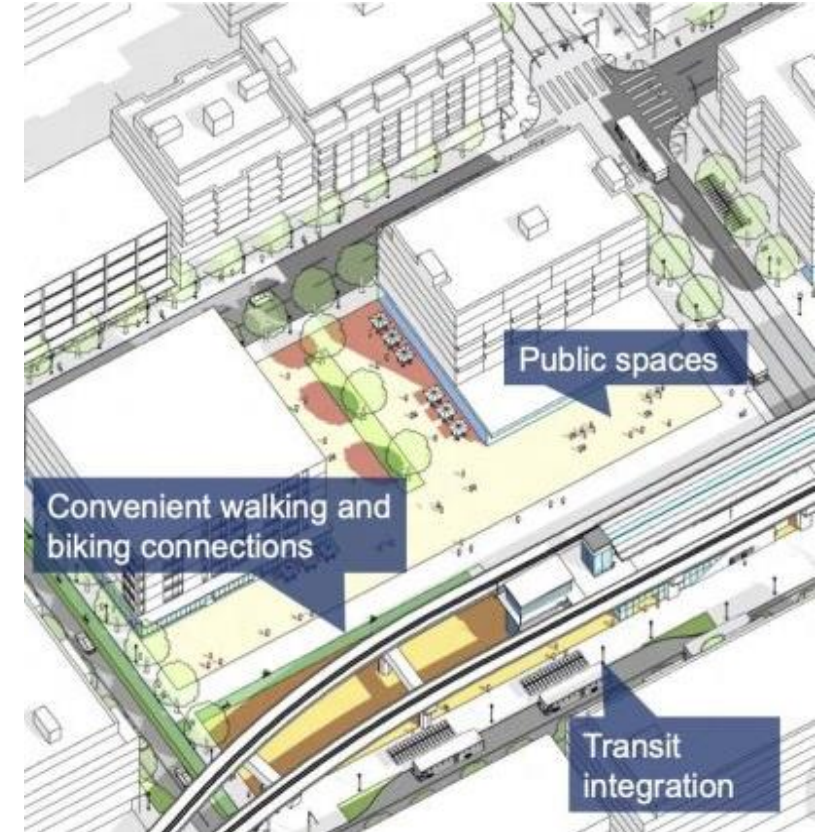
- **WSLE:** Prioritization step later this summer/fall
- **S Graham St**
 - Project list in development
 - Screening by end of summer
 - Community engagement in fall
- **BLE**
 - Project list in development
 - Screening later this year



Station Area Planning

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

- Initiated work for West Seattle Link Extension stations and Graham Street infill station
- Currently developing public involvement plans and coordinating with City departments
- Summarizing and building on what we've heard already
- Anticipated launch of public engagement later this summer



Upcoming SDC Touchpoints

Formal Project Reviews in 2025-2027*

- WSLE: 30% project reviews (4)
- BLE: PE/pre-permitting project reviews (# TBD)
- S Graham St: PE/pre-permitting project review

Quarterly Updates from City Team

Discussion

Questions?

Topics for future updates?





THANK YOU!

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