CITY OF SEATTLE

ST3
DESIGN GUIDELINES

Sound Transit Light Rail expansion in Seattle

Seattle

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. LINK Expansion Background

2. ST3 DESIGN GUIDELINES

    A. Purpose, Scope, Context

    B. Design Guideline Development Process

    C. Document Overview

    D. Evaluation Tools

3. Next steps & timeline

GOALS FOR TODAY

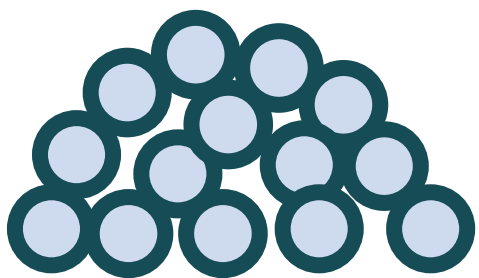*We are seeking the SDC's input and guidance on:*

- Design Goals – *Did we miss a major design goal or outcome?*

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- Approach to integrating equity – *How else could we advance racial equity through this work?*

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1. Link Expansion

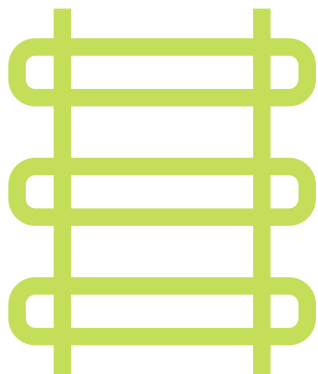**BACKGROUND**

West Seattle to Ballard Link Extension (WSBLE)

14 stations

2 water crossings

~12 miles of new track

a new tunnel through downtown

This map shows routes and station locations the Sound Transit Board has identified for further study in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).*

Link light rail

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
- Preferred alternatives
- Preferred alternatives with third-party funding
- Other Draft EIS alternatives

Route profiles
- Elevated route
- Tunnel route
- Surface route

- Current and future light rail service
- Station location

*Routes and station locations are subject to refinements based on ongoing planning and design activities. More detail available in the Draft EIS maps.

Ballard **2035**
Interbay
Smith Cove
Seattle Center
South Lake Union
Denny
Westlake
Midtown
Int'l District/Chinatown
Stadium
SODO
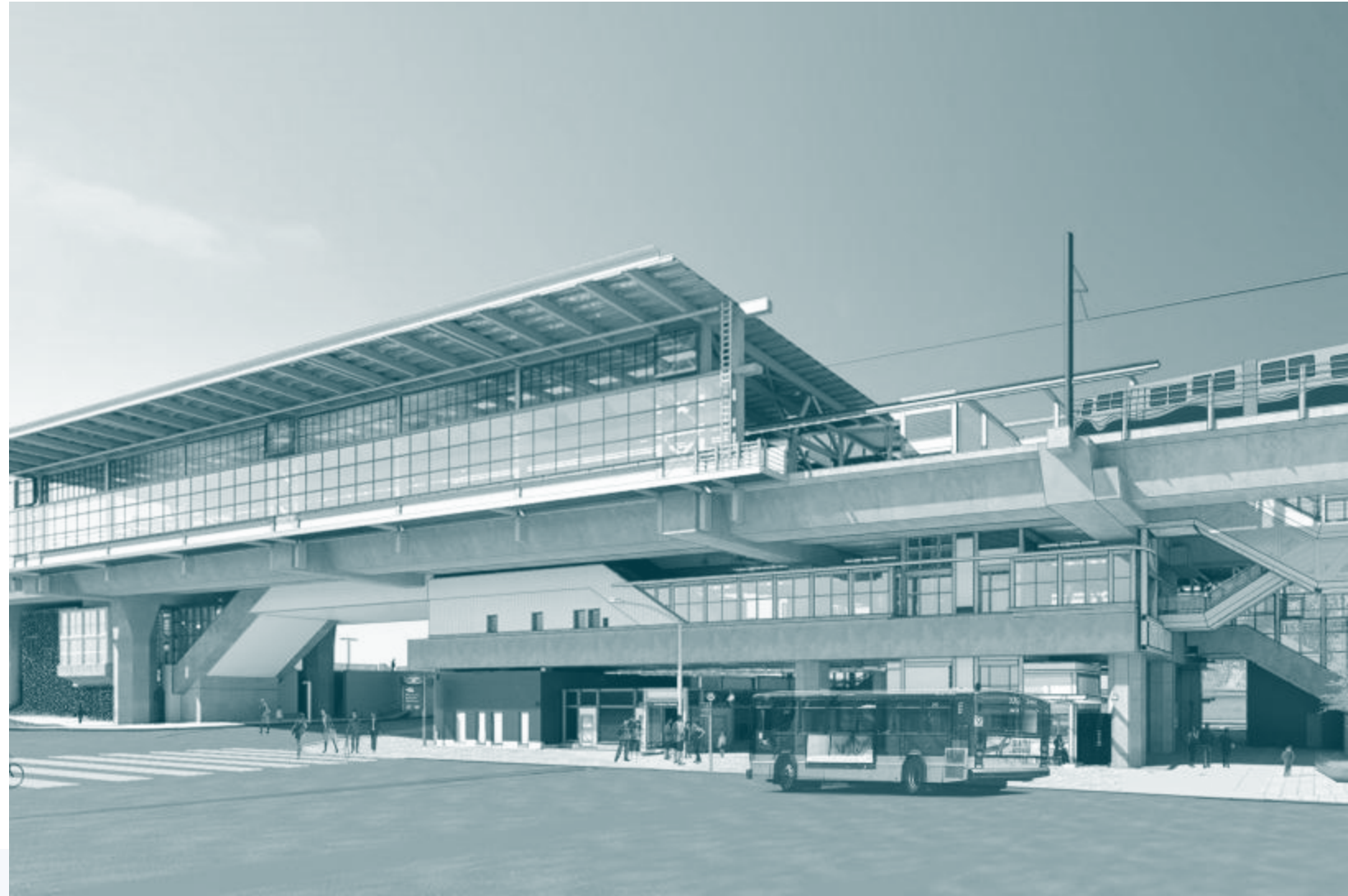Alaska Junction **2030**
Delridge
Avalon

Updating the Design Guidelines

- **ST2**
  - Light Rail Review Panel
  - Handbook
  - Design guidelines

- **ST3**
  - Review process is in development
  - SDC Review
  - Updated Design Guidelines

2. ST3 Design Guidelines

A. Purpose and Scope

PURPOSE

Audiences:

Tool for **designers, planners, reviewers, and the general public.**

With these guidelines, the City aims to:

- Share expectations for design of stations, public spaces, streetscapes & related infrastructure
- Improve predictability for Sound Transit and City
- Establish an evaluation framework and process
- Supplement various City standards and guidance
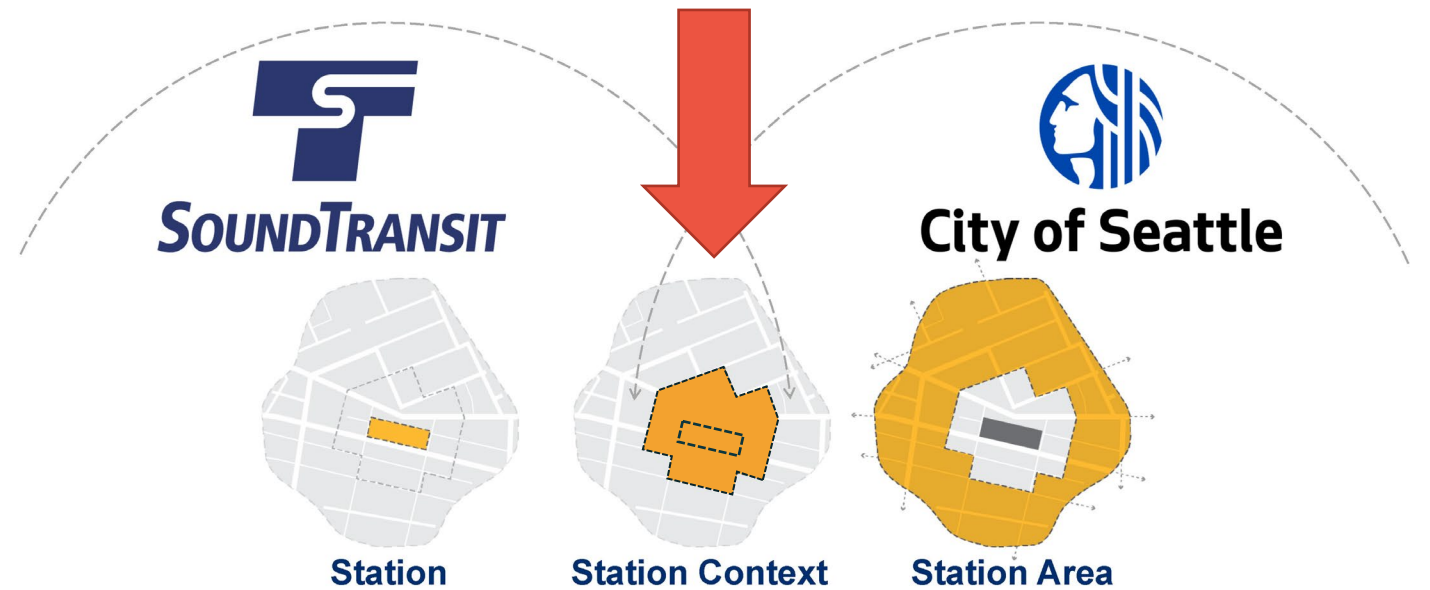
SCOPE

- **Transit facilities**
  - Exteriors
  - Interiors
  - Platforms

- **Station Context**
  - 1-2-minute walk
  - Public realm & streets
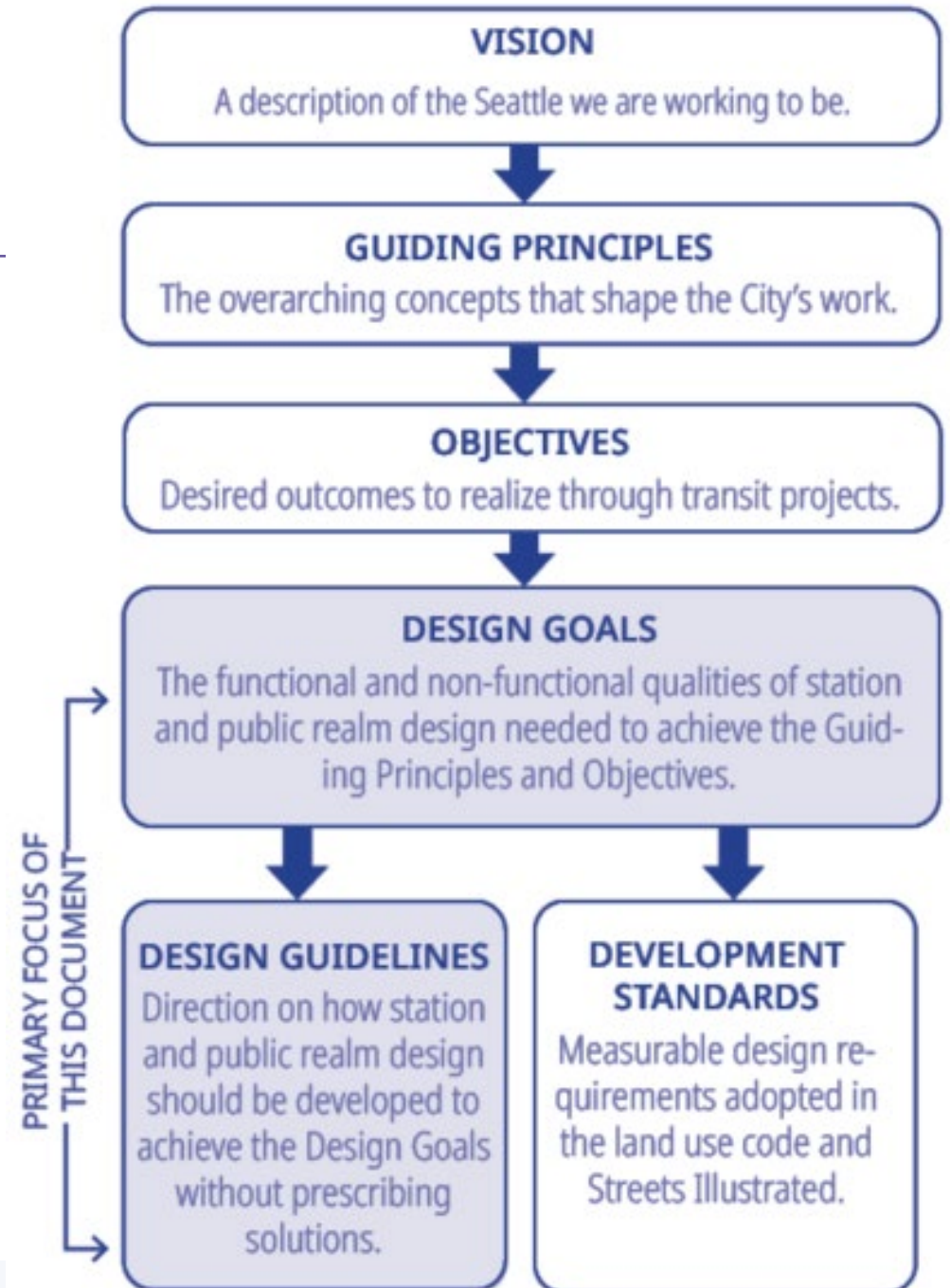 - Supportive infrastructure

- **Related infrastructure**
  - Elevated guideways
  - Portals
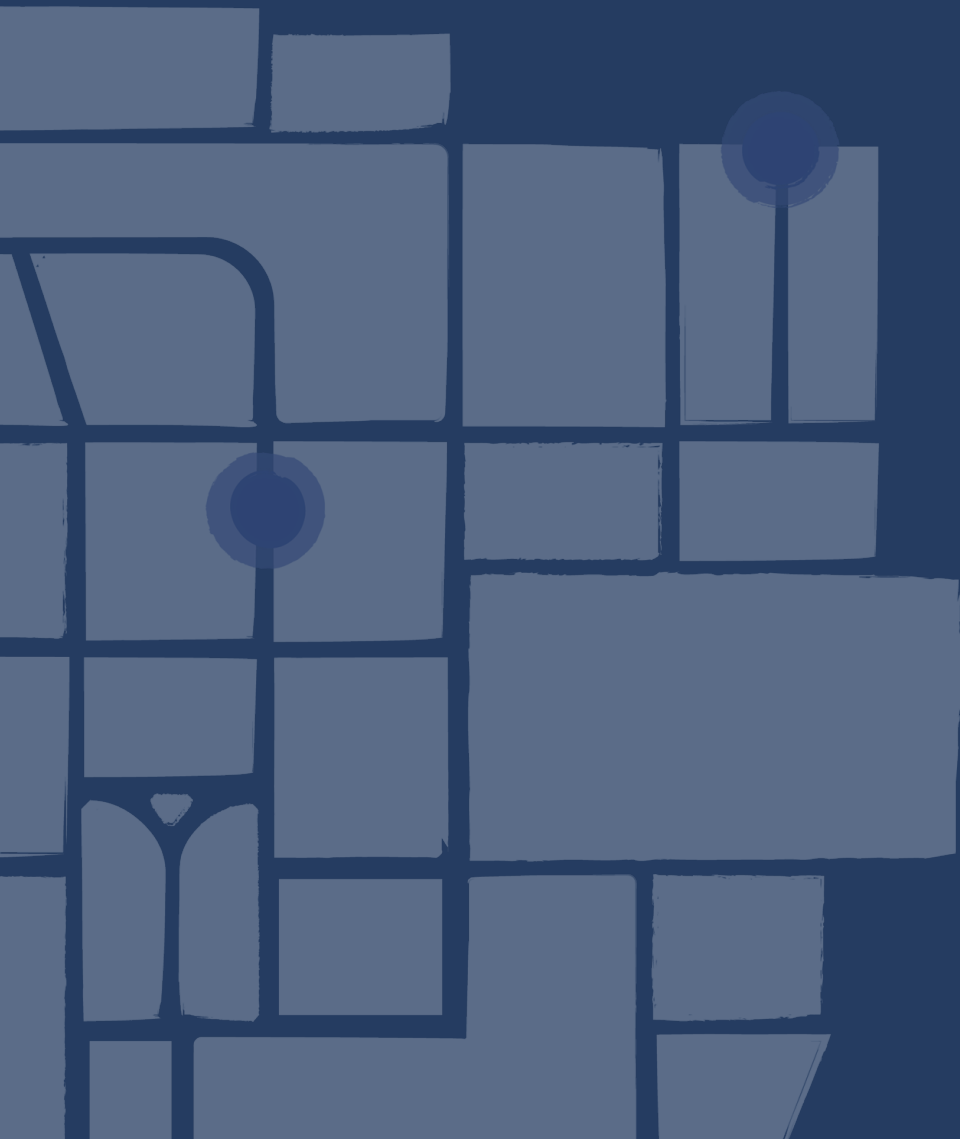 - Overwater crossings & other special structures

SOUNDTRANSIT

City of Seattle

Station

Station Context

Station Area

DESIGN GUIDELINES IN CONTEXT

The Design Guidelines help implement the City's ST3 vision, guiding principles, and objectives.

VISION
A description of the Seattle we are working to be.

↓

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
The overarching concepts that shape the City's work.

↓

OBJECTIVES
Desired outcomes to realize through transit projects.

↓

DESIGN GOALS
The functional and non-functional qualities of station and public realm design needed to achieve the Guiding Principles and Objectives.

↓

DESIGN GUIDELINES
Direction on how station and public realm design should be developed to achieve the Design Goals without prescribing solutions.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
Measurable design requirements adopted in the land use code and Streets Illustrated.

PRIMARY FOCUS OF THIS DOCUMENT

DESIGN GUIDELINES IN CONTEXT

The **Design Guidelines** help implement the **City's ST3 vision, guiding principles, and objectives**.

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The functional and non-functional qualities of station and public realm design needed to achieve the Guiding Principles and Objectives.

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DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Measurable design requirements adopted in the land use code and Streets Illustrated.

B. **DESIGN GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

RESOURCES & PRECEDENTS

- Case studies of existing stations
- Examples from around the world, best practice literature
- Design documents from London, Vancouver, etc.
- Interdepartmental Design Steering Committee
- Community input
- Staff experience

Transit Passenger Facility Design Guidelines
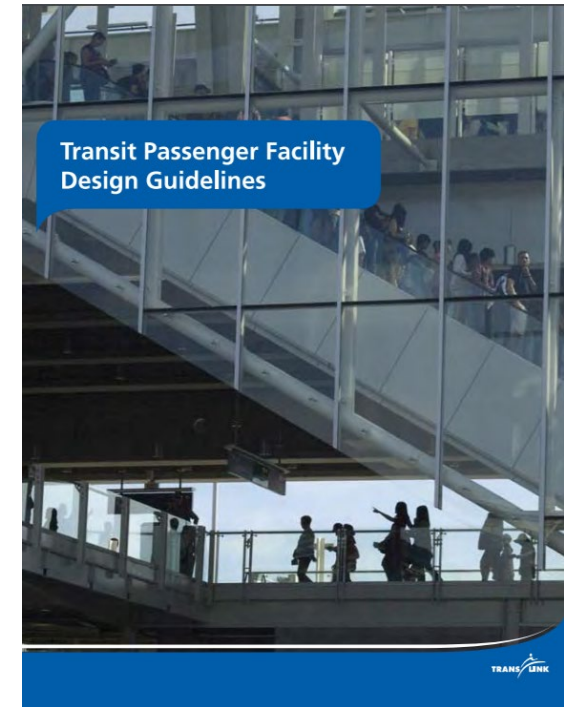
London Underground
Station Design Idiom

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

1. Dual Focus- Process & Content

2. Design Commission's "Equity in the design of public space for public facilities" guidance

3. ST3 Racial Equity Toolkit

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

1. **Process**

   - Ensuring local community informs design at all design stages

   - Asking proponents to demonstrate link between guideline and design outcome

   - Encouraging high level of design attention to all stations big and small

   - Public life observations to inform design, use, maintenance of new public spaces

ADVANCING RACIAL EQUITY

2. Content

- User experience and universal design guides design for all stations

- Achieve comfort and safety through design and programming rather than surveillance

- Advance community identified priorities and identities (cultural, architectural, linguistic, etc)

- Appropriately scale and program public spaces to generate positive community assets

- Balance local distinctiveness with system-wide identity for ease of use by all

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

1. Leverage existing processes given the current context and project stage
   - Engage with existing Boards and Commissions
   - Focus groups with end user groups
   - Partnering with Sound Transit

2. Potential additional outreach through Equitable TOD and station access outreach
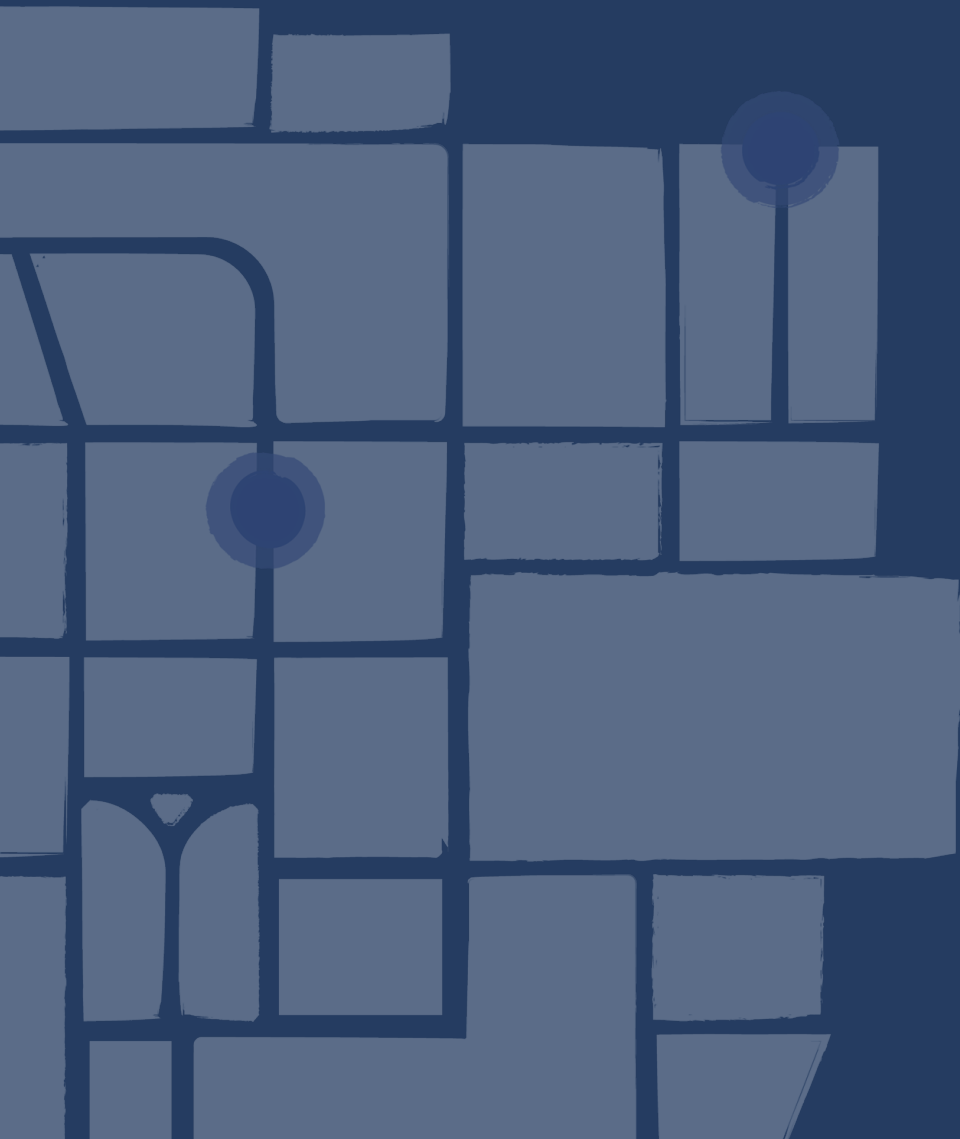
C. Document Overview

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

INTRODUCTION	GUIDELINES	DESIGN RESPONSE & EVALUATION
Background	**Context Analysis**	**Prompts & Response**
Design Goals	**Design Fundamentals**	**Evaluation Tool**
	The Station	
	Public Realm	
	Special Structures	

DESIGN GOALS – What we are trying to achieve

Advance Equity	**Put People First**	**Strengthen Community**
Harness Economic Benefit	**Enhance Neighborhood Identity**	**Optimize the Mobility Network**

GUIDELINE CHAPTERS

- **Context Analysis**

- **Design Fundamentals**

- **The Station**

- **Public Realm**

- **Special Structures**

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

WHY?

Establish shared understanding of the local area as places within the community.

WHAT:

- Destination Category
- Expected User Categories
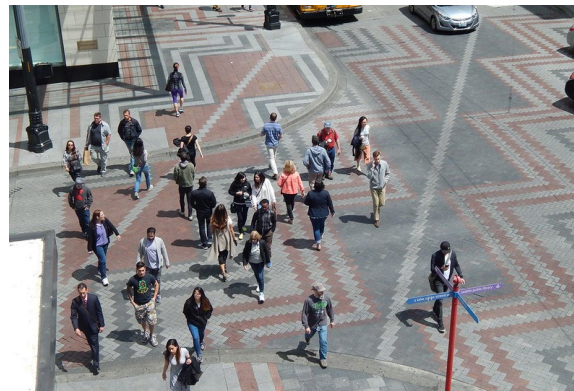- Local Context & Community

CONTEXT ANALYSIS

DESTINATION CATEGORY

- Local (e.g. Delridge, Avalon)
- Urban Mixed (e.g. Denny, Ballard)
- Attractors(e.g. Seattle Center, Stadiums)
- Gateways (e.g. Westlake, CID)

USER CATEGORIES

- Commuters
- Recreational/ Occasional Riders
- Tourists
- All-purpose Riders

CONTEXT AND COMMUNITY

- Demographics
- Public Life Observations
- Movement, Origins and Destinations
- Existing Plans and Policies

B. DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS

WHY?

Principles that shape design decisions at every stage of project design.

WHAT

- Design and Racial Equity
- Places of Civic & Community Pride
- Positive User Experience
- Movement & Modal Balance
- Rider Essentials & Amenities
- Sustainability & Adaptability

C. THE STATION

WHY?

Ensure station exteriors and interiors achieve high-quality and contextual design.

WHAT

- Station Box & Entrances
- Station & Site Configuration
- Station Circulation
- Rider Amenities
- Designing the Spaces
- Additional Guidance by Station Type (elevated, surface integrated, underground etc.)

D. THE PUBLIC REALM

WHY?

Quality design and programming of streets and public spaces near the station.

WHAT:

- Public space and mobility needs by type of destination and user
- Street design
- Public space design
- Design of essential infrastructure in the public realm

E. SPECIAL STRUCTURES

WHY?

Ensuring design attention to the major infrastructure elements in the system.

WHAT:

- Guideways
- Over water crossings
- Portals
- Misc. Equipment

D. Evaluation Tool

PROMPTS – Sample

5 STATION DESIGN

B. STATION SITE & BUILDINGS

1. Integrate with Local Context Design stations for their place, and for the people and communities that use them

a. **Balance network with local:** Create a level of consistency across the network while ensuring that every station has unique and memorable features. Strive for 70-80% deign standard & consistent, and 20-30% place-specific design elements that enhance local identity, embrace local character and enhance sense of place

b. **Public art:** Determine public art opportunities at the outset of station design so that it is integrated into the architectural concept.

c. **Reflect community identity:** Reflect the local community and cultures in the facility design, including the architectural concept, materials, design detailing, and art.

d. **Station Identity:** Employ design features—such as materials, color scheme, or art-- at the platform that make the station immediately identifiable to frequent users arriving by train.

2. Express an Architectural Concept make stations a civic asset and catalyst for enhancing community identity

a. **Iconic Architecture:** Express an intentional and original response to the context, scaled

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How does the design foster a distinct identity? What aspects of context and the communitiy are unique expressions being informed by?

In addition to signage, what distinct features would an arriving user see upon pulling in to the station?

How does the architectural concept, application of materials, and arrangement of spaces respond to and reflect the histories and cultures of communities of color? How does the station design foster a sense of belonging for communities of color?

How will public art be integrated into the design and architectural concept of the station?

Example of design guideline

EVALUATION TOOL - Sample

7 **EVALUATION FRAMEWORK**

	Rating			Comments
	+	o	-	
5.A STATION BOX & ENTRANCES				
1 **Reinforce Block Patterns**				
2 **Strategic Entry Locations & Relationships**				
3 **Emphasize Positive Neighborhood Attributes**				
4 **Anticipate Co-Development & TOD**				
5.B STATION SITE & BUILDINGS				
1 **Integrate with Local Context:** Does the station design express a unique identity that reflects the place and communities who will use it?				

3. Next Steps & Timeline

NEXT STEPS

1. Community engagement process to be determined in coordination with other ST3 outreach decisions

2. Development of DGs
   - Timeline and Design Review process in development
   - Plan to work with SDC to refine Evaluation Tool, Prompts
   - SDC guidelines review – potentially with smaller work group?
   - Engage with City policy makers and Sound Transit

3. Station-specific guidance – Approach and appetite to be determined

4. Review process – coming soon

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Thank you.

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