

Connect / 2020

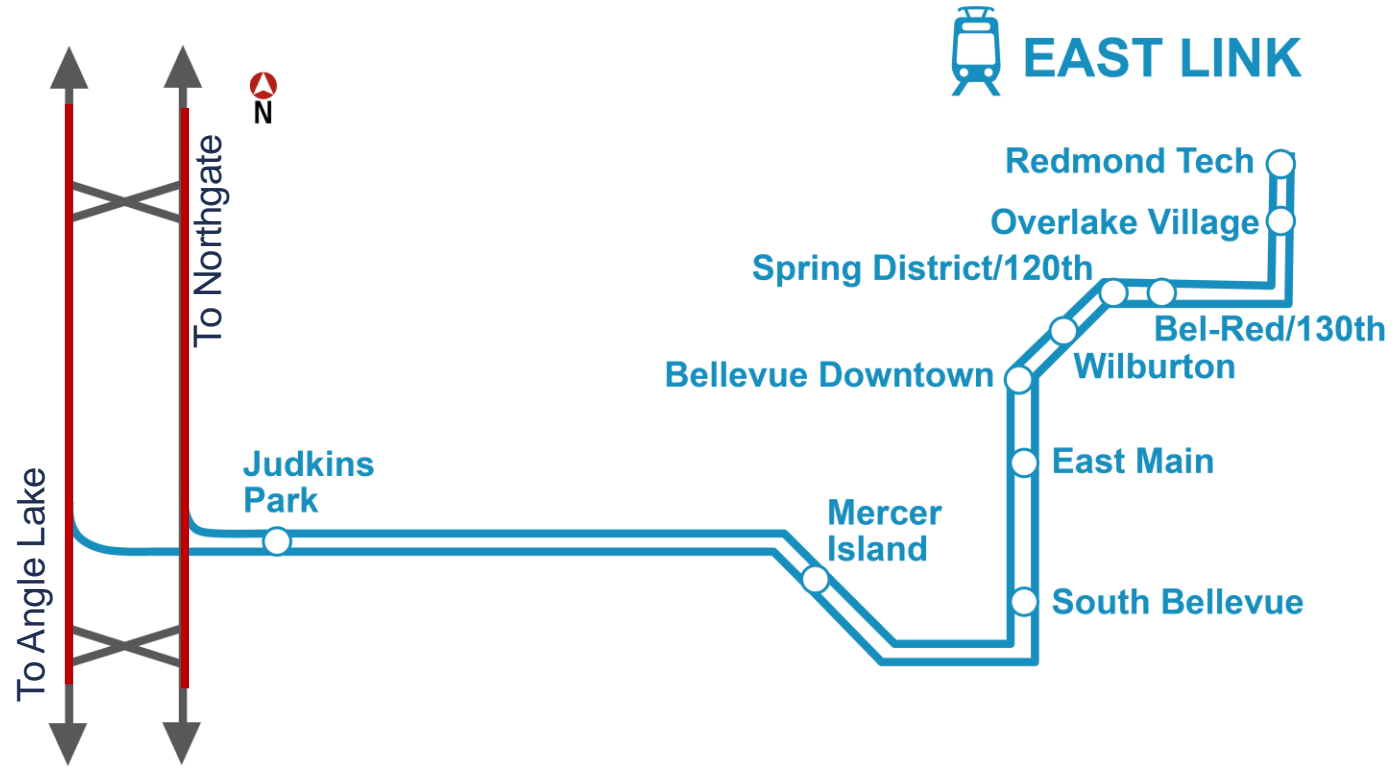
***Linking the downtown
tunnel to the Eastside***

June 2019

East Link

Overview

10 stations
14 miles
Opens 2023



Why we are here

- To share draft construction timelines, our operating plan, and our *Connect 2020* communications plan during construction to connect East Link tracks to the downtown tunnel
- To describe service disruptions that will occur
- Seeking feedback and opportunities to collaborate

Connect 2020 overview

The challenge

- Complete heavy construction while continuing service
- Maintain high safety and security standards
- Manage crowding



Connect 2020 overview

The solution

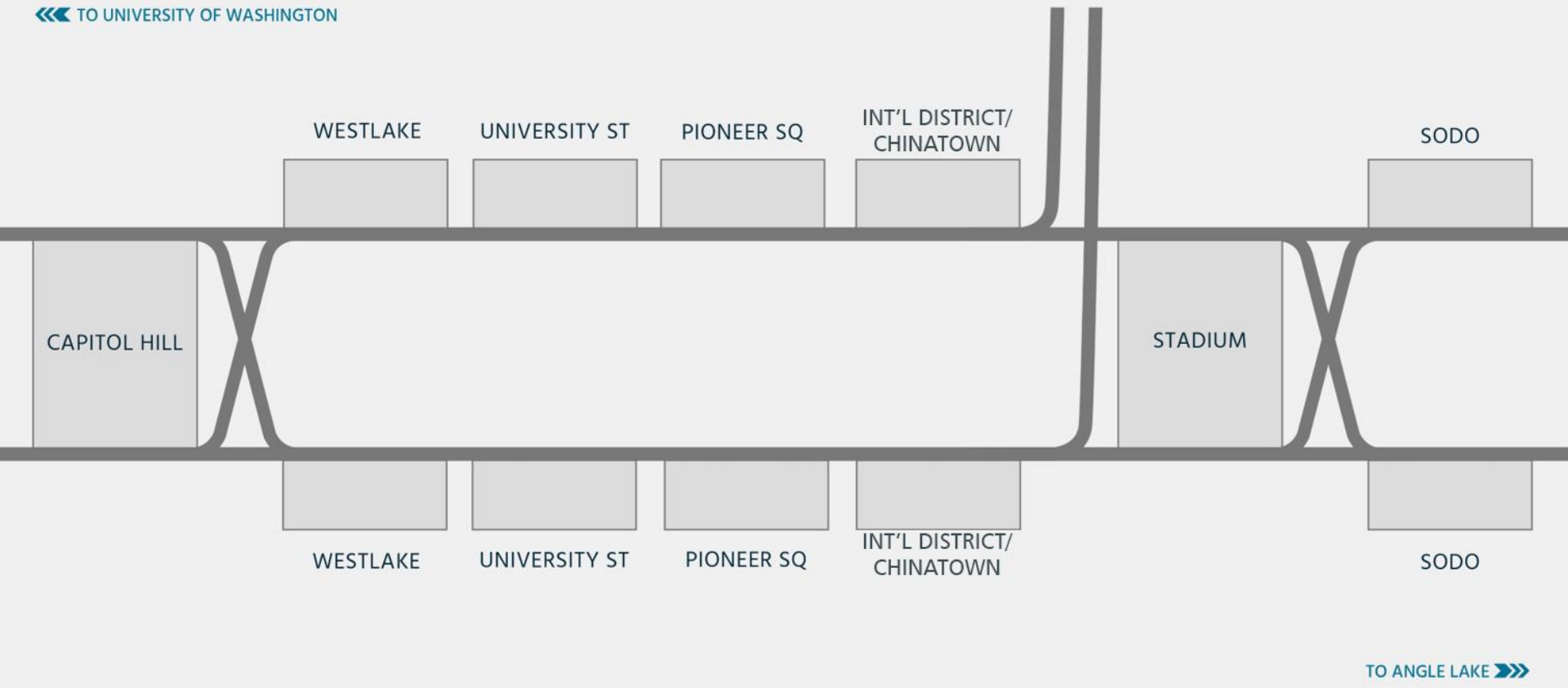
- Operate service on one track (known as “single-track operations”) while construction takes place on the opposite track
- Operate single-track service from Stadium to Westlake for 10 weeks in early 2020
- Build temporary center platform for riders to transfer at Pioneer Square
- During 3 weekend closures, provide shuttle bus service from SODO/Cap Hill to Westlake



Downtown tunnel track diagram



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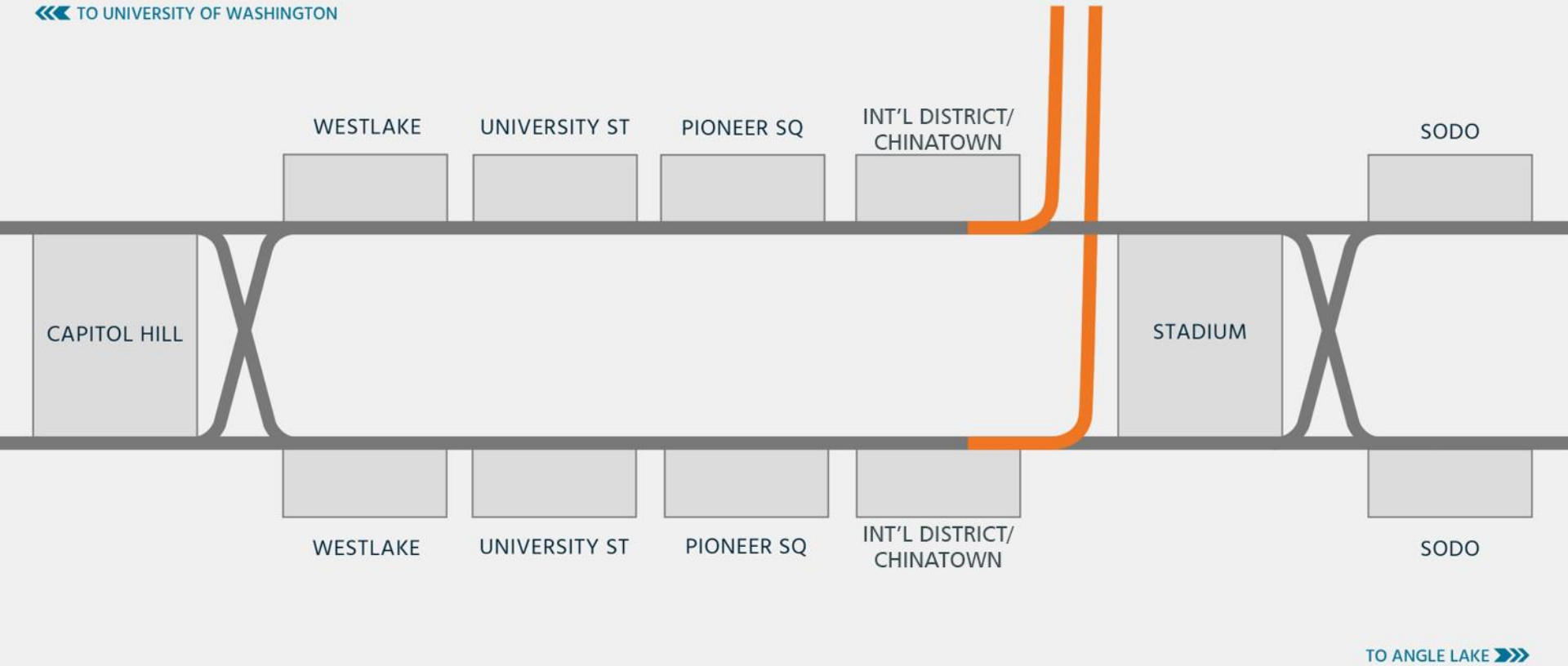




International District/Chinatown Station track diagram



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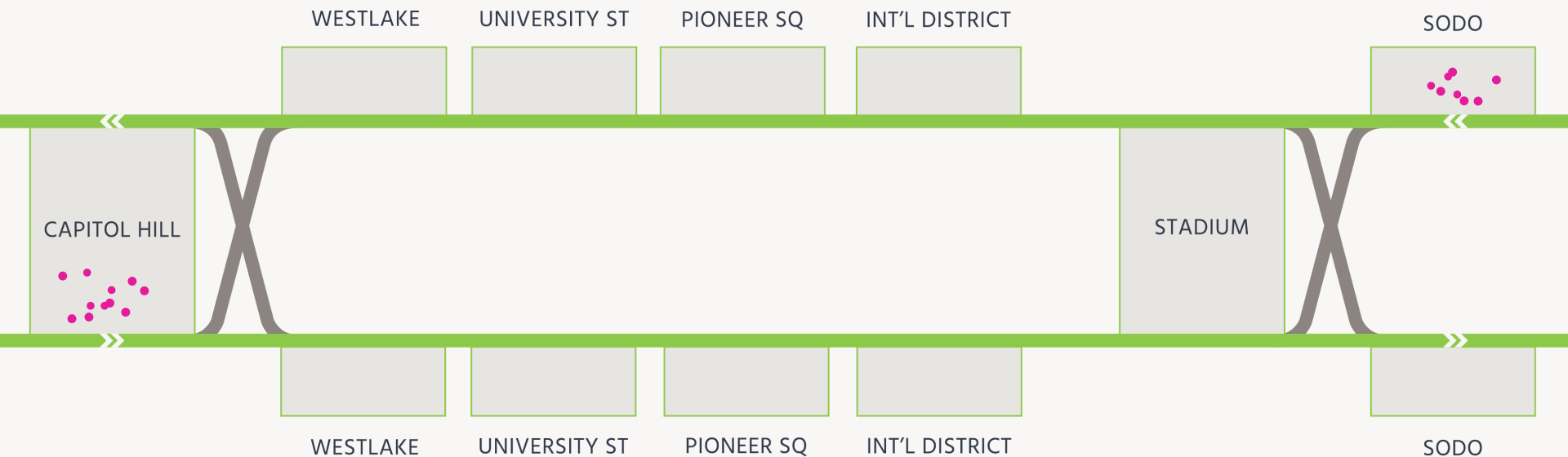
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Current track flow

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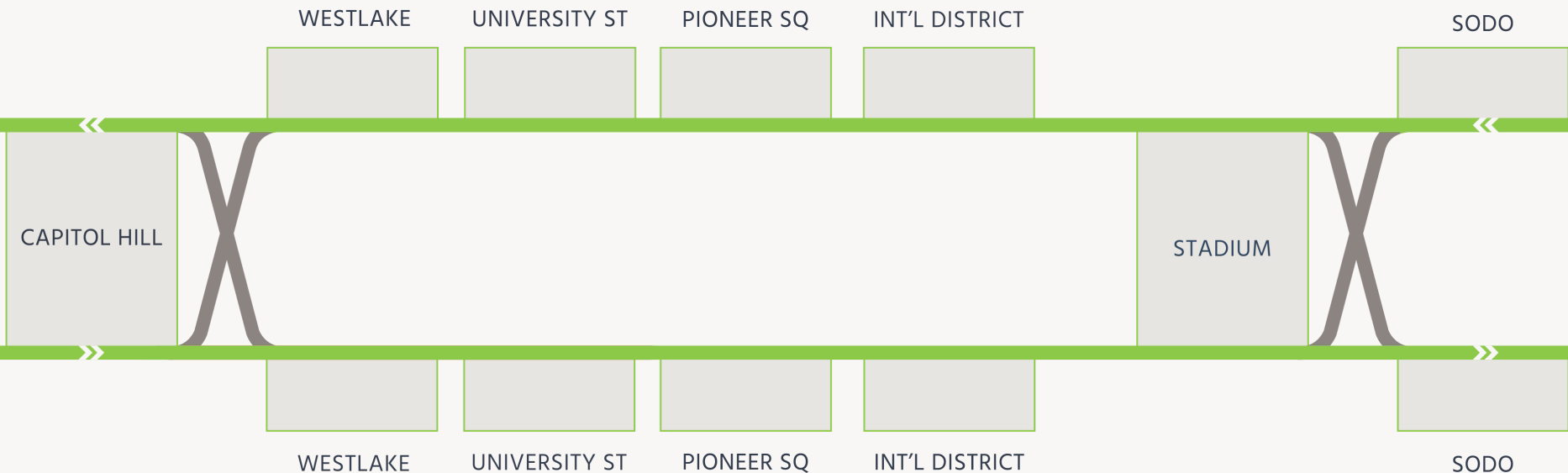
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Northbound closure, January-February



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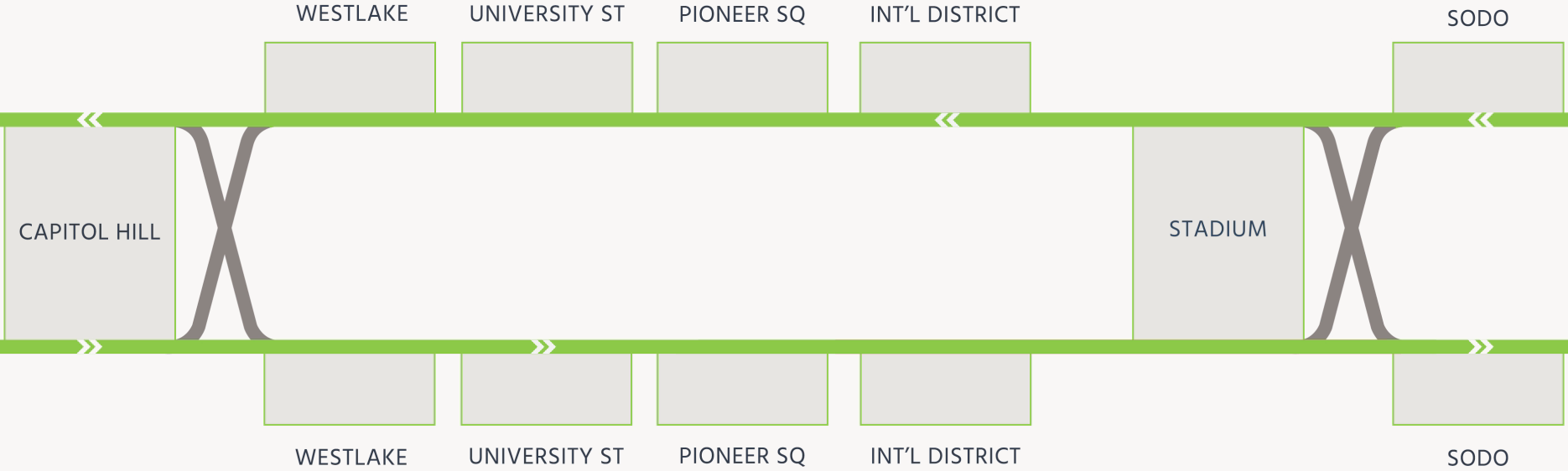
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Southbound closure, February-March



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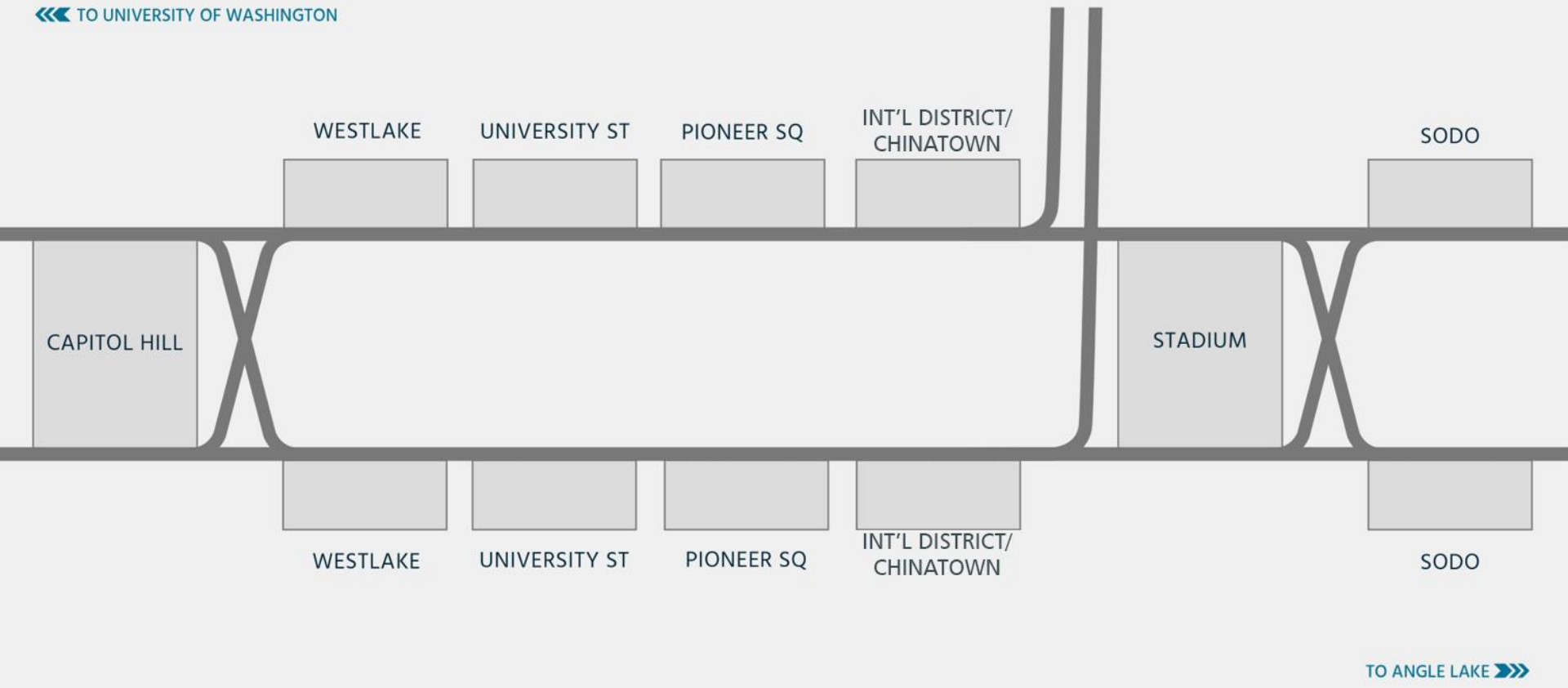


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Completed tie-in

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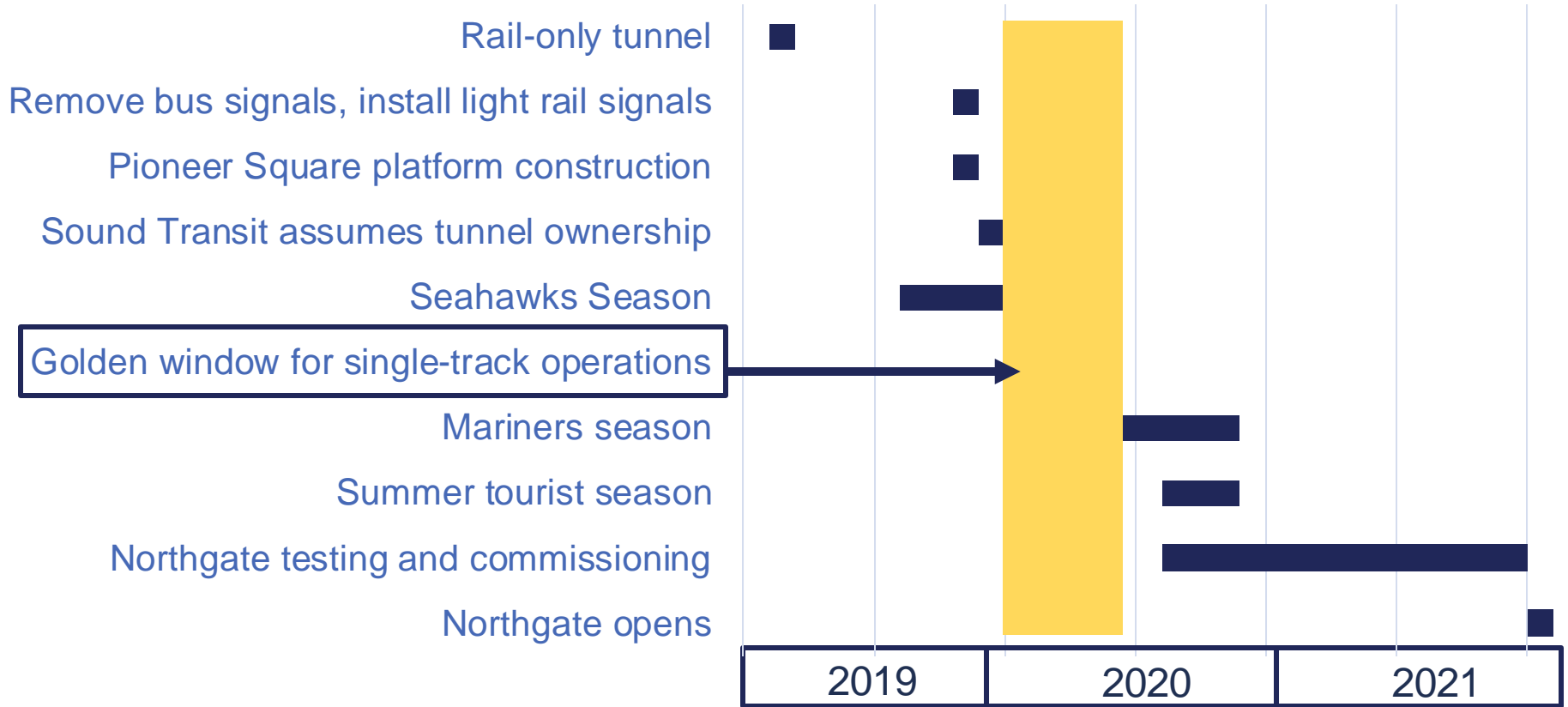


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Temporary center platform

Connect 2020: Why early 2020?



Connect 2020

Timeline

| | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Rail-only downtown tunnel | March 2019 |
| 2. Pre-closure work (signal upgrades, center platform, etc) | Aug-Dec 2019 |
| 3. ST assumes tunnel ownership | January 2020 |
| 4. Begin single-track service (Stadium to Westlake) | January 2020 |
| 5. Switch single-track service from SB to NB track | February 2020 |
| 6. Single-track service ends, regular service resumes | March 2020 |

Connect 2020

Operating plan

- **Service pattern:** two lines
 - University of Washington to Pioneer Square
 - Angle Lake to Pioneer Square
- **Frequency:** 12 minutes
- **Train length:** all 4-car trains
- **Through riders:**
 - Trains will meet at Pioneer Square for riders to transfer between lines
 - Temporary center platform will ease transfers
- **Safety analysis:** After rigorous study, determined bicycles restriction at the Pioneer Square Station is necessary

Safety Analysis

Temporary Center Platform at Pioneer Square

- Focus on passenger safety:
 - Remove barriers to the safe flow of passengers in the tunnel including flow paths obstructed by bicycles, and large luggage
 - Reduce risk of falls caused by collisions with bikes and large luggage



Safety Analysis

Temporary Center Platform at Pioneer Square

- Infrequent trains + high ridership = extraordinary crowding on trains and platforms
- Due to passenger volumes, bicyclists have no room to maneuver
- Very limited space available on crush loaded trains for hooking/unhooking bicycles or standing with bicycles



Connect 2020

Stakeholder engagement

- Cascade Bicycle Club
- One America
- Puget Sound Sage
- Rooted in Rights
- Seattle Bike Blog
- Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
- Transportation Choices Coalition

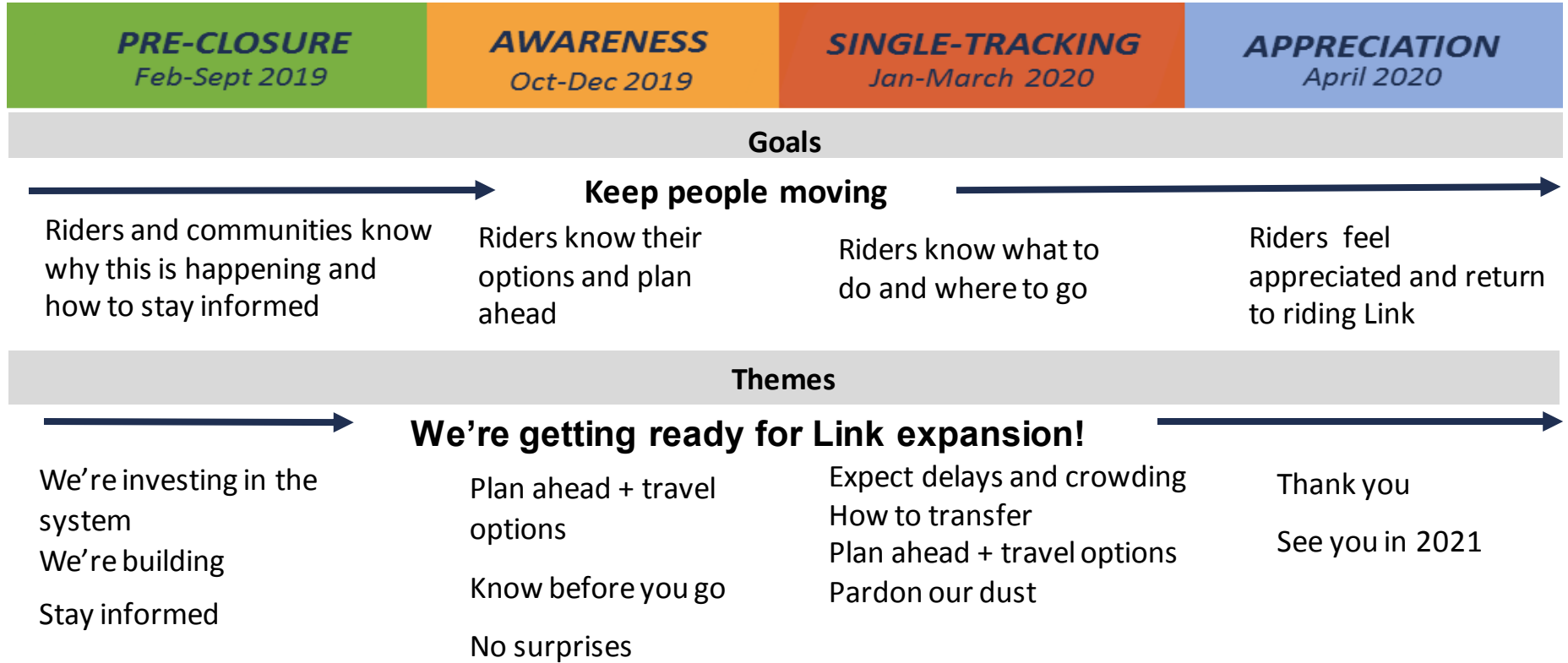
Bicyclist accommodations

- Accommodate bicycles as much as possible during this time, while keeping all passengers safe and moving freely
- Plan to limit restriction to only Pioneer Square station, but will consider further restrictions in the DSTT tunnel if safety problems arise due to crowding
- Focus efforts on encouraging people to “self-select” out of bringing a bicycle on-board trains during Connect 2020
- Special website that focuses on encouraging cyclists to learn options, and provides menu of options

Bicyclist accommodations

- Expand secure, easily accessible bike parking at UW, SODO and Rainier Beach light rail stations
- Explore partnerships to ensure access to a bike share at the end of a transit trip
- Riders system-wide are encouraged to explore options other than bringing bikes on trains during peak periods
 - Working with SDOT on connection to 2nd Ave. protected bike lanes; if done will provide protected bike lanes to get around Pioneer Square Station

Clearly communicate options



Thank you.

Thank you.



 [soundtransit.org](https://www.soundtransit.org)

