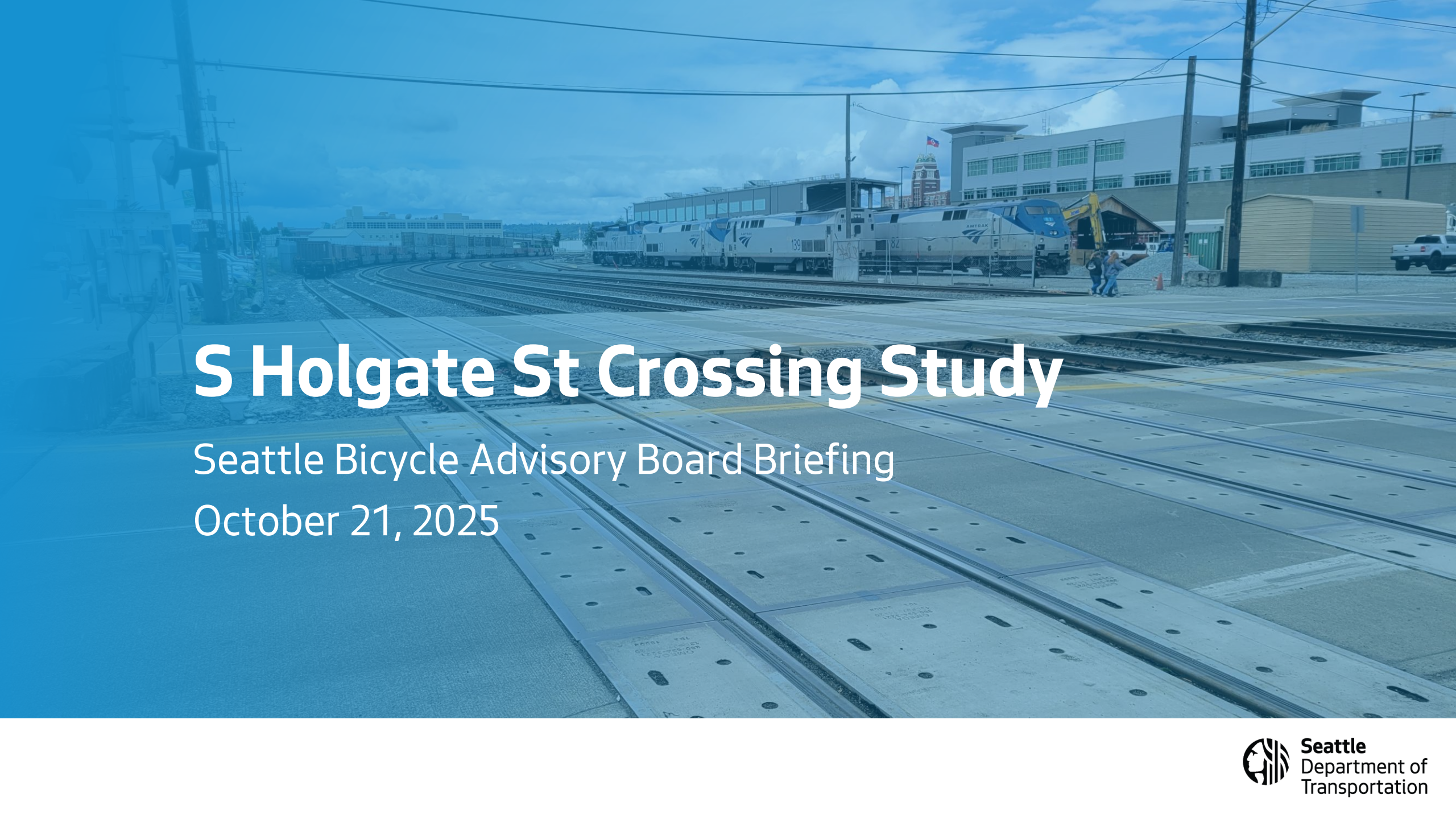




S Holgate St Crossing Study

Seattle Bicycle Advisory Board Briefing
October 21, 2025



Seattle
Department of
Transportation

Our Vision, Mission, Values, & Goals

Seattle is a thriving equitable community powered by dependable transportation. We're on a mission to deliver a transportation system that provides safe and affordable access to places and opportunities.

Core Values & Goals:

Equity, Safety, Mobility, Sustainability, Livability, and Excellence.

Agenda

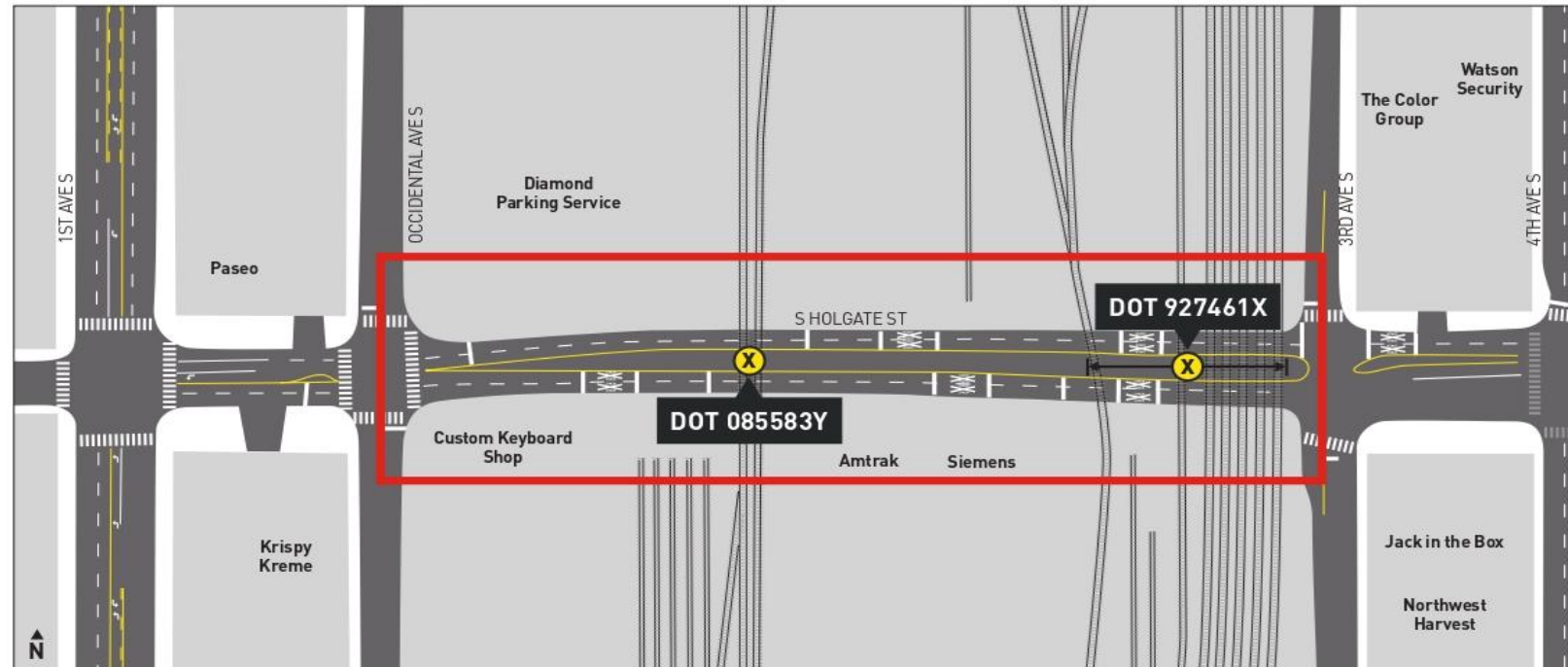
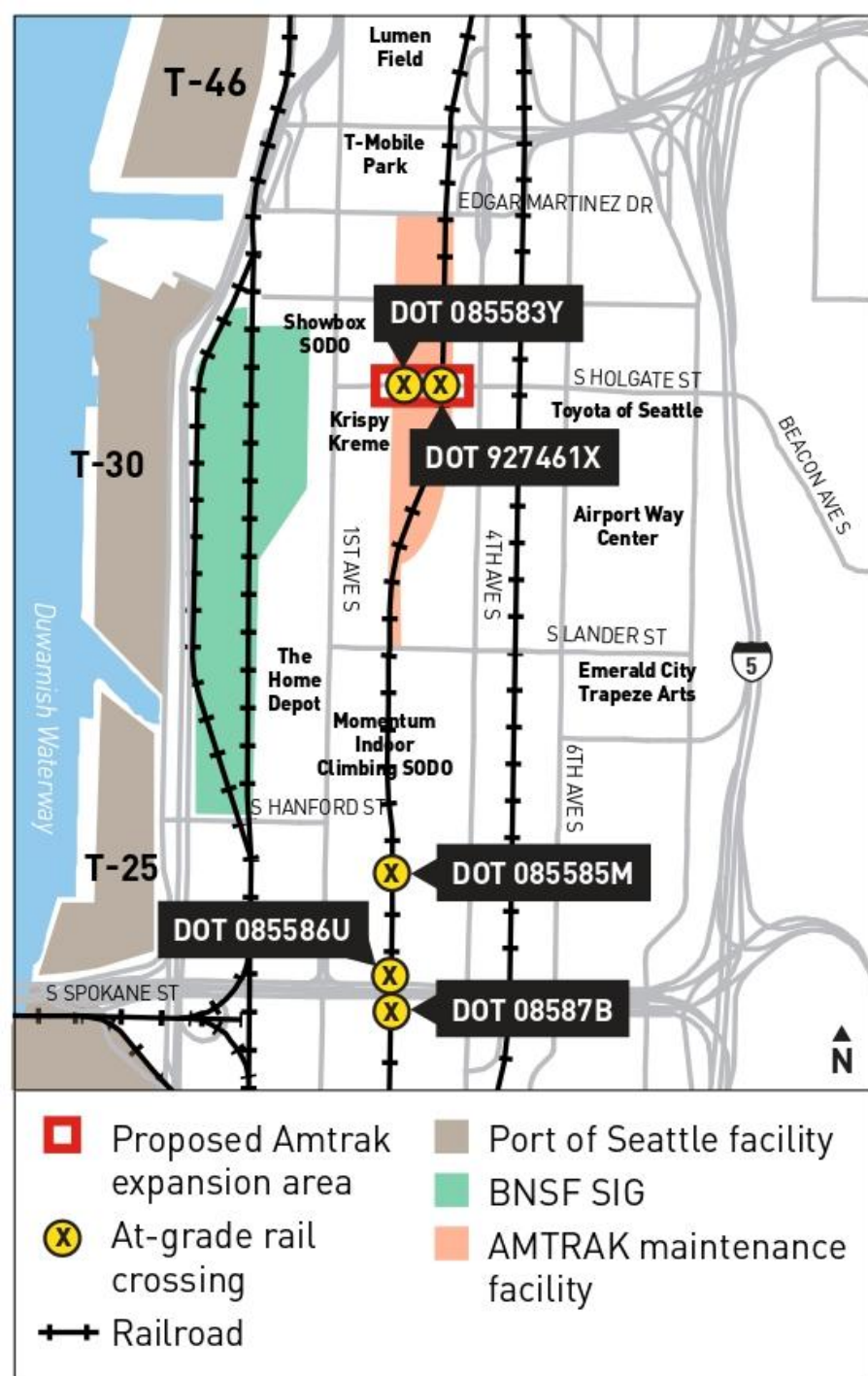
To share an introduction of the S Holgate St Crossing Study and understand the board's perspectives:

- Project Context
- Crossing Study Purpose and Need
- Project Schedule
- Existing Conditions Report
- Considerations for the Crossing Study
- Next Steps
- Questions



Project Context: Location

- S Holgate St is a designated Industrial Access, Minor Arterial
- Major Freight Route, part of Heavy Haul Network
- BNSF mainline & yard at-grade rail crossings

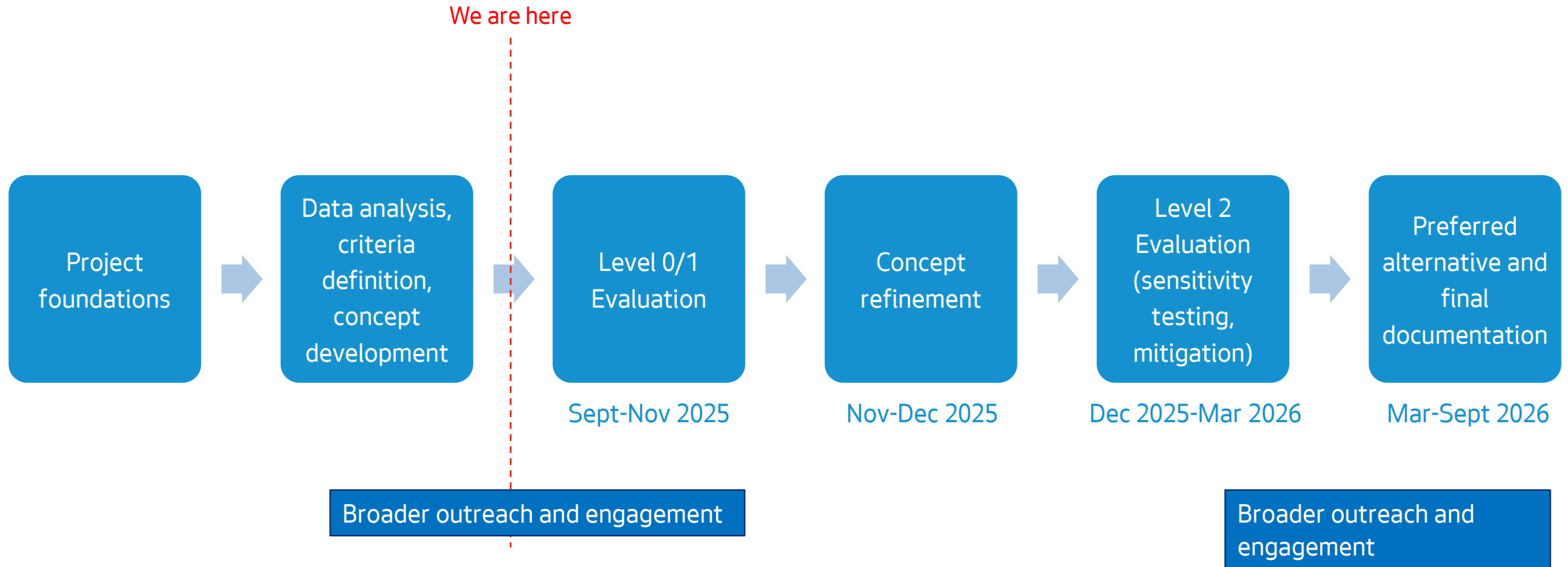


Crossing Study Purpose & Need

- Feasibility study focused on two at-grade rail crossings at S Holgate St with impacts to other rail crossings, the transportation network, and the mitigation and safety improvements needed to minimize impacts
- Objectives:
 - Improve safety;
 - Maintain access for all modes of transportation in Seattle's South of Downtown (SODO) neighborhood;
 - Maintain existing railroad facilities and operations; and
 - Accommodate future railroad maintenance facility expansion plans and other adjacent regional projects.



Project status



Initial considerations in SODO for Crossing Study

PROJECTS

- Sound Transit West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions
 - S Lander St Overpass
 - S Holgate St Overpass
 - E3 Transmission Relocation
 - 4th Ave S
- East Marginal Way Heavy Haul Improvements
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)
- Vision Zero

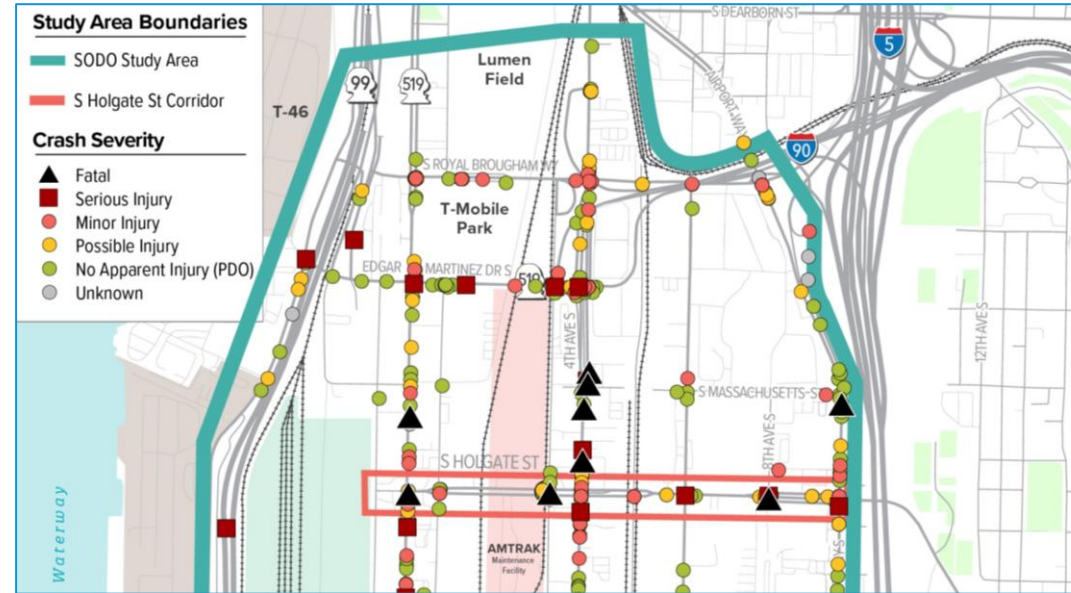
OPERATIONS

- Traffic volume analysis
 - Truck
 - Rail
 - Transit
 - Pedestrians
 - Bicyclists/Scooter
- Stadium pre- and post-event traffic
- Port of Seattle terminals
- Detour preparedness



Safety Concerns and Vulnerable Users

- On S Holgate St, from 2020 to 2024, 83% of fatal or serious injury crashes involved people walking and biking.
- Video analytics shows ongoing non-compliance by both drivers and vulnerable road users during gate down activations at the at-grade rail crossings.



Rail-related Crashes

FRA-reported incidents between 1975-2024:

- 085583Y (East of Occidental Ave S)
 - 8 Incidents
 - 2 Injuries
 - **2 Fatalities**
- 927461X (West of 3rd Ave S)
 - 7 Incidents
 - 3 Injuries
 - **3 Fatalities**

Incidents generally involved non-compliance or trespassing.



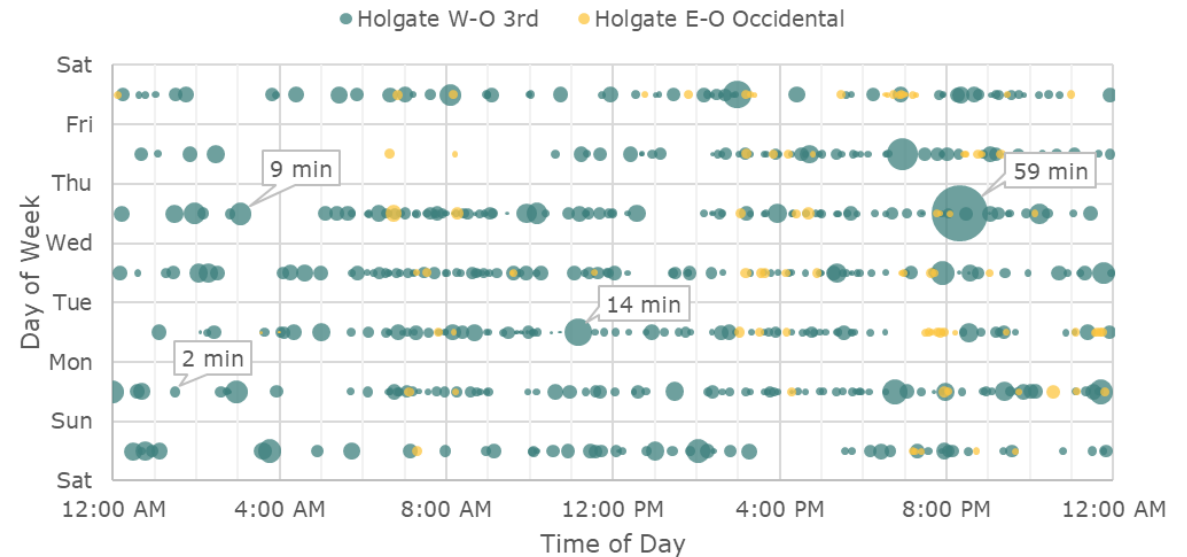
Rail Operations and Network Performance

- On average, rail blocks S Holgate St over three hours a day

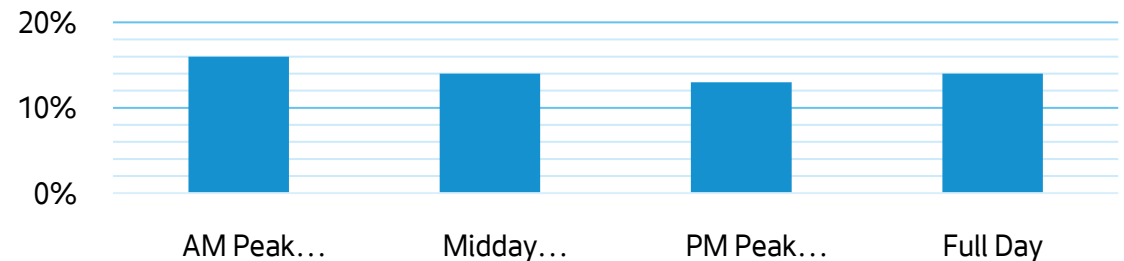
- During the morning commute, S Holgate St is blocked 16% of the time, or 9-10 minutes of every hour.

- Vissim model shows severe queuing during peak periods, especially westbound on S Holgate St

Recorded Gate Down Times and Duration - S Holgate Street
Counted April 20-26, 2025

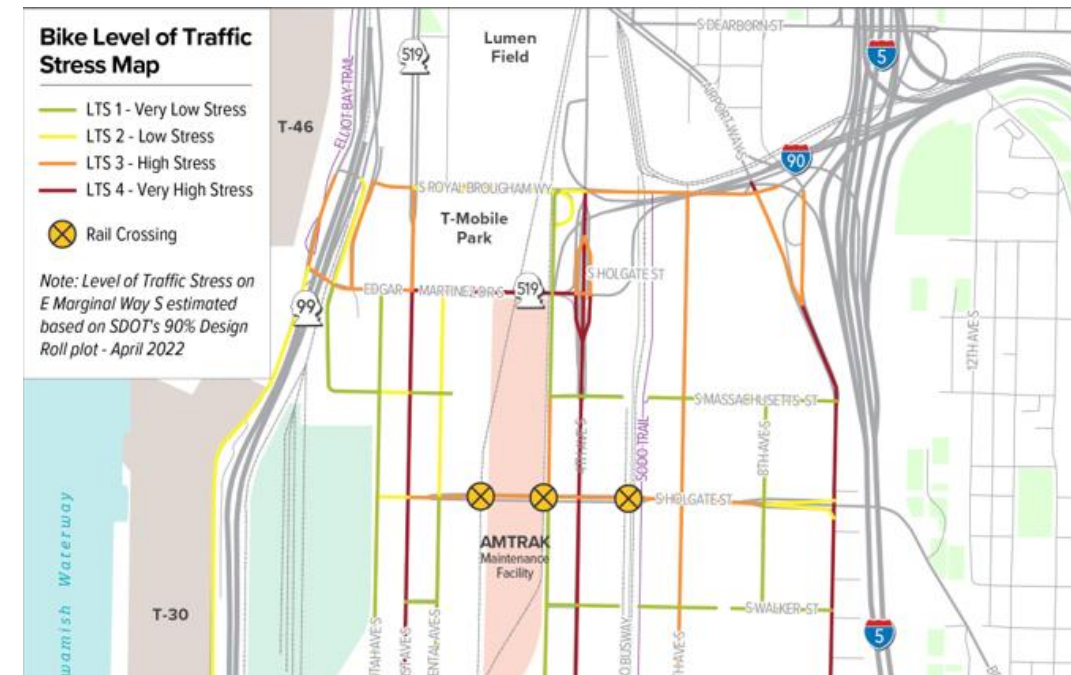
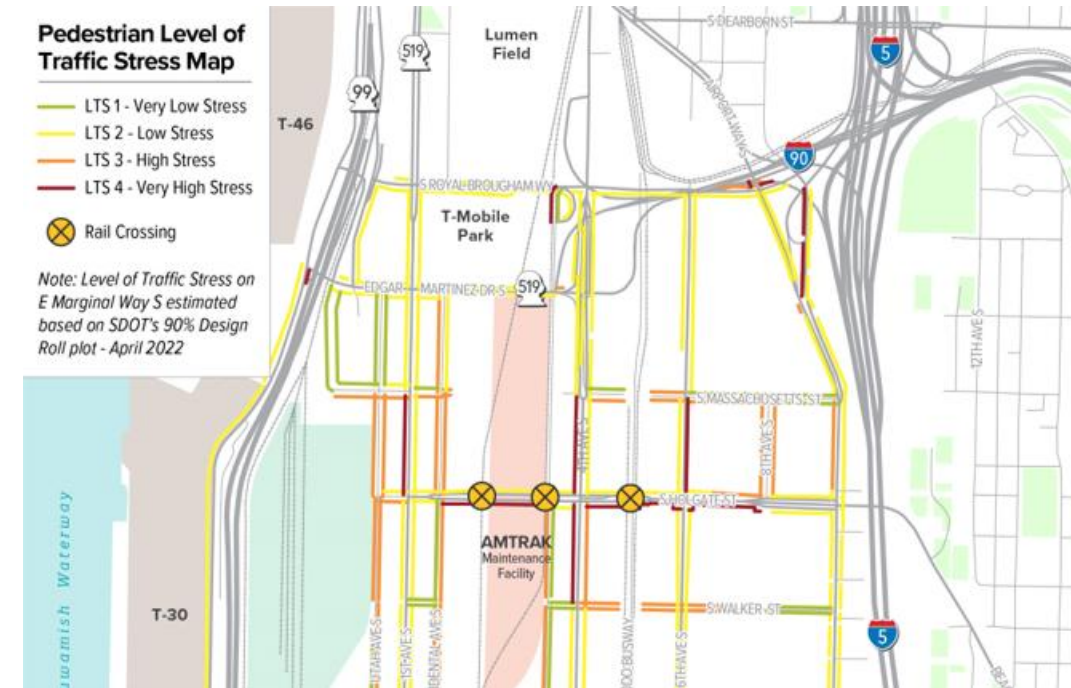


Proportion of Time Crossing is Active / Gate Down



Multimodal Access

- S Holgate St:
 - Lacks dedicated bicycle facilities
 - Sidewalks are discontinuous
 - Sidewalks vary in surface material
 - Frequent driveways
- Edgar Martinez Dr S and S Royal Brougham Way:
 - Wider, more continuous sidewalks
 - Staircase connects both roads to 4th Ave S
 - Does not provide ADA accessibility

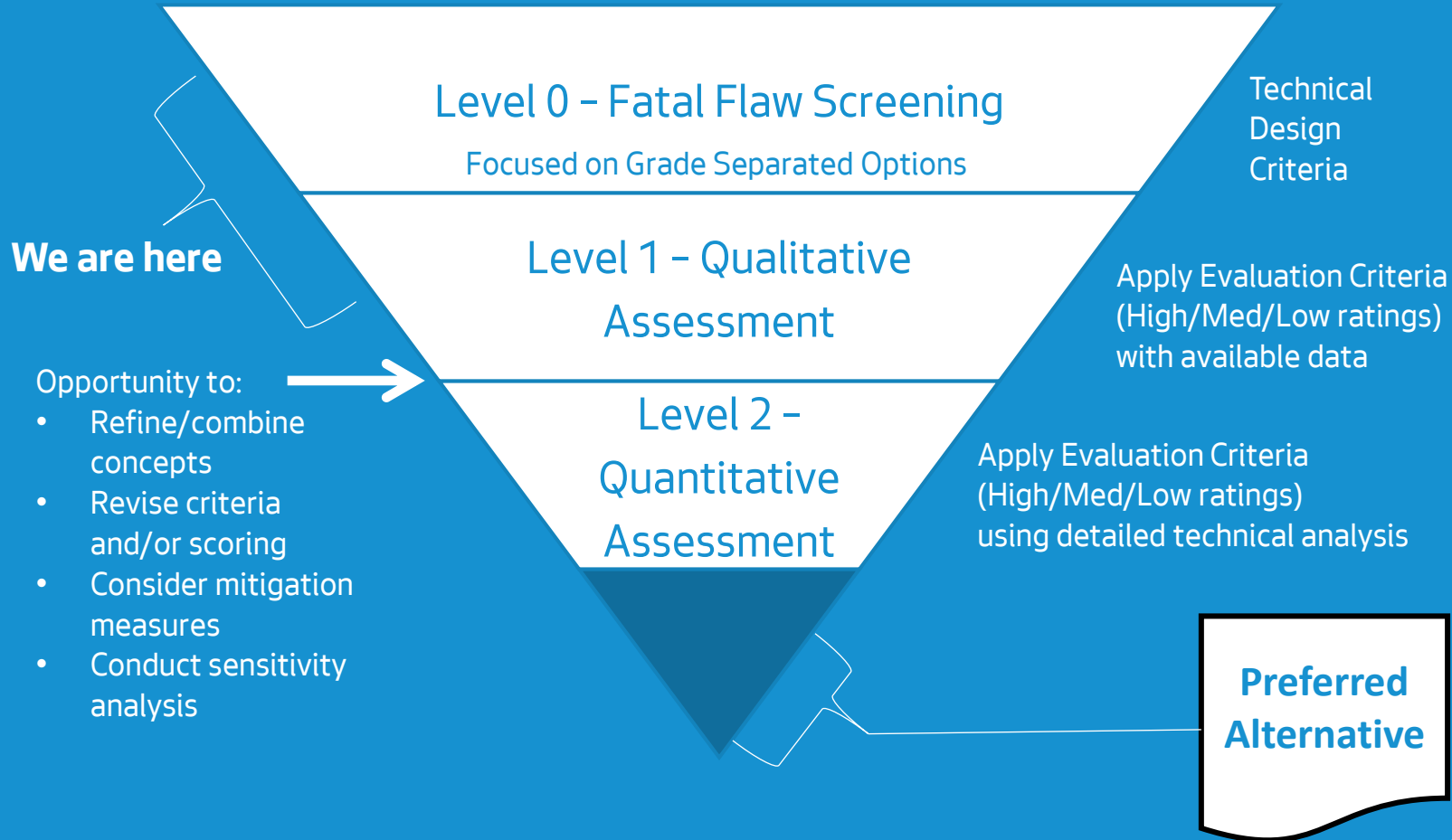


Preliminary Ideas for Level 1 Concepts

- Improve at-grade crossing
- Permanent street closure
- Grade-separated options



Evaluation Process



Preliminary Goal Areas

- A. **Safety** at the S Holgate St rail crossings between and for all modes – trains, trucks, pedestrians, bicyclists, Amtrak employees, and drivers.
- B. **Freight mobility** to, from, and within the Duwamish Manufacturing Industrial Center.
- C. **Multimodal traffic operations** in the street network and to adjacent neighborhoods for businesses, visitors, events, and the traveling public.
- D. Access to, egress from, and ability to scale **events at adjacent public stadium facilities**.
- E. Compatibility with **adjacent major capital projects** to meet shared objectives and maximize investments.
- F. **Cost effectiveness, constructability, and temporary and permanent community impacts**.



Next Steps

- Level 0 and Level 1 evaluations
- Ongoing outreach with local businesses, local employees, and the traveling public, including public survey and open house
- Future modal board briefings in 2026

Questions?

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A blue-tinted photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a group of pedestrians is walking on a sidewalk. A tram is moving along the street, featuring a colorful advertisement for the 'Jim Henson Exhibition' at the 'MUSEUM OF POP CULTURE' with the tagline 'Imagination Unlimited'. The tram's destination sign reads 'LIVE UNION'. In the background, there are modern buildings, a construction crane, and traffic lights.

From the entire SDOT Team:
Thank you!