Seattle Department of Transportation



# What We Heard: NE 130th & NE 125th Mobility and Safety Project

## **Community Feedback Summary**

## Winter 2024



A map of the project limits and the new Sound Transit NE 130th St infill station, coming in mid-2026

### **OUR APPROACH**

#### **Project Overview**

Sound Transit is opening the <u>NE 130th St Infill Station</u> at NE 130th St near I-5 in 2026. The new station will bring an estimated 3,300-3,700 daily riders with 90% of them arriving by walking, biking, rolling, or transit. To provide better access to the new light rail station, we're making improvements along NE 130th St, Roosevelt Way NE, and NE 125th St from 1st Ave NE and Lake City Way NE.

#### What we asked

Project outreach began in August 2023 and included sharing early designs with community members and seeking feedback. We were interested in knowing:

- How people travel in this area: walk, roll, bike, bus, drive, etc.
- How travel might change when the light rail station opens in 2026
- What influences peoples' travel decisions in the area
- What do people like and what they would change about the early design proposals at:
  - ${\bf o}$  NE 130th St between 1st Ave NE and 3rd Ave NE
  - o NE 130th St between 3rd Ave NE and 5th Ave NE (over I-5)
  - **o** Roosevelt Way NE between 5th Ave NE and 10th Ave NE
  - **o** NE 125th St between 10th Ave NE and Lake City Way NE

#### **Outreach activities**

We used a variety of methods to engage the community, with the goal of reaching those who live, work, or travel in the area. We also sought to engage community members who have been traditionally underserved and those who need language (translation) services. Outreach activities included:

- Tabling at the Lake City Farmers Market and connected with dozens of market attendees
- Hosting two pop-up events at the Lake City Library and at the Safeway on 15th Ave NE
- Reaching out to neighbors in the project area with a <u>postcard mailer</u> to over 6,000 residents, <u>website updates</u>, and email updates with design concepts and project news (sign up <u>here</u>!)
- Going door-to-door to businesses, community-based organizations, and houses of worship in the project area, talking with community members about the project, and handing out flyers in 7 languages (visit our website to view project materials)
- Over 200 people shared ideas and input on our online feedback form, available from August 31 to October 27, 2023

#### Who responded

We engaged with about 500 people online and in person. We heard from people primarily in Pinehurst, Lake City, and Haller Lake neighborhoods. We also heard from people who work in or travel through the area. Feedback form responses came from people living in Broadview, Capitol Hill, Central District, Columbia City, Fremont, Magnuson Park, Sand Point, and View Ridge.

## WHAT WE HEARD

During outreach, we heard common themes as well as mixed responses to the early design proposals. Below, we'll share some of the common themes, and then highlight the design elements that people liked along with what people would change.

#### **Common themes**

- Increased safety and convenience in the project area is a shared priority, although there are different ideas about what is "safe" and "convenient"
- Desire for consistency and simplicity in street design
- Different perceptions about how the area is used or how people travel based on individual travel choices
- Desire for improved mobility and reliability across transit options
- Some people who stated that they mostly drive through the area are strongly against changes to the current street configuration. They want to maintain 2 vehicle lanes in each direction and don't want protected bike lanes or a shared-use path installed.
- People want to see separation from vehicles for people walking and biking.

#### What people liked

- Shared-use path and protected bike lanes. People said they would be encouraged to walk or bike more often with more separation from vehicles.
- New and better connections between neighborhoods and the new light rail station for people walking and biking
- New bus lane between 3rd Ave NE and 5th Ave NE
- Reduction in the number of general traffic lanes and a center turn lane to help improve safety

#### What people would change

- More protection for bikes, such as a concrete or other robust barrier between bike lanes and vehicle lanes
- Consistent protected bike lanes that don't require transitions (instead of proposed shared-use path to two-way bike lane to one-way bike lane). General preference for one-way bike lanes throughout the area.
- Wider shared-use path to ensure safe interactions between people walking, biking, and rolling. Suggestions to decrease width of planting strip, vehicle lanes, or median to accommodate.
- Crossing improvements that include better lighting, more visible markings, and clear signage
- Traffic calming or barriers in center turn lane to stop people from using the turn lane as a passing lane

#### Additional information from the online feedback form

The online feedback form asked questions about how and why people travel in the project area now, and how travel choices might change when the new light rail station opens. The following information and graphs are all from the online feedback form.

For people who filled out the online feedback form, the most common reasons people use NE 130th St and/or NE 125th St right now are:

- Visiting different neighborhoods
- To get to businesses or shops
- To access Interstate 5
- To get to work

We asked how people typically travel through the project area (see Exhibit 2).

Drive alone

Carpool /

Vanpool

#### 80% 73% 70% Percentage of Responses 60% 50% 40% 32% 32% 30% 30% 30% 20% 6% 10% 3% 0%

Rideshare/taxi Take the bus Bicycle / E-bike Walk / Run /

/ Scooter

#### Exhibit 2: How People Typically Travel Through the Project Area (201 Responses)

(Uber, Lyft,

Yellow Cab,

etc.)

Other

Roll (includes

mobility devices such as

wheelchairs)

We asked if there are other modes of transportation that people would prefer to take when traveling through the area that are not currently feasible (see Exhibit 3).



Exhibit 3: How People Would Prefer to Travel Through the Area (144 Responses)

The majority of people who filled out the feedback form (62%) anticipate changing how they travel in the area after the changes are complete and the new light rail station is open. Another 21% think they might change how they travel, and only 17% said they will stick with their current mode of transportation. We asked about the main reasons people would change how they travel through this area (see Exhibit 4).



#### Exhibit 4: Why People Would Change How They Travel Through the Area (126 Responses)

We asked about what is most important when deciding how to travel in this area (see Exhibit 5).

#### Exhibit 5: What is Most Important when Deciding How to Travel in the Project Area (42 Responses)



## TRANSLATION

If you need this information translated, please call (206) 400-7515.

如果您需要此信息翻譯成中文 請致電 (206) 400-7515.

Kung kailangan mo ang impormasyon na ito na nakasalin sa Tagalog mangyari lamang na tumawag sa (206) 400-7515.

Si necesita traducir esta información al español, llame al (206) 400-7515.

Odeeffannoon kun akka siif (206) 400-7515.

Nếu quý vị cần thông tin này chuyển ngữ sang tiếng Việt xin gọi (206) 400-7515.

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당신이 번역이 정보를 필요로하는 경우에, (206) 400-7515 로 전화 해주십시오.

اذا تريد ترجمة هذه المعلومات, يرجى الاتصال برقم (206) 400-7515.