Sound Transit description of briefing for International Special Review District (ISRD)

Briefing date: January 14, 2025

Short description:

This briefing is prepared by Sound Transit and will provide an overview and update on the Ballard Link Extension link light rail project, which includes a second station serving the CID neighborhood, along with a brief presentation on the South Downtown Hub workshop series, which is a partnership between Sound Transit, the City of Seattle, and King County.

Detailed description:

Sound Transit's Ballard Link Extension light rail project

The Ballard Link Extension (BLE) Link light rail project will add nine new stations serving neighborhoods between Chinatown-International District and Ballard. The project is currently studying multiple routes and station alternatives along the corridor. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement analysis and public comment followed by a period of further studies, the Sound Transit Board of Directors identified preferred alternatives in March 2023. A new Draft EIS will be completed for BLE, reflecting action by the Sound Transit Board in March 2023. The BLE alternatives will be updated, including analysis of the preferred alternative, as well as other refinements and alternatives identified in March 2023 and July 2023 Board Motion. The new BLE Draft EIS will build upon and incorporate the existing work to date on the WSBLE Draft EIS including all previous scoping comments, public outreach and feedback and environmental analysis. Visit https://ballardlink.participate.online for more details.

In the March 2023 Sound Transit Board Motion, the Board responded to the community's South Downtown area feedback by giving Sound Transit direction to partner with the City of Seattle, and King County and the CID and Pioneer Square communities to, regardless of the future light rail station location, explore potential public realm improvements, neighborhood connectivity, and Union Station activation. The South Downtown Hub project builds off past community and agency plans, and each workshop works to build off community feedback to develop, evaluate, and advance community priorities.