

West Seattle Link Extension

*Transit Town Hall
7/23/2024*



What we'll cover today...

- Project context and overview
- Station planning and transit-oriented development
- Acquisition and relocation process
- Next steps

Project Context and Overview



Voter-approved system

Link light rail 1 2 3 4 T

- Five lines
- 116 miles
- 83 stations

Sounder trains N S

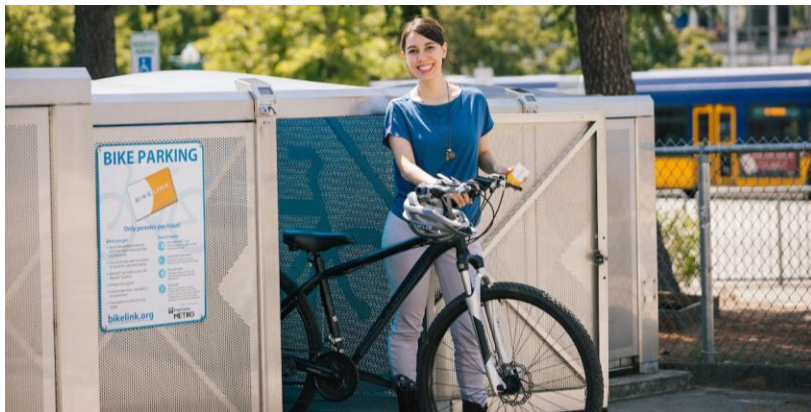
- Two lines
- 91 miles
- 14 stations

Stride bus rapid transit S1 S2 S3

- Three lines
- 45 miles on I-405 and SR 522
- Serving 12 cities and connecting to light rail in Shoreline, Lynnwood, Bellevue, and Tukwila

Sound Transit in the community

- **Supporting jobs:** 323,000 direct and indirect jobs from 2022 to 2046.
- **Getting to and from our stations:** \$100 million System Access fund for sidewalks, protected bike lanes, shared use paths, bus-rail integration, and pick-up/drop-off areas.
- **Sustainability:** One of only two 100% carbon-free light rail systems in the U.S.; 2021 emissions declined even as we opened new stations and increased ridership.



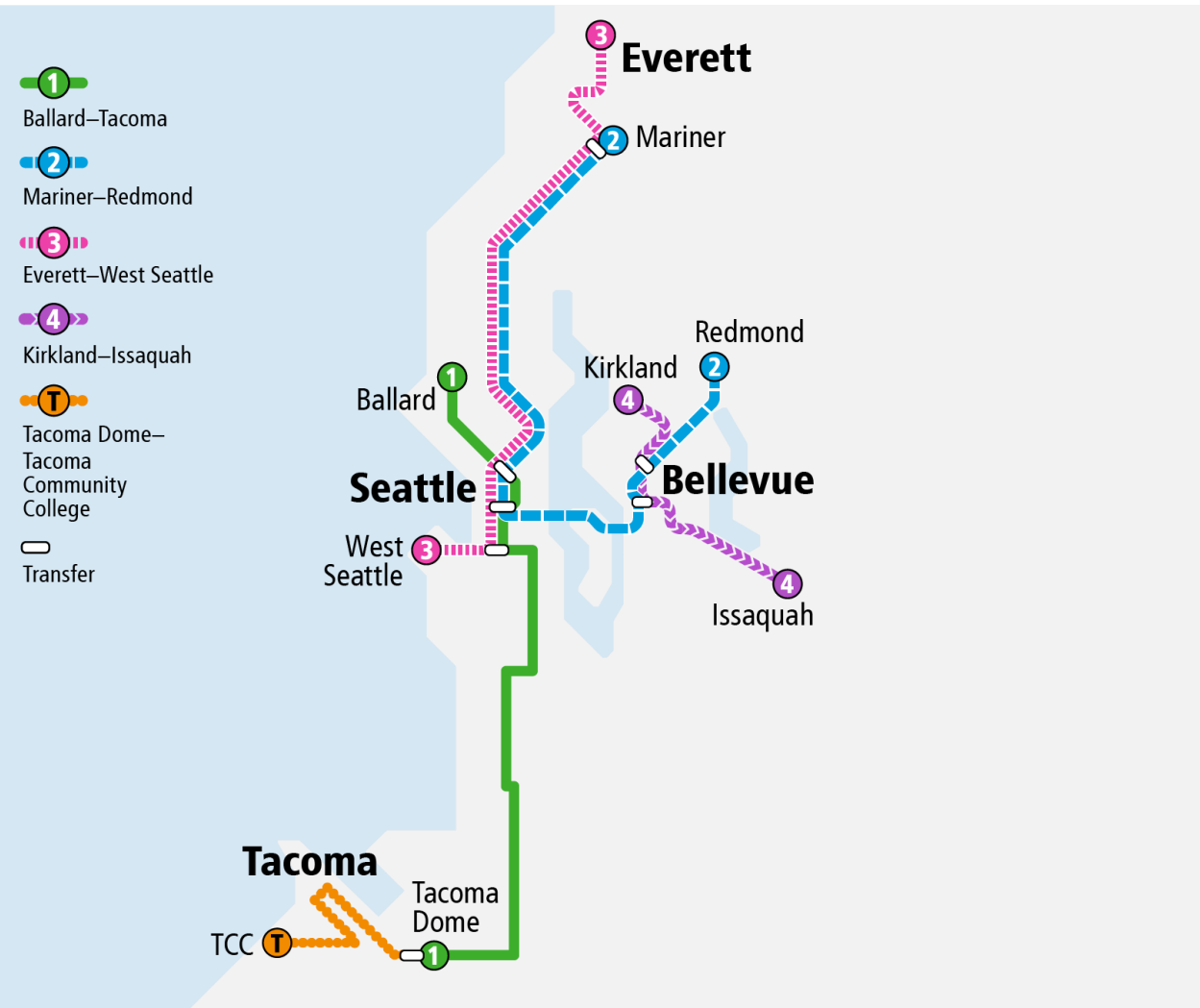
Targeting 2032

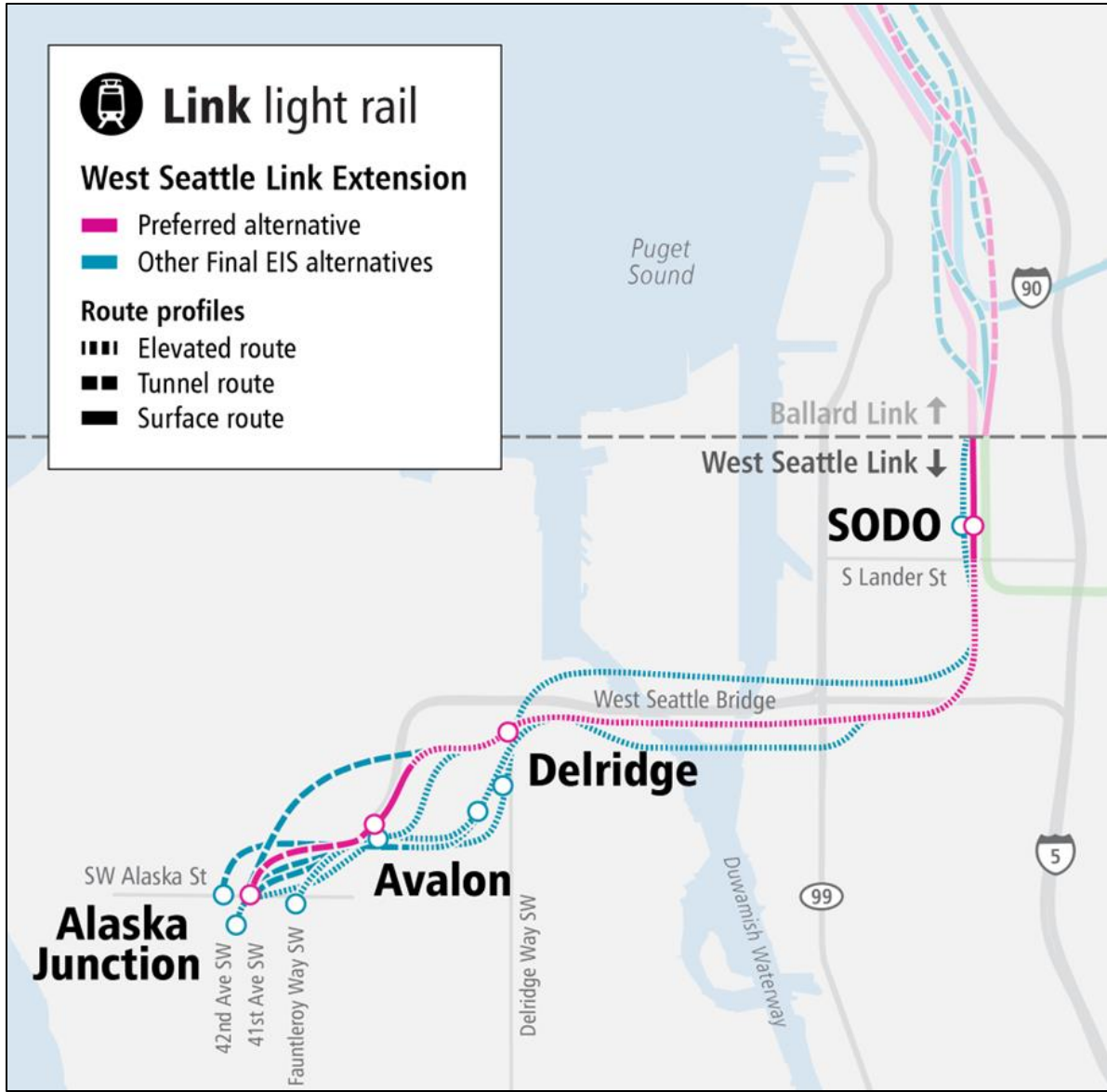
- 3 Line opens from SODO to West Seattle
- West Seattle will have both light rail and the existing bus network until Ballard Link Extension (BLE) start of service in 2039.



Targeting 2039

- New downtown Seattle light rail tunnel opens and 1 Line service extends from Ballard to Tacoma.
- 3 Line service extends north to SW Everett and connects south to West Seattle.

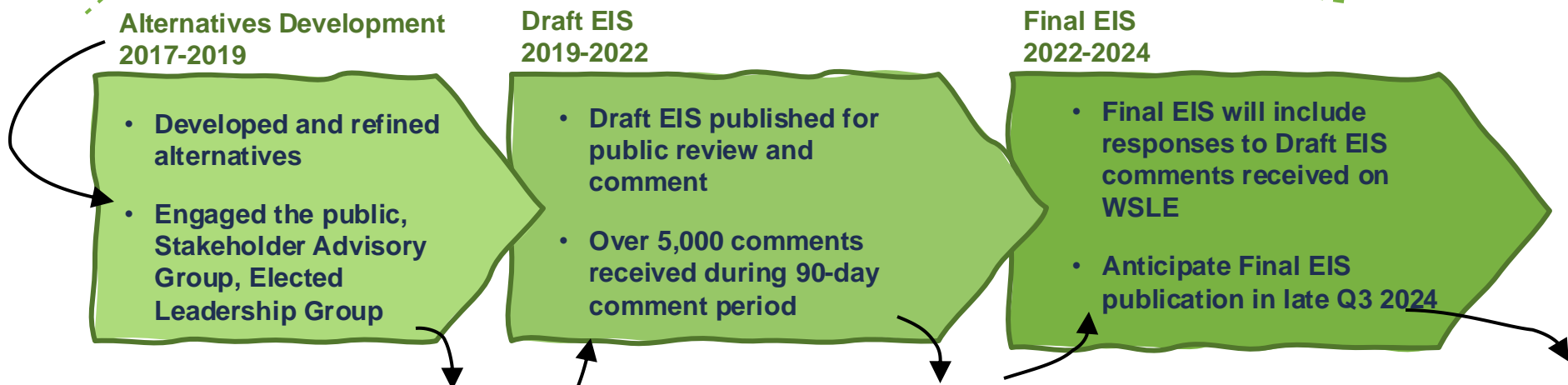
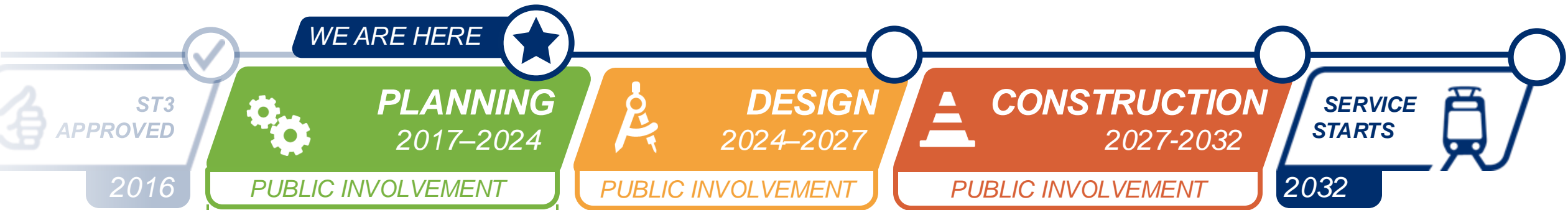




West Seattle Link Extension

- **Reduces transit travel time** from Alaska Junction to Westlake Station by 50% once Ballard Link Extension is complete.
- **Improves transit service frequency, reliability and capacity.**
- Facilitates redevelopment near stations, with focus on **affordable housing.**
- **Provides travel alternative** if West Seattle Bridge is closed for repairs.

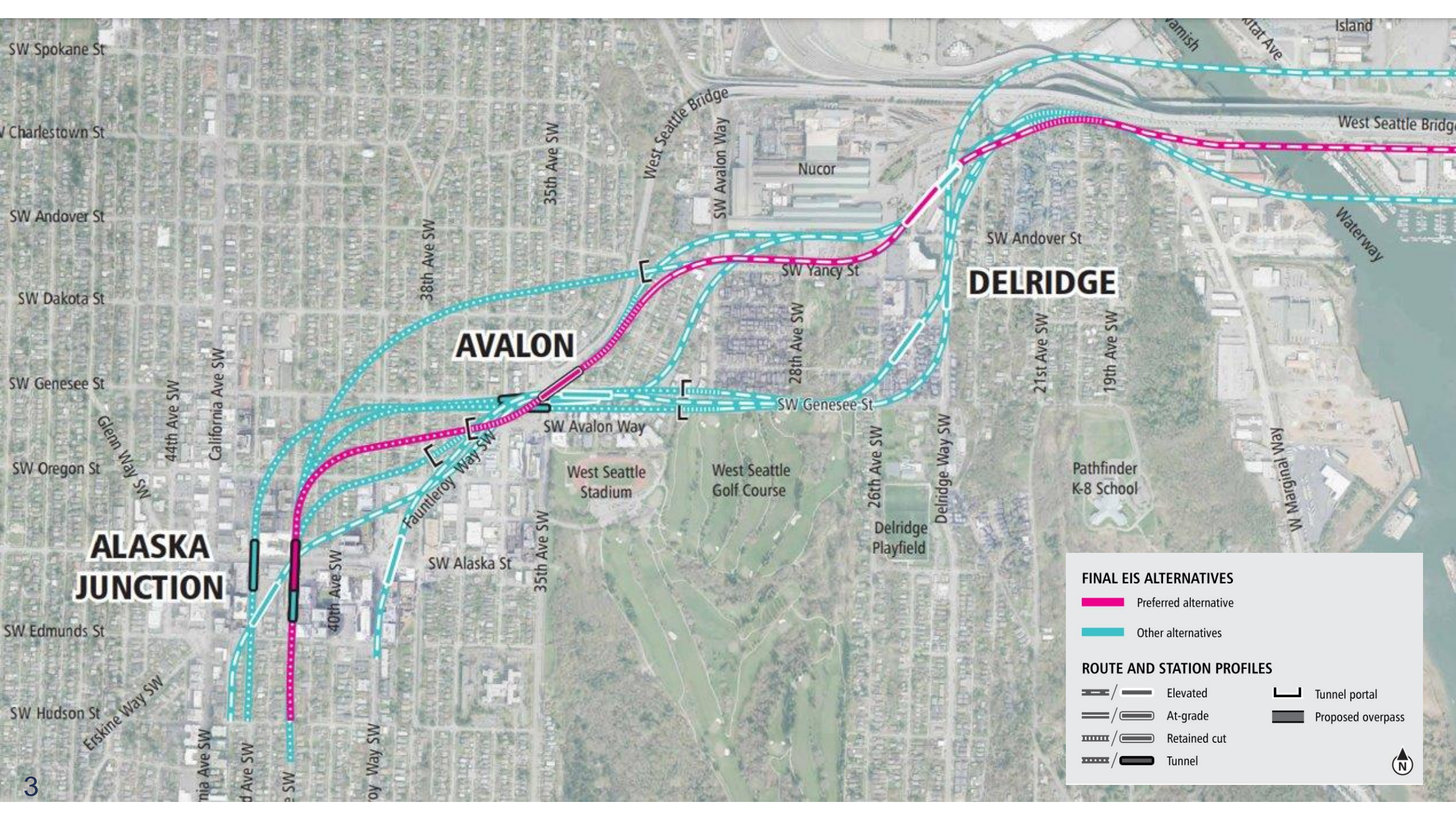
West Seattle Link Extension (WSLE)



Sound Transit Board identified alternatives to study in Draft EIS

Sound Transit Board identified preferred route and station locations and requested further studies of refinements to the preferred alternative

Sound Transit Board is anticipated to select project to be built and the Federal Transit Administration to issue a Record of Decision



SW Spokane St
 V Charlestown St
 SW Andover St
 SW Dakota St
 SW Genesee St
 SW Oregon St
 SW Edmunds St
 SW Hudson St

44th Ave SW
 California Ave SW
 40th Ave SW
 Erskine Way SW

Glenn Way SW
 Fauntleroy Way SW
 Delridge Way SW

38th Ave SW
 35th Ave SW
 SW Alaska St
 35th Ave SW

West Seattle Bridge
 SW Avalon Way
 West Seattle Stadium
 West Seattle Golf Course

SW Yancy St
 SW Genesee St
 26th Ave SW
 Delridge Playfield

SW Andover St
 21st Ave SW
 19th Ave SW

Waterway
 Delridge
 Pathfinder K-8 School

SW Alaska St
 35th Ave SW

SW Avalon Way
 SW Yancy St
 SW Andover St

Delridge
 Delridge Playfield

Delridge
 Delridge Playfield

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 Delridge Playfield

FINAL EIS ALTERNATIVES

- Preferred alternative
- Other alternatives

ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

- Elevated
- At-grade
- Retained cut
- Tunnel
- Tunnel portal
- Proposed overpass



Station planning and transit-oriented development

What is station planning?



Station entrances



Walking routes



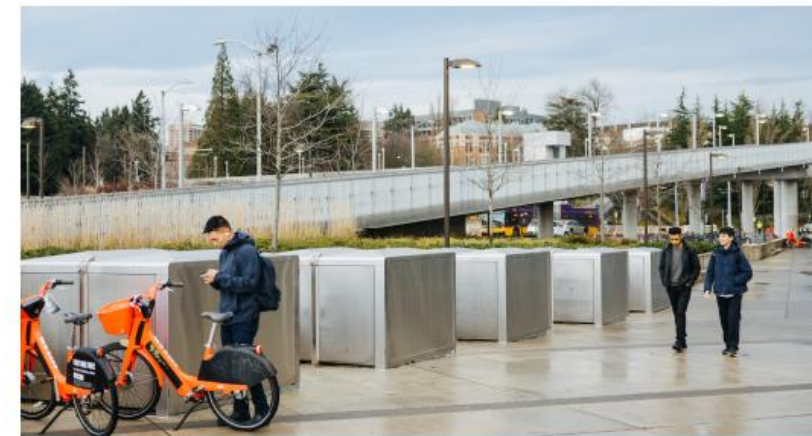
Wayfinding and signage



Station connections



Transit-oriented development



Bike and scooter storage

Transit-oriented development near stations

- Making the most of the land Sound Transit needs for construction.
- Expands housing opportunities, with priority on affordable housing.
- Creating welcoming neighborhoods, realizing community visions.

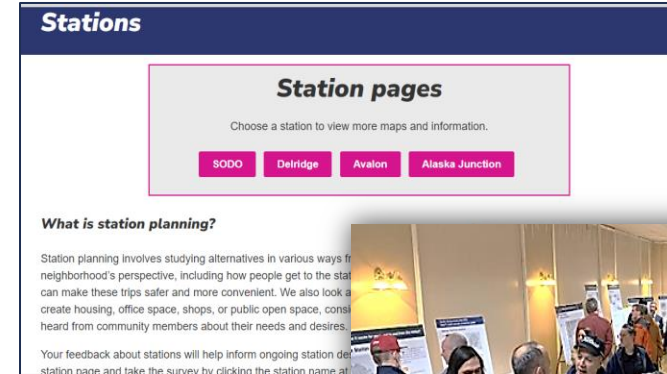


Cedar Crossing near Roosevelt Station



Recent station planning engagement recap

- In the fall, shared updated station design progress for SODO, Delridge, Avalon, and Alaska Junction Stations online.
- Gathered community feedback on concepts for **access, urban design, and transit-oriented development** at the stations.
- Reported on design progress, community feedback and how feedback was incorporated as part of station design in early 2024.



- ✓ **Two in-person Open Houses**
- ✓ **200+ individuals attended respectively**
- ✓ **1,232 completed English and in-language online survey.**

WSLE Station Planning engagement (Fall '23-Spring '24)



1,232

Completed English and in-language online survey



2

In-person Open Houses

engaging more than

425

attendees



2

In-person WSLE SODO drop-in



2

In-language focus groups

Vietnamese; Somali and other East African languages



8

email updates

engaging more than

12,417

subscribers



Materials translated into multiple languages to support equitable engagement



10

Community briefings



6

Fairs, festivals and other tabling events



Ads

featured on 11 unique and local digital publications



360K

Impressions

on social media posts

2,000+ link click



900+ posters

delivered along the corridor












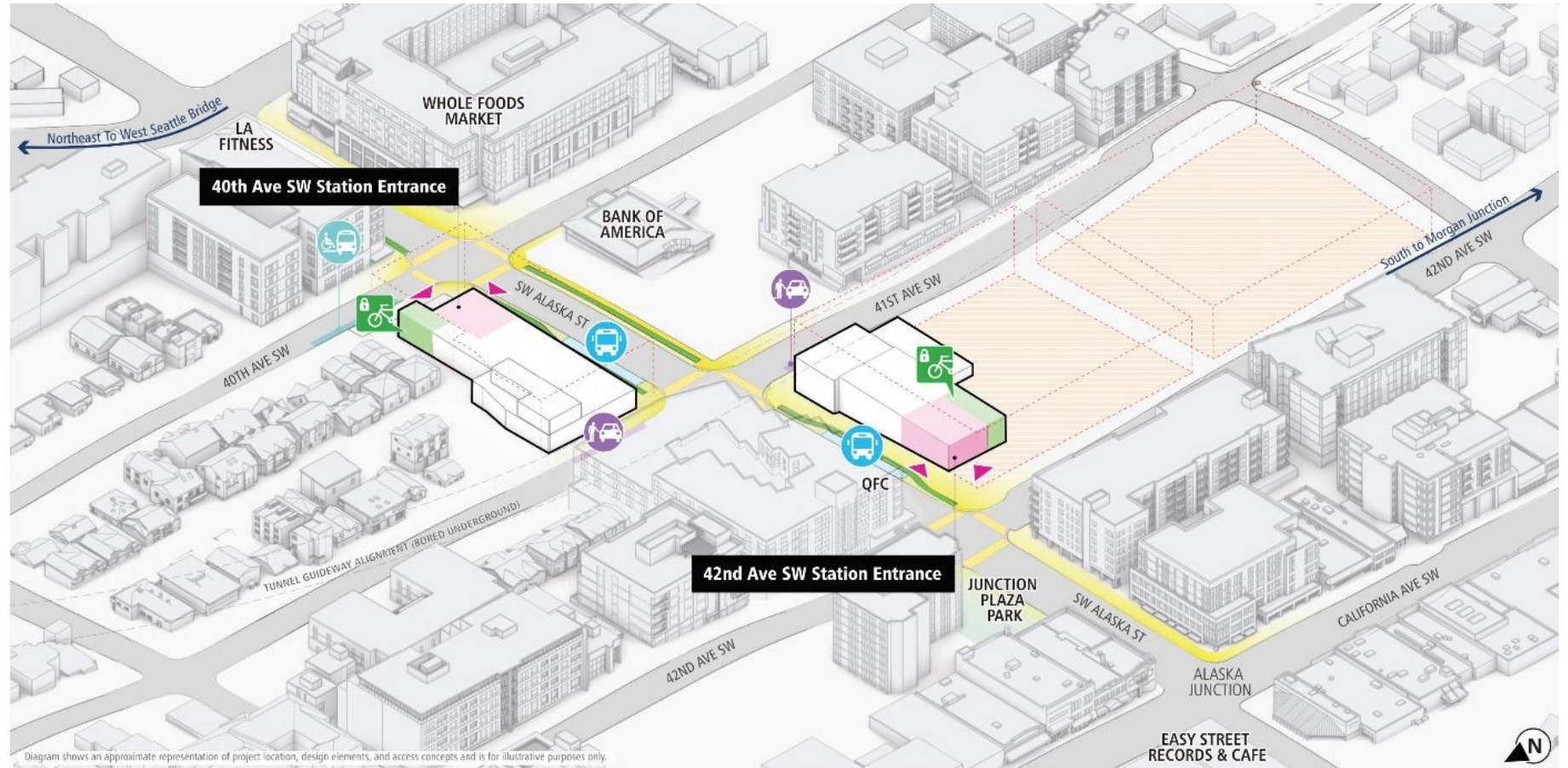
6 Community liaisons

engaging Delridge corridor's RET communities and local businesses

Alaska Junction Station Area










LEGEND

-  Tunnel and Station Below
-  Station Entrance
-  Bike Storage
-  Potential Transit-Oriented Development
-  Pedestrian Focused Area
-  Proposed Bike Facility
-  Paratransit
-  Pick-Up/Drop-Off Area
-  Active Bus Bay



Avalon Station Area

LEGEND

-  Tunnel and Station Below
-  Station Entrance
-  Bike Storage
-  Potential Transit-Oriented Development
-  Pedestrian Focused Area
-  Proposed Bike Facility
-  Paratransit
-  Pick-Up/Drop-Off Area
-  Active Bus Bay

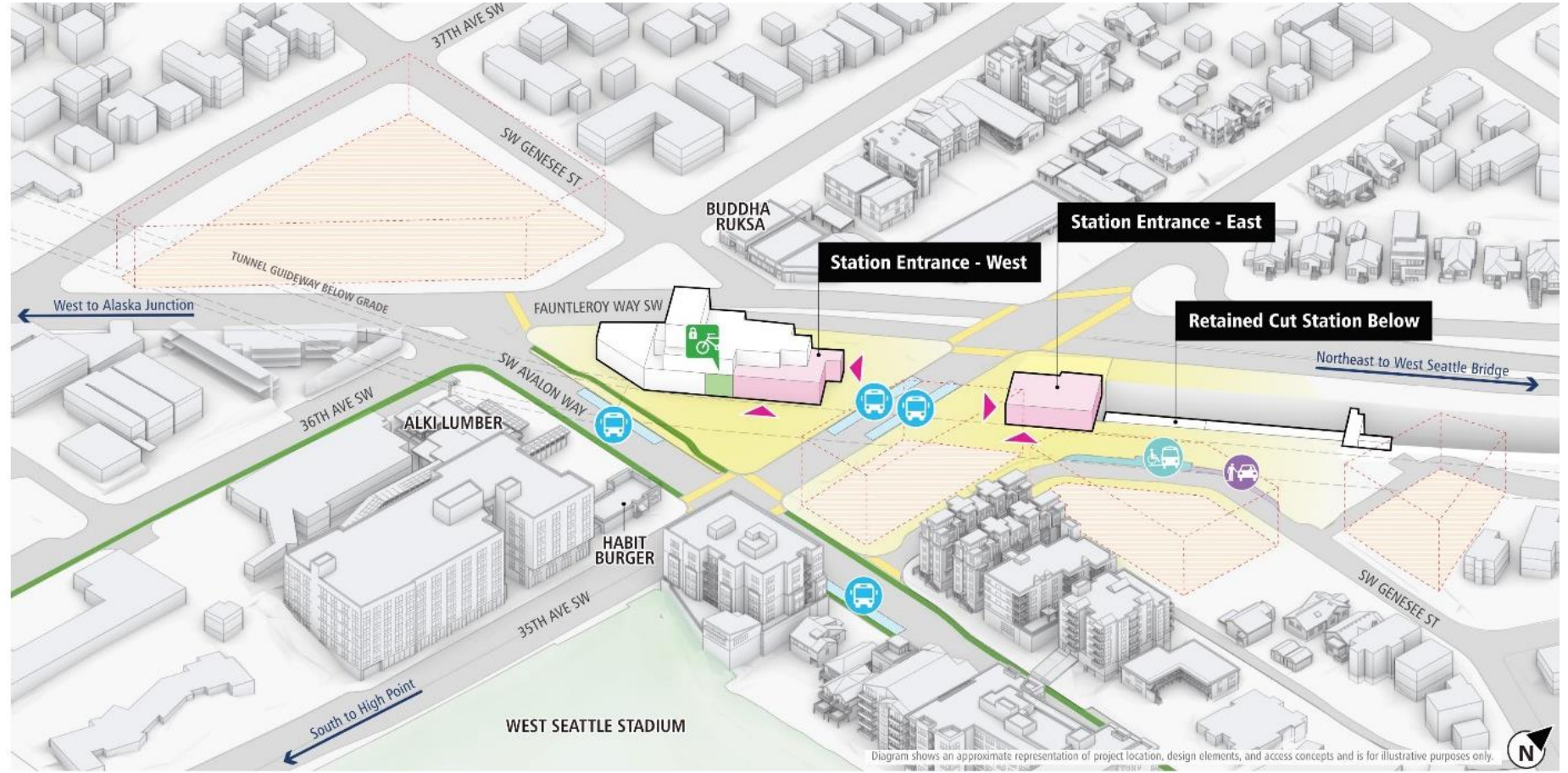
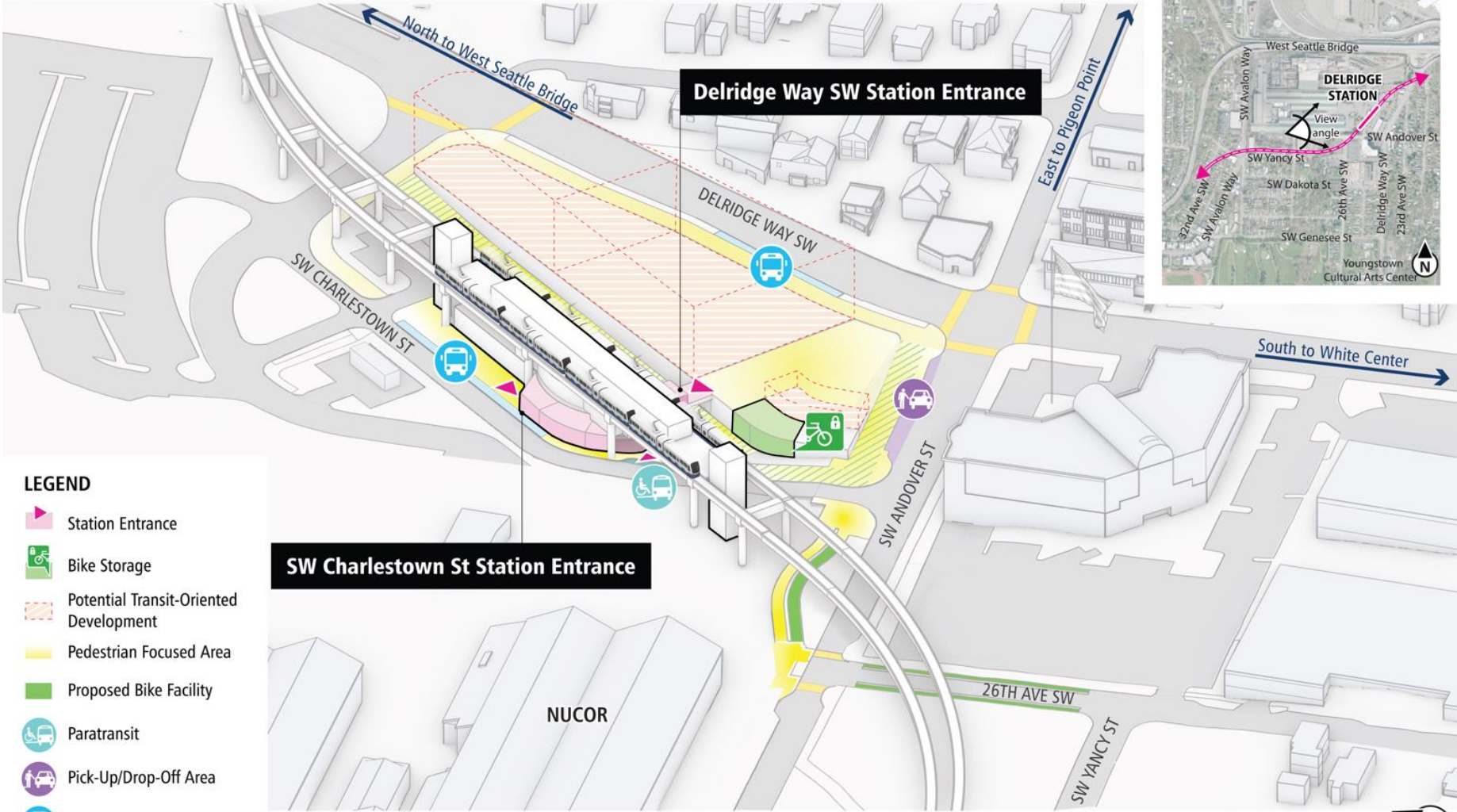


Diagram shows an approximate representation of project location, design elements, and access concepts and is for illustrative purposes only.

Delridge Station Area



- LEGEND**
- Station Entrance
 - Bike Storage
 - Potential Transit-Oriented Development
 - Pedestrian Focused Area
 - Proposed Bike Facility
 - Paratransit
 - Pick-Up/Drop-Off Area
 - Active Bus Bay

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***Acquisition and relocation
process***

Acquisition and relocation timeline



Pre-Draft EIS release (Fall 2021)

Sound Transit **contacts potentially affected property owners**



Draft EIS release (Early 2022)

Sound Transit Board **confirms or modifies preferred alternative**



Final EIS release (2024)

Sound Transit Board **selects project to be built**



Final design (2024-2027)

- Sound Transit **identifies property rights needed to construct, operate and maintain the system**
- Sound Transit Board **authorizes property acquisition**
- Sound Transit will **prepare an appraisal** to determine fair market value of property needed for the project
- Sound Transit will provide **relocation assistance** to people and businesses displaced by the project, including referrals to comparable properties and payment of moving costs
- Sound Transit **staff are available to support property owners and tenants** through this process

Relocation assistance

Residential relocation

For residential property owners and tenants, Sound Transit provides three primary types of relocation assistance: advisory assistance, moving expenses and replacement housing payments. A qualified relocation specialist will work with displaced residents to determine needs, explain benefits, and provide referrals to current housing inventories as well as assistance and advice with filing claims.

Business relocation

Sound Transit provides three primary types of relocation assistance: advisory assistance (unlimited), moving expenses (unlimited) and business reestablishment expenses (up to \$50,000). The level of benefits and advisory services may be different for each displaced business depending on complexity of the business operation.

Next steps



PLANNING

2017–2019

Alternatives development

- ✓ Feb–March 2018: Early scoping
- ✓ Feb–April 2019: Scoping
- ✓ May–Oct 2019: Board identified preferred alternatives and other DEIS alternatives



2019–2024

Environmental review

Early 2022: Publish Draft EIS

Public comment period
Board confirms or modifies preferred alternatives

2024: Publish Final EIS

Board selects projects to be built
Federal Record of Decision



DESIGN 2024-2027

Route and station design

- Engagement at design milestones and to plan for construction
- Station naming
- Identify artists for station art
- Property acquisition and tenant relocation
- Early construction activities (i.e. utility relocation) may start

Permitting

Construction contract procurement

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Ongoing station design engagement



Pre-construction planning



Station naming



Station artist selection



CONSTRUCTION 2027-2032

Demolition and clearing where necessary to build and operate the light rail guideway

Earth work such as stormwater systems, column footings, retaining walls and tunneling

Guideway and station construction

Ongoing conversations with anyone affected by construction

Safety education

Testing and pre-operations

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Good neighbor commitments

- Construction impact mitigation (noise, lights, dust)
- Construction updates
- Business relations
- 24-hour construction hotline
- Safety education
- Testing and pre-operations

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