



ST3's Environmental Context

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April 12, 2016 Expert Review Panel

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

Environmental Processes

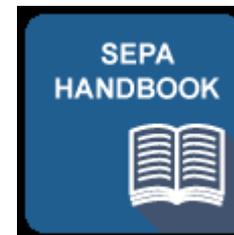
From LRP/ST3 to Building Projects

- NEPA/SEPA – Environmental Reviews
- Linking Long-Range Plan/ST3 and Future NEPA
- Relevant Local/Regional Plans
- Consistency with Environmental Regulations

Environmental Reviews

State Environmental Policy Act

- Applies to State and Local Agencies
- Administered by Department of Ecology
- Required for:
 - “Projects” – construction of public facilities
 - “Non-projects” – adoption of policies, plans, or programs
- Lead Agency = Sound Transit



Environmental Reviews

National Environmental Policy Act

- Applies to Federal Actions
 - Use of federal funding
 - Use of interstate freeway right-of-way

- Project-level Environmental Review

- Lead Agency Usually Federal Transit Administration (FTA)



Long-Range Plan/ST3

2015 Long-Range Plan Update EIS

- SEPA Only
- Supplemental EIS
- Non-project Environmental Review
- Scoping, P&N, Alternatives, Impacts and Mitigation
- EJ Study included although not required
- Level of Detail Appropriate for Plan-Level Review

Table 5-3 Potential Plan Modification Alternative Summary of Impacts—Light Rail

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE	POTENTIAL EFFECTS	LIGHT RAIL																	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Earth	Susceptibility to geologic hazards	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Air Quality	Benefit from reduction in greenhouse gases	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
Noise and Vibration	Potential for noise impacts to residences	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Water	Potential for impacts to streams	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Wetlands	Potential for impacts to wetlands	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Ecosystems	Regionally important ecosystem resources	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Energy	Benefit from reduction in energy use	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
Environmental Health	Potential for encountering hazardous waste sites	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Visual Quality	Potential for impacts to visual setting	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Land Use	General consistency with plans and policies	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Public Services/Utilities	Potential for conflicts with major utilities	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Parks and Recreation	Potential for impacts to parks and recreation areas	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖
Historic Resources	Potential for impacts to historic properties	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊖

⊖ Worst Performance ⊕ Best Performance
 ⊖ ⊕ Potential for both benefit and loss

Long-Range Plan/ST3

2015 Long-Range Plan Update EIS

➤ Robust Agency Coordination and Public Outreach

- Public meetings, social media, online surveys
- Interagency Coordination Group (> 60 agencies)
- Other types of coordination with tribes, federal and state agencies, PSRC and jurisdictions
- Meetings with jurisdictional staff
- Briefings to elected officials
- Briefings to transit advocates/environmental groups



Shape the future of regional mass transit

- ATTEND EVENTS
- EMAIL US
- TAKE OUR ONLINE SURVEY

Every day, thousands of people ride Sound Transit trains and buses, and our population is growing. Help update the Long-Range Plan and decide where mass transit could expand after current voter-approved projects are complete in 2023.

Environmental scoping comment period: October 25 - November 25, 2013

Evening events
5:30 to 8 p.m. with a presentation at 6:15 p.m.

Seattle – Tuesday, Nov. 12
Seattle University Champion Ballroom
914 E. Jefferson St.

Federal Way – Wednesday, Nov. 13
Federal Way Community Center
876 S. 333rd St.

Redmond – Thursday, Nov. 14
Redmond Marriott
7401 164th Ave. N.E.

Tacoma – Monday, Nov. 18
Tacoma Convention Center
1500 Broadway

Everett – Tuesday, Nov. 19
Eisenhower Middle School
10200 25th Ave. S.E.

Daytime event
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Seattle – Thursday, Nov. 21
Union Station
401 S. Jackson St.

For more information

soundtransit.org/LongRangePlan @SoundTransit Sound Transit
 LongRangePlan@soundtransit.org Have a question? Call 206-963-7000

To request accommodations for persons with disabilities or for information in alternative formats, call 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711 or email accessibility@soundtransit.org.

Sound Transit plans, builds and operates regional transit systems and services to improve mobility for Central Puget Sound.
 Sound Transit / Union Station, 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104 / 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711
 main@soundtransit.org / soundtransit.org

For more information, contact us in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Tagalog. We speak your language. 2013.11.01

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Long-Range Plan/ST3

2015 Long-Range Plan Update EIS

- Informed Development and ST Board Adoption of Long-Range Plan (LRP)
- ST3 System Plan a Subset of LRP – EIS also covers ST3 Plan
- Examples of LRP/ST3 Results or Decisions
 - Goals and Objectives
 - Elimination of unreasonable alternatives based on criteria
 - “Core Priorities”
 - General corridors
 - Areas served by stations
 - Mode



Regional Transit Long-Range Plan Update

**Final Supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement**

November 2014

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Linking Planning and NEPA

Integration of Planning and Environmental Review

- Codified in Title 23 of US Code and then incorporated into federal surface transportation acts
 - SAFETEA-LU (2005)
 - MAP-21 (2012)
 - FAST Act (current)
- The *results or decisions* of transportation planning studies (systems-level, corridor, or subarea) may be used as part of the overall project development process consistent with NEPA

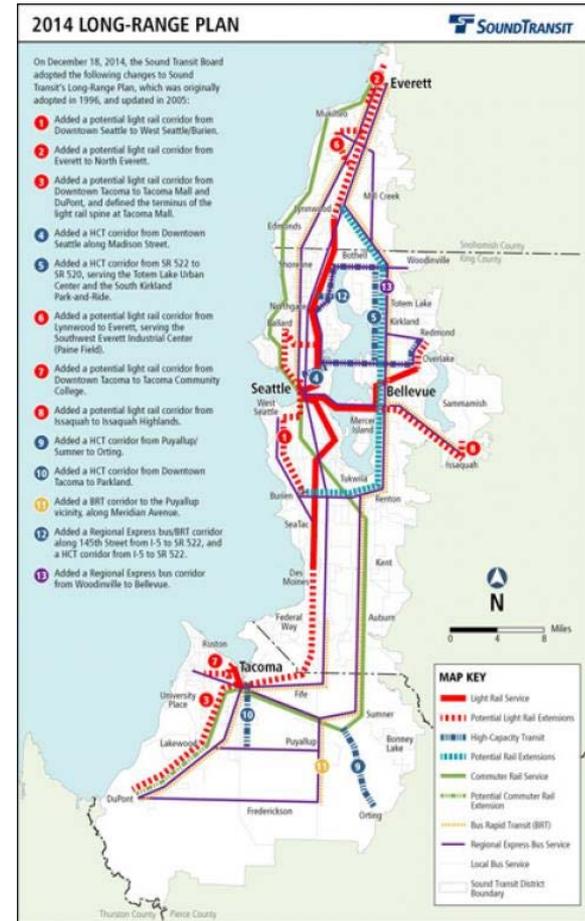


FAST
ACT

Linking Planning and NEPA

Which planning-level “results or decisions”?

- Purpose and Need/Goals and Objectives
- General travel corridor or modal choice
- Preliminary screening of alternatives and elimination of unreasonable alternatives
- Decisions with respect to methodologies for analysis
- Preliminary identification of environmental impacts/mitigation



Linking Planning and NEPA

Conditions That Must Be Met During Planning Include:

- Involvement of interested Federal/State agencies, Indian Tribes
- Public had opportunity to participate
- Planning considered systems-level transportation needs and potential effects on human/natural environment
- Plan has rational basis and based on acceptable methods
- Plan documented in sufficient detail to support results/decision



Project Development

ST3 Project-Level Environmental Review

- Joint NEPA/SEPA Project-Level Documents

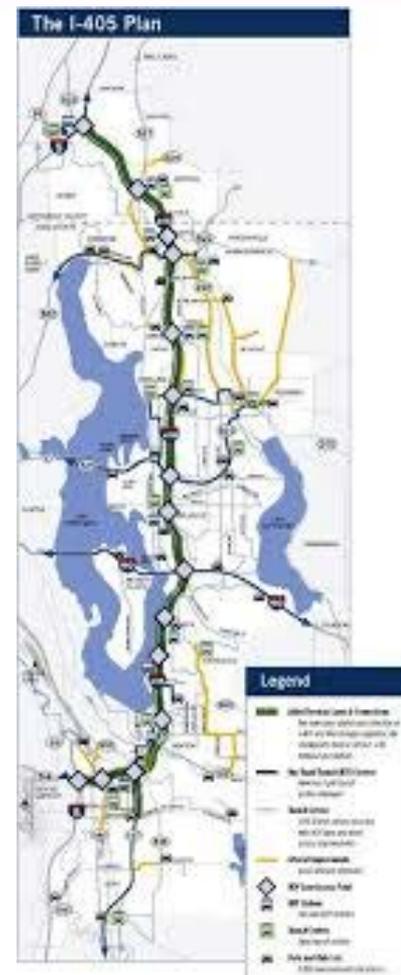
- More Detailed Information and Analysis
 - Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act
 - Section 4(f)
 - Endangered Species Act

- On-going Coordination With Stakeholders

Consistency with Plans

I-405 Master Plan

- Multimodal Corridor-wide Programmatic EIS
- Record of Decision Issued 2002
- Implementation Plan Identified in 2003
- I-405 Program = “I-405 Congestion Relief and Bus Rapid Transit Projects”
- Projects to be Implemented Incrementally as Funded
- Major Components Include:
 - Add up to 2 lanes in each direction
 - Corridor-wide BRT with stations



Consistency with Environmental Regulations

Federal and State

- NEP/SEPA
- Washington State Growth Management Act / Vision 2040
- Plan-level analysis identifies potential mitigation measures that comply with state/federal requirements
- ST3 project templates include cost for mitigation – reviewed during Risk Assessment
- Socioeconomic equity a core priority/evaluation measure



The image features a close-up, low-angle shot of a white and blue Sound Transit train. The train's body is decorated with large, stylized wave patterns in shades of light blue and teal. A dark horizontal band is superimposed across the middle of the image, containing the Sound Transit logo (a stylized 'S' and 'T' in a square) and the text 'SOUNDTRANSIT' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the main text, the slogan 'RIDE THE WAVE' is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The background shows a clear blue sky and the top of some green trees.

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RIDE THE WAVE