



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

- 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



Where should Sound Transit services go next?

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 Campion 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
LongRangePlan@soundtransit.org

Have a question? Call 206-463-7000

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
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Press Release Information: Sound Transit is a public transit agency serving the Puget Sound region. Sound Transit is a public transit agency serving the Puget Sound region. Sound Transit is a public transit agency serving the Puget Sound region.

Sound Transit 媒體查詢
 可聯絡新聞發言人、發言人及媒體聯絡處
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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

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

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 Local Plans

Puget Sound Regional Council/Jurisdictions

- *Growth Management Act* - framework
- *PSRC's Vision 2040 and Transportation 2040* – vision for achieving the GMA goals
- Compact development pattern linked by a network of HCT
- Regional Growth Strategy directs growth to RGC's/ MIC's
- Service to RGC's was a screening criteria during LRP and core priority/evaluation measure during ST3
- PSRC will issue conformity finding for ST3



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



