



East Link Extension

Light Rail 101

June 2017

Light Rail 101

Have you ever wondered why Sound Transit's light rail system looks the way it does? What determines the size of the stations and why do they look similar?

Sound Transit's *Design Criteria Manual* defines design standards for the light rail system, ensuring that the stations and other parts of the rail line are predictable. Whether you're in Seattle or traveling north, south or east, you'll be able to recognize light rail stations.



Mercer Island light rail station platform rendering

How long are the stations?

Station platforms are a maximum of 380 feet long to accommodate trains that are four cars long. Each train car has wheelchair accessible spaces at each door and bicycle storage. One four-car train can accommodate about 592 passengers.

There are also two types of station platforms: side loading and center loading. Side loading platforms have two separate platforms with trains in the center, allowing access to only one direction of travel. Center loading platforms – with one platform in the center and trackways on the outside – allow passengers to access both directions of travel from one location. Mercer Island Station will include a center loading platform.



Example of light rail platform

What are standard items included at each station?

Stations throughout the system include specific design elements to make sure passengers are safe and protected from the elements as well as passing trains. All outdoor stations include weather protection or canopy for at least 30 percent of the station platform and over stairs, escalators, elevators and ticketing areas. The platform also includes a tactile wayfinding path and truncated dome pavers that guide visually impaired passengers to train doors and alert them of the platform edge.



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How does electricity power the trains?

Similar to your childhood train set, Link operates by electricity. Not only is this eco-friendly, it also ensures that trains operate at low volumes without combustion engines.

The light rail system includes two overhead wires – a catenary wire that carries a contact wire throughout the system. The train makes contact with the contact wire and delivers electricity to the vehicle.



Example of overhead catenary system

What are Traction Power Substations?

Traction power substations convert the local utility’s electricity for train power. Traction power substation units are located every few miles, near the track and are screened for security.

What other elements are continuous throughout the light rail system?

Sound Transit strives for consistency across the entire light rail system and uses similar station layout and types of materials to provide consistency. Sound Transit works with neighboring communities to incorporate their ideas into station design and these are reflected in station names and artwork.

For More Information

Please call our 24-hour construction hotline at 1-888-298-2395 / TTY Relay: 711.

For more information, please contact Zack Ambrose at 206-903-7176 or eastlink@soundtransit.org

To speak with Sound Transit about the proposed Link light rail mass transit project in East King County call 1-800-823-9230 during regular business hours.

Para hablar con Sound Transit acerca del propuesto proyecto de transporte público de Link Light Rail en el este de King County, llame al 1-800-823-9230 durante horas normales de oficina.

要向 Sound Transit 瞭解或討論擬在 East King County 進行的 Link light rail 公共交通項目，請在正常的工作時間致電 1-800-823-9230。

Upang makipag-usap sa Sound Transit ukol sa iminungkahing Link light rail na proyektong sasakyang pangmasa sa Silangang King County tawagan ang 1-800-823-9230 habang sa karaniwang mga oras ng pangangalakal.

Если вы хотите высказать сотрудникам Sound Transit свои соображения по поводу предлагаемого проекта линии общественного транспорта Link light rail в восточной части King County, звоните по телефону 1-800-823-9230 в обычные рабочие часы.

Muốn nói chuyện với Sound Transit về đề án chuyên chở công cộng đường hóa xa nhẹ Link tại Phía Đông Quận King, hãy gọi số 1-800-823-9230 trong giờ làm việc thường lệ.

در مورد مسیر پیشنهاد شده برای پروژه ترانزیت سبک راه اهتی در کینگ شرقی با شماره 1-800-823-9230 در ساعات کاری تماس بگیرید برای گفتگو با سوند ترانزیت.

East Link Extension is a key element of the regional mass transit system approved by voters in 2008. This 14-mile light rail line will benefit local communities and support regional growth with fast, frequent and reliable light rail service, connecting Seattle to the Eastside’s biggest population and employment centers. The project builds on the Central Link light rail system running between Angle Lake and University of Washington. East Link is part of the new light rail extensions being built north, south and east from Seattle.