

# Sound Transit 2011 TIGER Request

## South Link: Sea-Tac Airport to South 200th Street

Request: \$27 million

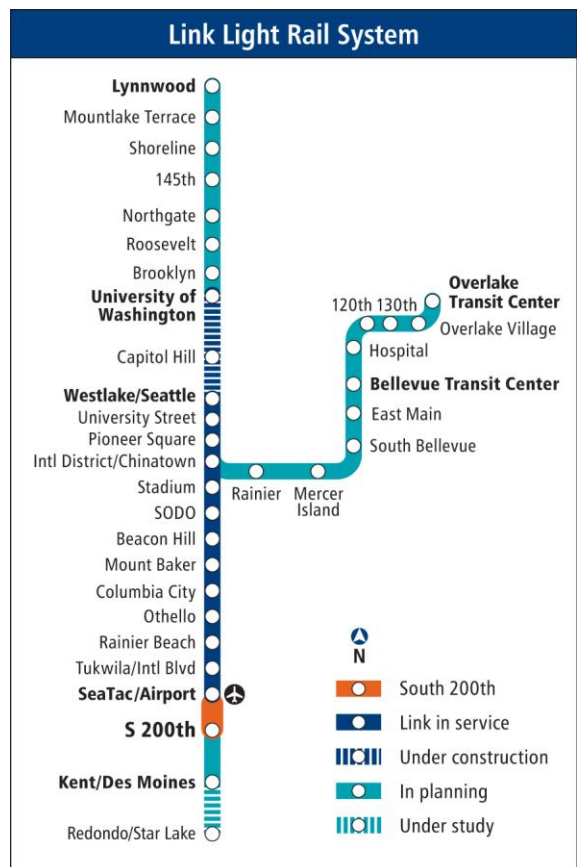
With a successful TIGER application, Sound Transit will be able to build the light rail extension to South 200th Street, a critical extension of the Puget Sound regional light rail system. This extension will coincide with the opening of light rail from downtown Seattle to Capitol Hill and the University of Washington in 2016, resulting in a system that is over 20 miles, creating over 2,000 jobs, acting as a catalyst for private development in communities south of the Airport, and improving access to the regional transit system all around. Sound Transit has identified over \$350 million in regional dollars to build this project, and it requires \$27 million in TIGER funds to close the funding gap.



### Project Benefits

This project will extend light rail south, approximately 1.6 miles, from Seattle Tacoma International Airport to South 200th Street. This project:

- Extends transit options for the entire Puget Sound region, a region of 3 million population with one of the largest ports and busiest airports in the country, and home to some of the world's most successful businesses like Boeing, Starbucks, Amazon, and Microsoft
- Creates over 2,000 jobs at a time when this region needs to bounce back from the Recession
- This project reduces travel time to downtown Seattle by approximately 19 minutes per trip and will reduce travel time to the University of Washington by 27 minutes per trip (a 33% and 38% travel time reduction)
- Creates private sector potential that is already being designed and developed around the transit center to boost the economy and create a more livable community
- Connects to 22,000 jobs at Seattle Tacoma International Airport, which is the 17th busiest airport in the US, generates over \$13 billion in annual business revenue, and hosts over 31 million passengers a year
- Creates a multi-modal transit center at South 200th Street in the City of SeaTac which has a high transit-dependent population – some census tracts around the South 200th Station indicate 28% of households are living below the poverty level and 16% of the population living around the station is elderly
- Provides transit connections to regional light rail and local and express bus service, including King County Metro's Bus RapidRide service



- Aside from getting more individuals out of cars to help with greenhouse gas reduction in the region, the station is designed to be LEED Silver, promote car-sharing, and provide charging stations for electric vehicles
- Total use of the South 200th Street Station will be 5,400 trips per day, providing direct access to major regional employment centers, health care institutions, professional sports arenas, and tourist attractions
- When this station opens, in concert with the University of Washington extension, light rail ridership will grow from 34,000 daily trips in 2016 to 55,800 in 2017; annual system ridership will go from 11,500,000 in 2016 to 18,400,000 in 2017 – a 60% increase
- Annually, the project is estimated to reduce nearly 26 million vehicle miles traveled from the congested I-5 corridor
- Improves pedestrian and bicycle access to the regional transit systems, including bike racks, lockers, and bike and pedestrian paths

#### Readiness

- All federal and state environmental approvals are complete
- There is a Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration
- The project will be delivered using a Design/Build process, which helps accelerate the schedule and allows Sound Transit to take advantage of the favorable bidding climate

#### Funding

- Sound Transit has over \$350 million in regional dollars for the project.
- Project partners include:
  - \$7 million from the Puget Sound Regional Council for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant
  - \$5.2 million from Washington State DOT for a Regional Mobility Grant
  - \$1.3 million from USDOT for a Transportation, Community and System Preservation grant
  - Capital contributions from the Port of Seattle and the City of SeaTac
- The TIGER III grant would be the last hurdle for delivering this project in 2016, would be the last-dollars-in, and would represent only a fraction of the overall project cost.

#### TIGER Program

In June, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the third competition for TIGER grants with funding provided by Congress in 2011. Competition will be extremely tough with only \$527 million available nationwide and an average of less than 4% of applicants receiving funding. Applications are due on October 31, 2011. The light rail extension to South 200th Street meets and exceeds TIGER criteria of economic competitiveness, livability, environmental sustainability, innovation, and partnerships.

#### Supporters

To add your voice of support to our application, please contact Rachel Smith at [rachel.smith@soundtransit.org](mailto:rachel.smith@soundtransit.org) or at 206-251-7304.

