

Help Save Ballard Light Rail this week

Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss is proposing a plan to get Ballard Light Rail back on track, but **we need your help to get it approved.**

Despite the fact the Ballard Link Extension is projected to serve up to 148,000 people daily, the most riders of any project in Sound Transit history, the agency is considering postponing the project indefinitely to address its long-term budget issues.

Under Sound Transit's current proposal, construction of the so-called Ballard Link Extension would only be funded to reach Seattle Center.

The Plan: Prioritize Building a Westlake to Ballard Starter Line

As a Sound Transit Board Member, Councilmember Strauss is proposing amendments to the plan that builds to Ballard without negatively affecting West Seattle, Everett, Tacoma, or any other region's light rail expansion. His proposal is called the **Westlake to Ballard Starter Line.**

One of the key reasons Sound Transit's plan falls short is that it prioritizes nearly \$11 billion in Seattle-area funding for a second downtown tunnel over building light rail to Ballard. That's a policy choice, not a necessity.

That second tunnel would run parallel to the current tunnel and serve roughly the same area. To maximize ridership, we should move that Seattle-area funding from the second downtown tunnel to where it's needed most – building a Westlake to Ballard Starter Line and reaching new light rail riders.

Sound Transit's Proposal:

Prioritizes Seattle-area funding for a second downtown tunnel from SODO to Seattle Center and postpones Ballard indefinitely.

VS

Councilmember Strauss' Proposal:

Prioritizes Seattle-area funding for light rail from Westlake to Denny, Seattle Center, Smith Cove, Interbay, and Ballard first.

How you can help

Sound Transit's plan and Councilmember Strauss' proposed amendments to it are scheduled to be voted on during the next **Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, May 28 at 1:30 PM.**

Urge Sound Transit to approve Councilmember Strauss' amendments. Call and email Sound Transit Board Members before the vote and sign up to give public comment at the meeting. You can do so in-person or virtually. Scan this QR code for more info on how to make your voice heard.



Westlake to Ballard Starter Line: A Plan to Save & Prioritize Ballard Light Rail

Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss is proposing Sound Transit adjust its priorities and build Ballard's light rail before funding a second downtown tunnel.

Sound Transit's current proposal indefinitely postpones Ballard light rail while prioritizing \$11 billion in Seattle-area funding for a second downtown tunnel. Councilmember Strauss' proposal would reprioritize that funding to build light rail from Westlake to Ballard first and fund the second tunnel as cost savings and funding becomes available.

