

What's Up Next In The Seattle Squeeze

March 23rd Transit Service Change



Buses Coming Out of Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel

On March 23rd, to make room for the expansion of the Washington State Convention Center and upcoming construction to expand Link light rail service, **830 buses serving seven routes will say goodbye to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and will operate exclusively on surface streets.**

Westlake Customer Service Office will close

- Last operating business day was March 6th, 2019.
- ORCA cards can still be purchased or reloaded at nearby locations and at Westlake ticket vending machines.



New boarding locations for 15 routes



Tunnel routes and some surface street routes will shift to new pathways on **2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Avenues**.

| Current Tunnel Routes | Surface Street Pathway |
|--|---|
| 41 (all-day) | 3 rd Ave (SB and NB) |
| 74 (peak service only) Additional surface routes will also move to this pathway: 76, 77, 301, 308, 316 | 2 nd Ave (SB) 5 th /6 th Ave (NB) |
| 255 (all-day) Additional surface routes will also move to this pathway: 252, 257, 311 | 5 th Ave (SB) 5 th /6 th Ave (NB) |
| 101 (all-day) | 2 nd Ave (SB) - 4 th Ave (NB) |
| 102 (peak service only) | |
| 150 (all-day) | |
| 550 (all-day) (Sound Transit) | |

3rd Avenue All-Door Boarding



- Just like RapidRide routes, Metro will expand off board payment and all-door boarding to all 42 routes along 3rd Avenue between Jackson and Denny Way and along the Westlake corridor through South Lake Union.
- ORCA readers will be installed at bus stop locations using phased construction through 2020.
- Transit priority reserves 3rd Avenue for buses and bikes from **6am-7pm every day**
- Our fare enforcement policy has changed!
 - Fare enforcement officers will be present on routes along 3rd avenue during the all-door boarding transition to help customers understand the new program and checking for valid fares through ORCA card or transfer slip.

Communications to Metro and Sound Transit Riders



- Rider alerts
- Transit alerts
- Web, blog, social media, electronic notifications
- Stakeholder outreach/briefings
- Language LEP research and accommodations
- Printed materials on buses
- Media outreach
- Street teams and ambassadors between 3/16 and 3/25
- King County Metro and Sound Transit Customer Service
- Customized outreach messages to vulnerable communities
- [Downtown Seattle Accessibility Map](#)
- www.soundtransit.org/servicechange
- Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange

Sound Transit Service Changes – March 23



ST Express –

Route 550 to Bellevue

- Westbound buses to Seattle will travel on 4th Avenue and Pike Street.
- Eastbound buses to Mercer Island and Bellevue will travel on Union Street and 2nd Avenue.

Benefits for Link Riders

- Current conditions create frequent delays for light rail riders
- Transition will enable riders to reliably enjoy 6-minute headways
- Headways will improve as the system and fleet expand in coming years
- Tunnel changes support Link expansion to Northgate and the Eastside



Construction after the SR 99 tunnel opens

Alaskan Way Viaduct removal

- Removes the viaduct (including foundations and ramps) and restores the street
- Approximately 6 months of construction

Filling and sealing the Battery Street Tunnel

- Decommissions systems, fills and seals tunnel
- Utility work and street improvements on Battery Street
- 18-24 months of construction

North surface street connections

- Reconnects Harrison, Thomas and John streets across rebuilt Aurora Avenue North
- Adds bus lane between Harrison Street and Denny Way
- Approximately 15 months of construction



Managing our transportation system and ROW

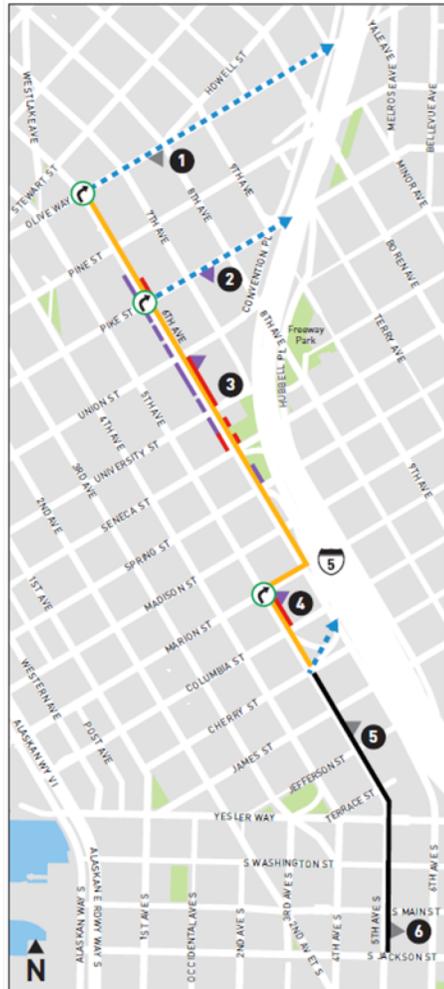


- Revise traffic signal timing operations when buses come out of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
- Conduct real-time transportation system performance monitoring and adjustments
- Communicate with technology providers about closures and reroutes that do not fit into real-time feeds
- Proactively manage construction project schedules to minimize impacts to downtown streets, with a focus on bus-only lanes



Investing in transit and expanding access

PROJECT MAP



LEGEND

- New transit pathway
- Existing transit pathway
- - - Transit connections to I-5 north
- ▲ New bus stop
- ▲ Existing bus stop
- Parking restriction: No parking 3-7 PM, M-F
- Parking removal: No parking 24/7
- Ⓢ New right turn signal

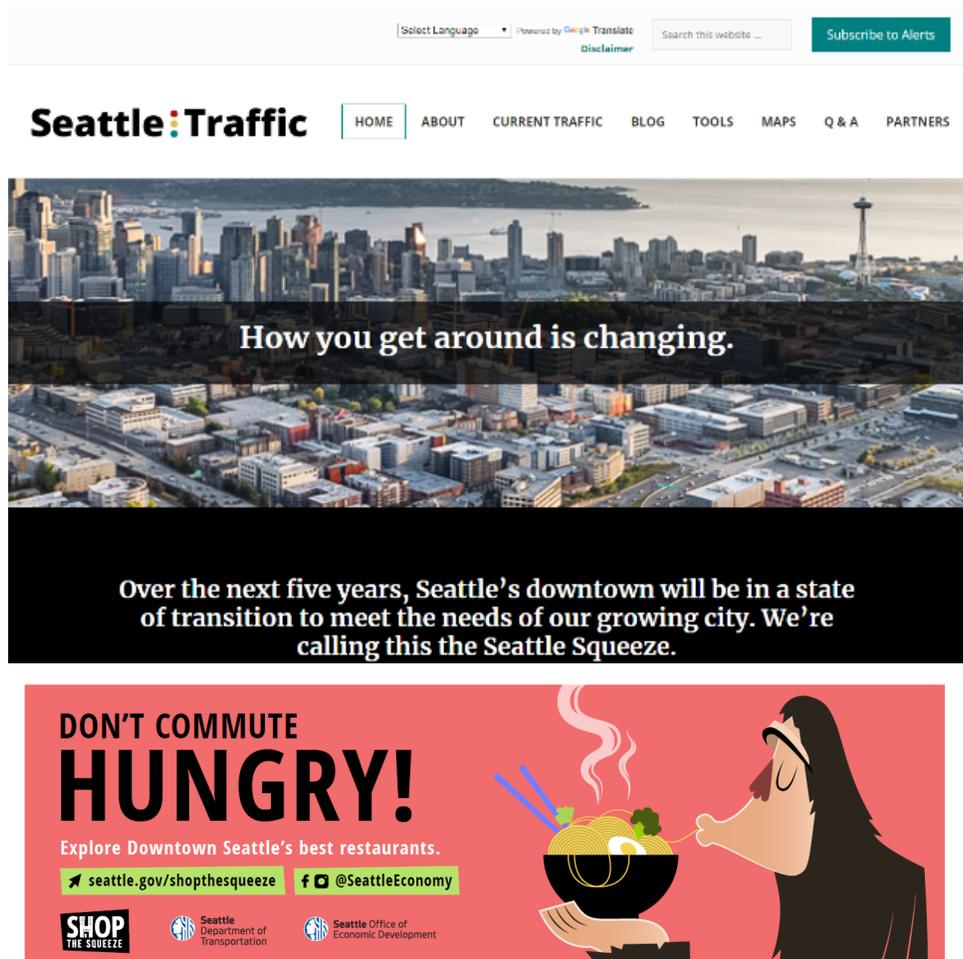
The 5th/6th Transit Pathway will be northbound only, 1 lane wide, and in effect 3-7 PM, Monday-Friday.

BUS SERVICE

| Bus stop | Location | Routes |
|----------|--------------------------|---|
| 1 | Olive Way & 8th Ave | 212, 214, 216, 218, 219, 252, 255, 257, 268, 311, 545 |
| 2 | Pike St & 7th Ave | 74, 76, 77, 301, 308, 316 |
| 3 | 6th Ave & Union St | 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 257, 301, 308, 311, 316 |
| 4 | 5th Ave & Marion St | 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 257, 301, 308, 311, 316 |
| 5 | 5th Ave & James St | 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 257, 301, 304, 308, 311, 316, 355, 412, 413, 416, 421, 425, 435 |
| 6 | 5th Ave S & S Jackson St | 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 257, 268, 301, 308, 311, 316 |

- Add midday and shoulder period trips to key Metro bus routes
- Partner with Metro to provide Ride2 service to SE Seattle light rail stations
- Build the 5th/6th transit pathway
 - **Routes affected:** 74, 76, 77, 252, 255, 257, 301, 308, 311, 316
 - **Benefits:** 4th Avenue operates quicker and more reliability; adds resiliency to system; balances transit capacity on all available downtown transit pathways
 - **Communications:** Rider alerts, transit alerts to affected routes, printed materials on buses, social media

Reducing drive-alone trips downtown and communications



- Partner with major employers to promote and expand flexible work options
- Leverage rideshare as a first-/last-mile service to transit hubs
- Implement communications strategy to reduce drive-alone trips among small business employees
- Launch a campaign to promote small businesses and alternative modes of transportation
- Maintain www.seattle.gov/traffic as a single source for Seattle Squeeze information
- Coordinate communications with WSDOT, Metro, and Sound Transit

What comes next?



Q&A and Contact Information Resources

King County Metro

Jeff Switzer – 206-477-3833

Torie Rynning – 206-263-3233

Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange

City of Seattle

206-684-ROAD

www.seattle.gov/traffic

Sound Transit

Scott Thompson – 206-903-7838

www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion

Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program

24-hour construction hotline: 1-888-298-5463 (AWV-LINE)

viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov

www.alaskanwayviaduct.org



Near-term action plan projects – One Center City

- \$30M joint investment in projects (2017-2024)
- Focus on need to keep transit riders moving at current or improved speeds
- Includes additional supportive projects each agency will implement to maintain access for people and goods and enhance public spaces
- March 2019 Update



NTAP Bicycle Facilities

- PBL on Pike and/or Pine – target December 2019
- PBL on 4th Ave – design complete 2019
- South end connection – target completion December 2019



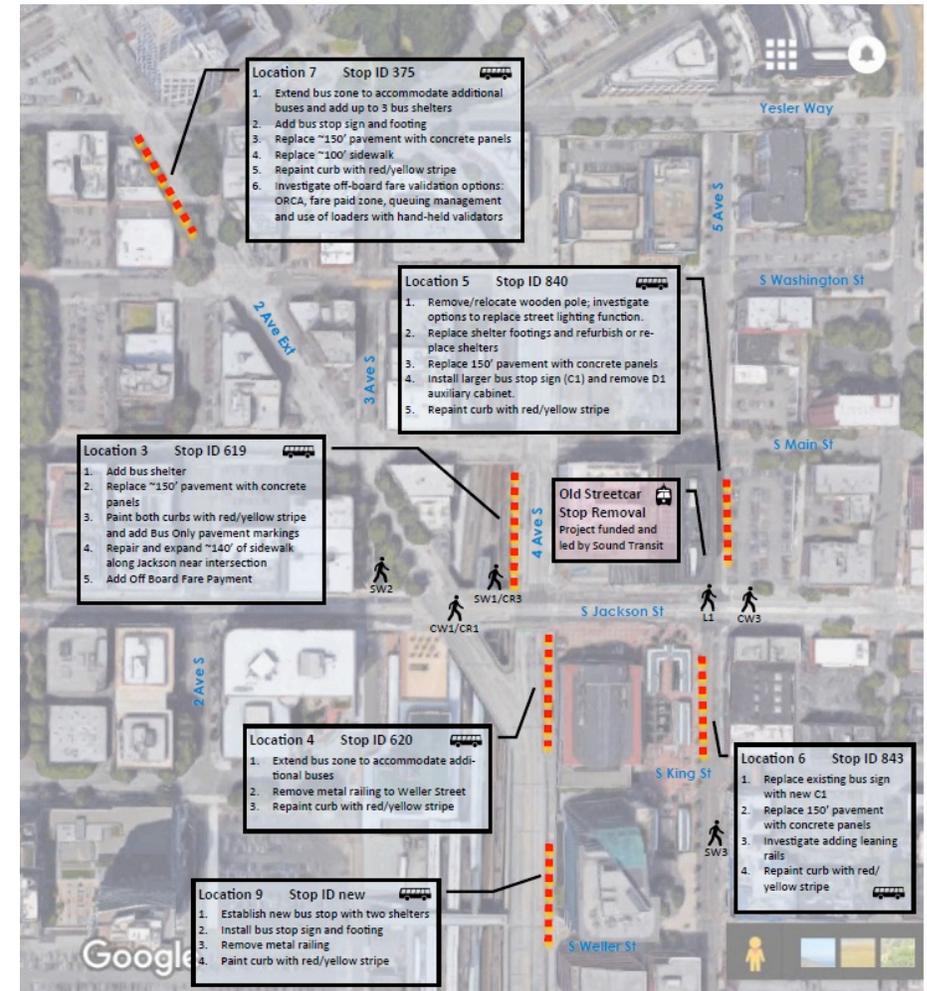
Projects for the March 23 Service Change

- 2nd Avenue and 4th Avenue Signal Improvements (complete)
- 3rd Avenue All Door Boarding and Off-Board Fare Payment (rolling implementation through March 2020)
- New Transit Pathway on 5th and 6th Avenues (almost complete!)
- 4th Ave Transit Improvements (June 2019)



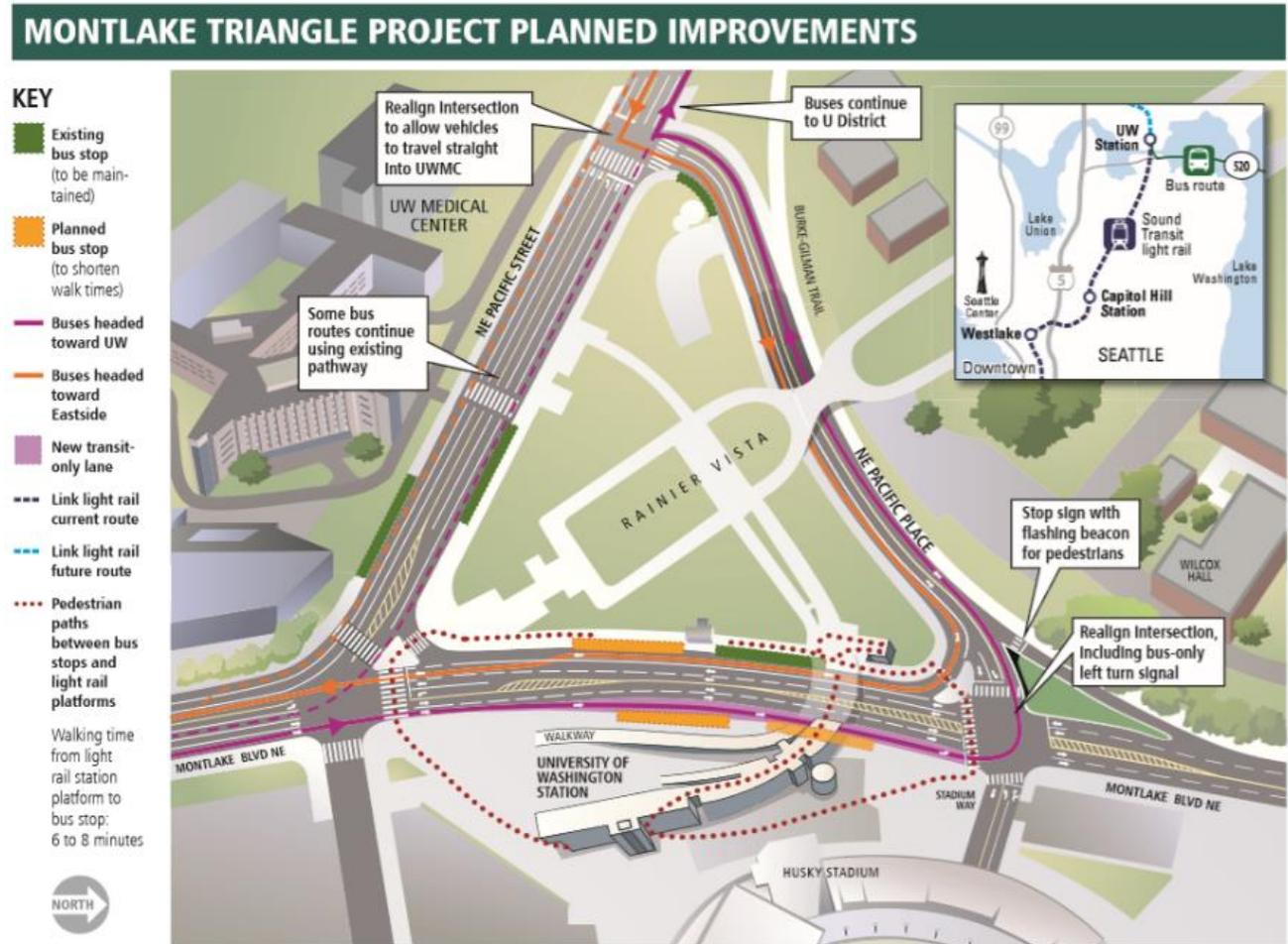
International District/Chinatown Station Hub Improvements

- Capital projects to improve transit operations, reduce bus zone congestion and improve pedestrian safety
- Includes:
 - Passenger facility improvements
 - Pedestrian safety
 - Wayfinding
- Target completion - September 2019



Montlake Triangle Improvements

- Add new bus stops to Montlake Blvd, shorten walking distance for bus/LINK transfers, add transit lane on Montlake Blvd, improve ADA access
- Target completion - September 2019



TDM and access programs

- Expanded TDM Programming and Marketing – started 2018 and will continue through 12/2021 with focus on small- to mid-size employers (on schedule)
- Shared Mobility Hubs – improve access to transit at four hubs (delayed)
- Parking and curbspace management (Goods Morning Delivery pilot, Commercial Vehicle Delivery Permit Program underway; e-Park being re-evaluated)
- Mobility as a Service – DriverMiles pilot tool complete by 12/2019

5th and Jackson trolley stop removal

- Remove decommissioned Waterfront Streetcar trolley stop at 5th and Jackson
- Replace with pavement and sidewalk to improve Metro layover and pedestrian environment
- July 2019



Public realm improvements

- Market to MOHAI (9/2019)
- McGraw Square and Westlake Square (6/2019)



Pedestrian Safety and Transit Corridor Improvements

- Investments in pedestrian projects throughout the downtown
- Includes
 - Pedestrian lighting
 - Intersection improvements
 - Wayfinding
 - Sidewalk spot repair
 - Decluttering
 - Tree planning
- December 2019

