The Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit) proposes to extend the Link light rail system. The existing system operates today between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and downtown Seattle. Two separate extensions, first to the University of Washington and then to Northgate, are currently under construction. This project would extend the system 8.5 miles further from Northgate to Lynnwood.

Sound Transit indicates the project would relieve congestion, improve transit performance, and enhance mobility choice and quality of life in this dense suburban corridor where because of geography and development pressures other means of transportation enhancement are limited. The project is a key piece of Sound Transit’s “ST2” transit plan for which a ½-cent dedicated sales tax was approved by voters in 2008. Various alternatives are still under consideration that range in cost from $1.20 billion to $1.70 billion. Sound Transit anticipates seeking a 50 percent share from the New Starts program.

The project was included in the region’s fiscally constrained long range transportation plan, entitled Transportation 2040, in May 2010. Sound Transit completed an Alternatives Analysis in 2011. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published in July 2013. Sound Transit anticipates completing the environmental review process with receipt of a Record of Decision in summer 2015, gaining entry into the engineering phase shortly thereafter, receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement in 2017, and beginning revenue service in 2023.
Sound Transit
Lynnwood Link Extension
Preferred Alternative As Selected by the Board November 2013