

# What's Up Next In The Seattle Squeeze

## March 23rd Transit Service Change





# Buses Coming Out of Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel

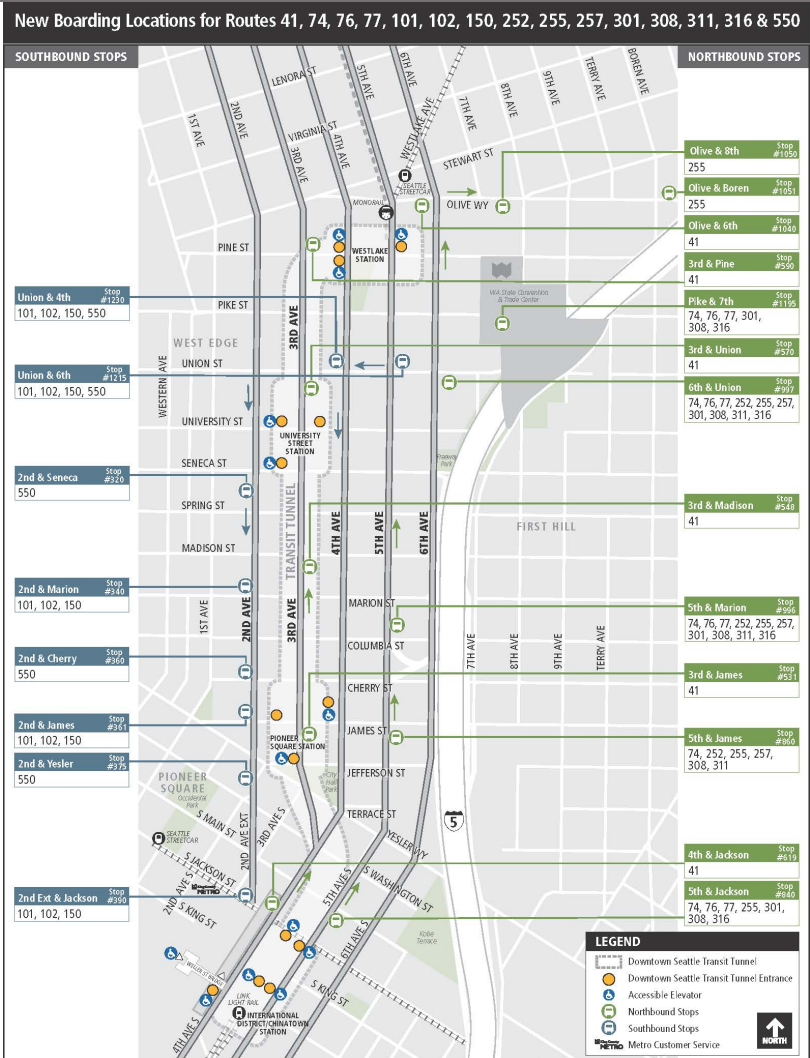
On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, to make room for the expansion of the Washington State Convention Center and upcoming construction to expand Link light rail service, **830 buses serving seven routes will say goodbye to the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel and will operate exclusively on surface streets.**

## Westlake Customer Service Office will close

- Last operating business day was March 6<sup>th</sup>, 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
<b>41</b> (all-day)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave (SB and NB)
<b>74</b> (peak service only) Additional surface routes will also move to this pathway: 76, 77, 301, 308, 316	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave (SB) 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Ave (NB)
<b>255</b> (all-day) Additional surface routes will also move to this pathway: 252, 257, 311	5 <sup>th</sup> Ave (SB) 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Ave (NB)
<b>101</b> (all-day)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave (SB) - 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave (NB)
<b>102</b> (peak service only)	
<b>150</b> (all-day)	
<b>550</b> (all-day) (Sound Transit)	

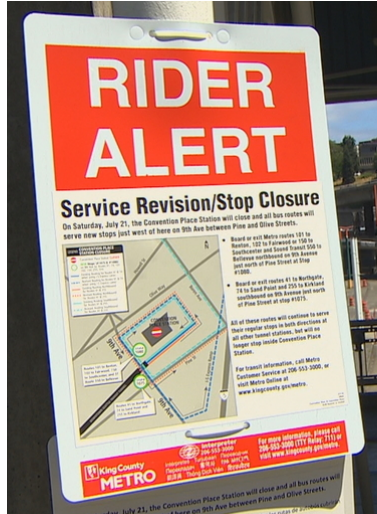
# 3rd Avenue All-Door Boarding

- Just like RapidRide routes, Metro will expand off board payment and all-door boarding to all 42 routes along 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.soundtransit.org/servicechange)
- [Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange](http://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

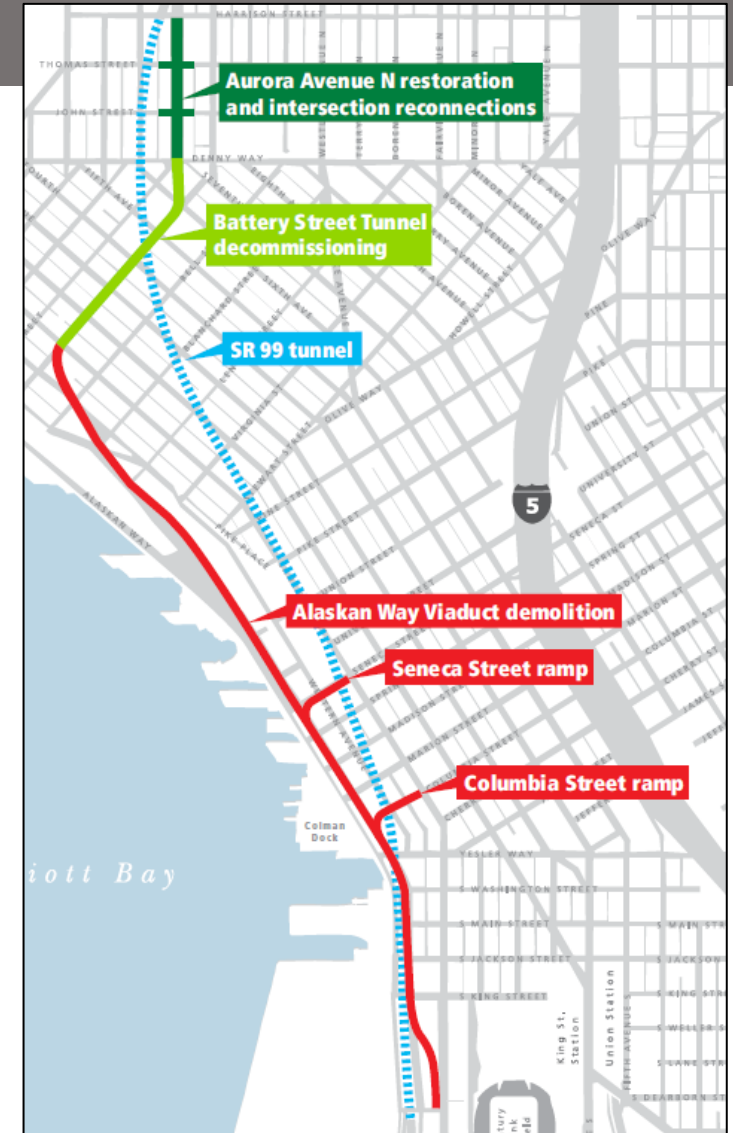
- Removes the viaduct (including foundations and ramps) and restores the street
- Approximately 6 months of construction

## 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

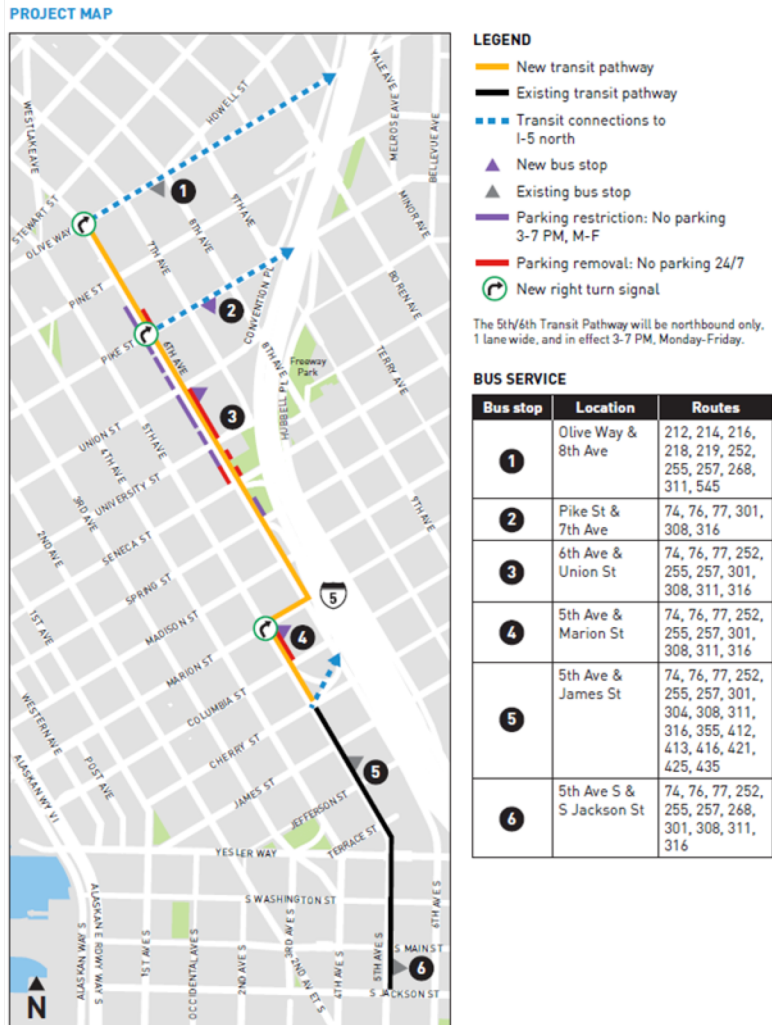


- Revise traffic signal timing operations when buses come out of the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel
- Conduct real-time transportation system performance monitoring and adjustments



- 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

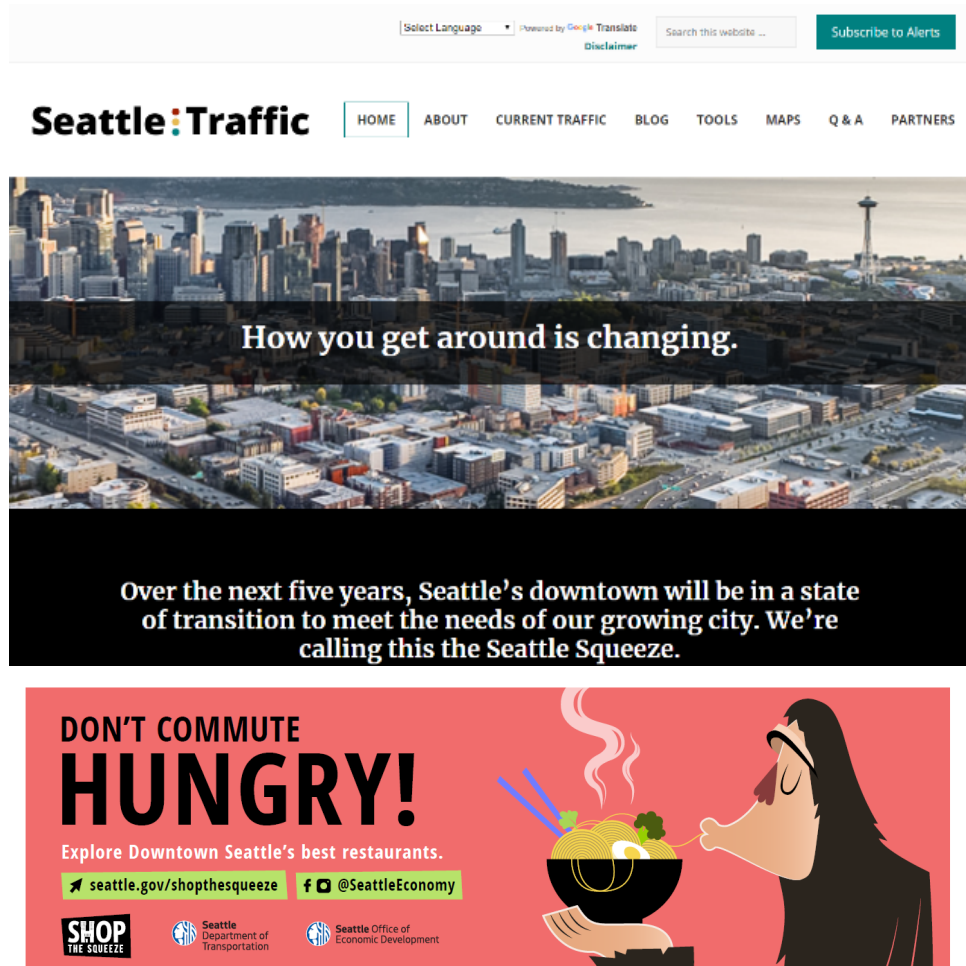
# Investing in transit and expanding access



- 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:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://Kingcounty.gov/metro/servicechange)

## **City of Seattle**

206-684-ROAD

[www.seattle.gov/traffic](http://www.seattle.gov/traffic)

## **Sound Transit**

Scott Thompson – 206-903-7838

[www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion](http://www.soundtransit.org/system-expansion)

## **Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program**

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

[viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:viaduct@wsdot.wa.gov)

[www.alaskanwayviaduct.org](http://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 4<sup>th</sup> Ave – design complete 2019
- South end connection – target completion December 2019



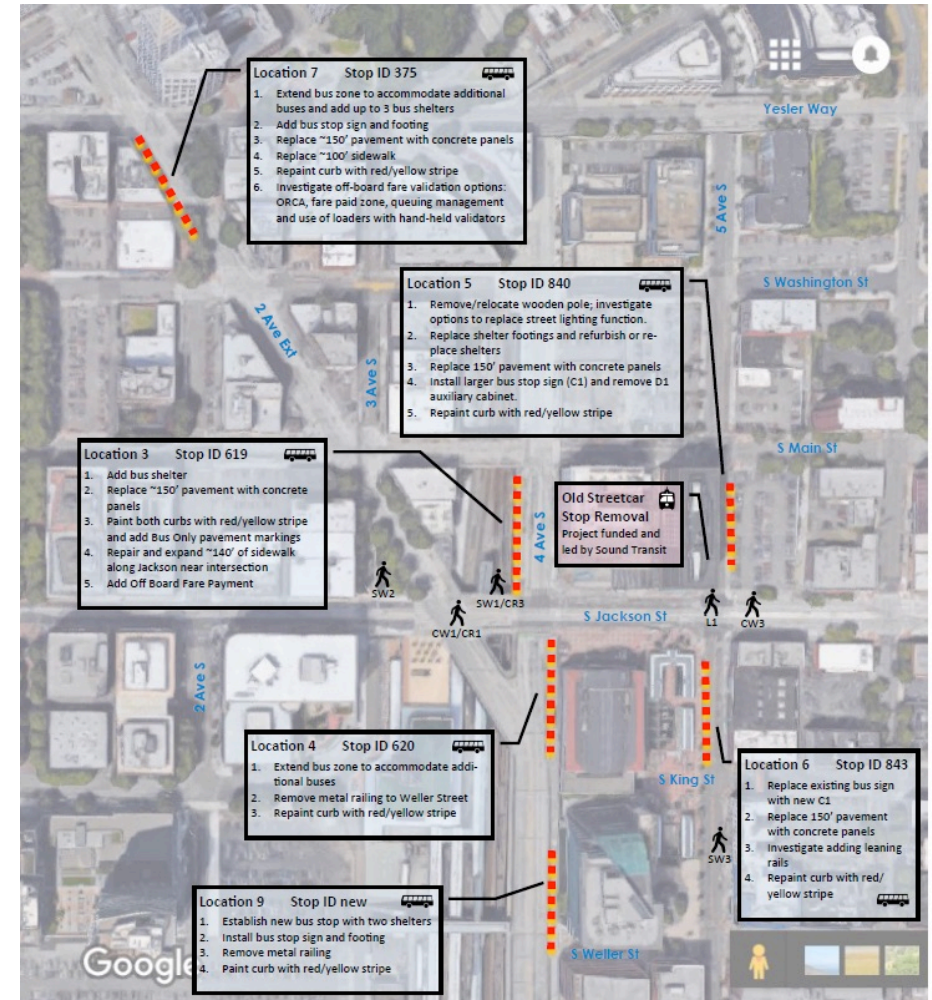
# Projects for the March 23 Service Change

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



# International District/Chinatown Station Hub Improvements

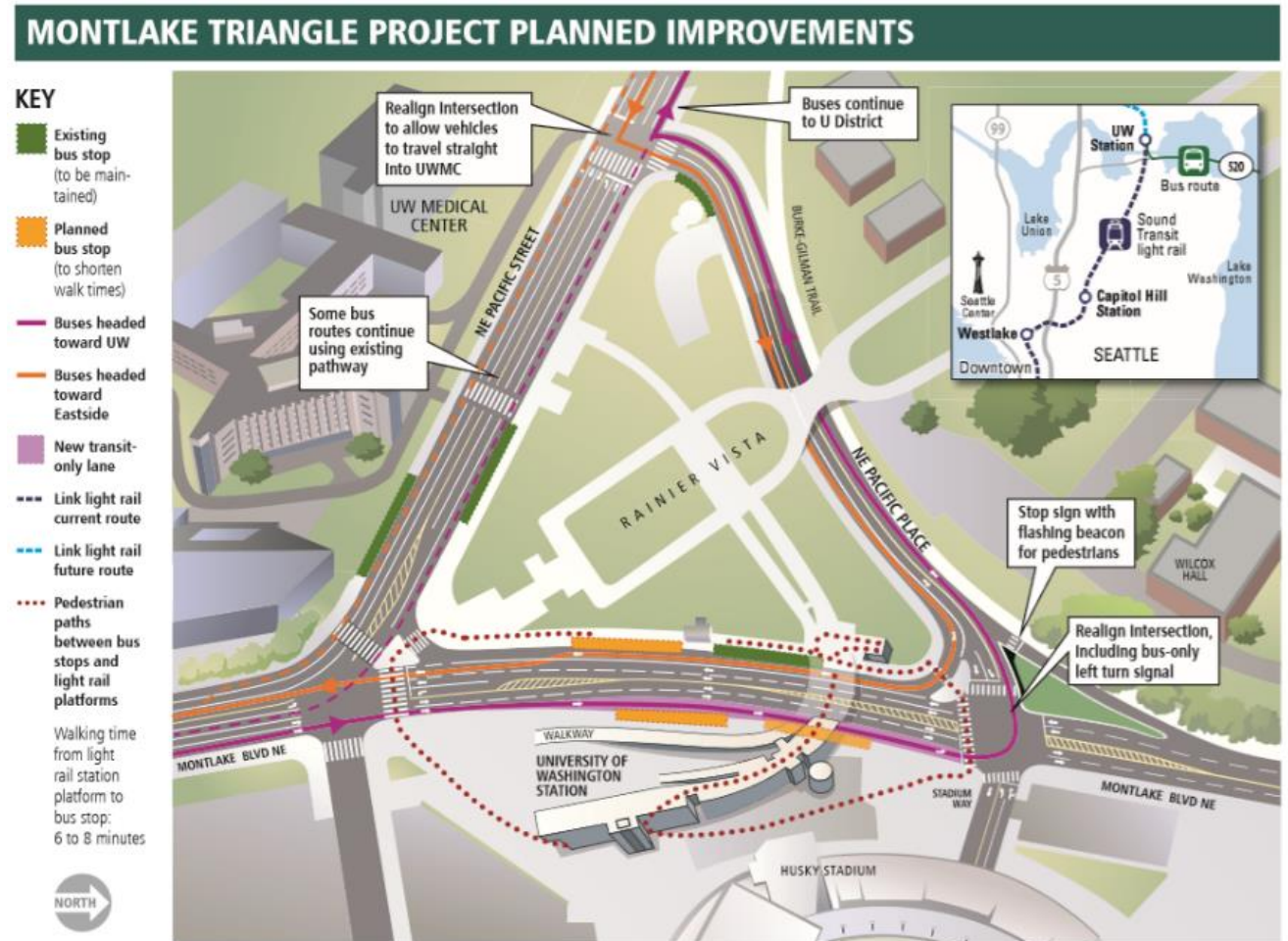
- Capital projects to improve transit operations, reduce bus zone congestion and improve pedestrian safety
- Includes:
  - Passenger facility improvements
  - Pedestrian safety
  - Wayfinding
- Target completion - September 2019





# 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

# 5<sup>th</sup> and Jackson trolley stop removal

- Remove decommissioned Waterfront Streetcar trolley stop at 5<sup>th</sup> 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

