

# Sound Transit seeks feedback on Tacoma Link expansion



KING 5's Teresa Yuan reports.

**Teresa Yuan, KING 5 News** 11:21 a.m. PDT July 15, 2015

TACOMA, Wash – Sound Transit holds an open house Wednesday to show off expansion plans for Tacoma Link Light Rail.

The public can see the new designs, route and possible stations. Voters approved expanding Tacoma Link seven years ago and agreed to pay more in taxes to help pay for it but Sound Transit hasn't broken ground on the project.

Tacoma Link currently goes from the Tacoma Dome to the Theater District in Downtown Tacoma. The proposed new line would continue on Stadium Way, turn on Division Avenue and head up to Martin Luther King Jr. Way -- essentially connecting Downtown Tacoma with the Stadium and Hilltop neighborhoods. The expansion would add another 2.4 miles of track to the system and potentially six more stops.

"I think that's kind of become a common criticism of Sound Transit that it costs too much, it does too little and it takes too long," said Bob Pishou with Washington Policy Center, a non-profit think tank that tracks transportation projects.

"It seems like a long time and, believe it or not, it is normal because the process really involves a lot of very meticulous technical analysis, the environmental impacts, operationally what is the best way the system could operate," said Kimberly Reason with Sound Transit. "Also, choosing the alignment is a very long process. There's a lot of engineering."

Commuters and Tacoma businesses are anxious for the rail system to expand to more neighborhoods.

"I'm from New York so I'm used to getting around without a car and use public transportation. I hope they keep upgrading and doing more stuff. I'm dreaming of a rail to go from Tacoma to Seattle," said commuter Chaz Brantley.

The public has until July 27 to share their comments. Sound Transit's board is expected to pick the final design and alignment this summer. But Reason says Sound Transit still needs to secure \$22 million for the expansion before construction can begin. She anticipates the soonest that could happen is 2018.

The Tacoma Link Open House is Wednesday at Evergreen State College in Tacoma on 1210 6th Avenue from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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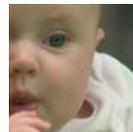
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