

# *West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions*

*Mercer Stakeholders  
2/8/2022*



# *Agenda*

- Project Overview
- Draft EIS Results Overview: Downtown
- Station Planning: Denny, SLU, Seattle Center
- Construction Roadway Closures
- Next steps

# *Project Overview*

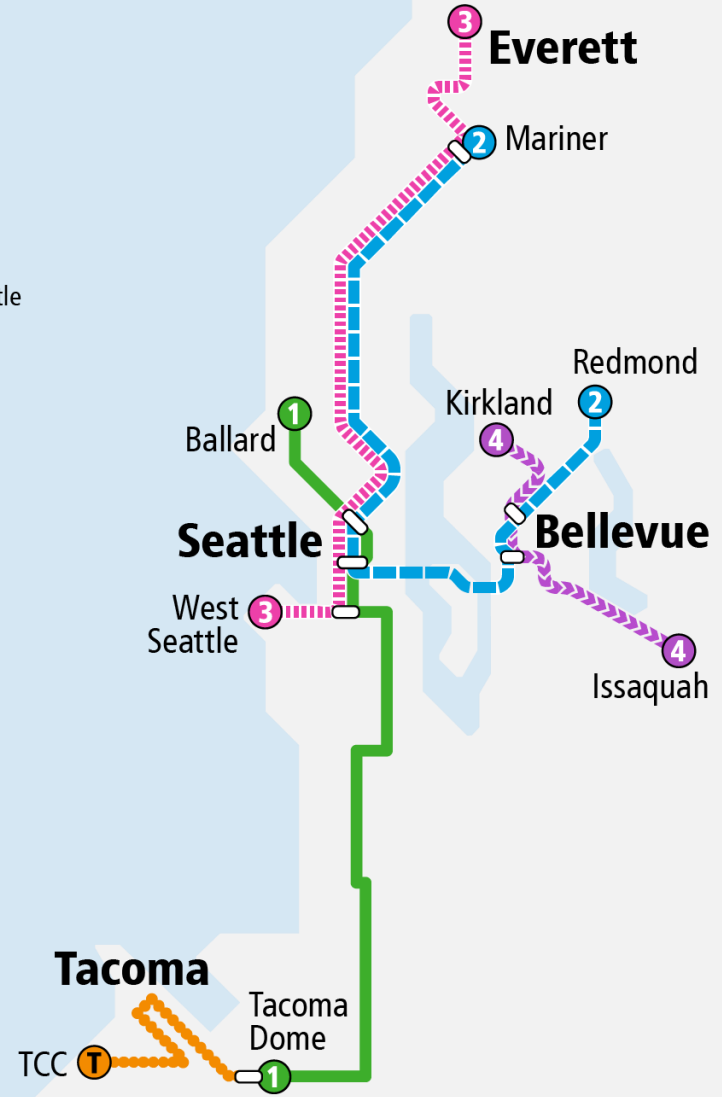
# Operating plan: 2032

-  1  
Lynnwood–Tacoma
-  2  
Lynnwood–Redmond
-  3  
West Seattle–SODO
-  T  
Tacoma Dome–Hilltop
-  Transfer



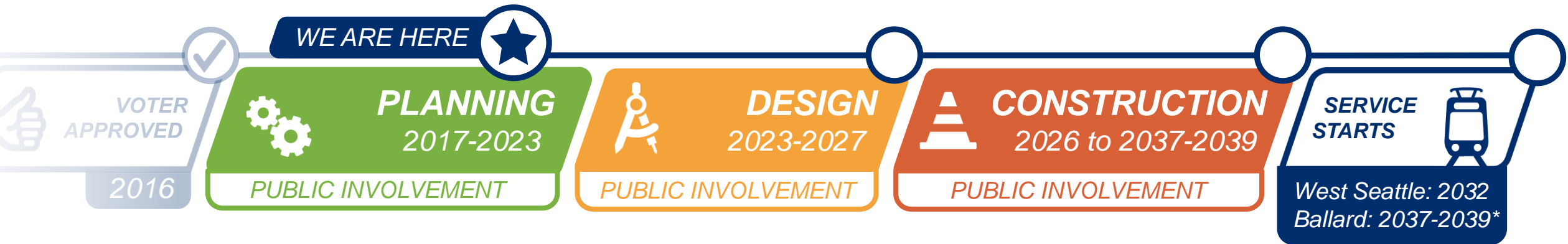
# Operating plan: 2042

-  1  
Ballard–Tacoma
-  2  
Mariner–Redmond
-  3  
Everett–West Seattle
-  4  
Kirkland–Issaquah
-  T  
Tacoma Dome–Tacoma Community College
-  Transfer



# West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

## Project timeline





ST3  
APPROVED

2016



# PLANNING



DES

## 2017–2019

### Alternatives development

- ✓ Feb–March 2018: Early scoping
- ✓ Feb–April 2019: Scoping
- ✓ May–Oct 2019: Board identified preferred alternatives and other DEIS alternatives



## 2019–2023

### Environmental review

#### Early 2022: Publish Draft EIS

Public comment period

Board confirms or modifies preferred alternatives

#### 2023: Publish Final EIS

Board selects projects to be built

Federal Record of Decision

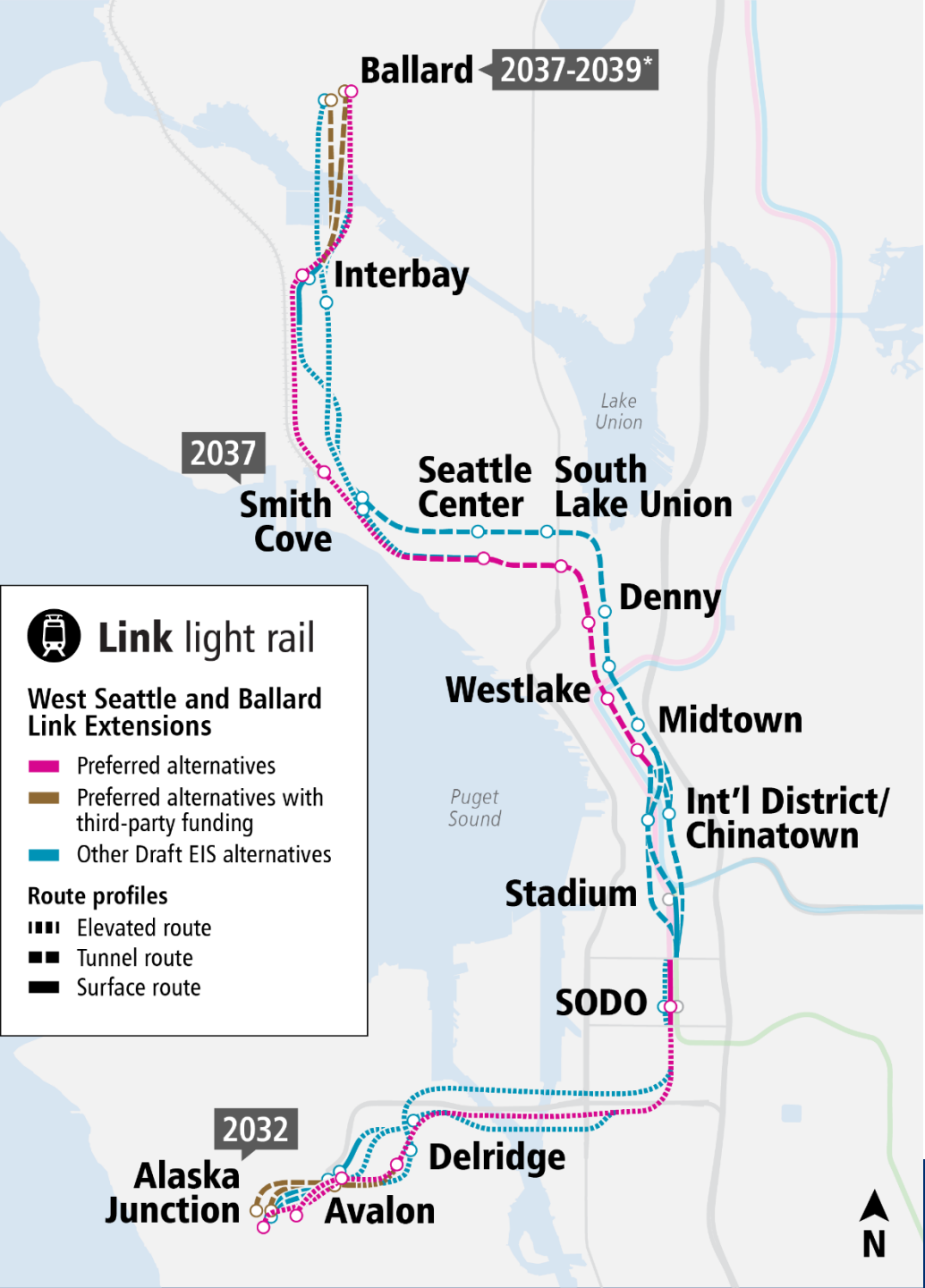
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

# Draft EIS alternatives

## What we're studying in this phase

- Preferred Alternatives
- Preferred Alternatives with Third-Party Funding
- Other Draft EIS alternatives

\*Dates reflect an affordable schedule based on current financial projections and cost estimates, and a target schedule.



# Draft EIS Comment Period



***Published Draft EIS  
Jan. 28, 2022***



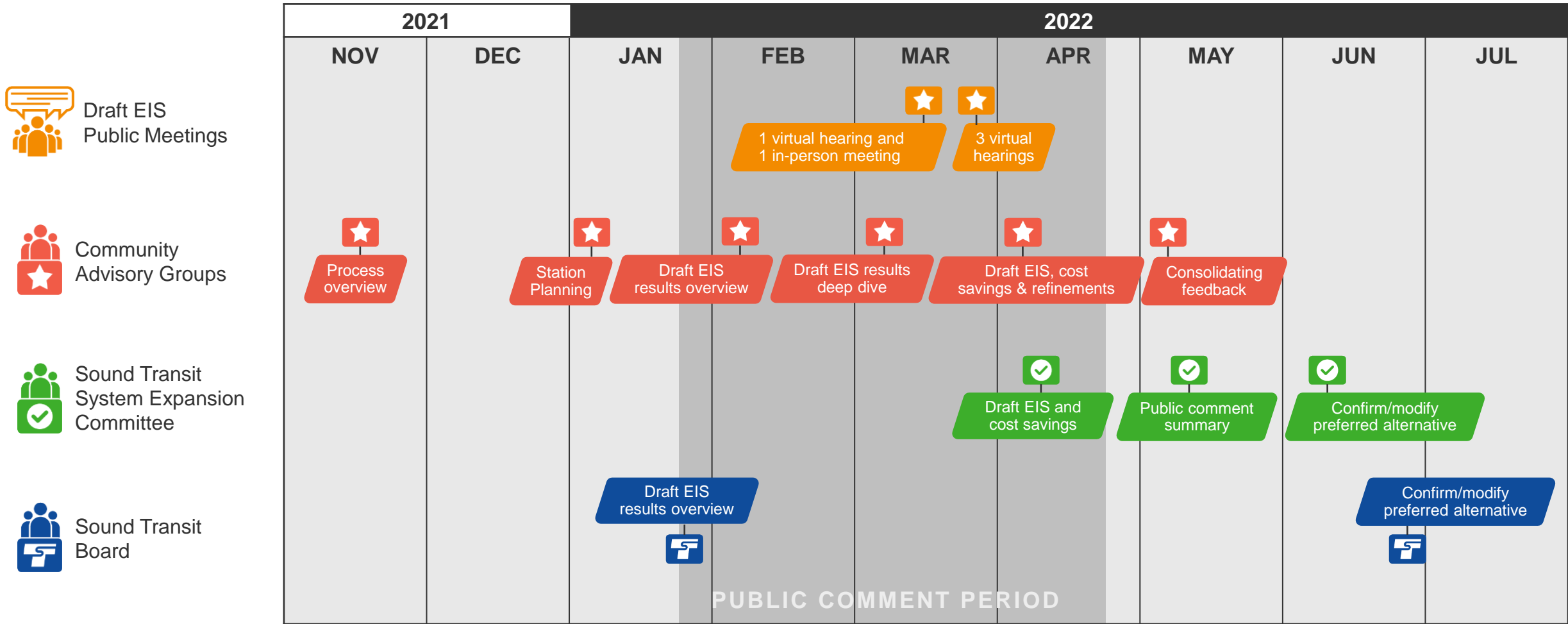
***Review and comment  
by April 28, 2022!***





# Community engagement and collaboration

## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



# *Draft EIS Community Engagement*

*Online open house*  *wsblink.participate.online*

*Community Advisory Groups:* 4 meetings/month through May

*Draft EIS meetings:* 4 virtual, one in-person in March

*Draft EIS mailer:* delivered to 130,000 addresses

Other activities including community briefings/events; fairs, festivals and tabling events; property owner webinars; office hours; community liaison outreach

# Roles



- Evaluate potential alignment and station locations.
- Conduct planning, environmental review, and design of the light rail system.
- Build and operate new light rail system.

**Center racial equity for better outcomes**  
+  
**Co-planning stations with communities**



**Seattle**

- Elected officials from the City of Seattle on the ST Board that will make final decisions.
- Plan streets, housing, businesses, & open spaces to make great neighborhoods around stations.
- Issue permits to Sound Transit to build stations and track.

# Snapshot: Current City Work to Support Communities

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- Engaging community in imagining the potential for different station locations and alternatives
- Preparing to make formal comments on the DEIS based on racial equity outcomes, neighborhood planning goals, research, and community feedback
- Listening to communities to guide decision-making toward a City position on a preferred alternative



***Draft EIS Results Overview:  
Downtown***

# What is typically studied in an EIS?



## **Transportation**

- Regional transportation
- Transit services
- Arterial and local street systems
- Parking
- Non-motorized facilities
- Navigation
- Freight



## **Natural environment**

- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
- Ecosystems
- Water resources
- Geology and soils

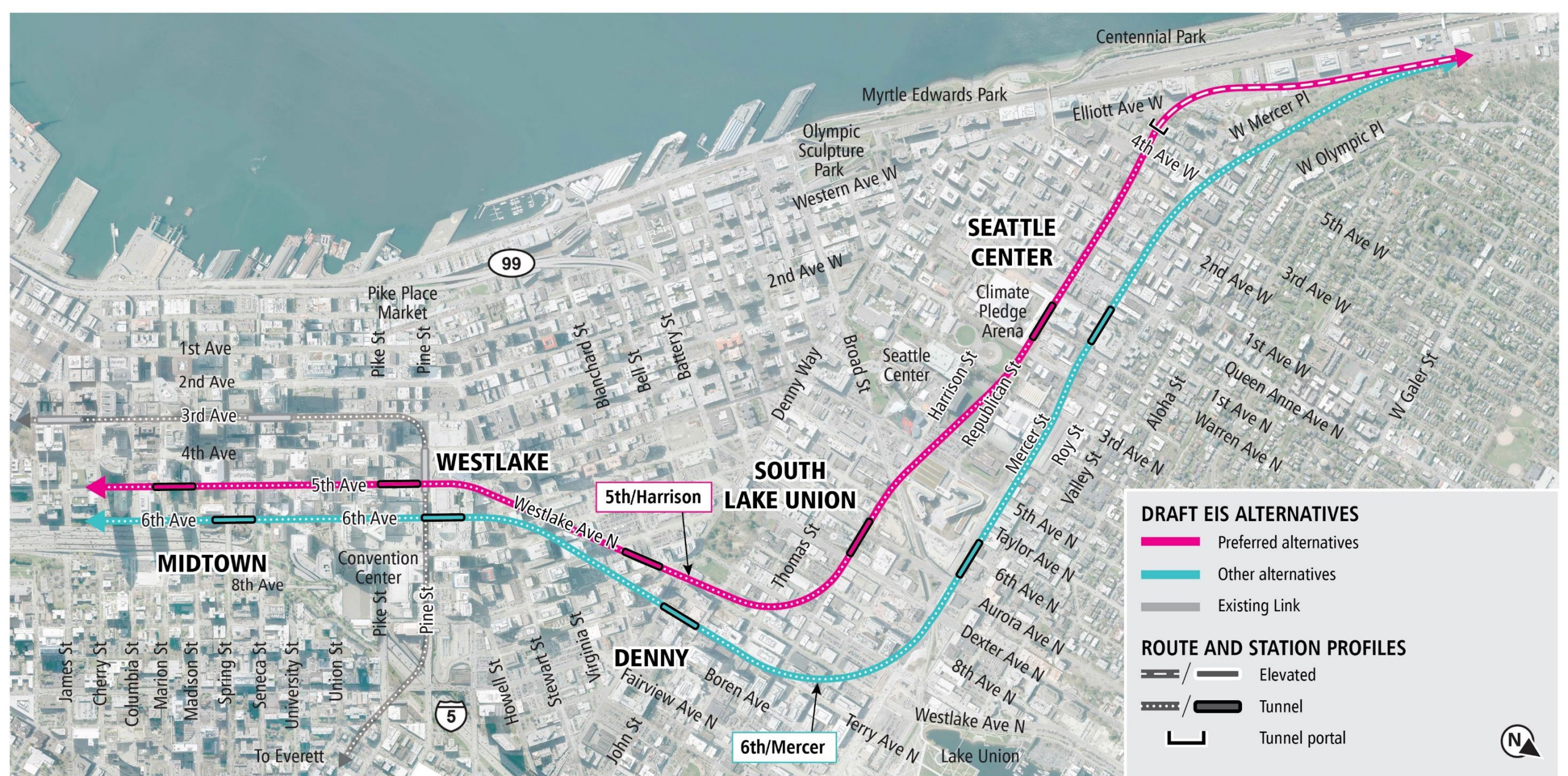


## **Built environment**

- Acquisitions, displacements and relocations
- Noise and vibration
- Economic effect
- Visual resources
- Parks and recreation
- Land use
- Energy
- Hazardous materials
- Public services
- Historic and archaeological resources
- Social resources, community facilities and neighborhoods
- Electromagnetic fields
- Utilities

# Draft EIS alternatives









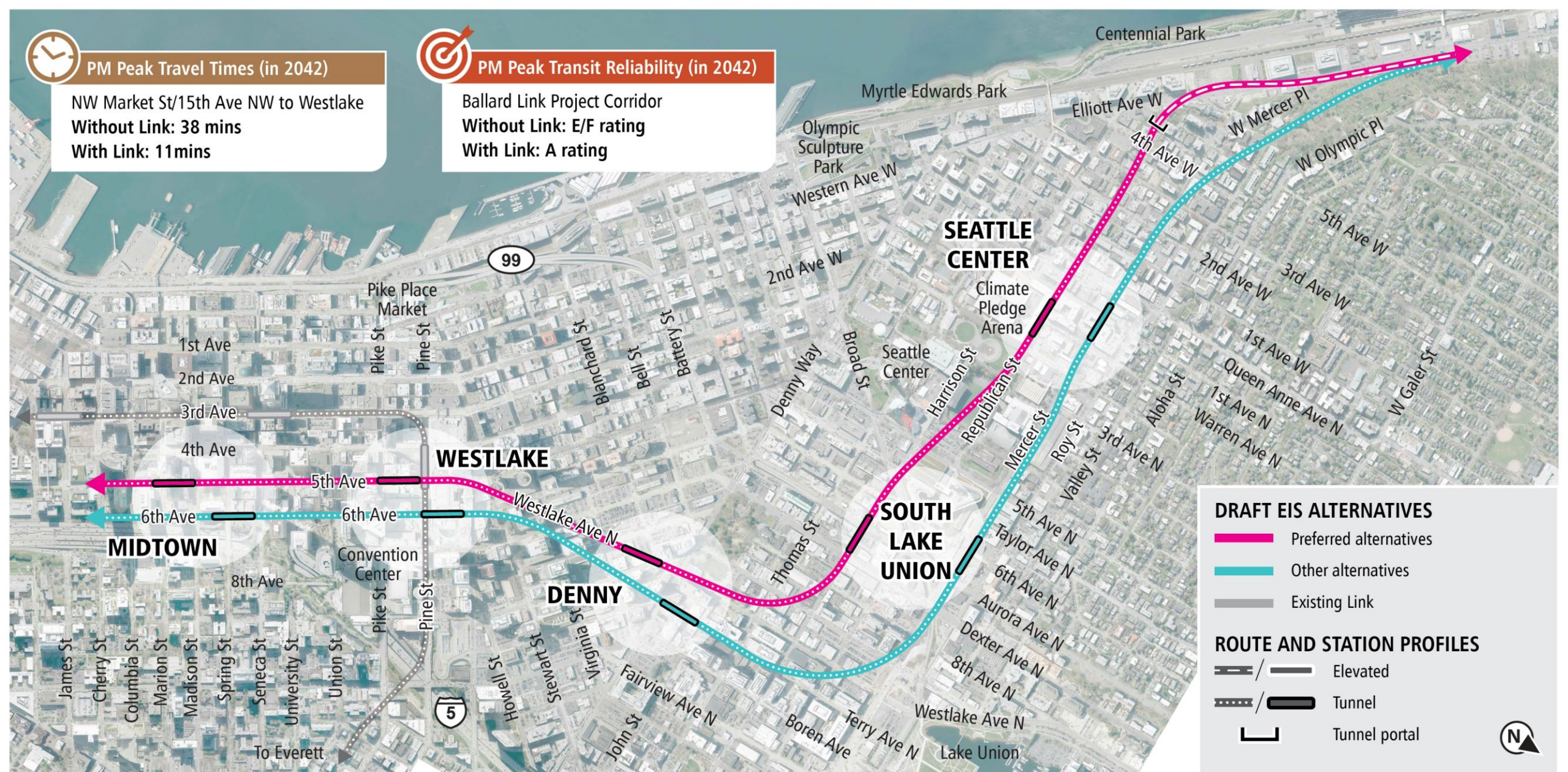
### PM Peak Travel Times (in 2042)

NW Market St/15th Ave NW to Westlake  
**Without Link: 38 mins**  
**With Link: 11mins**



### PM Peak Transit Reliability (in 2042)

Ballard Link Project Corridor  
**Without Link: E/F rating**  
**With Link: A rating**





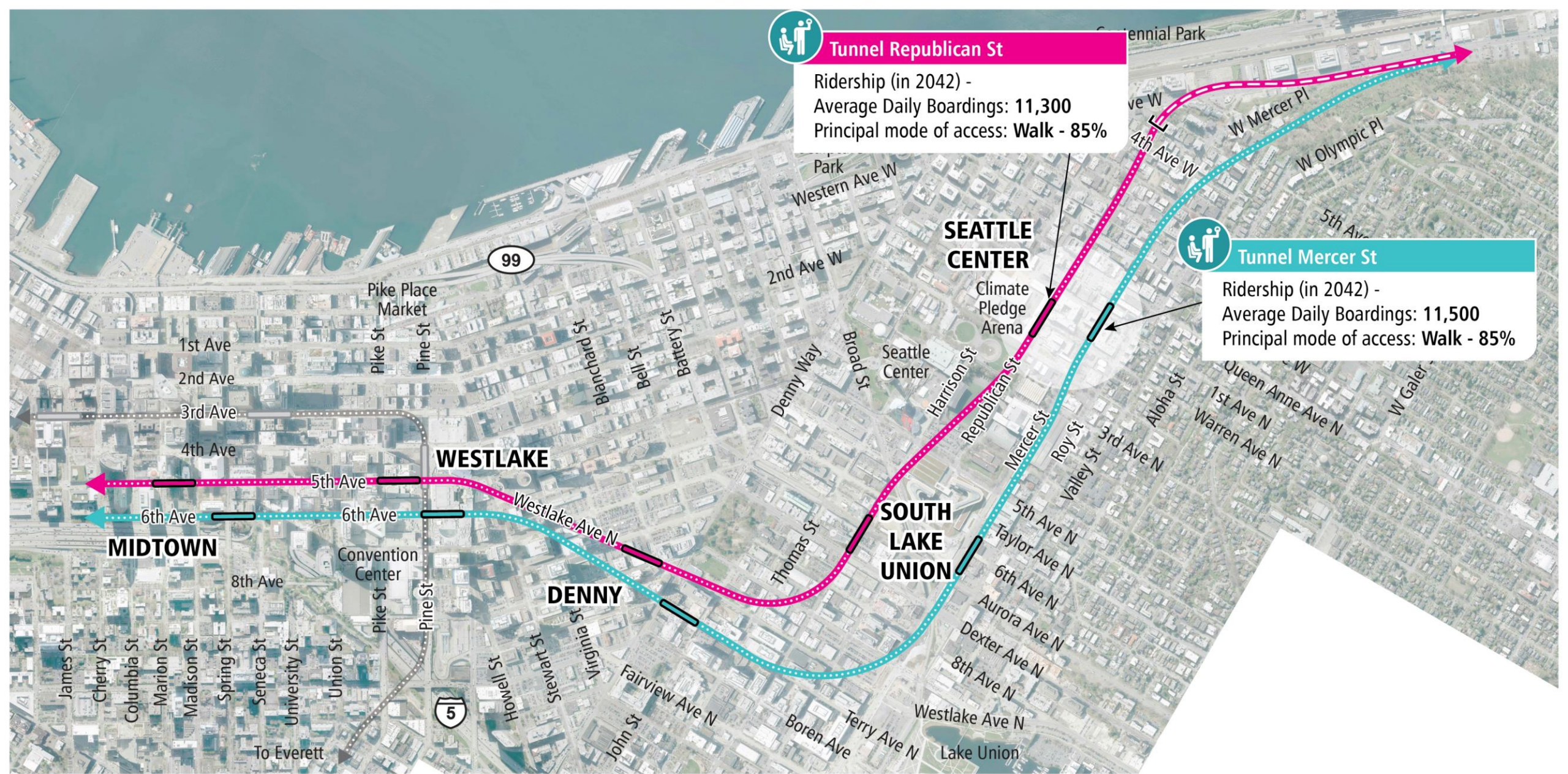
### Tunnel Republican St

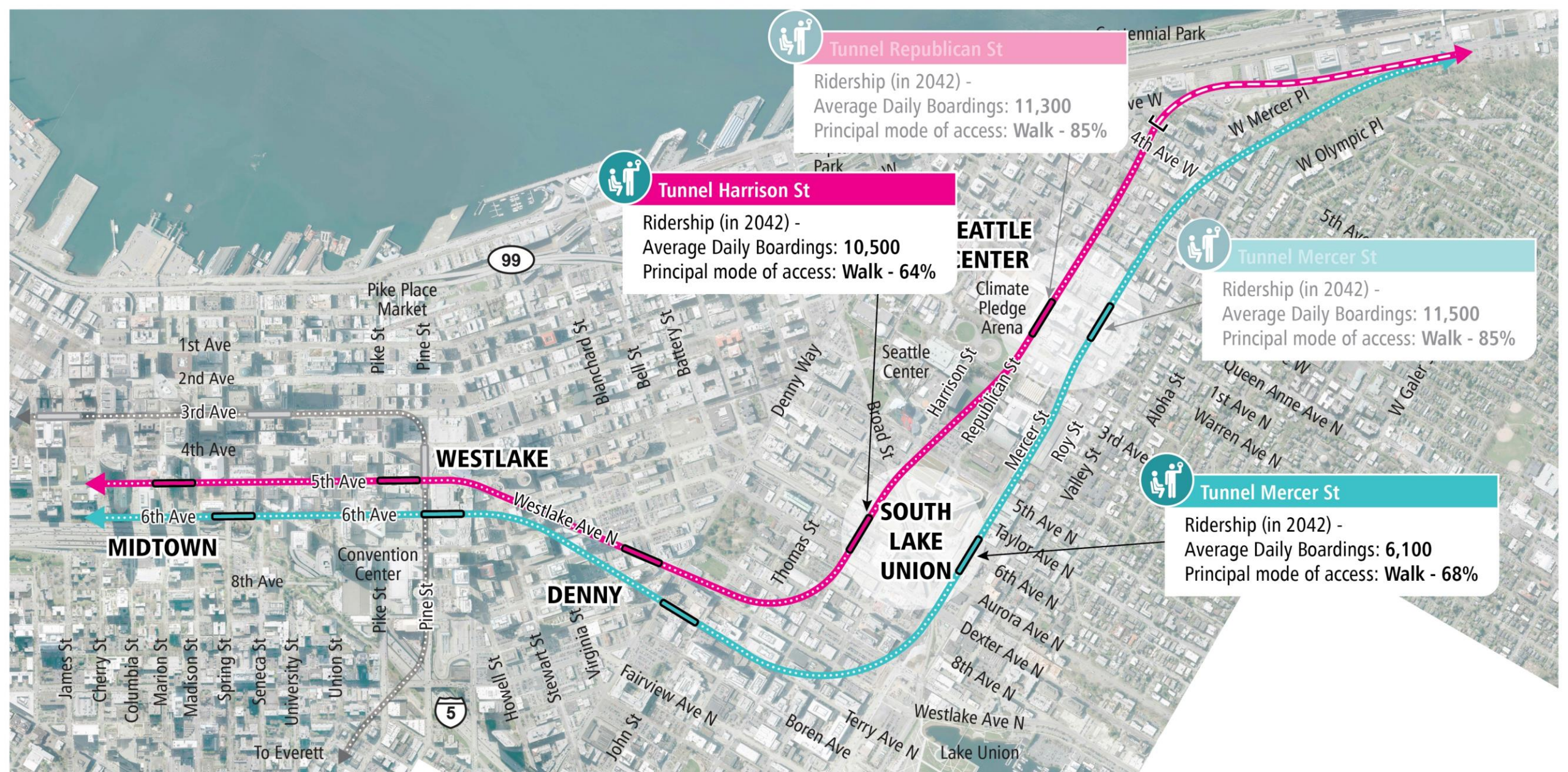
Ridership (in 2042) -  
Average Daily Boardings: 11,300  
Principal mode of access: Walk - 85%

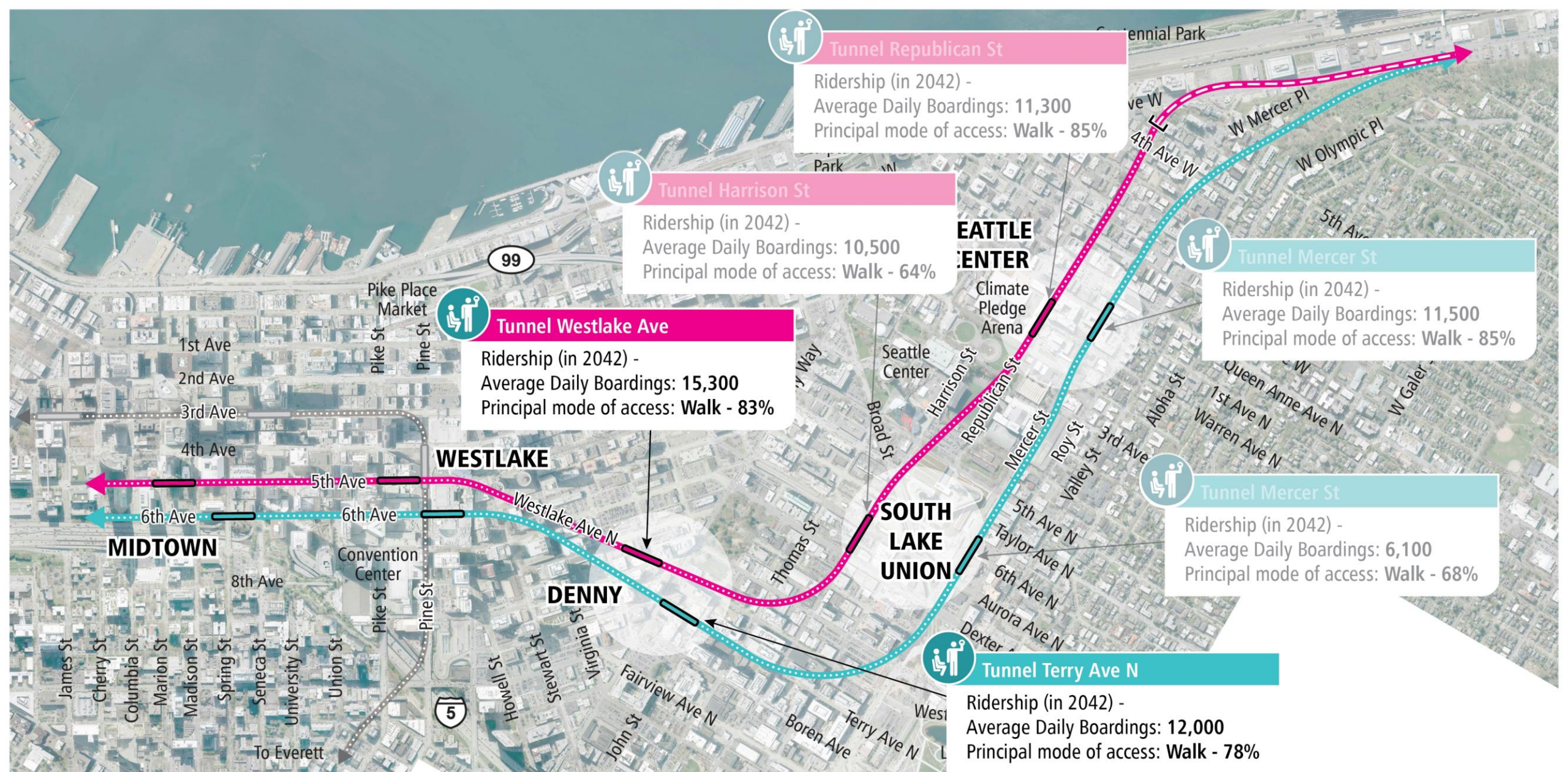


### Tunnel Mercer St

Ridership (in 2042) -  
Average Daily Boardings: 11,500  
Principal mode of access: Walk - 85%







Note: Assumes MetroConnects 2040 vision network and service designations.

\*Key transit integration consideration.



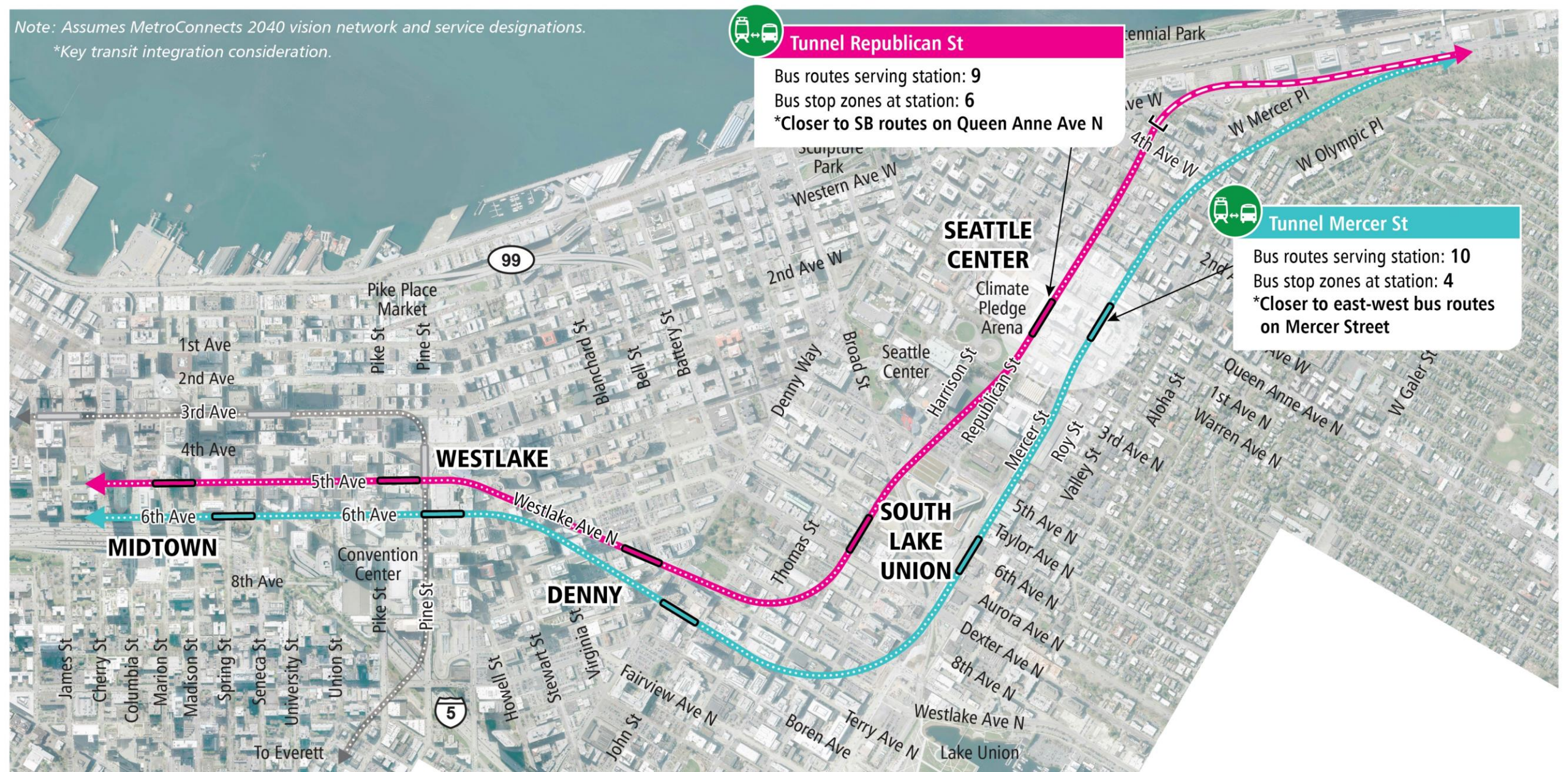
### Tunnel Republican St

Bus routes serving station: 9  
Bus stop zones at station: 6  
\*Closer to SB routes on Queen Anne Ave N



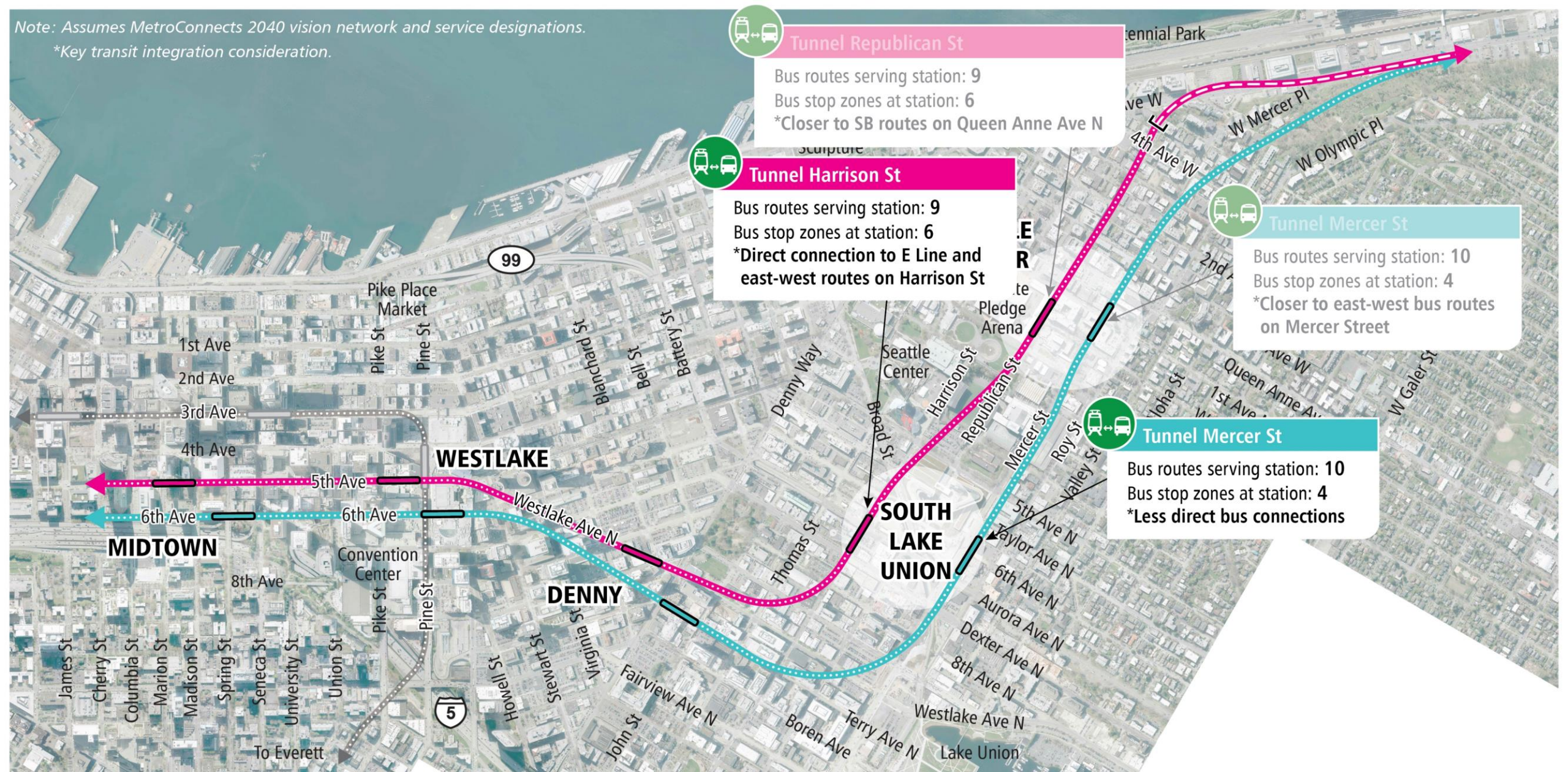
### Tunnel Mercer St

Bus routes serving station: 10  
Bus stop zones at station: 4  
\*Closer to east-west bus routes on Mercer Street



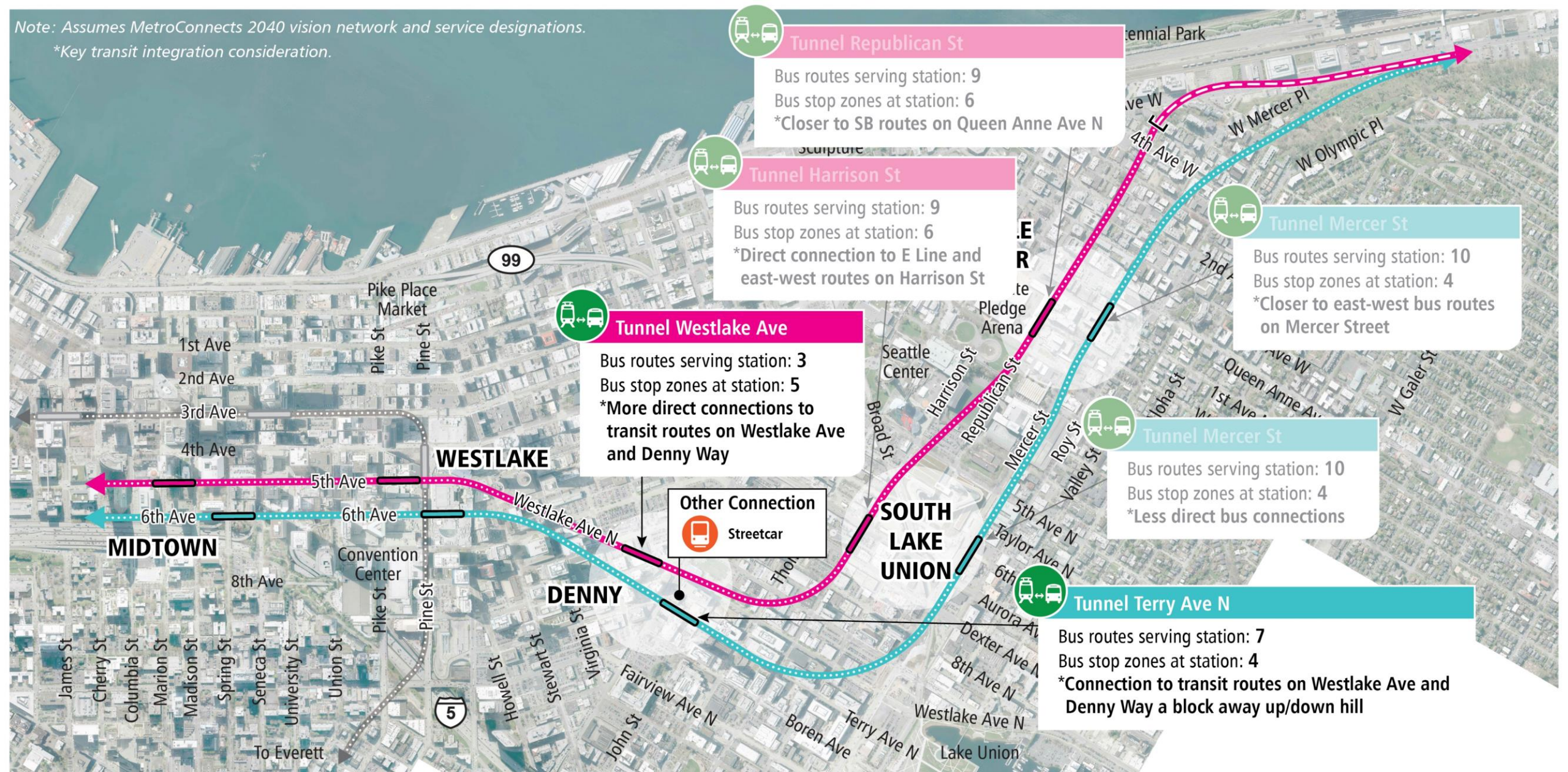
Note: Assumes MetroConnects 2040 vision network and service designations.

\*Key transit integration consideration.

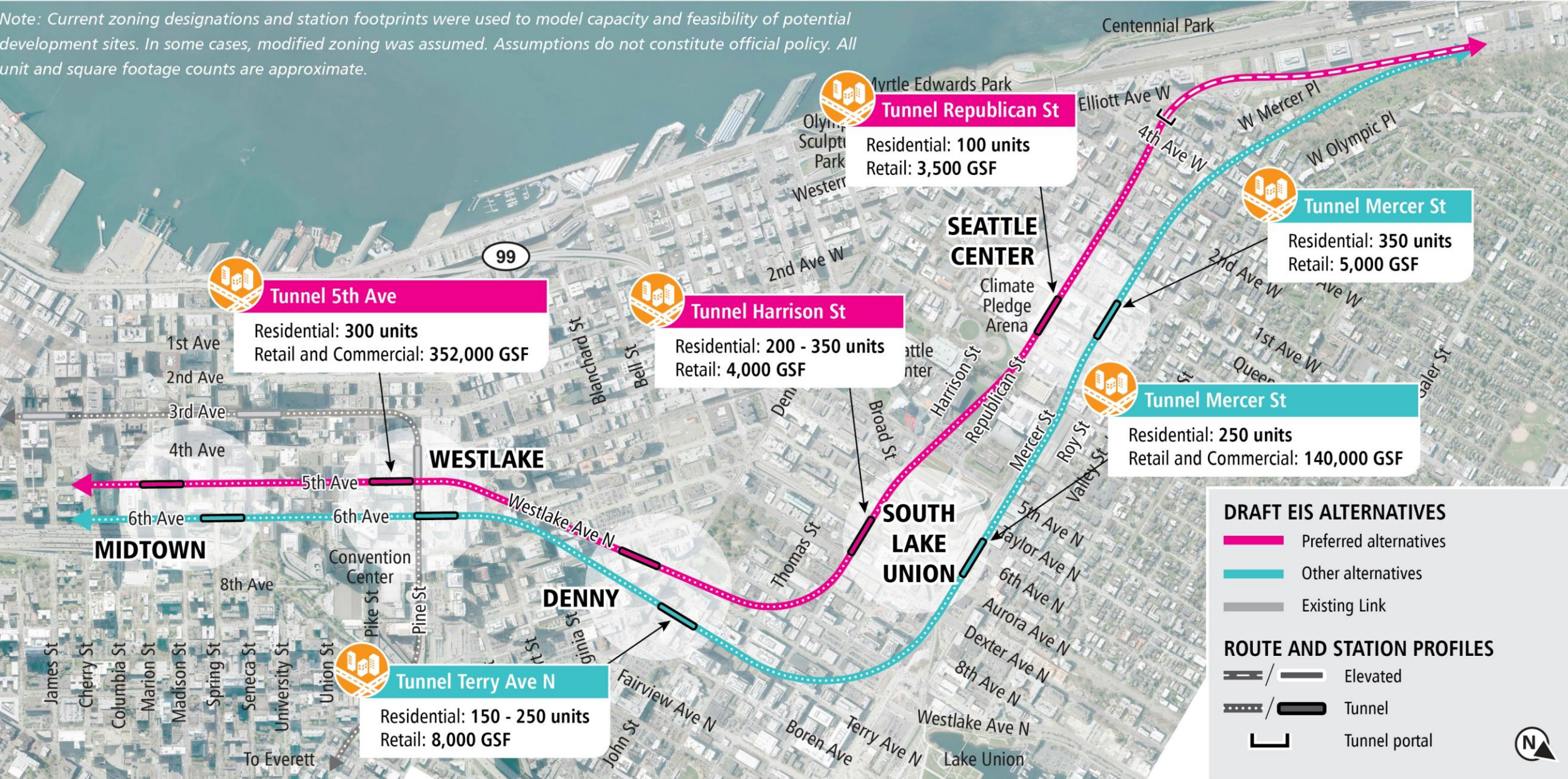


Note: Assumes MetroConnects 2040 vision network and service designations.

\*Key transit integration consideration.



Note: Current zoning designations and station footprints were used to model capacity and feasibility of potential development sites. In some cases, modified zoning was assumed. Assumptions do not constitute official policy. All unit and square footage counts are approximate.



**DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES**

- Preferred alternatives (Pink line)
- Other alternatives (Teal line)
- Existing Link (Grey line)

**ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES**

- Elevated (Solid line with cross-ticks)
- Tunnel (Dotted line with thick black bar)
- Tunnel portal (L-shaped symbol)






***Preferred alternative***

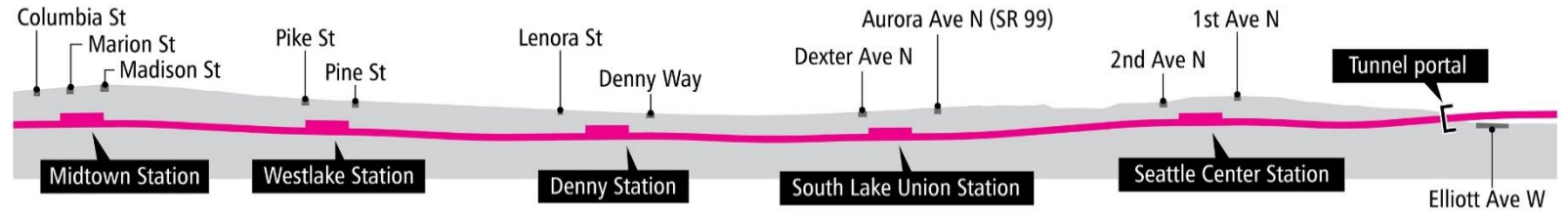
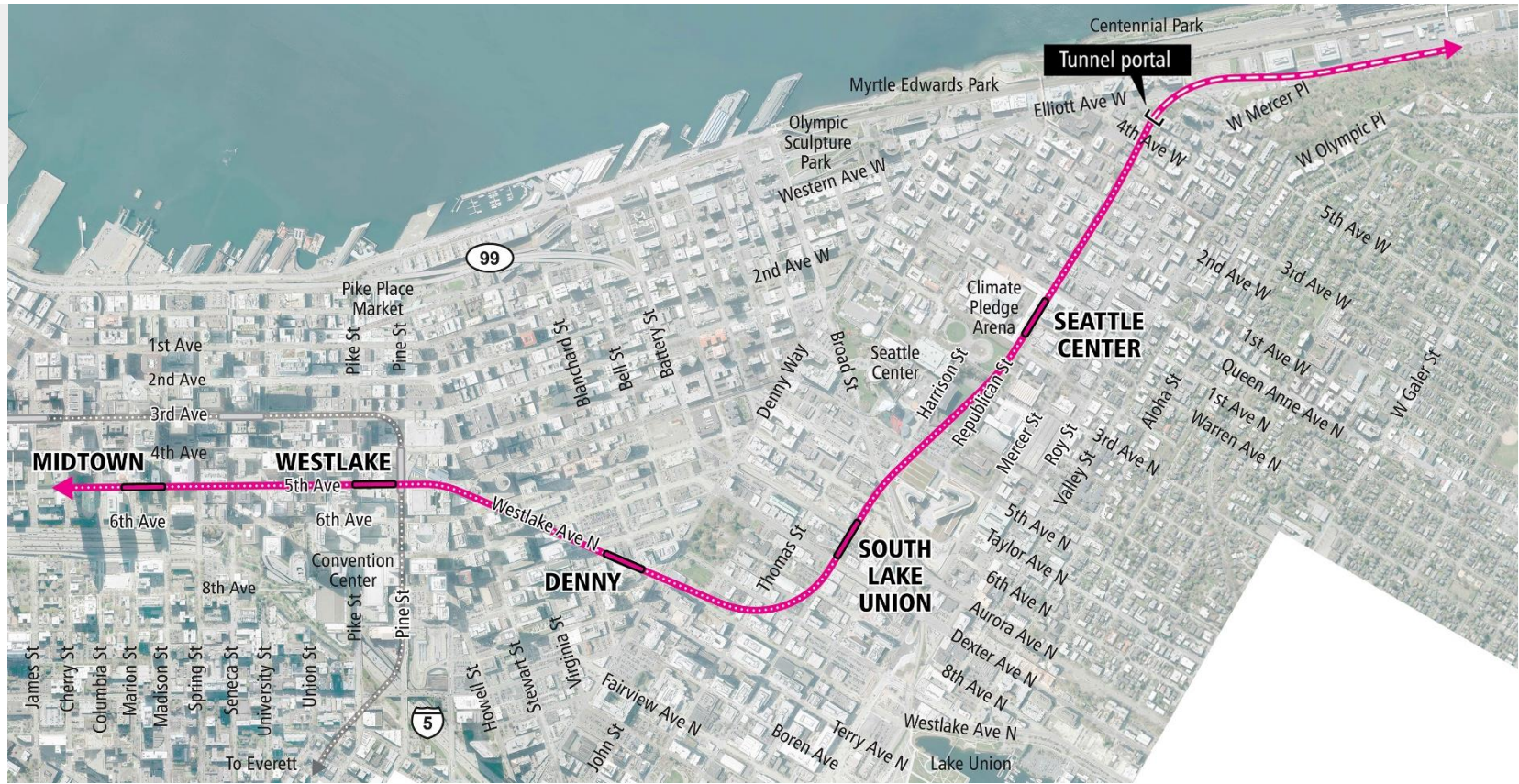
# 5th/Harrison

## DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES

- █ Preferred alternatives
- █ Other alternatives
- █ Existing Link

## ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

-  Elevated
-  Tunnel
-  Tunnel portal



Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.

# 5th/Harrison

**Project cost**  
(2019\$ in billions) **\$4.7-4.9B**

**Residential displacements** **26 units**

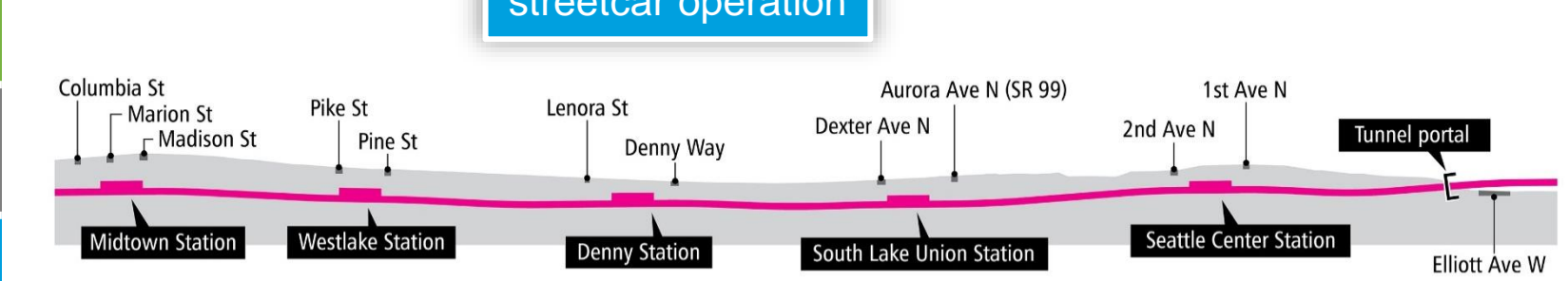
**Business displacements** **44 to 46**

**Historic property effects** **3 properties**

**Park effects**  
(permanent) **0.4 acre**

**Traffic effects**  
(full closures) **5 to 8 roadways**

**Other considerations**



Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate. The above information is for illustration only. Please refer to DEIS for further detail.

***Other Draft EIS  
alternatives***

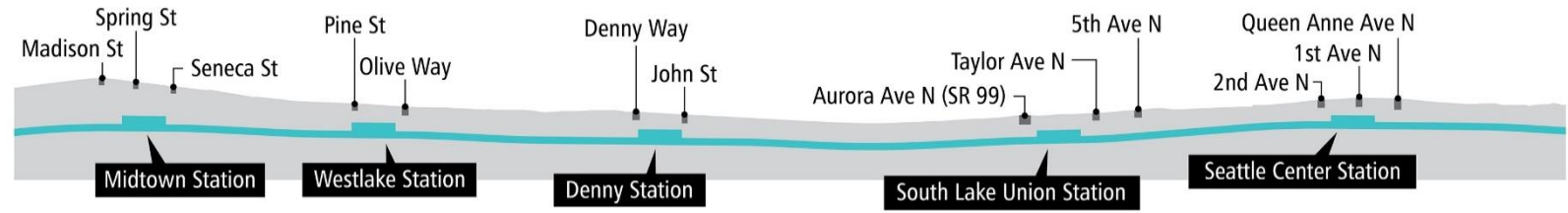
# 6th/Mercer

## DRAFT EIS ALTERNATIVES

- Preferred alternatives
- Other alternatives
- Existing Link

## ROUTE AND STATION PROFILES

- /  Elevated
- /  Tunnel
- Tunnel portal



Diagrams are not to scale and all measurements are approximate for illustration purposes only.

# 6th/Mercer

**Project cost**  
(2019\$ in billions) **\$4.9-5.0B**

**Residential displacements** **167 units**

**Business displacements** **47**

**Historic property effects** **9 properties**








**Park effects**  
(permanent) **0.6 acre**

**Traffic effects**  
(full closures) **4 roadways**

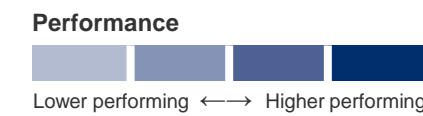
**Other considerations**



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	5th/Harrison	6th/Mercer
<b>Project cost</b>  (2019\$ in dollars)	\$4.7-4.9B	\$4.9-5.0B
<b>Residential displacements</b> 	26 units	167 units
<b>Business displacements</b> 	44 to 46	47
<b>Historic properties effects</b> 	3	9
<b>Park effects</b>  (permanent)	1 park (0.4 acres)	2 parks (0.6 acres)
<b>Traffic effects</b>  (full closures)	5 to 8 roadways	4 roadways
<b>Other considerations</b> 	<p>Construction groundborne noise/vibration effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 sensitive uses in South Lake Union</li> <li>• 5 sensitive uses in Seattle Center</li> </ul> <p>Disruption to Streetcar operation during construction (Westlake Ave)</p> <p>Connects to all CID alternatives</p> <p>Connects to both Galer Street Station (preferred) and Prospect Street Stations in South Interbay</p>	<p>Construction groundborne noise/vibration effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 sensitive uses in South Lake Union</li> <li>• 4 sensitive uses in Seattle Center</li> </ul> <p>Disruption to Streetcar operation during construction (Terry/Thomas)</p> <p>Connects only to CID shallow alternatives</p> <p>Connects only to Prospect Street Station in South Interbay</p>

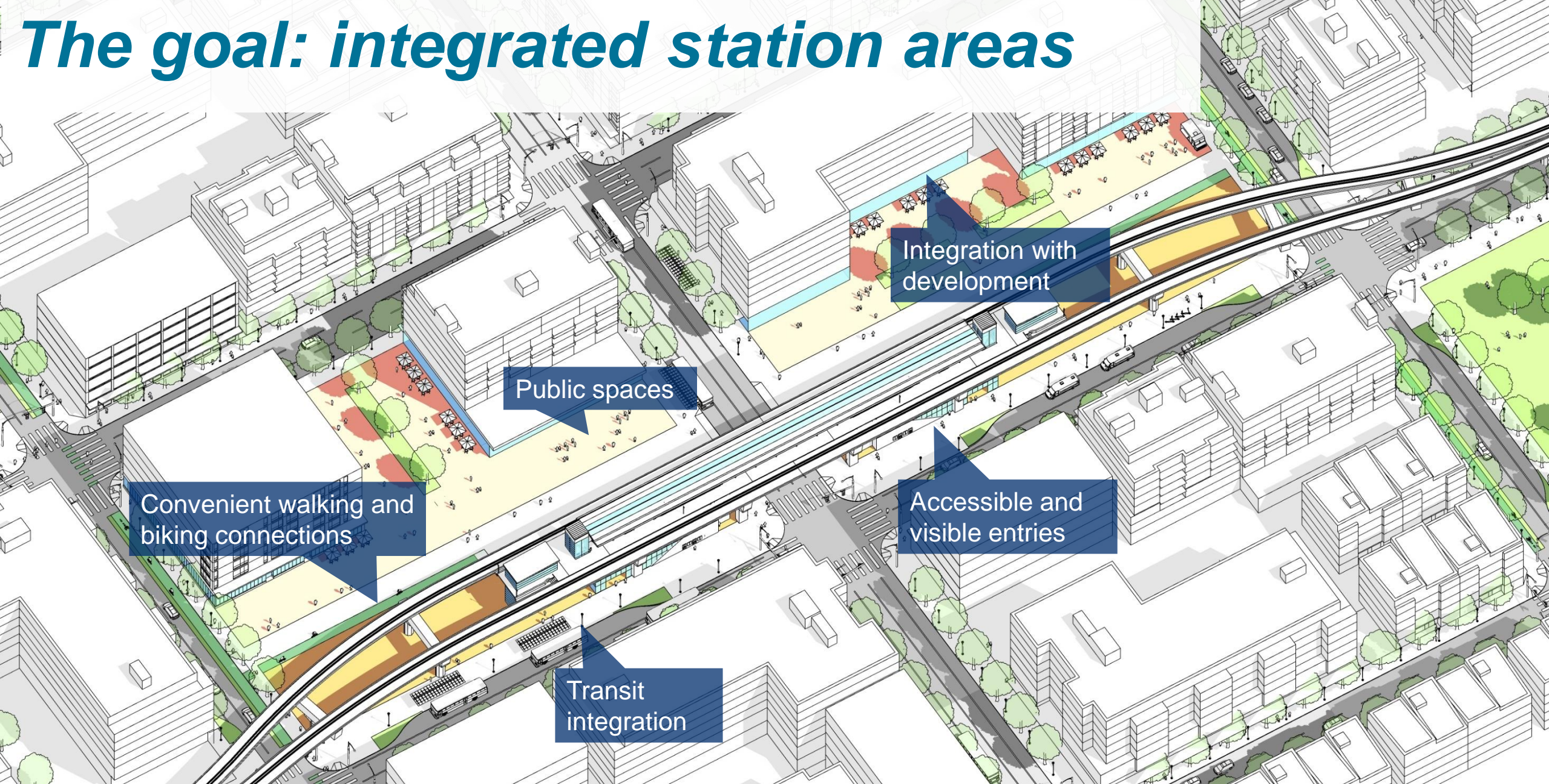
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# *Station Planning*



# The goal: integrated station areas



Integration with development

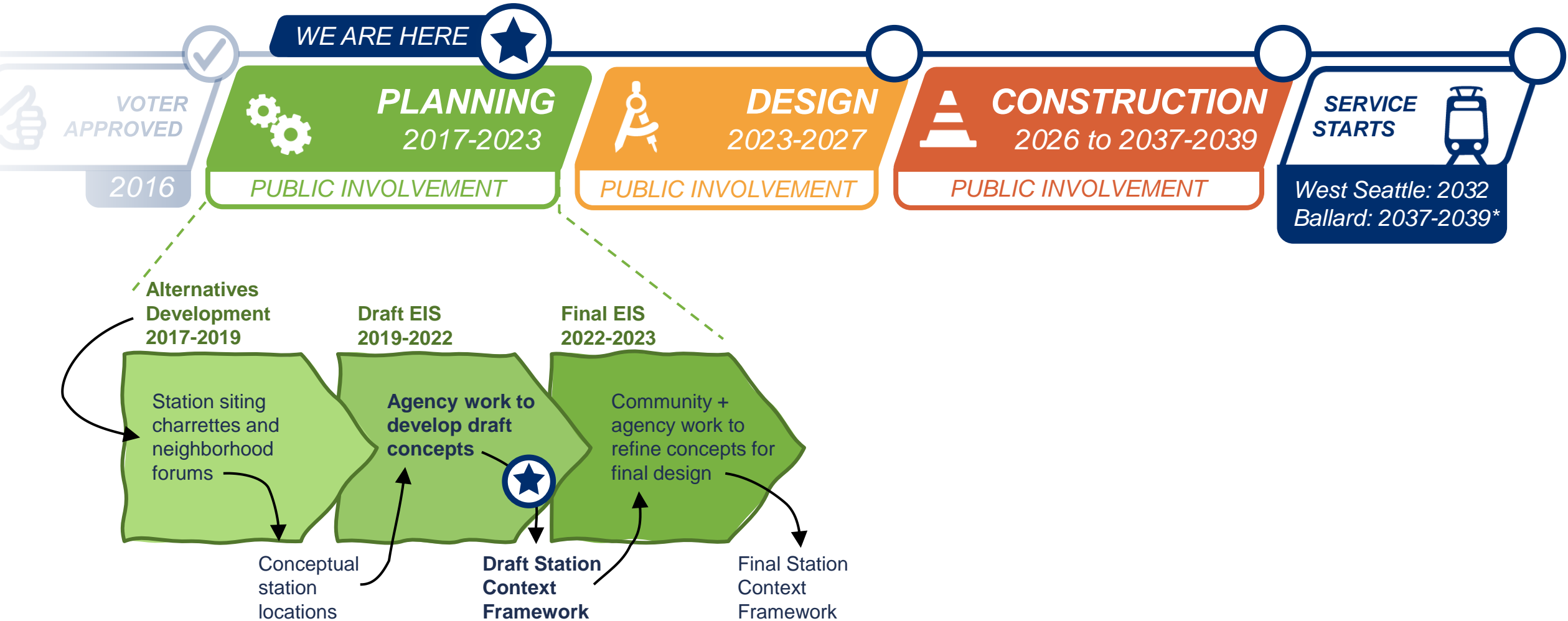
Public spaces

Convenient walking and biking connections

Accessible and visible entries

Transit integration

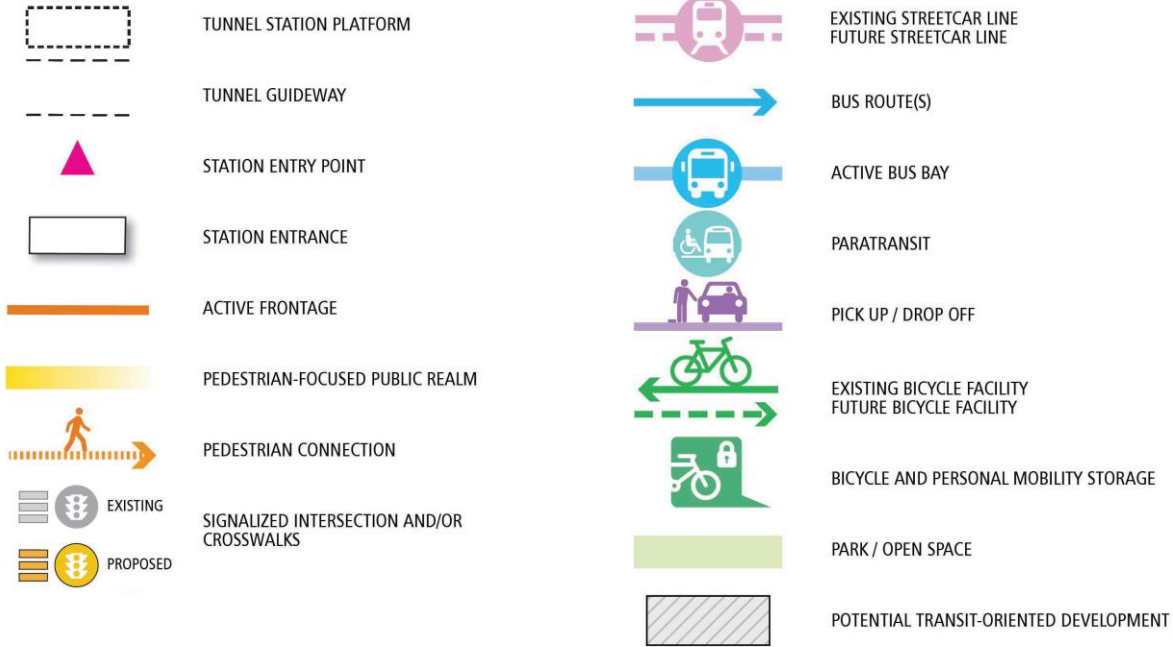
# How we got here (and what's next)



***Denny Station***

***Preferred alternative***

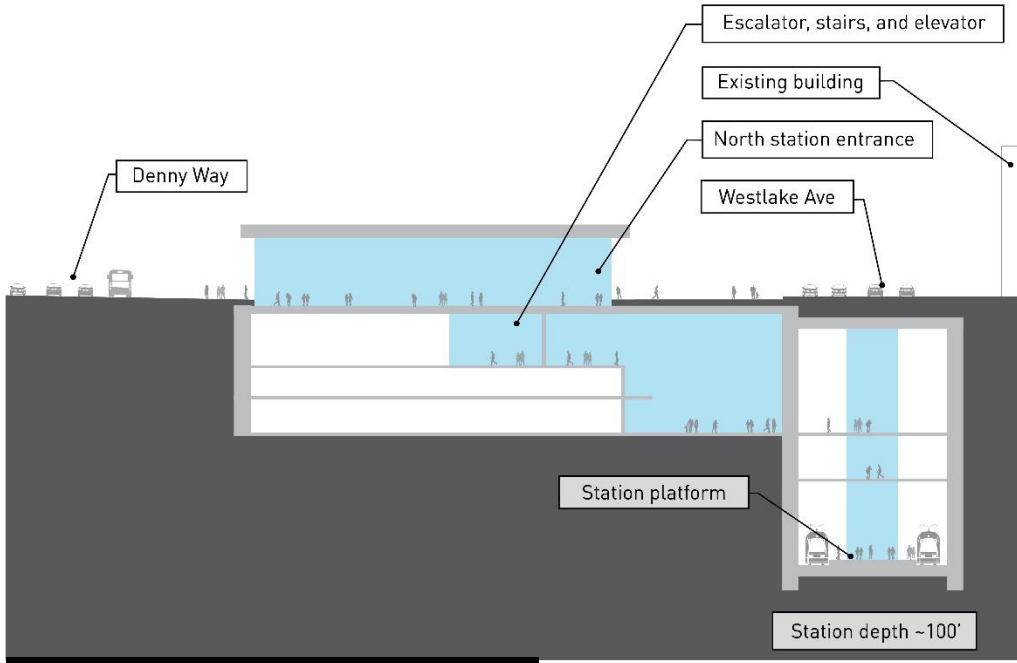
# Tunnel Westlake Ave Station



Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.

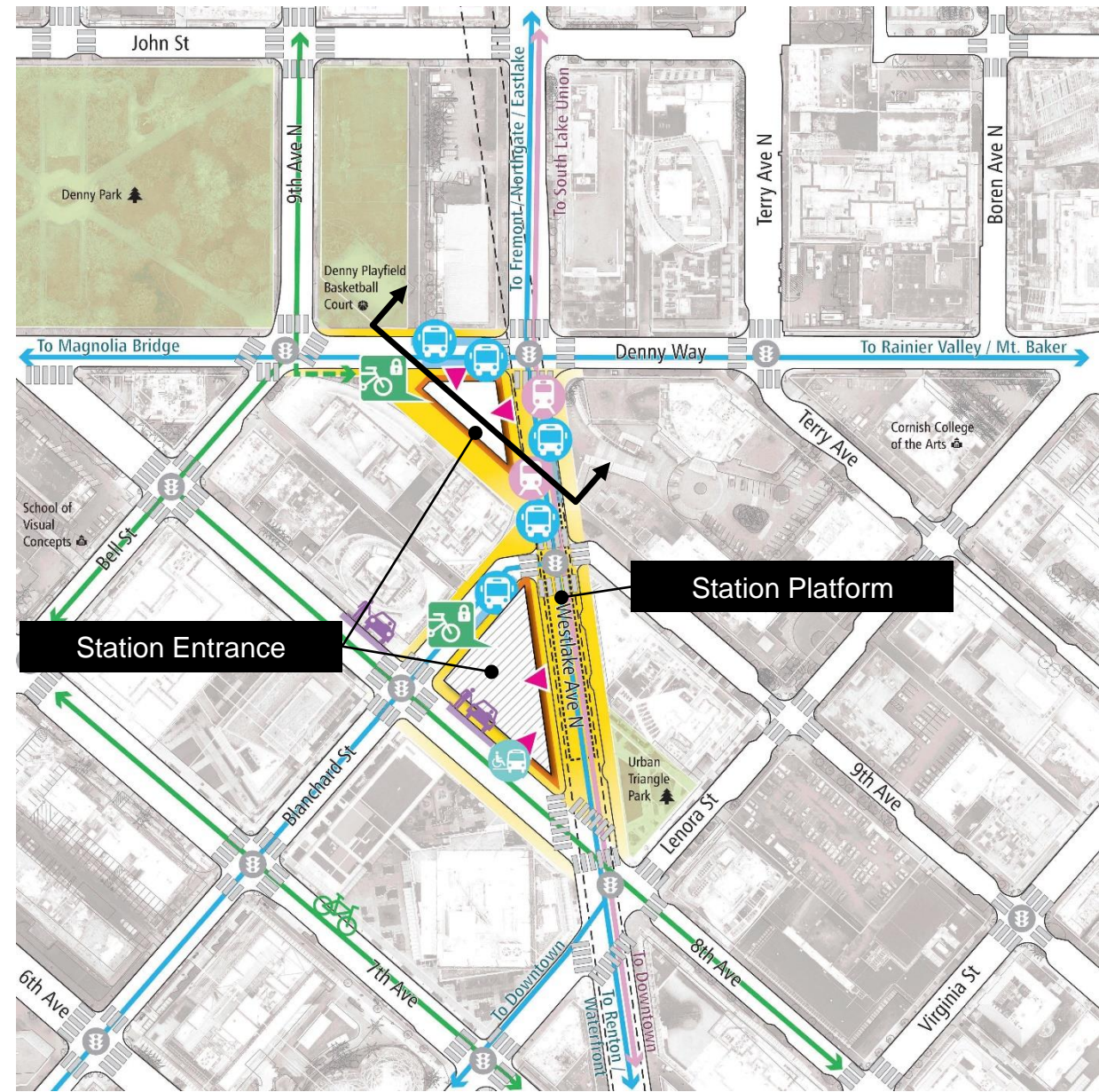


# Tunnel Westlake Ave Station



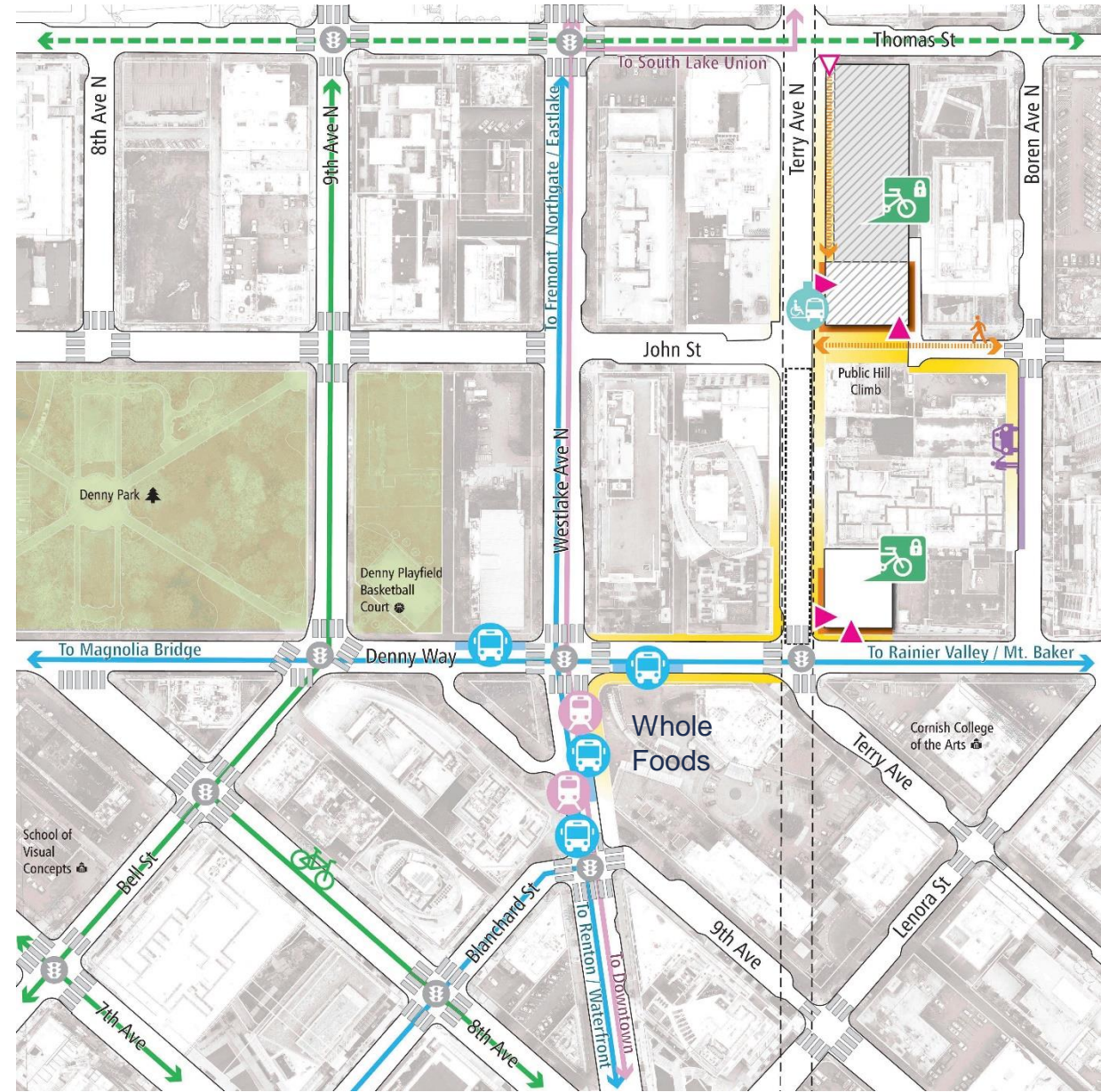
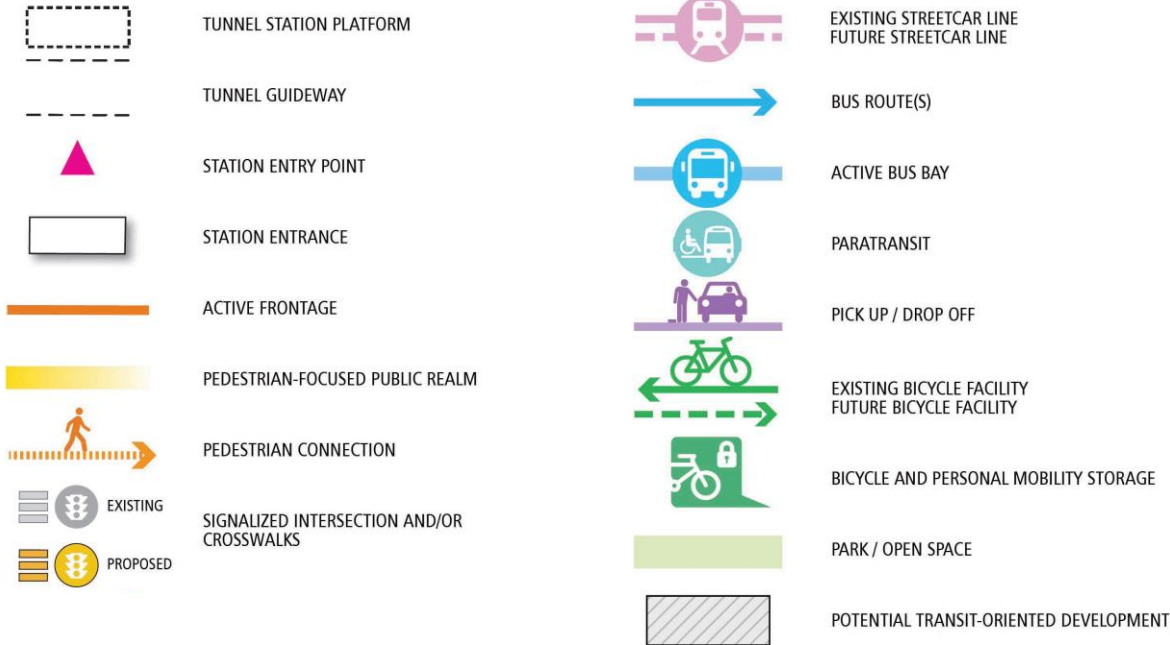
Cross-Section Looking Northeast

Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



***Other Draft EIS alternative***

# Tunnel Terry Ave Station

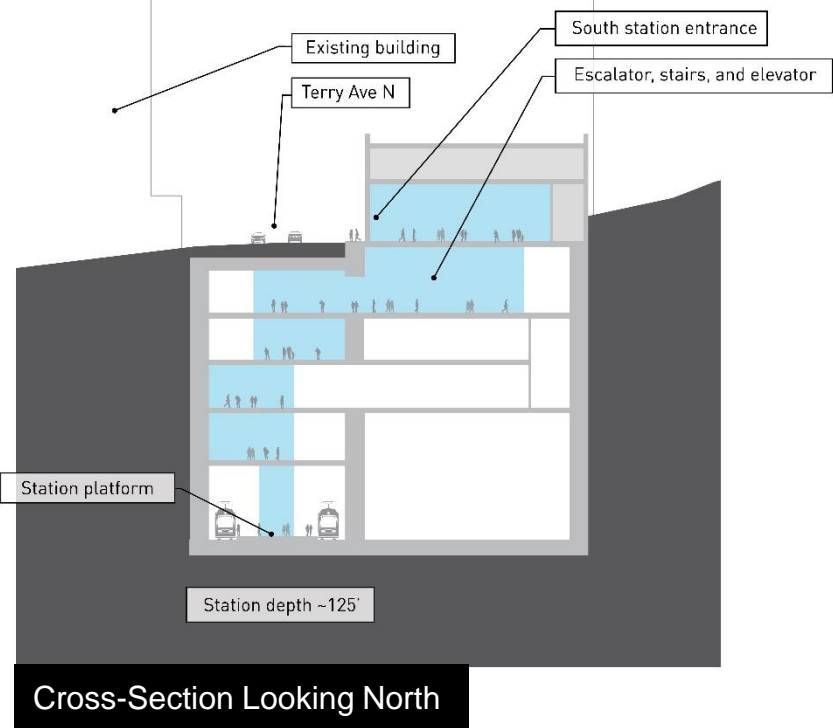


Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.

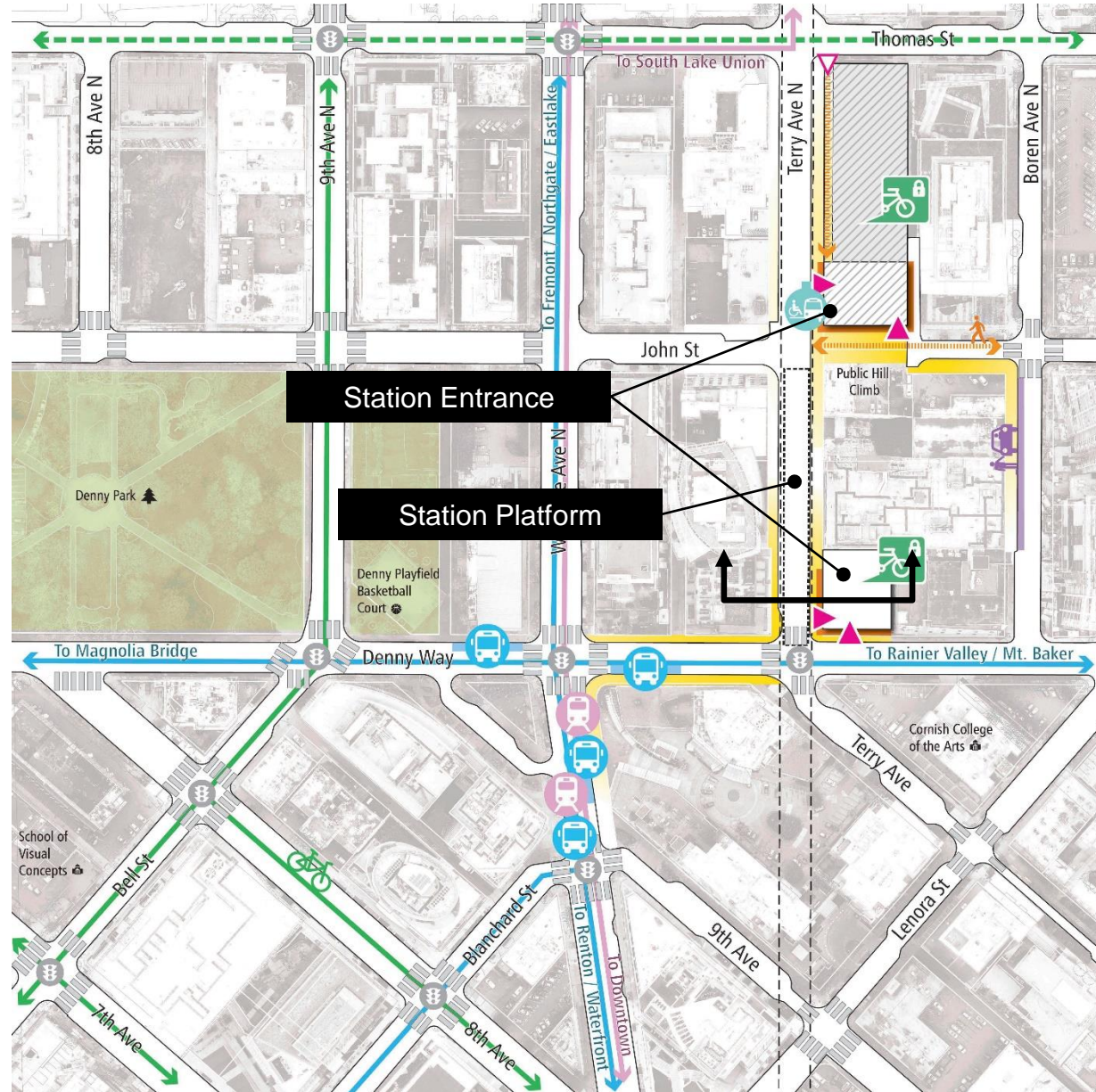




# Tunnel Terry Ave Station



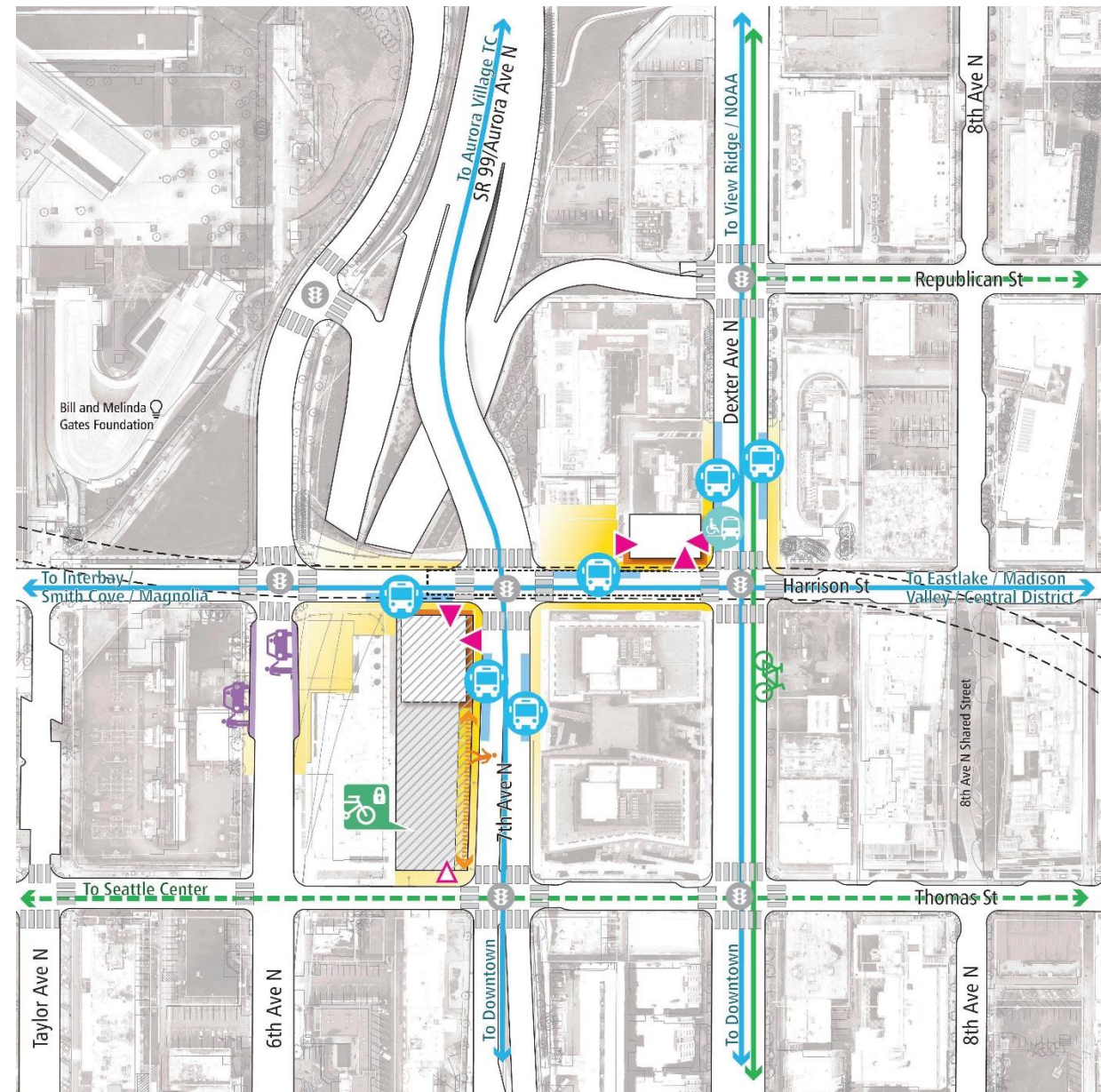
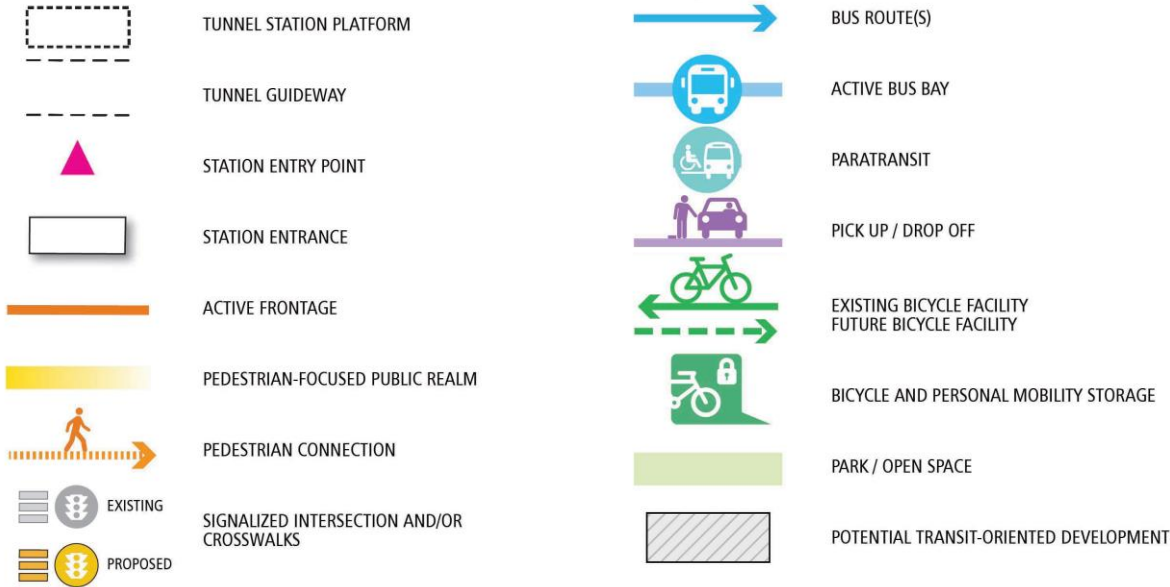
Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



***South Lake Union Station***

***Preferred alternative***

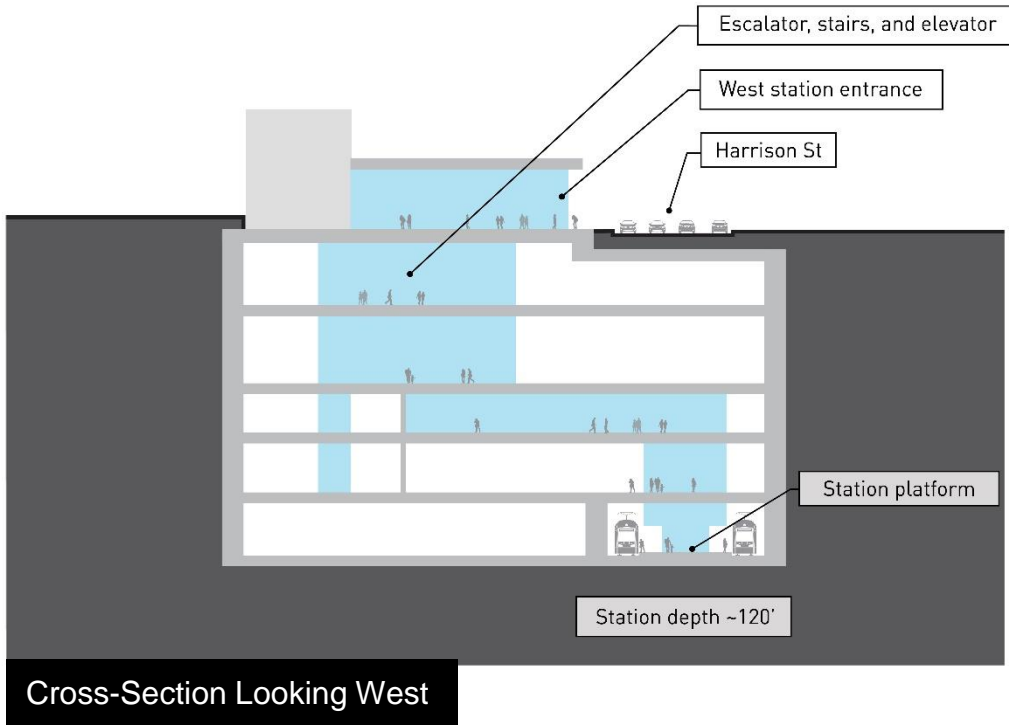
# Tunnel Harrison St Station



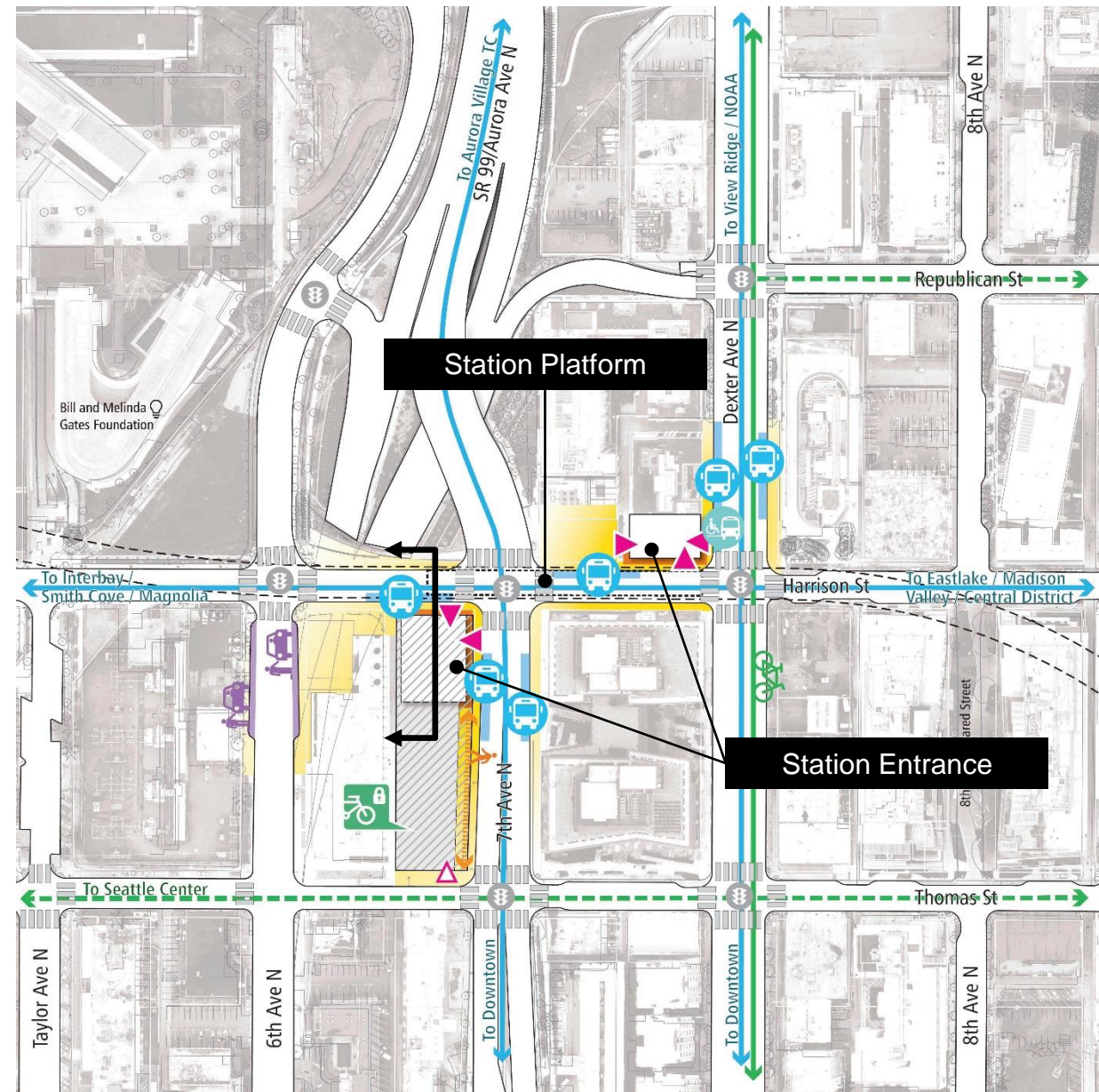
Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



# Tunnel Harrison St Station

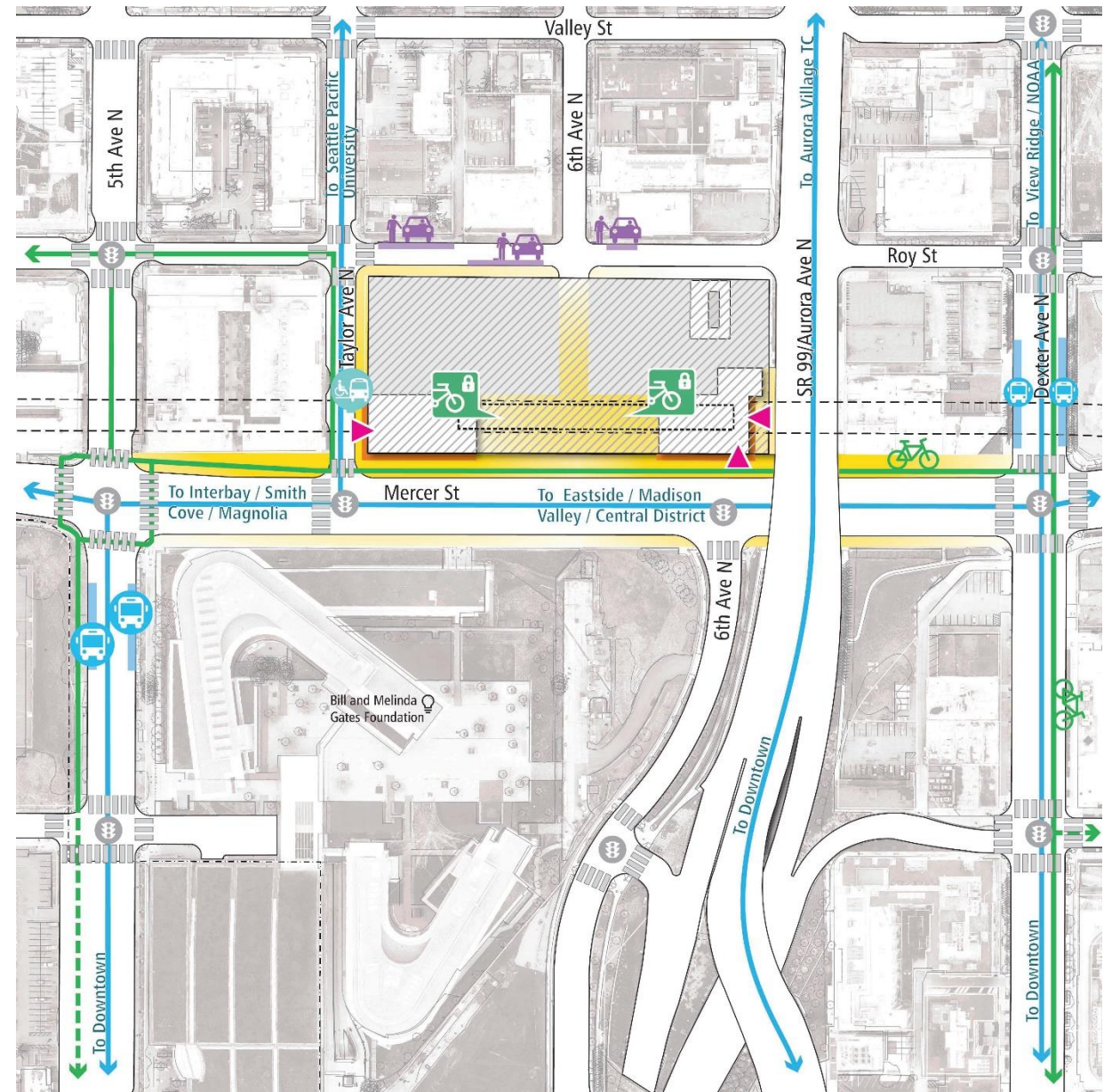
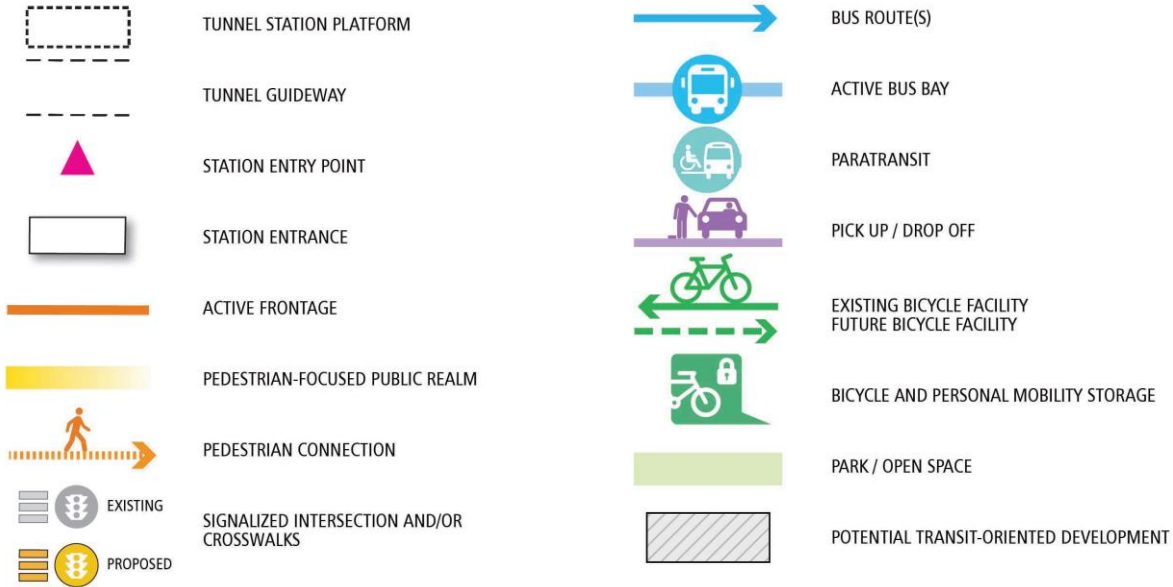


Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



***Other Draft EIS alternative***

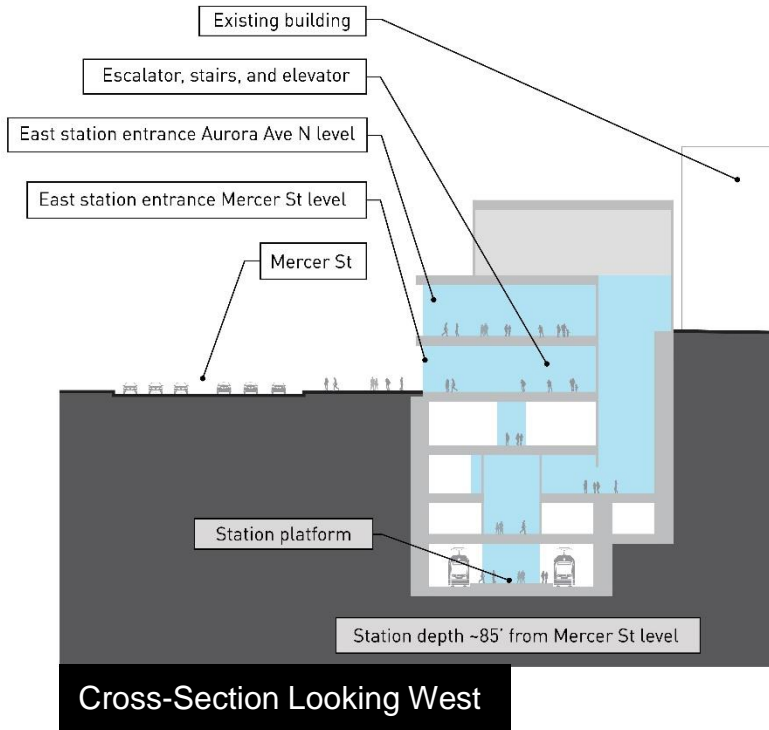
# Tunnel Mercer St Station



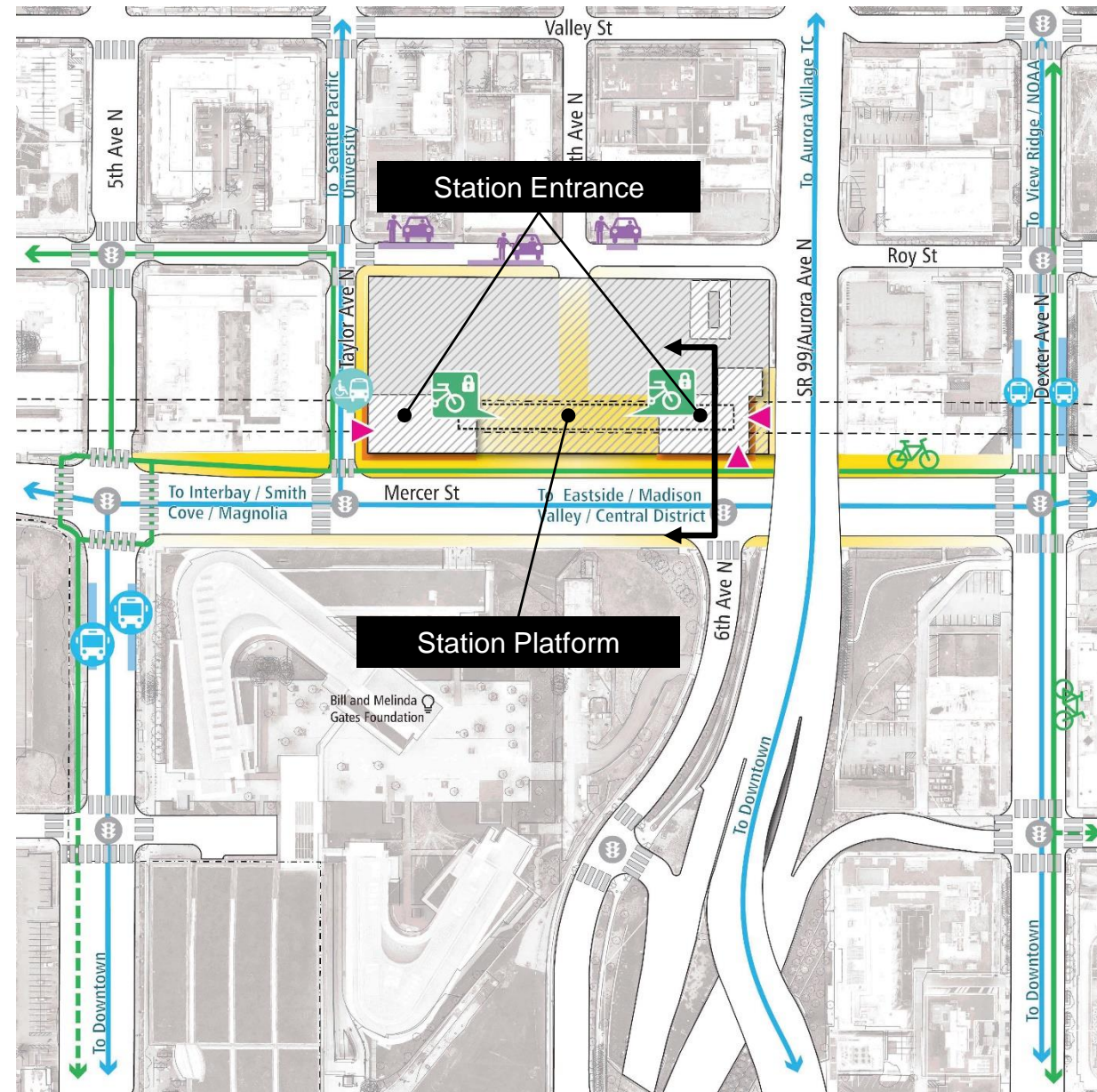
Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



# Tunnel Mercer St Station



Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.

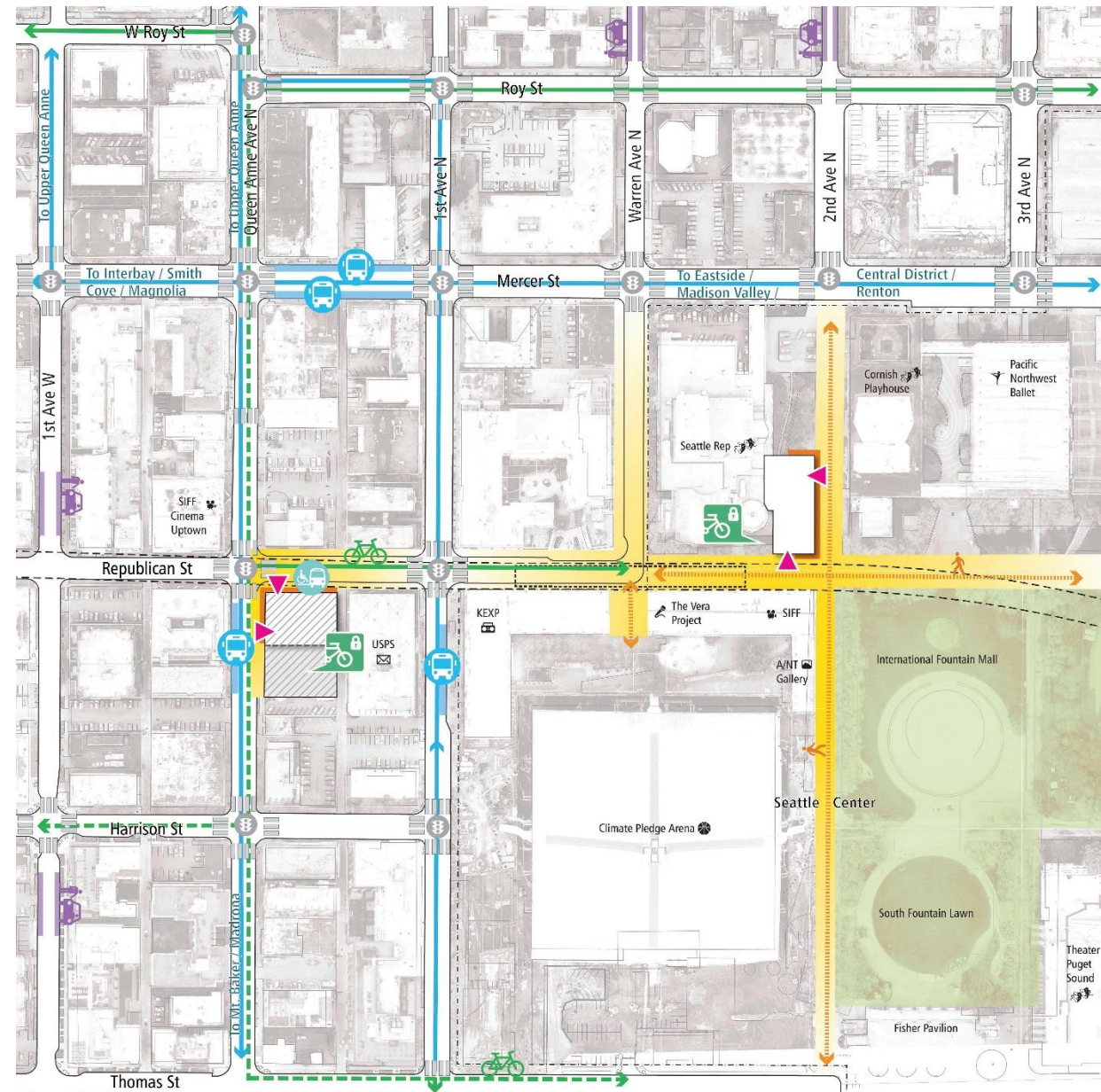
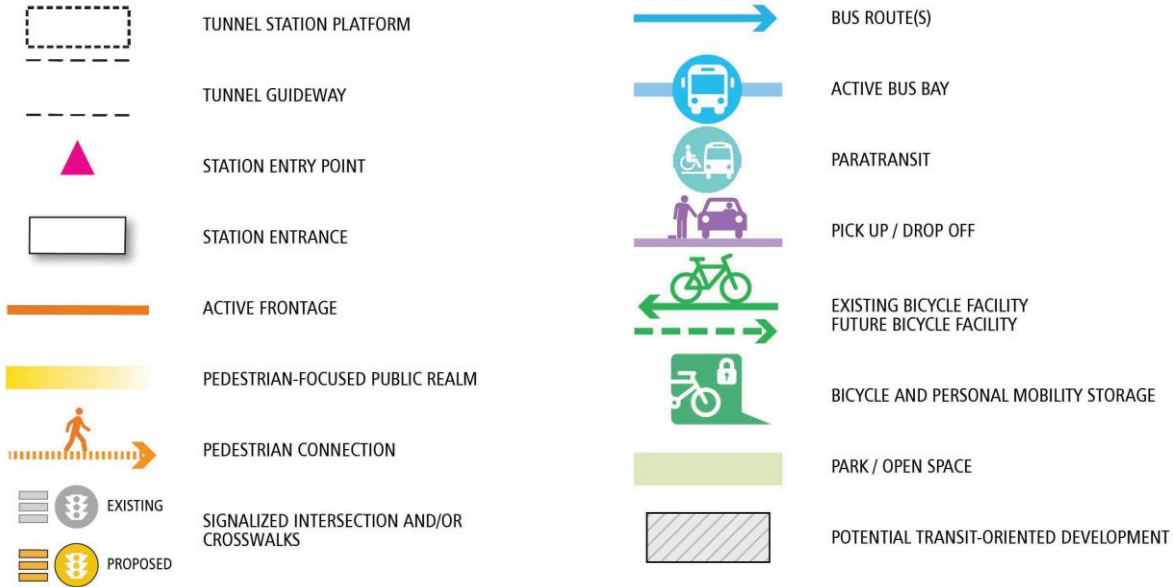




*Seattle Center*

***Preferred alternative***

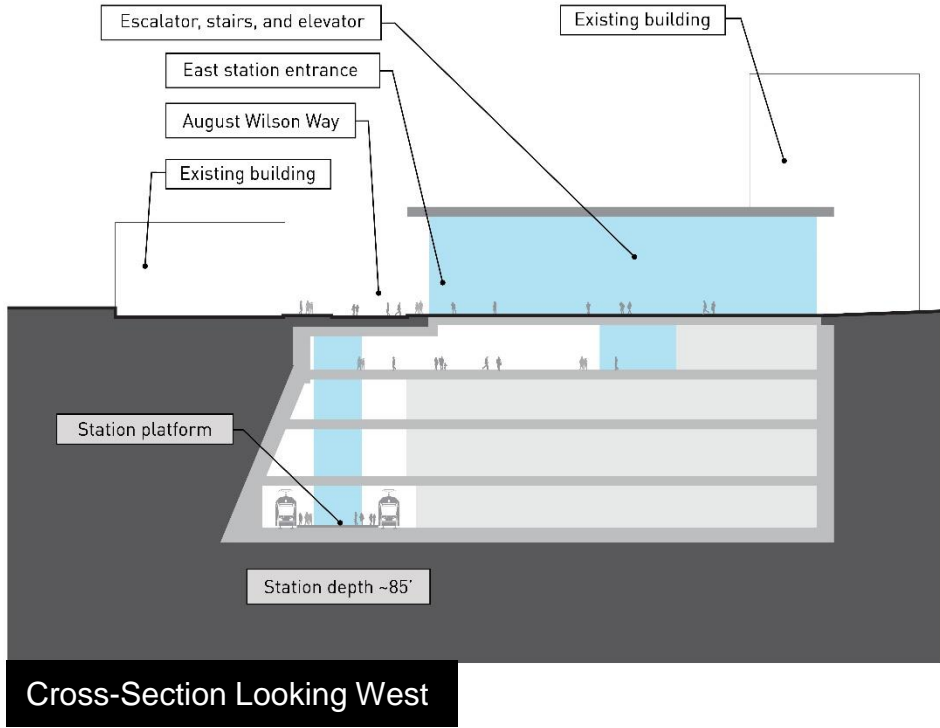
# Tunnel Republican St Station



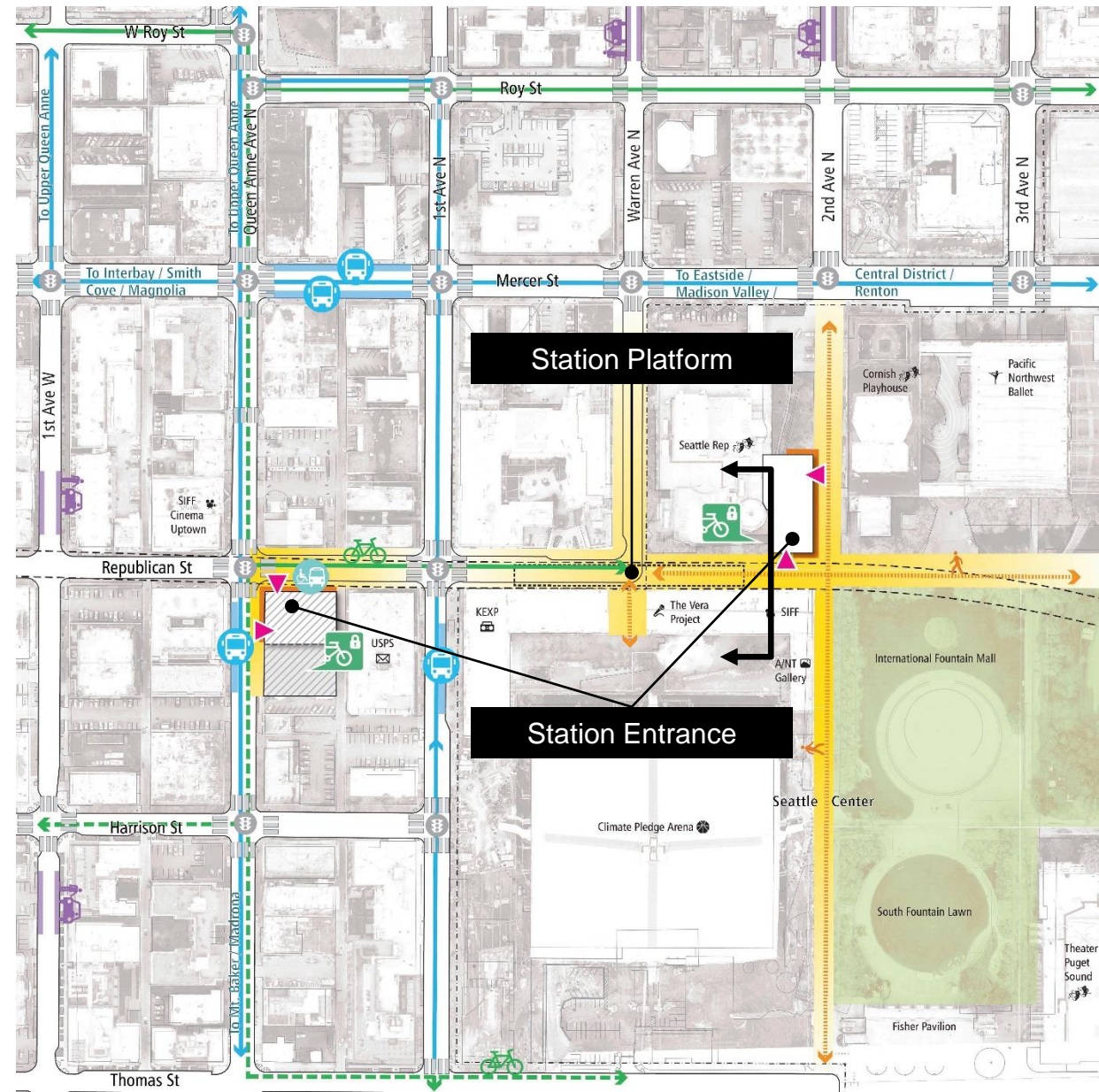
Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



# Tunnel Republican St Station

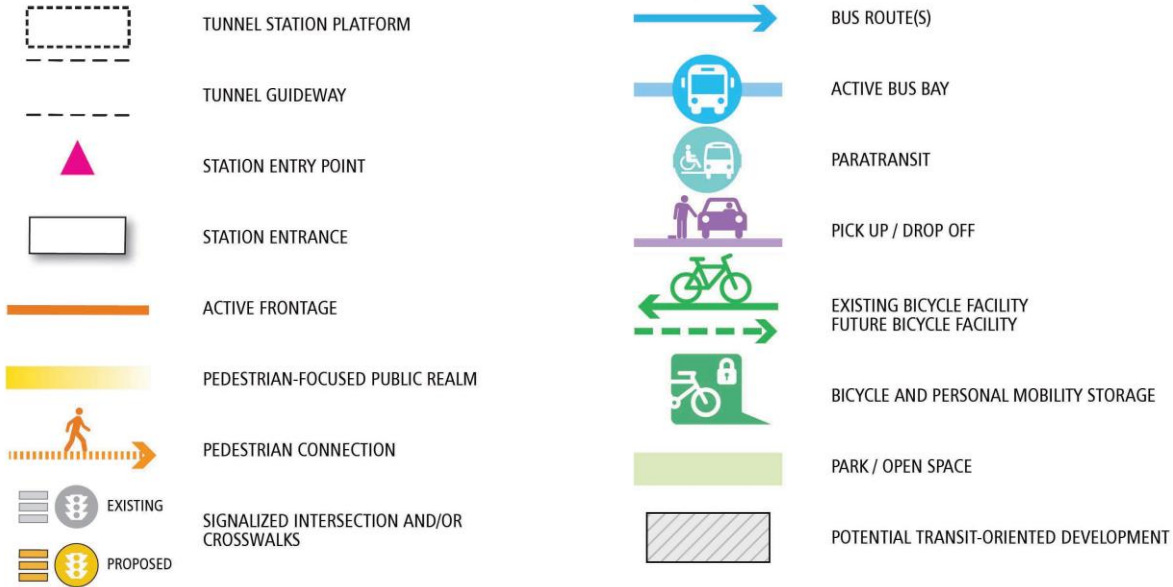


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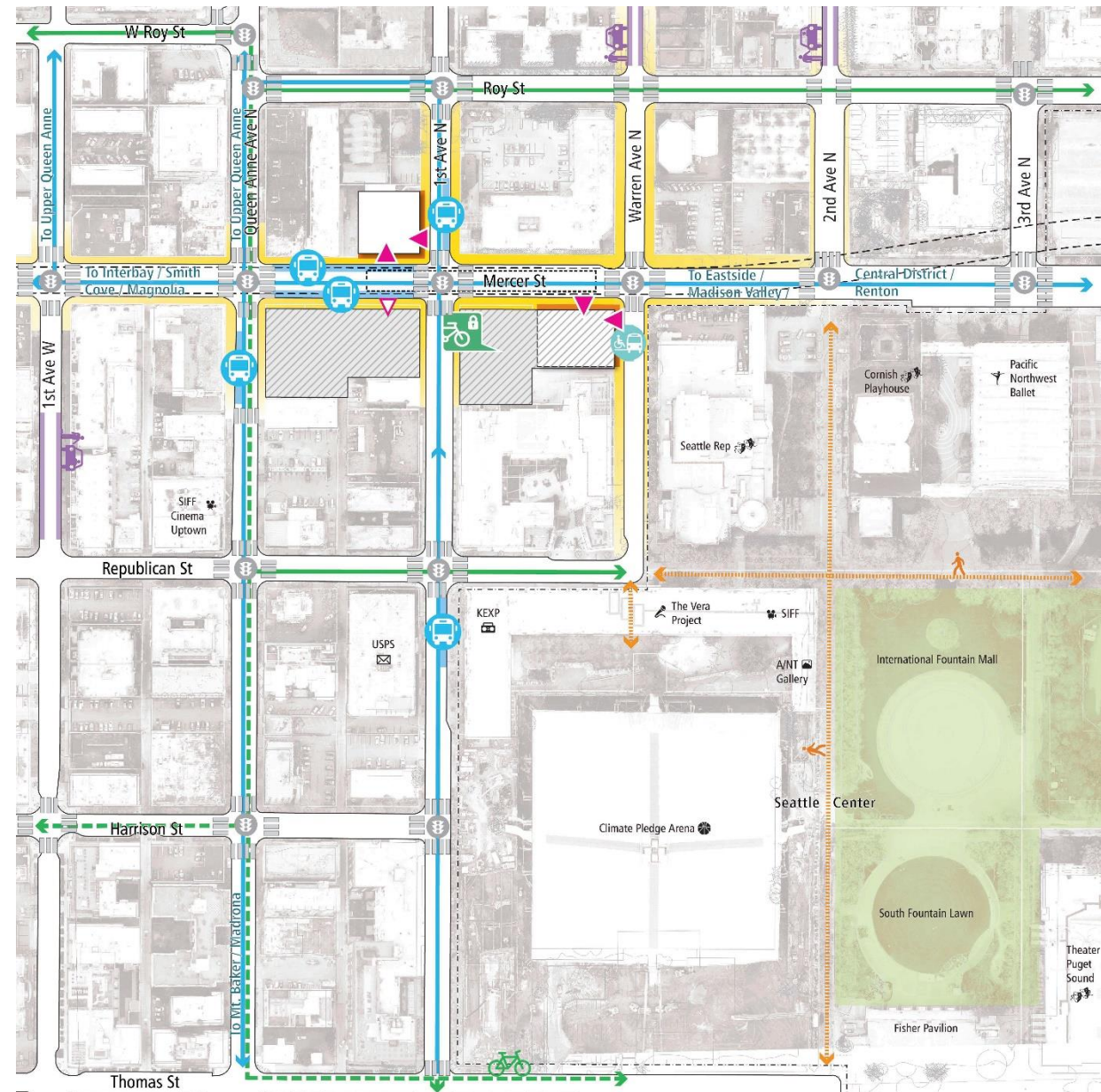


***Other Draft EIS alternative***

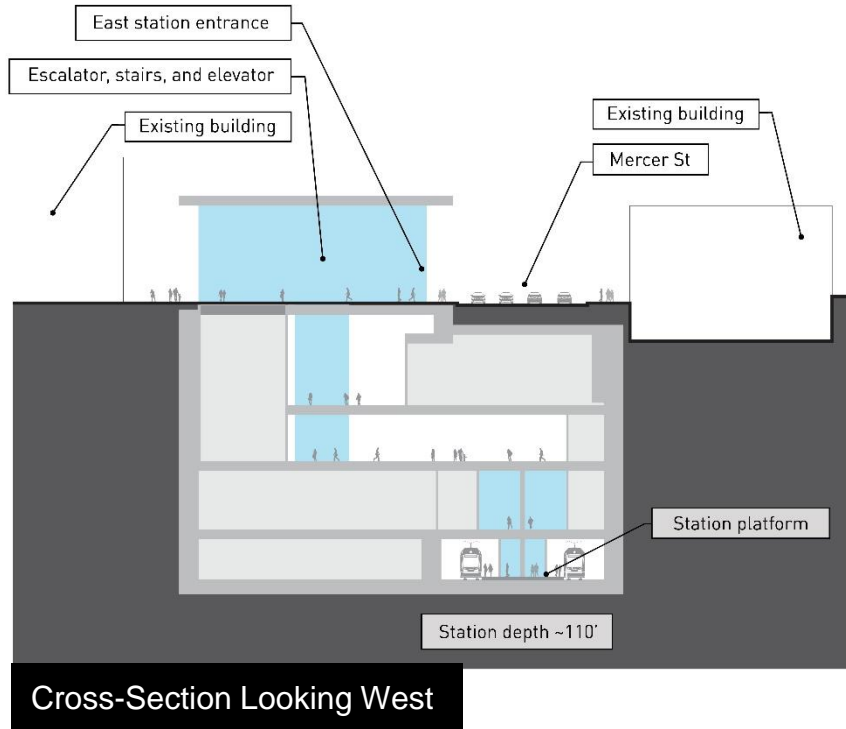
# Tunnel Mercer St Station



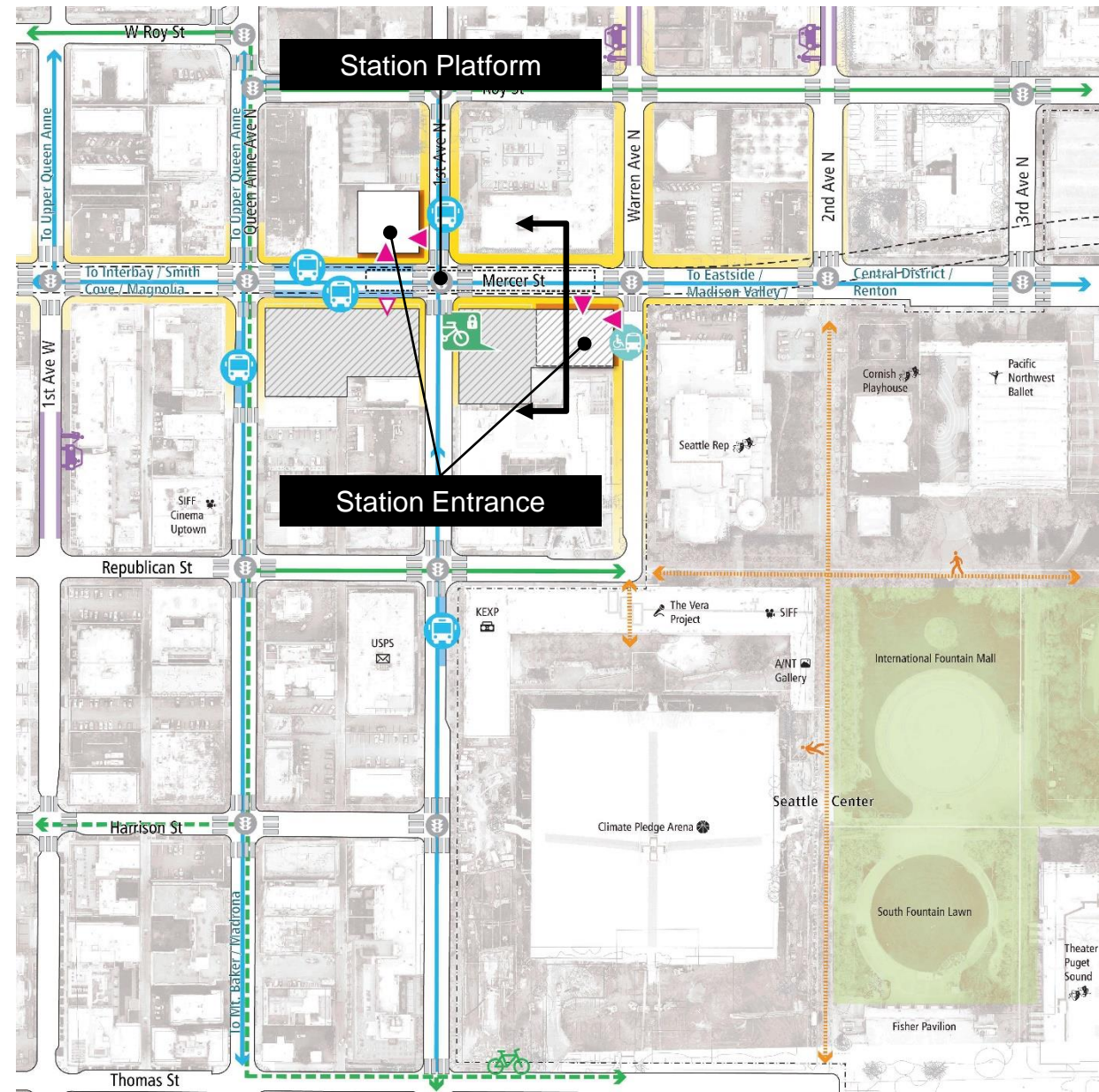
Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.



# Tunnel Mercer St Station





Conceptual design subject to change. All measurements are approximate. Diagrams for illustration only.





# *Construction Roadway Closures*





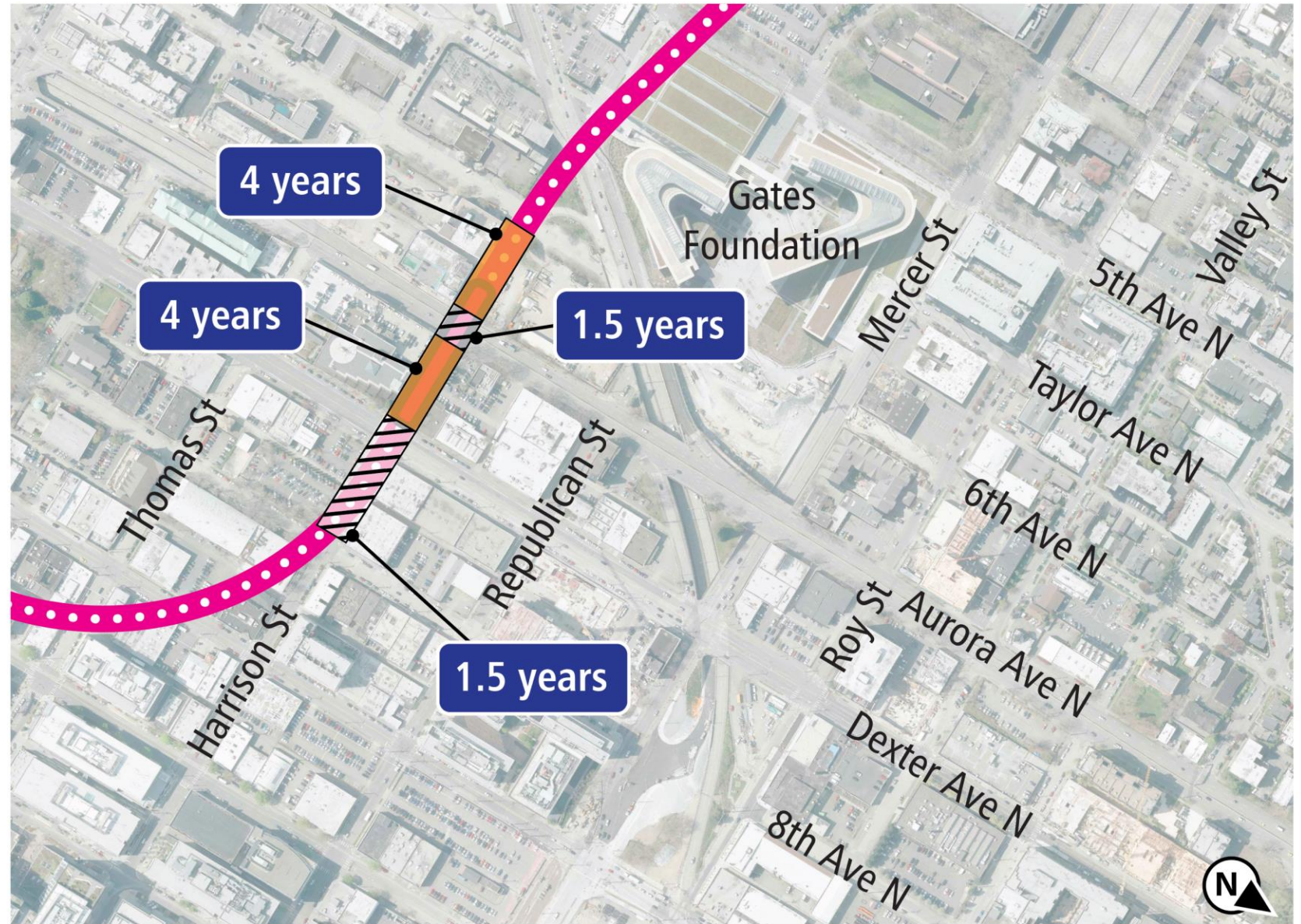
-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure





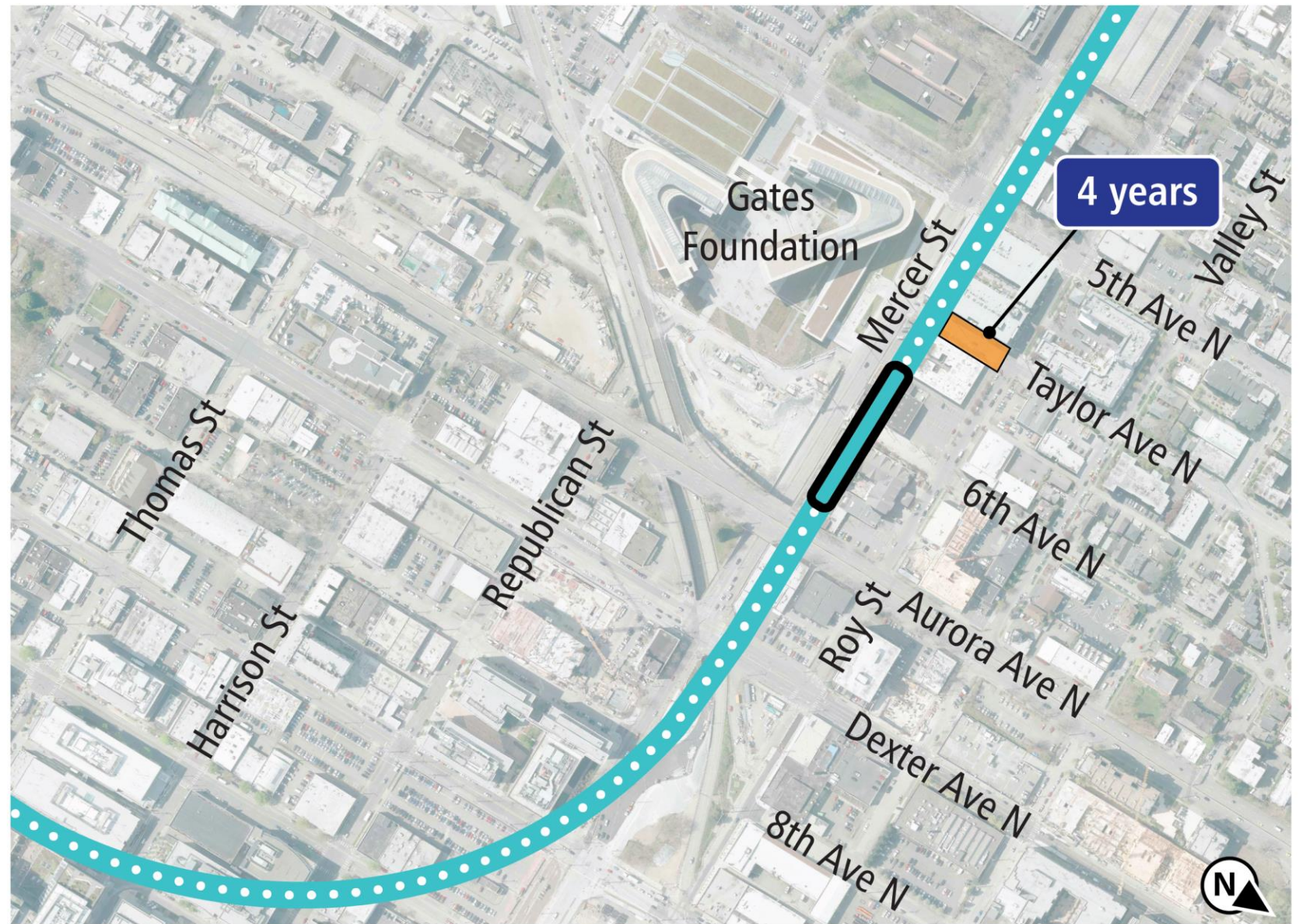
-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure





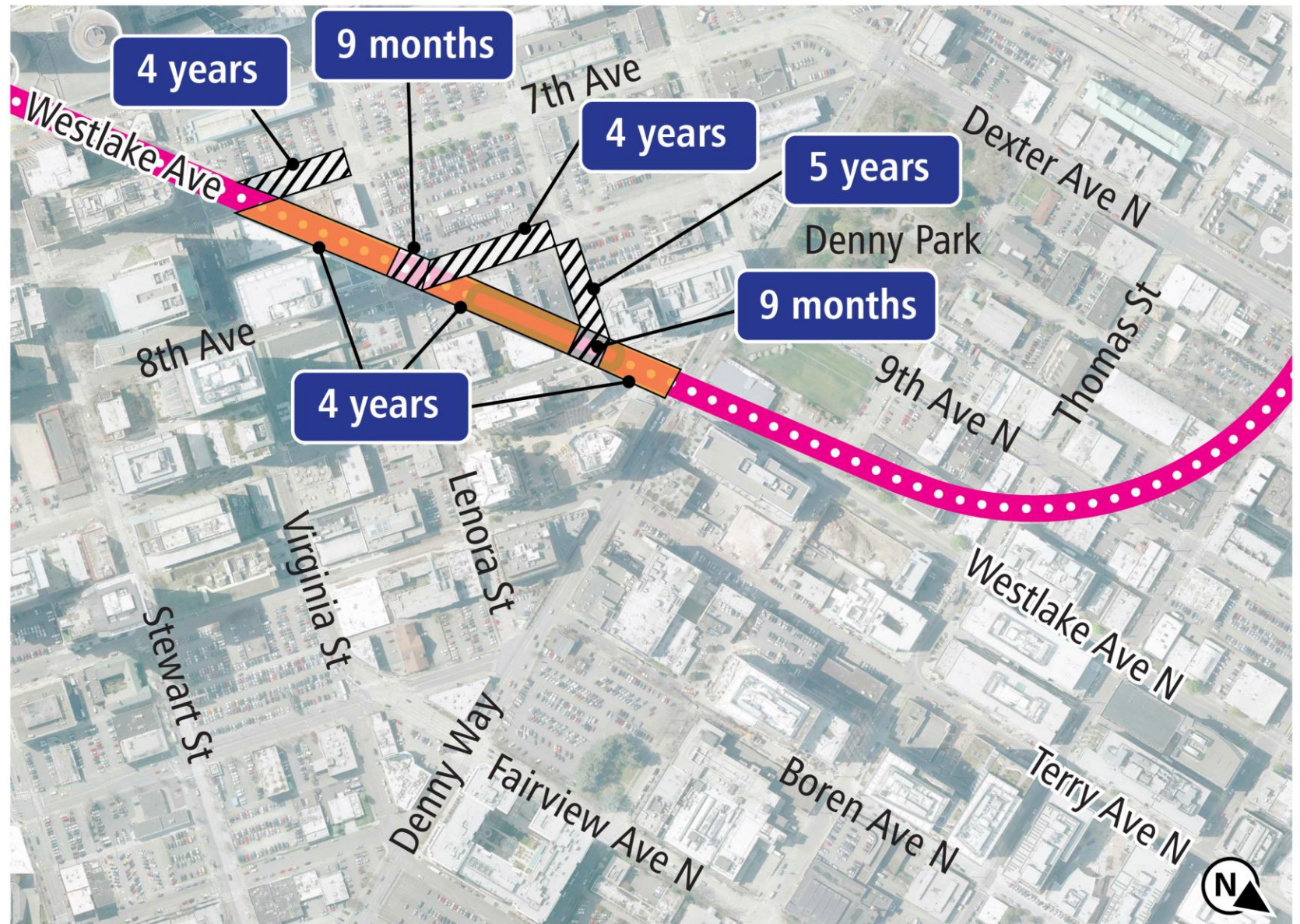
-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure





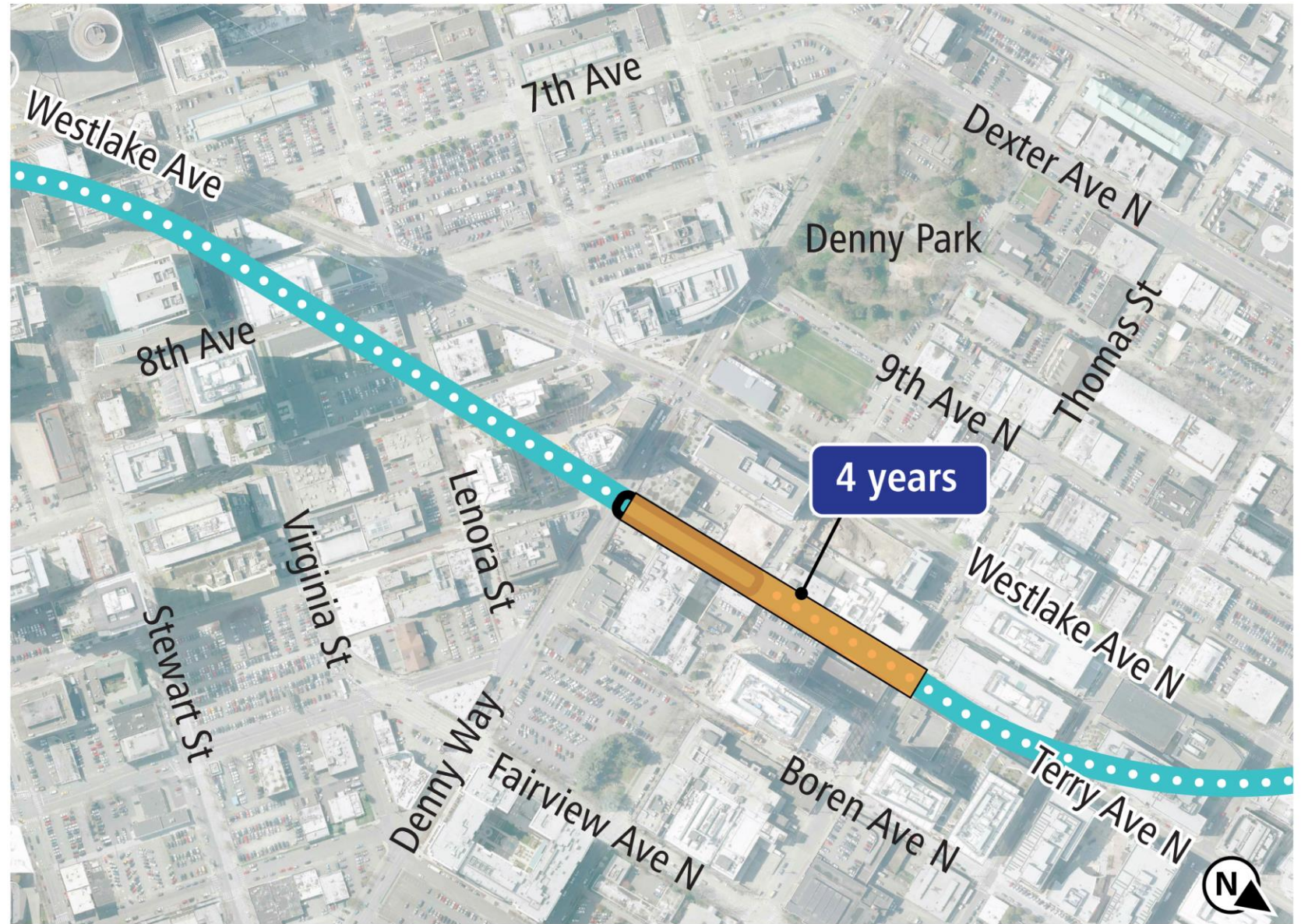
-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure



-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure



-  Roadway full closure
-  Roadway partial closure



***Next steps***

# West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions City of Seattle DEIS Review

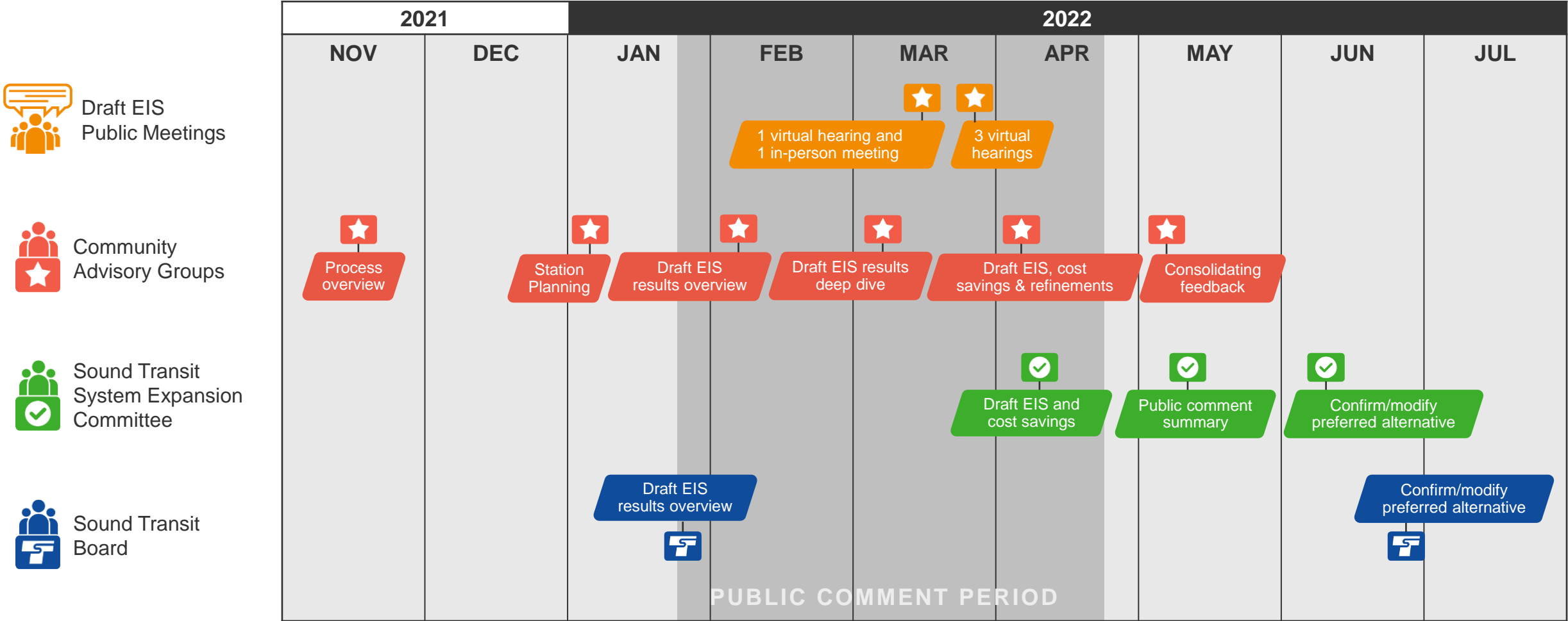
February 2022

Additional questions please contact  
Jesseca Brand, *Neighborhoods*  
[Jesseca.Brand@Seattle.gov](mailto:Jesseca.Brand@Seattle.gov)



# Community engagement and collaboration

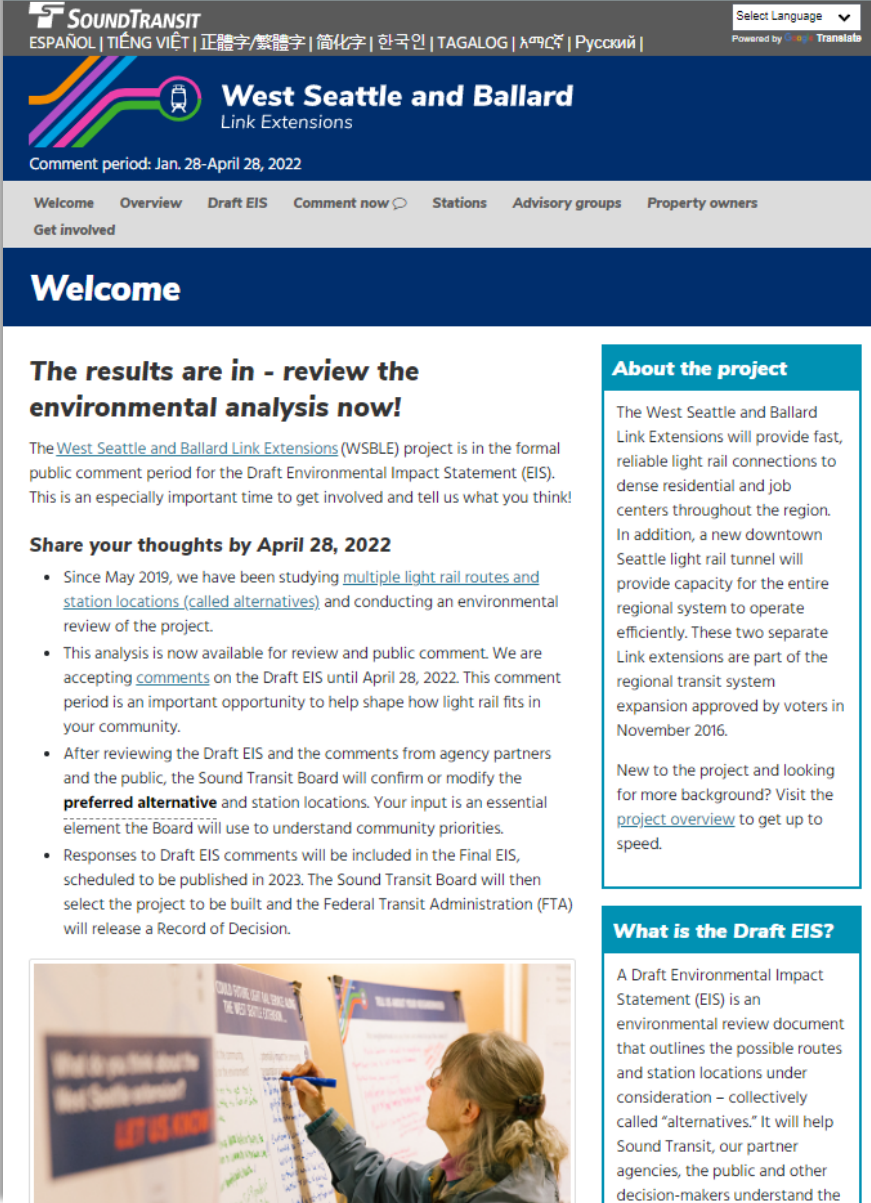
## Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)



# Online Open House

## The [wsblink.participate.online](https://wsblink.participate.online) features:

- **Project Overview** featuring latest on the project
- **Draft EIS** including an overview and links to the document, where and how to review the document and comment
- **Comment Now** form for comments to be submitted, with tips for writing a helpful comment
- **Stations** overview including the station planning progress report and concepts for each station
- **Advisory Groups** schedule, agendas, link to livestream and all Community Advisory Group related materials
- **Property Owners** resources including an overview of the process and FAQ's for potentially affected property owners
- **Get Involved** featuring all the ways to connect with the project team and engage on the project and comment



**SOUNDTRANSIT**  
ESPAÑOL | TIẾNG VIỆT | 正體字/繁體字 | 简化字 | 한국어 | TAGALOG | አማርኛ | Русский | [Select Language](#)  
Powered by [Google Translate](#)

## West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Comment period: Jan. 28-April 28, 2022

Welcome Overview Draft EIS Comment now  Stations Advisory groups Property owners  
Get involved

### Welcome

**The results are in - review the environmental analysis now!**

The [West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions \(WSBLE\)](#) project is in the formal public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This is an especially important time to get involved and tell us what you think!

**Share your thoughts by April 28, 2022**

- Since May 2019, we have been studying [multiple light rail routes and station locations \(called alternatives\)](#) and conducting an environmental review of the project.
- This analysis is now available for review and public comment. We are accepting [comments](#) on the Draft EIS until April 28, 2022. This comment period is an important opportunity to help shape how light rail fits in your community.
- After reviewing the Draft EIS and the comments from agency partners and the public, the Sound Transit Board will confirm or modify the **preferred alternative** and station locations. Your input is an essential element the Board will use to understand community priorities.
- Responses to Draft EIS comments will be included in the Final EIS, scheduled to be published in 2023. The Sound Transit Board will then select the project to be built and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will release a Record of Decision.


**About the project**

The West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions will provide fast, reliable light rail connections to dense residential and job centers throughout the region. In addition, a new downtown Seattle light rail tunnel will provide capacity for the entire regional system to operate efficiently. These two separate Link extensions are part of the regional transit system expansion approved by voters in November 2016.

New to the project and looking for more background? Visit the [project overview](#) to get up to speed.

**What is the Draft EIS?**

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is an environmental review document that outlines the possible routes and station locations under consideration – collectively called “alternatives.” It will help Sound Transit, our partner agencies, the public and other decision-makers understand the



 *wsblink.participate.online*

 **SOUNDTRANSIT**

