

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Mercer Stakeholders

10/13/2022



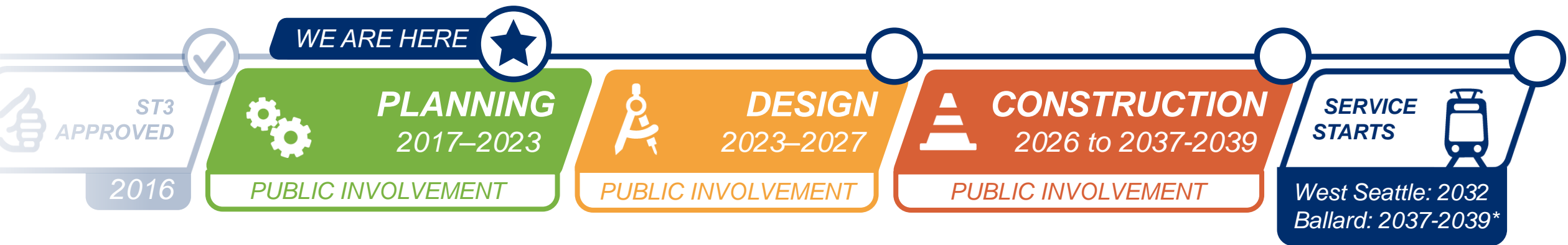
What we'll cover today

- *Welcome and introductions*
- *What's new: Board Direction and Further Studies*
- *Next steps*
- *Discussion*

***Board Direction &
Further Studies***

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

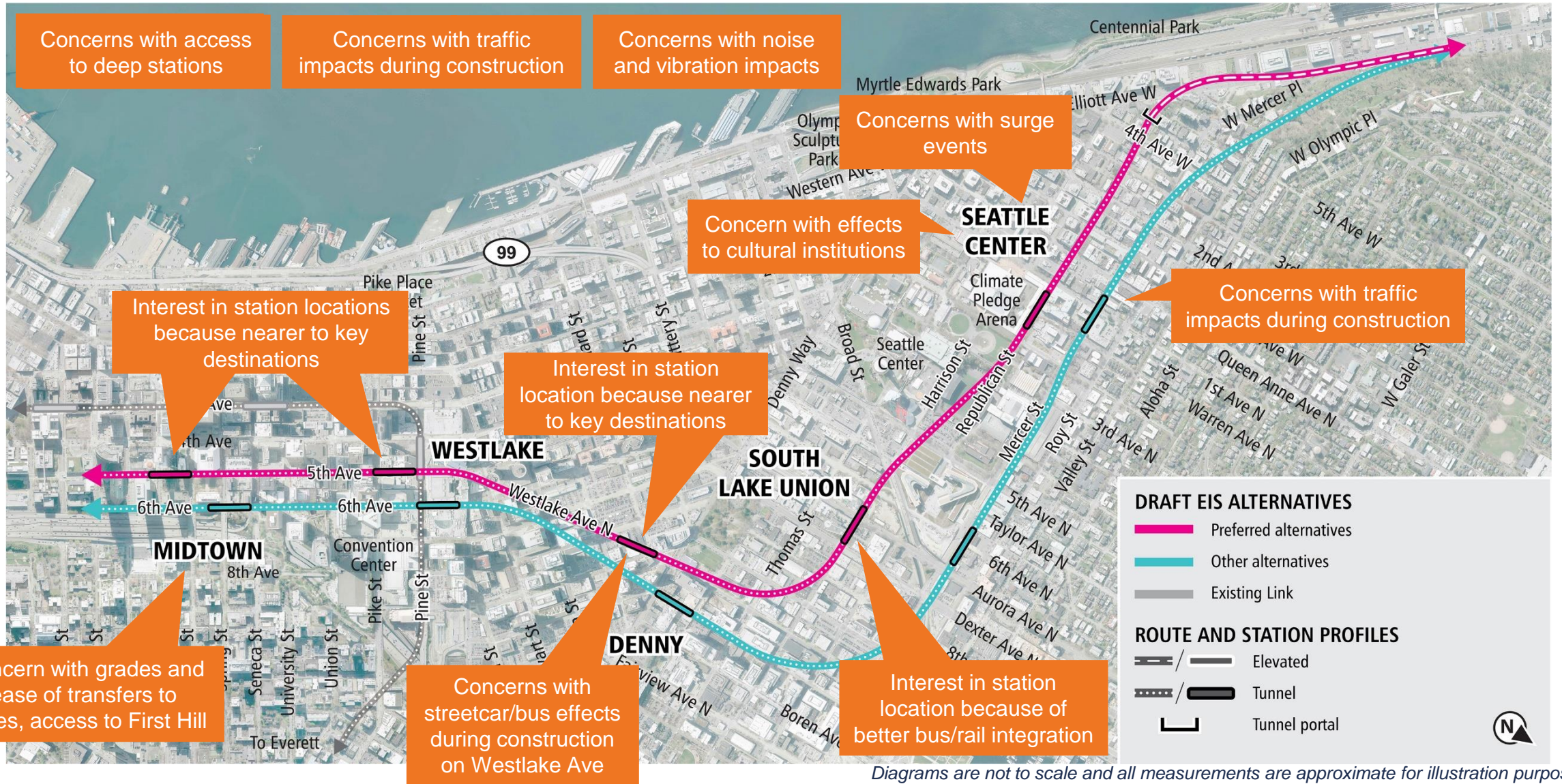
2023: Publish Final EIS

Board selects projects to be built

Federal Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

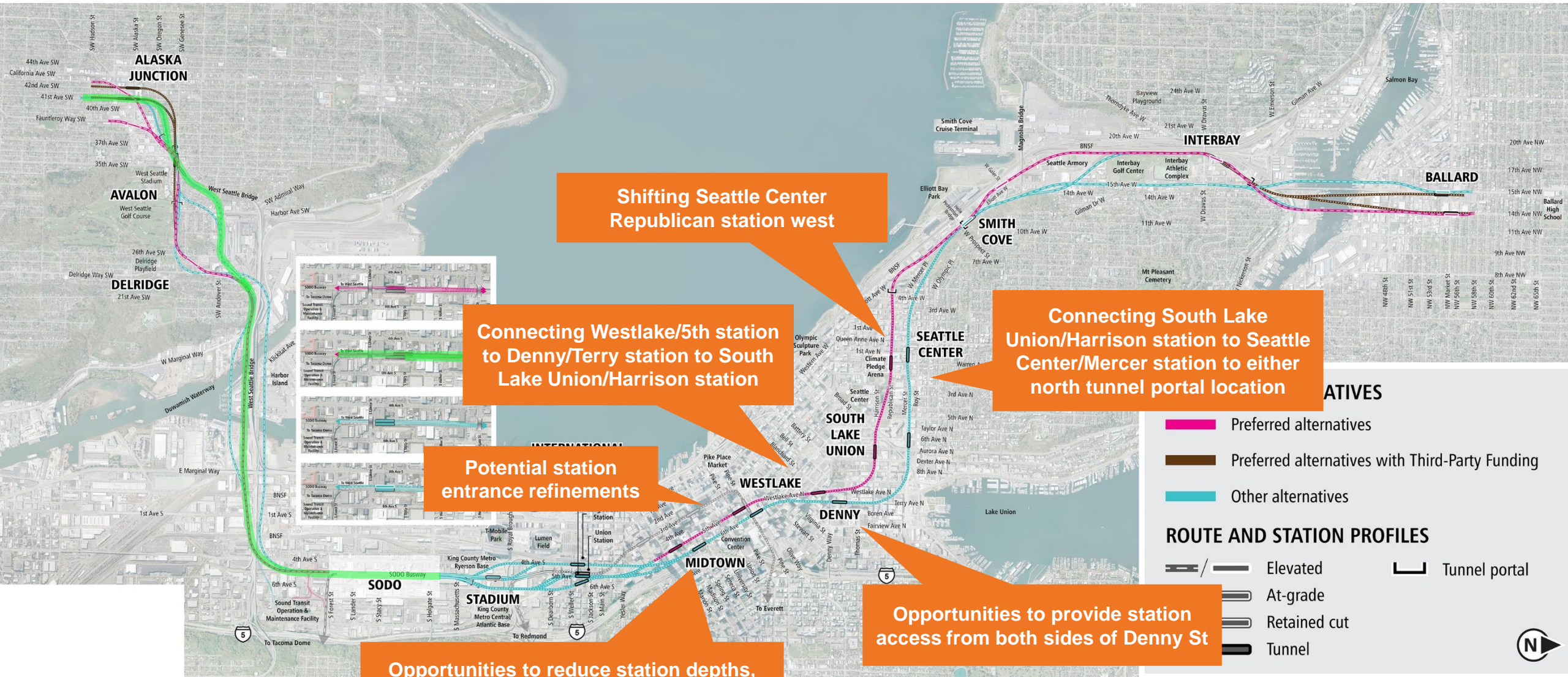
Comments



Motion No. M2022-57

Confirms or modifies the preferred light rail route and station locations for the West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions Final Environmental Impact Statement and requesting **further studies in some areas** to inform potential additional future Board action to confirm or modify the Preferred Alternative.

Ballard Link Extension: Further studies – Downtown



Shifting Seattle Center Republican station west

Connecting Westlake/5th station to Denny/Terry station to South Lake Union/Harrison station

Connecting South Lake Union/Harrison station to Seattle Center/Mercer station to either north tunnel portal location

Potential station entrance refinements

Opportunities to provide station access from both sides of Denny St

Opportunities to reduce station depths, improve passenger access and experience and refine Midtown station entrance

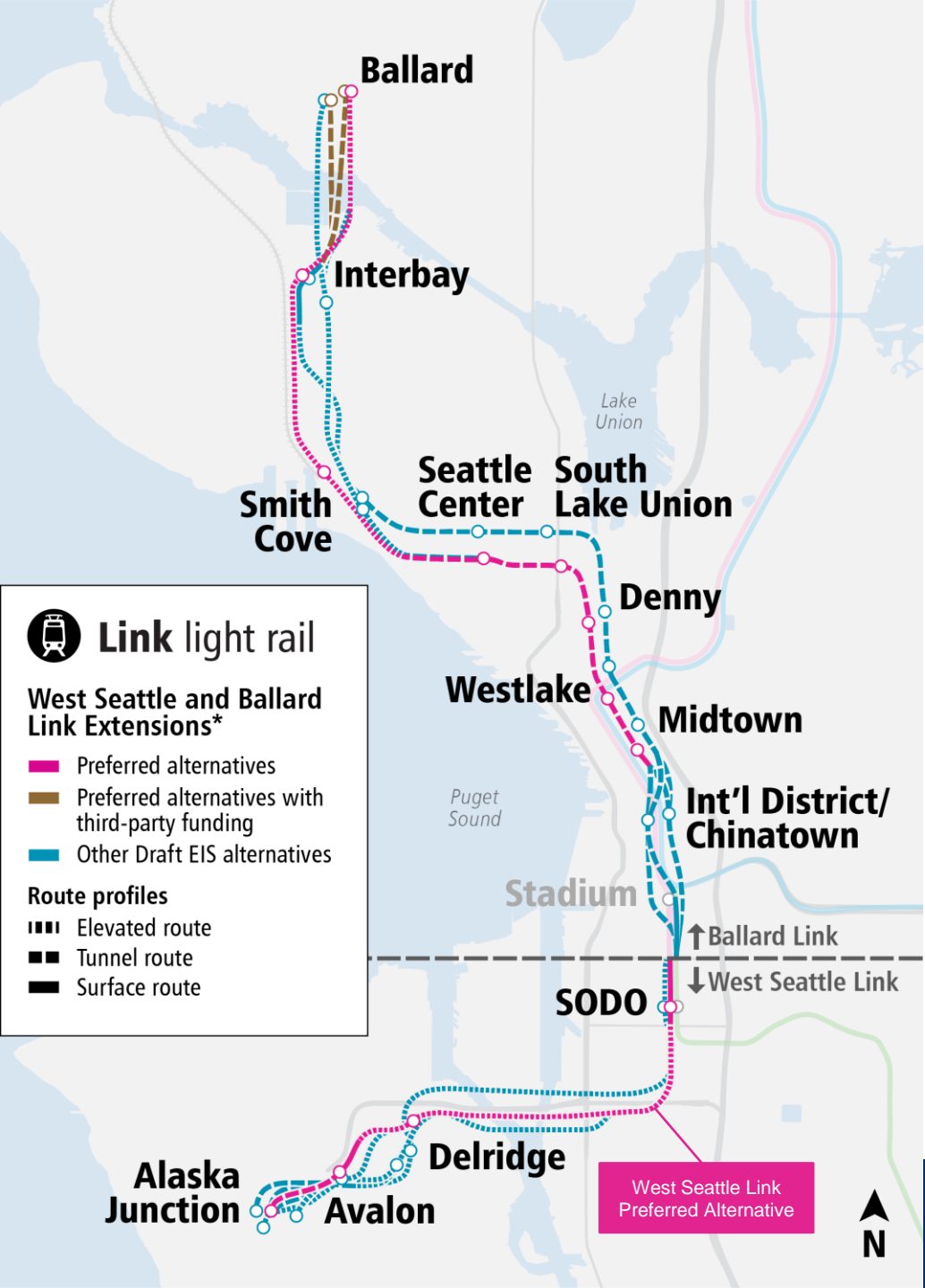
Additional Board direction

- Evaluation of potential refinements will be conducted consistent with project purpose and need which builds upon the criteria established in the ST3 ballot measure (Resolution No. R2016-17) and the five core principles identified in both Motion No. M2020-36 and Motion No. M2020-37
- Board directs staff to continue public engagement and planning to address other project-wide interests and concerns including encouraging more biking and walking mode share; accommodating future expansion; advancing equitable TOD, particularly community-led/driven TOD; design of shallower tunnel stations and fast and reliable transit transfers; enhancing station accessibility and reliability of vertical conveyances

Draft EIS alternatives

What we're studying in this phase

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



*July 2022: The Sound Transit Board identified the preferred alternative for the West Seattle Link Extension and will also consider the At-Grade South Station Option (SODO 1-b) as a possible Preferred Alternative. Further study and community input are required before the Board confirms or modifies the preferred alternative for the Ballard Link Extension.

***Further Study Effort
& Future Engagement Topics***

Elements of further study



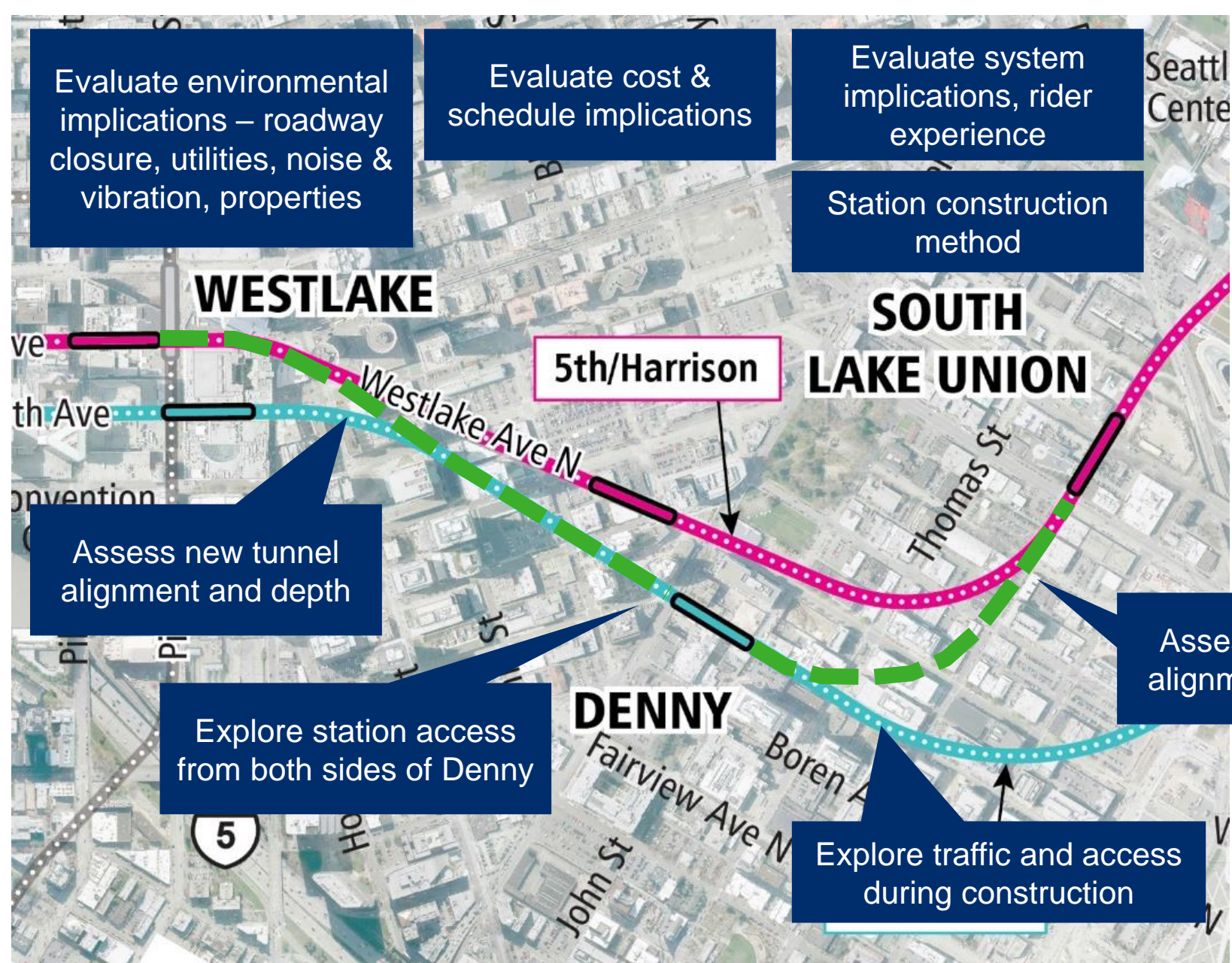
Elements of further study

Evaluate environmental implications – roadway closure, utilities, noise & vibration, properties

Evaluate cost & schedule implications

Evaluate system implications, rider experience

Station construction method



Assess new tunnel alignment and depth

Explore station access from both sides of Denny

Explore traffic and access during construction

Assess new tunnel alignment and depth

Discussion

Next steps

Next steps

- **November 2022:** Status update on areas of further study
- **February 2023:** Status report on areas of further study
- **To be scheduled:** further engagement with Mercer Stakeholders

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