

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

*Pioneer Square
Monthly Information Session
March 19, 2021*



Agenda

- **Powering Progress:** Preview new service openings between 2021-2024
- Discuss recession's impact on revenues and project costs, and the **2021 realignment process** to adjust project plans and schedules
- Update on the **West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions project**

Powering progress



ST3 – A Regional Investment

116-mile network across the Puget Sound

Includes:

- West Seattle-Ballard Link Extensions



Currently under construction

Light rail extensions

- **Northgate** (3 stations, opening **this year**).
- **Hilltop Tacoma** (6 stations, 2022).
- **East Link** (10 stations, 2023).
- **Lynnwood** (4 stations, 2024).
- **Federal Way** (3 stations, 2024).
- **Downtown Redmond** (2 stations, 2024).

Other

- **Operations & Maintenance Facility East** (2021).
- **Puyallup Station garage** (2022).

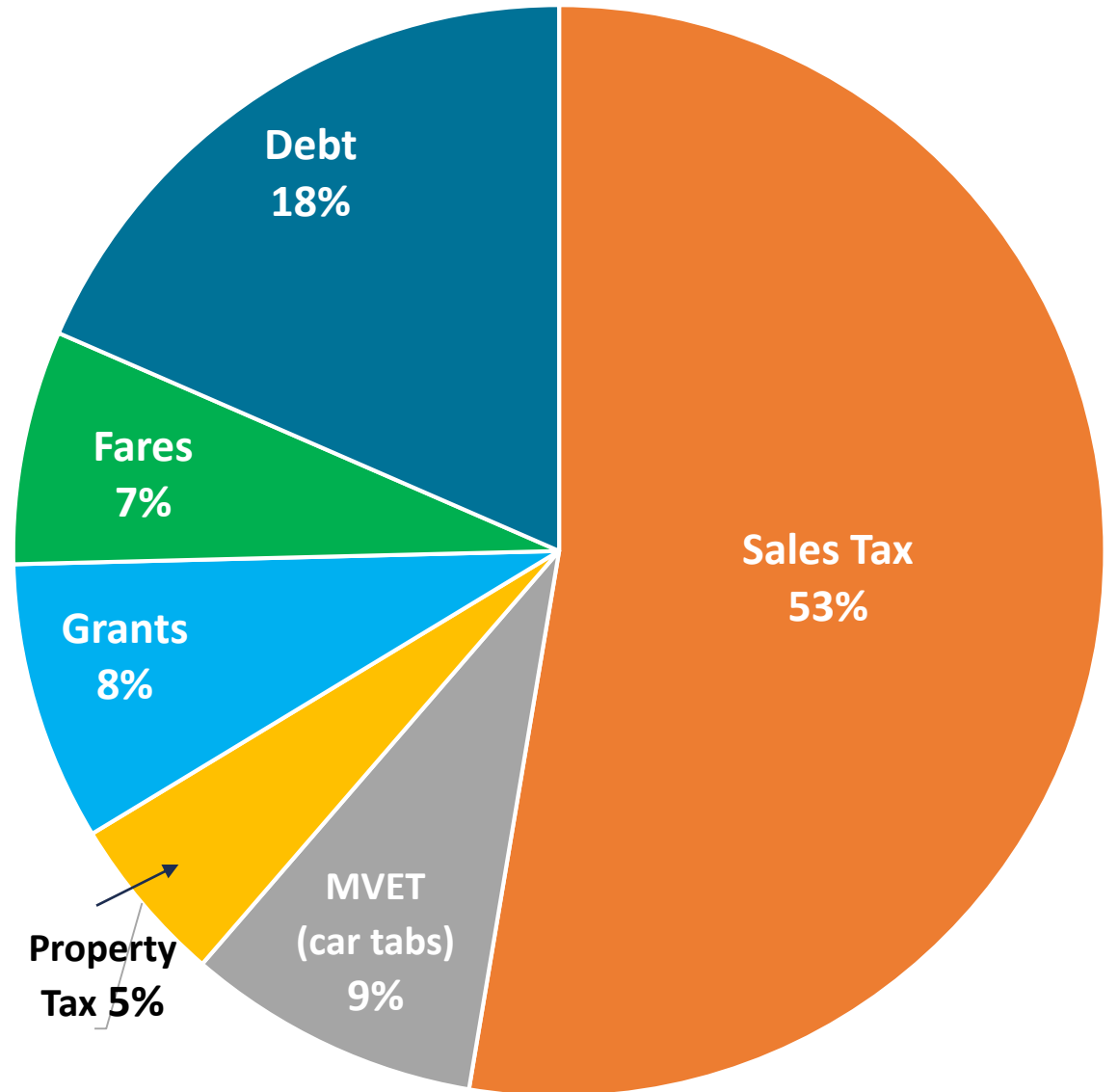


Realigning expansion plans



Revenue sources

- Tax revenues fund 66%.
- Debt funds 18%.
- Grants fund 8%.
- Fares fund 7%.



Financial changes

Current 25-year capital program runs 2016-2041

- **Lower Revenue:** Lower sales, motor vehicle excise, and rental car taxes due to recession.
- **Higher Costs:** Construction costs remain at record levels due to continued growth in property values and hot construction market.

Financial changes through 2041

Current 25-year capital program runs 2016-2041

- **Revenue:** \$6.1 billion lower.
- **Costs:** \$12.3 billion higher. in estimate cost increases.
- **Offsets:** \$6.9 billion in new debt, higher grants and other revenue.
- **Overall:** \$11.5 billion affordability gap.

Realignment tools available to Sound Transit

- **Cutting costs** through reduced project scope, suspending or canceling projects, etc.
- **Raising new revenues** through issuing higher debt or seeking additional state or federal funding.
- **Delaying or phasing projects** to spread costs over time and keep total agency debt within current legal limits.

Next steps

Anticipated realignment work through July

Ongoing public engagement

March

Potential additional scenarios

Initial report on independent cost review

April

Discuss affordability gap update

May

Discuss Board priorities

June

Develop realignment plan(s)

July

Consider potential action to adopt realignment plan(s)

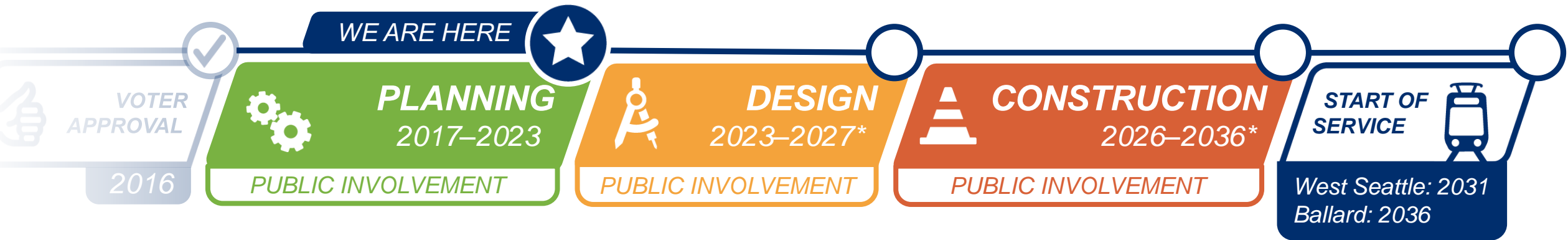
West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

wsblink.participate.online

Presenter: Alexis Lair

West Seattle and Ballard Link Extensions

Project timeline



Project scope and schedule subject to change.

 **VOTER
APPROVAL**

2016

***Project scope
and schedule
subject to
change.***



PLANNING



DES

2017–2019

Alternatives development

Feb–March 2018:
Early scoping

Feb–April 2019:
Scoping

May–Oct 2019: Board
identifies preferred
alternatives and other
DEIS alternatives

2019–2023

Environmental review

Mid-2021: Publish Draft EIS

Board confirms or modifies
preferred alternatives

2023: Publish Final EIS

Board selects projects
to be built

Federal Record of Decision

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

 **VOTER
APPROVAL**

2016



***Project scope
and schedule
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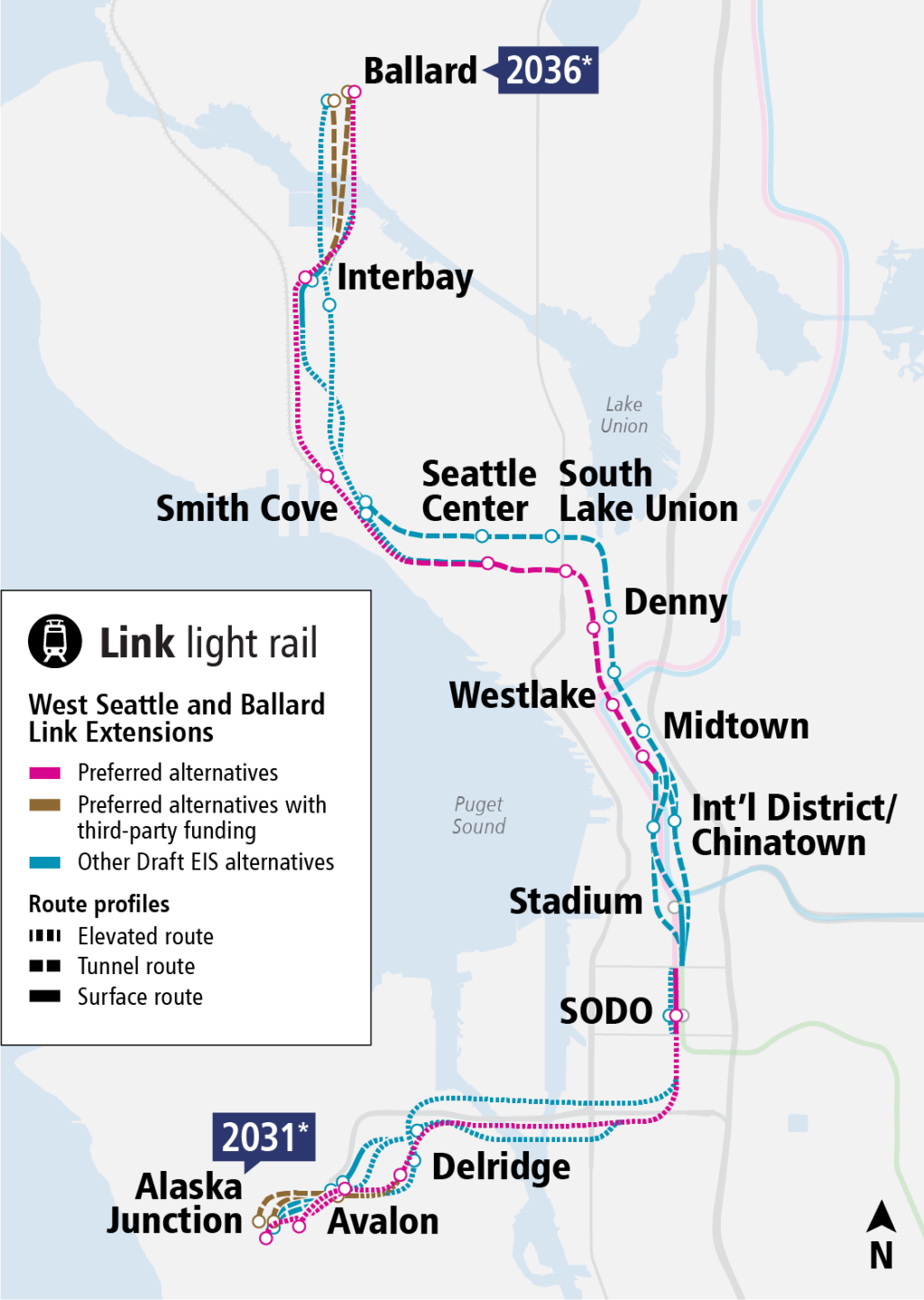
 **DESIGN**

Draft EIS alternatives

What we're studying in this phase

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

*Project delivery dates currently under review due to the COVID-19 recession.



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How Sound Transit and the City of Seattle are working together

Presenters: Alexis Lair (Sound Transit) & Vera Giampietro (City of Seattle)

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.

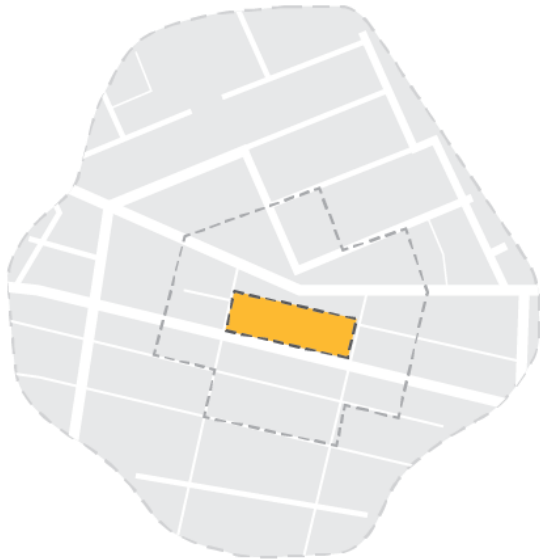
**Center racial
equity for better
outcomes
+
Co-planning
stations with
communities**



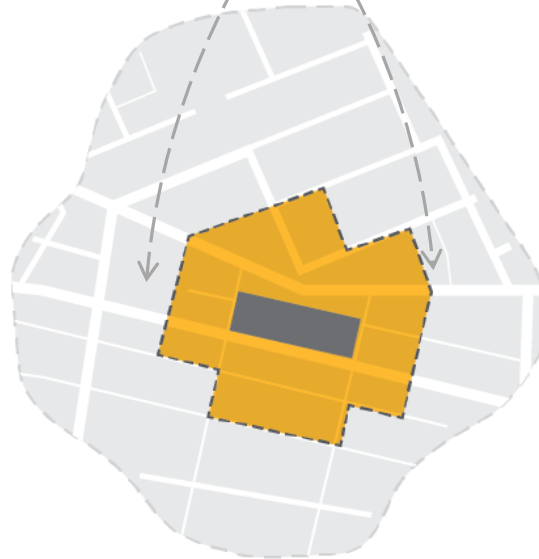
Seattle

- Mayor Jenny Durkan & Councilmember Debora Juarez sit on the Sound Transit Board that will make final decisions.
- Plan housing, businesses, and open spaces to make great neighborhoods around new stations.
- Issue permits to Sound Transit to build stations and track.

Co-planning partnership



Station



Station context



City of Seattle



Station area

Current City Work to Support ST3

- Establishing strong relationships with Sound Transit to identify issues early and craft solutions
- Creating teams for permitting, planning, and public engagement
- Working to support delivering light rail faster and within budget
- Collaborating with Sound Transit on a Racial Equity Toolkit to center issues of race



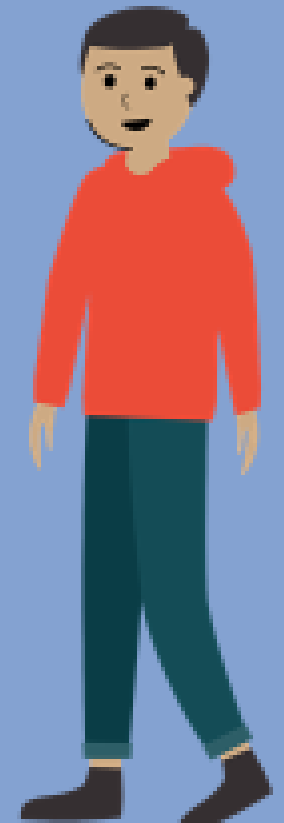
Guiding Principles

- Equity
- Dependable Transit
- Vibrant Communities
- Climate Action

[Community Survey Results: seattle.gov/lightrail](https://seattle.gov/lightrail)

What is racial equity?

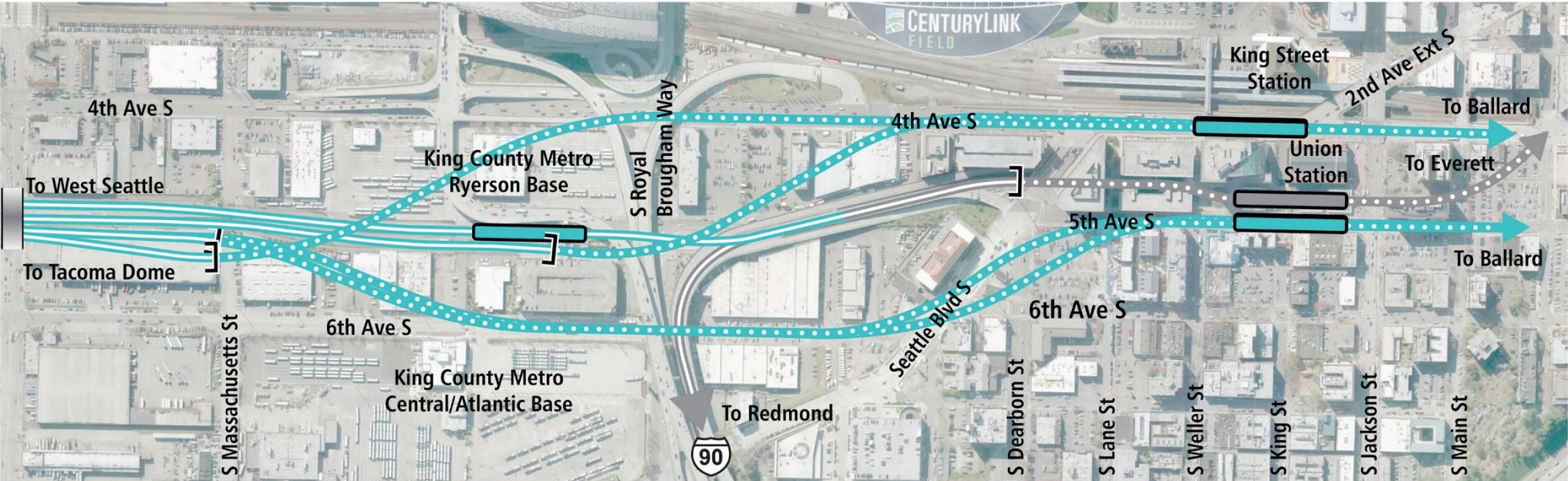
When social, economic and political opportunities are not determined by a person's race.



Chinatown-International District segment

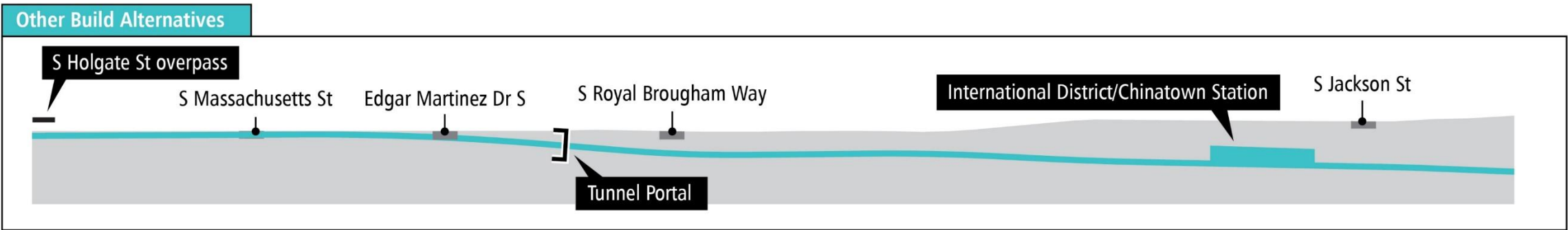
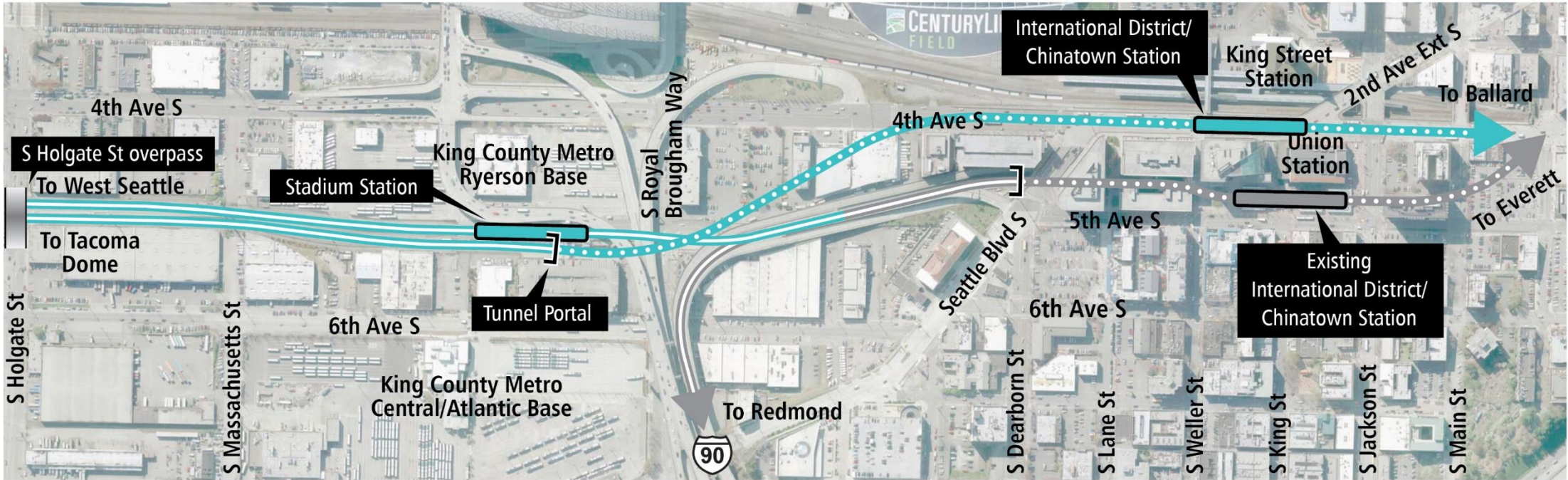
Presenter: Stephen Mak

Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



Note: The Chinatown-International District Station 4th Avenue Shallow Alternative would necessitate reconstruction of the existing Stadium Station.

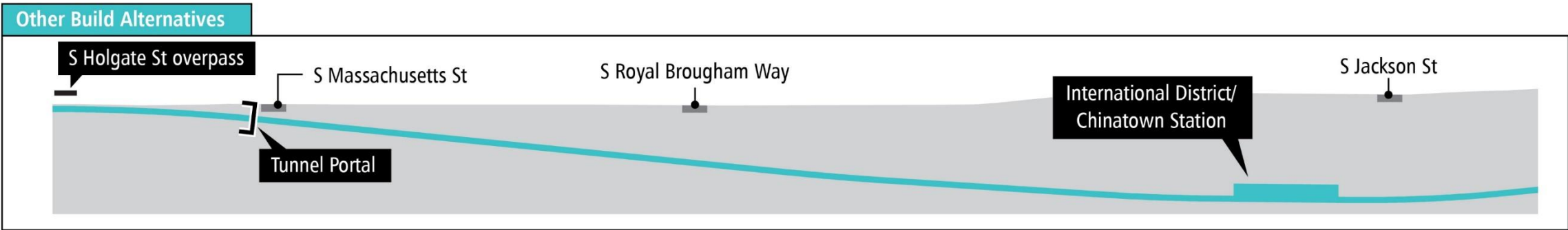
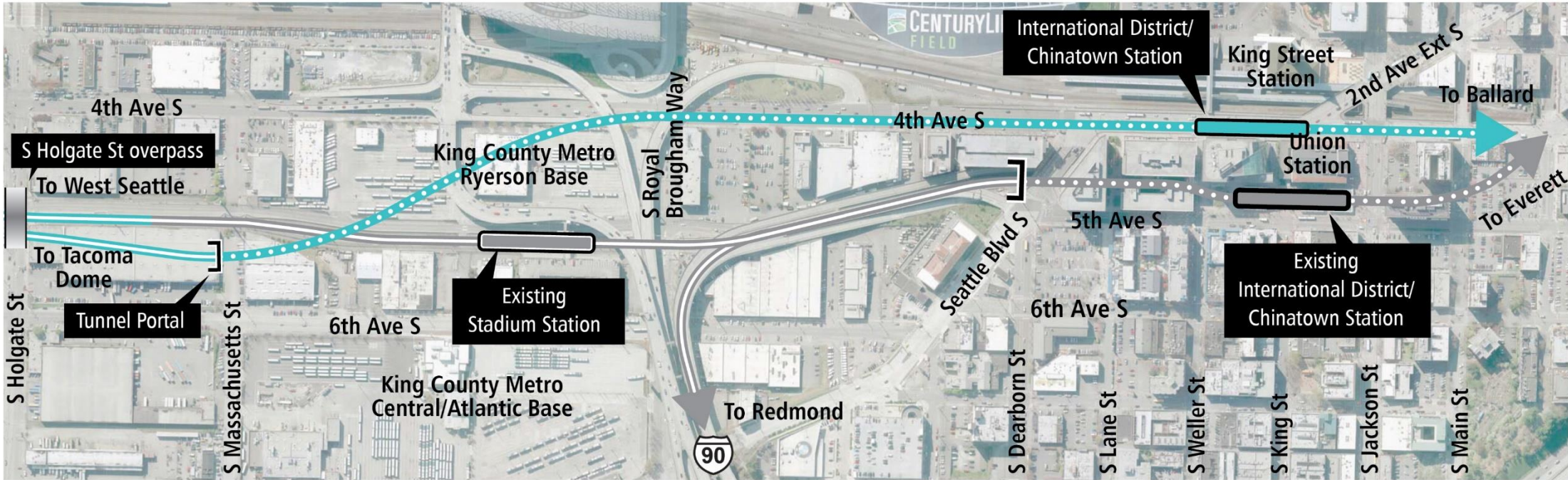
Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



4th Avenue Shallow (CID-1a)

Diagrams are not to scale. All measurements are approximate and are for discussion purposes only.

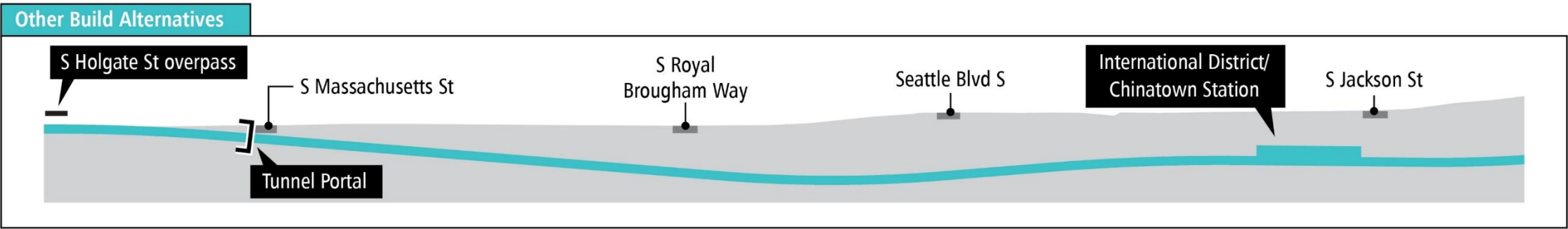
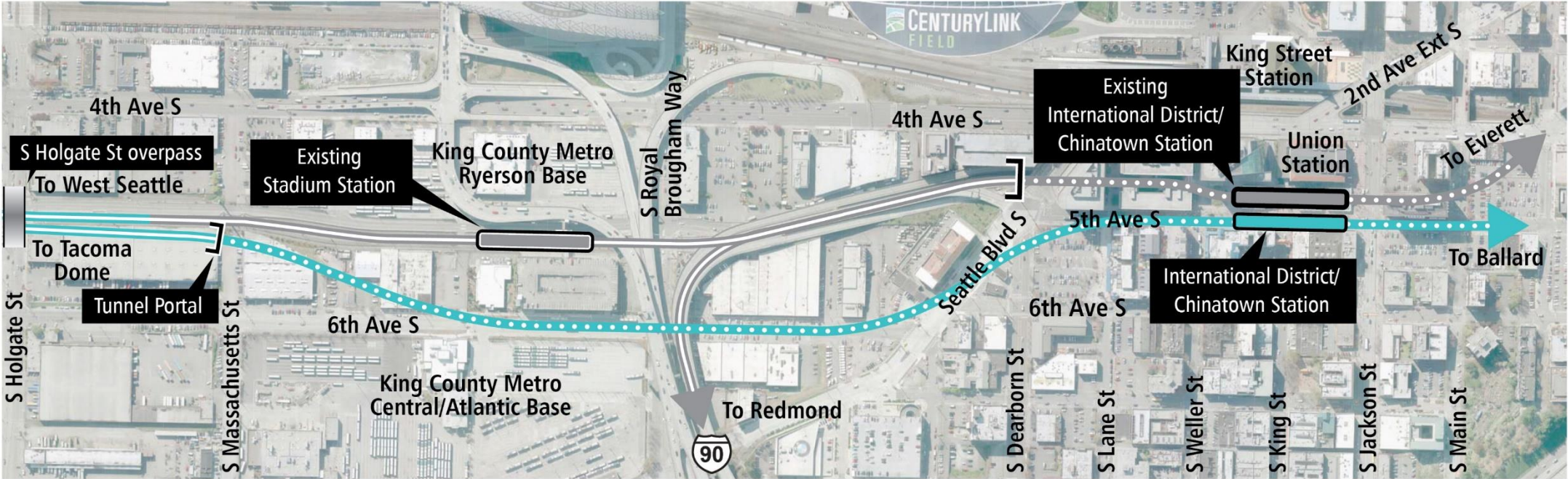
Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



4th Avenue Deep Station Option (CID-1b)

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District

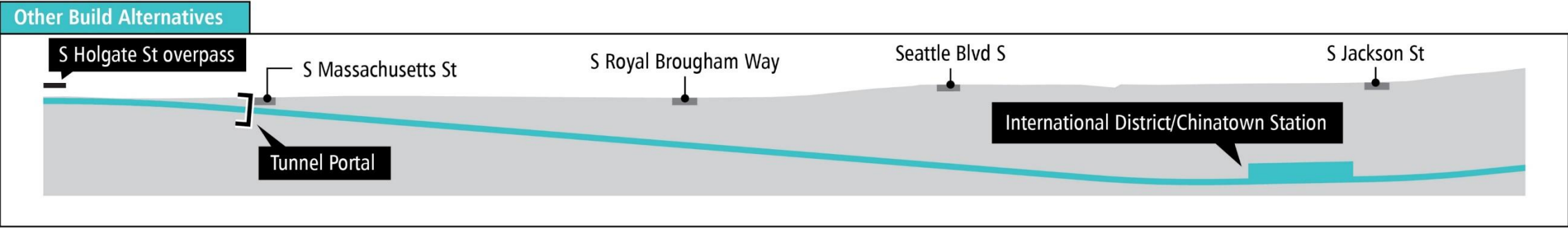
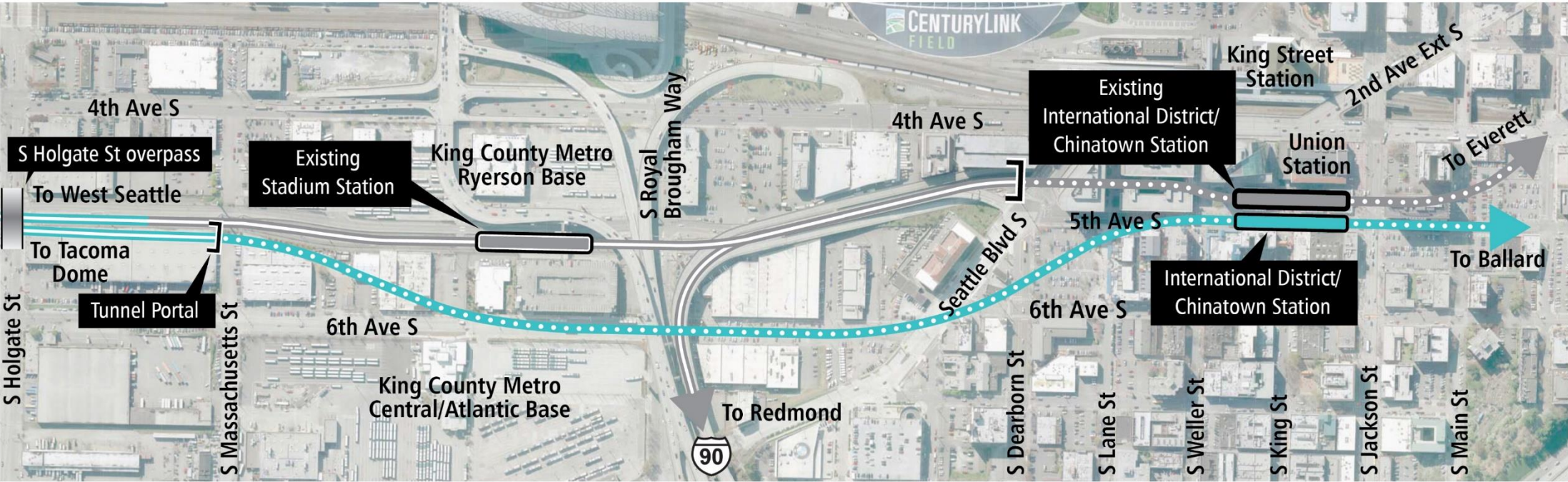


5th Avenue Shallow (CID-2a)

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Draft EIS alternatives Chinatown-International District



5th Avenue Deep Station Option (CID-2b)

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Environmental review

Presenter: Stephen Mak

So, what's an Environmental Impact Statement?

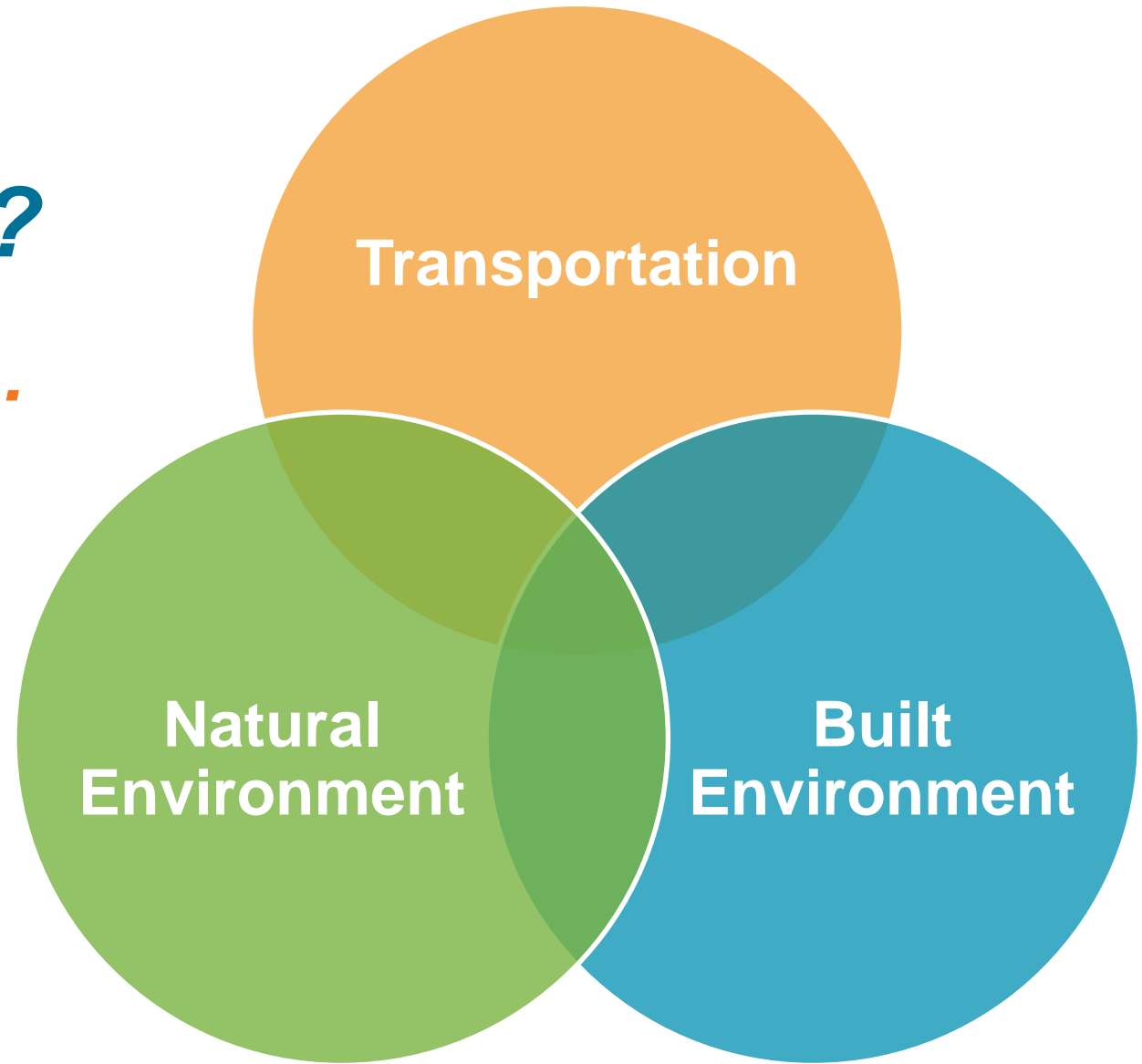
Or, “EIS” for short.

Provides agencies and the public an understanding of environmental consequences and assists in decision-making.

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- ✓ Scope
 - ✓ Range of alternatives
 - ✓ Potential impacts
 - ✓ Potential mitigation

What is typically studied in an EIS?

How a project affects...



EIS studies:

Transportation impacts

- ✓ Ridership
- ✓ Transit operations
- ✓ Regional and local traffic
- ✓ Non-motorized facilities and modes
- ✓ Freight movement
- ✓ Marine navigation
- ✓ Parking

EIS studies:

Natural environment impacts

- 
- ✓ Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions
 - ✓ Ecosystems and fish and wildlife habitat
 - ✓ Water resources
 - ✓ Geology and soils

EIS studies:

Built environment impacts

- ✓ Noise and vibration
- ✓ Economic effects
- ✓ Visual resources
- ✓ Parks resources
- ✓ Land use
- ✓ Acquisitions, displacements and relocations

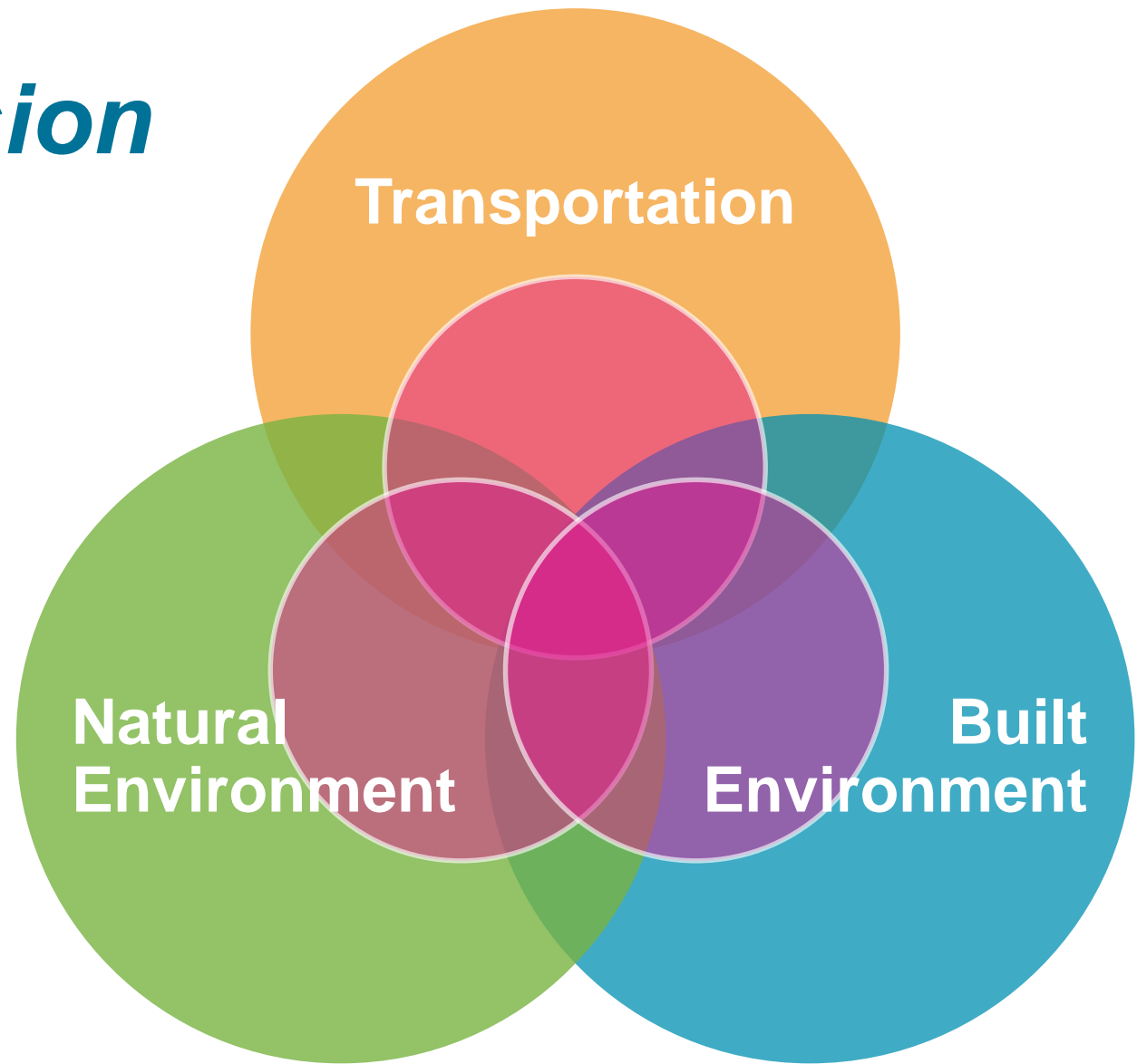
EIS studies:

Built environment impacts

- ✓ Energy use
- ✓ Hazardous materials
- ✓ Public services / utilities
- ✓ Impacts on low income and minority populations
- ✓ Cultural, historic and archaeological resources
- ✓ Neighborhoods and community facilities

Equity and inclusion

***Environmental justice
focus within each
area of the EIS***



EIS studies:

Environmental justice

- ✓ Describes demographics
- ✓ Evaluates whether project disproportionately impacts minority and low-income communities
- ✓ Considers potential project benefits such as improved access to opportunity
- ✓ Documents what we hear from outreach efforts

Community engagement & collaboration

Presenter: Alexis Lair

Coming up (Early to Mid-2021)

Focus: Prepare the community for publication of the DEIS, including updates around station planning and how to engage

- Online engagement platform (**wsblink.participate.online**)
- **Community briefings**
- **Equitable engagement approaches**
- Outreach to **property owners** (Mid-2021)

DEIS publication (Mid-2021)

Focus: Share information found in Draft EIS and collect feedback

- Seek formal comments on the Draft EIS to share with the Sound Transit Board and Federal Transit Administration
 - Share information in a variety of formats (including online), focus on accessibility
 - Provide several ways for people to provide comments. For example, online, voicemail, email, in-language, public comment and more.

Questions?

Thank you!

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