



Pierce Transit  
***Stream***

Stream Pacific Avenue BRT Virtual Open House

September 23, 2021

# Zoom Tips

## Let's have a great meeting.



Everyone is muted by default



We will monitor the chat function



Click the "Interpretation" button below to listen to this presentation in Spanish

(Presione abajo el boton de "Interpretation" para escuchar esta presentacion en Espanol)



Submit questions using the "Q&A" feature



We will pause for questions after each topic

# Meeting Agenda

## We'll be discussing the following:

- Intro
- Project Overview
- Project Timeline
- Project Funding
- Partner Updates
- Community Outreach
- Property Impacts
- Stream System Expansion
- Q&A



# We're growing fast...



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Pierce County's roads are becoming **overwhelmed by rapid population growth** - and we're projected to grow even more by 2040.

# 2040 Projections

COMMON GROWTH ESTIMATES INDICATE:



Population will  
increase by 25%  
(nearly 250,000)



Employment  
opportunities will  
likely grow by 85%



Per 1,000 people,  
Washington averages  
870 vehicles

**That's a lot of extra traffic...**

**A growing problem requires  
an efficient, lasting solution.**



**That's where  
BRT can  
help out.**



Funded largely through  
**federal grants, Sound Transit,  
and WSDOT**, Pierce Transit's Bus  
Rapid Transit service will be an efficient,  
cost-effective solution to our growing traffic  
problem, **bringing federal money back to  
our communities.**

# What is BRT?

## Bus • Rapid • Transit *noun*



- 1 A new line of service from Pierce Transit
- 2 Will improve transit service along Pacific Avenue/State Route 7 between Downtown Tacoma and Spanaway
- 3 By 2040, will move 2.2 million riders per year

# What is BRT?

## It's effective.



1 BRT vehicle



can take up to 90 cars off the road

# What is BRT?

## It's efficient.

### FUNDED BY GRANTS

With capital funds coming primarily from outside sources, other Pierce Transit services will be maintained, and will benefit from BRT.

### SUPPORTS OUR BUSIEST CORRIDOR

Pacific Avenue/SR-7 is Pierce Transit's highest ridership corridor, with 3,400 average weekday boardings.

### POSITIONED FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT

Approximately 55,000 residents live within a half-mile of the corridor & that number is projected to increase by an estimated 25% by 2040.

# And so much more



## FREQUENT

Bus runs every  
10-15 minutes



## ACCESSIBLE

Larger buses allow for  
better wheelchair access



## CONNECTED

Key stops connect  
Tacoma to Spanaway



## FAST

Traffic signals may  
prioritize BRT buses



## EASY

Raised platforms & multiple  
doors make boarding easy



## RELIABLE

Bus trips supported  
by real-time info

**More than just a traffic solution,  
BRT helps enrich our community.**



# Why BRT?

## It strengthens our community.



Supports the economic future  
of Pierce County



Aligns with City of Tacoma's and  
Pierce County's long-term plans



Assists growing transit demand



Planned for construction along  
six recognized Opportunity Zones



Congestion mitigation provides  
a competitive alternative

# Why BRT?

## It assists in our safety.



Adds 7 signalized crosswalks for safer pedestrian crossings



Enhances pedestrian safety with 22 refuge areas at median stations



Creates 4 miles of restricted use lanes, which can be used by first responders in emergency situations, while preserving existing general purpose lanes



Controls left turns at 14 intersections for improved traffic safety



Installs 4 roundabouts for safe and efficient traffic flow

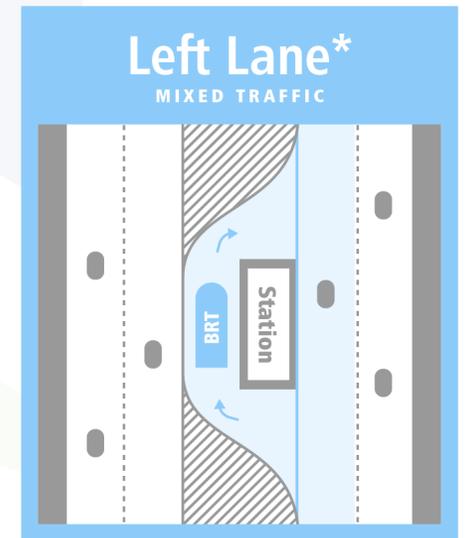
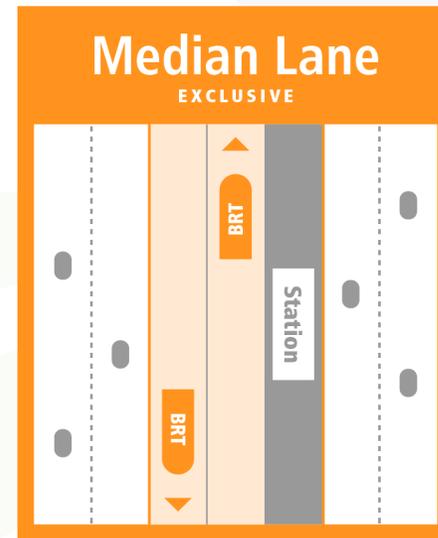
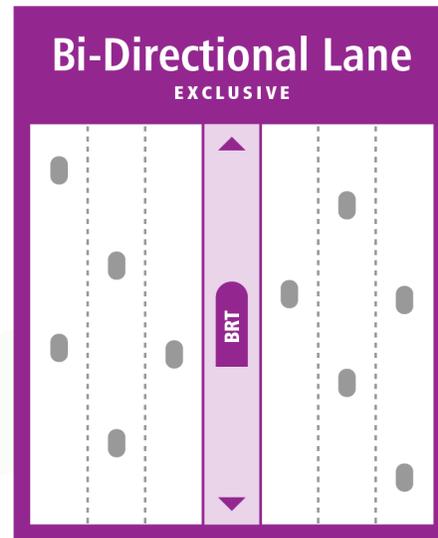
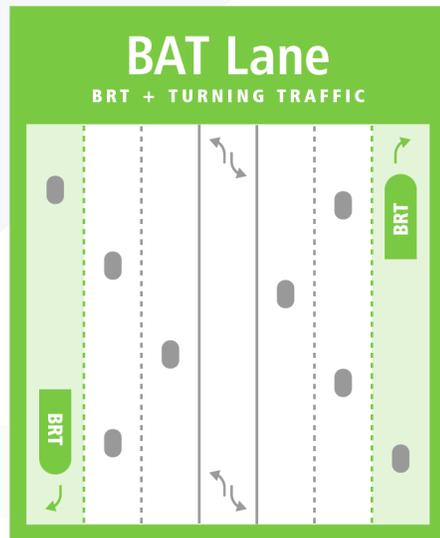
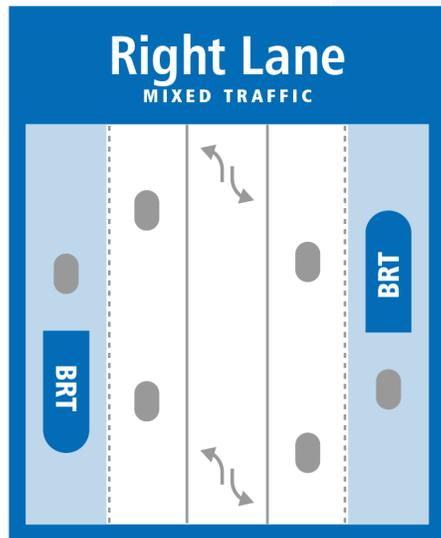
# BRT Route Overview

BUS RAPID TRANSIT FROM TACOMA TO SPANAWAY



# BRT Lane Types

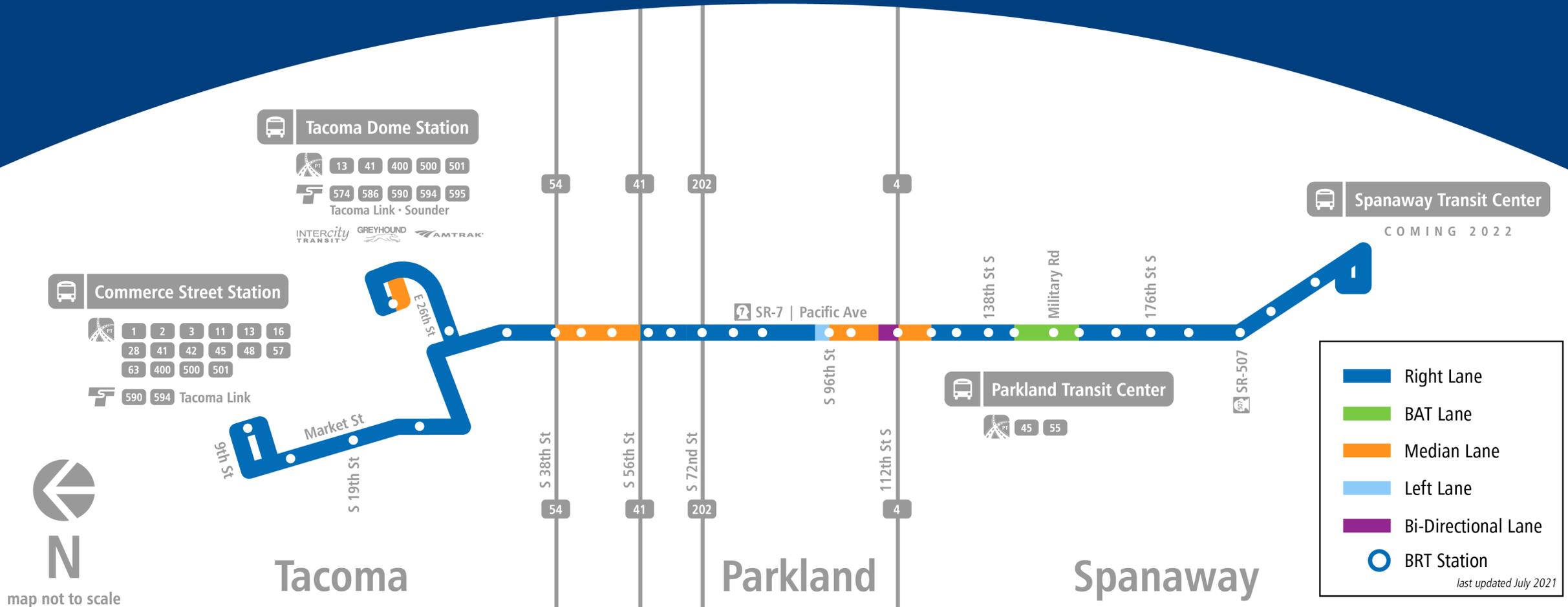
Lane types vary based on traffic priority & station location.



\*BRT stations are to be accessed by BRT only

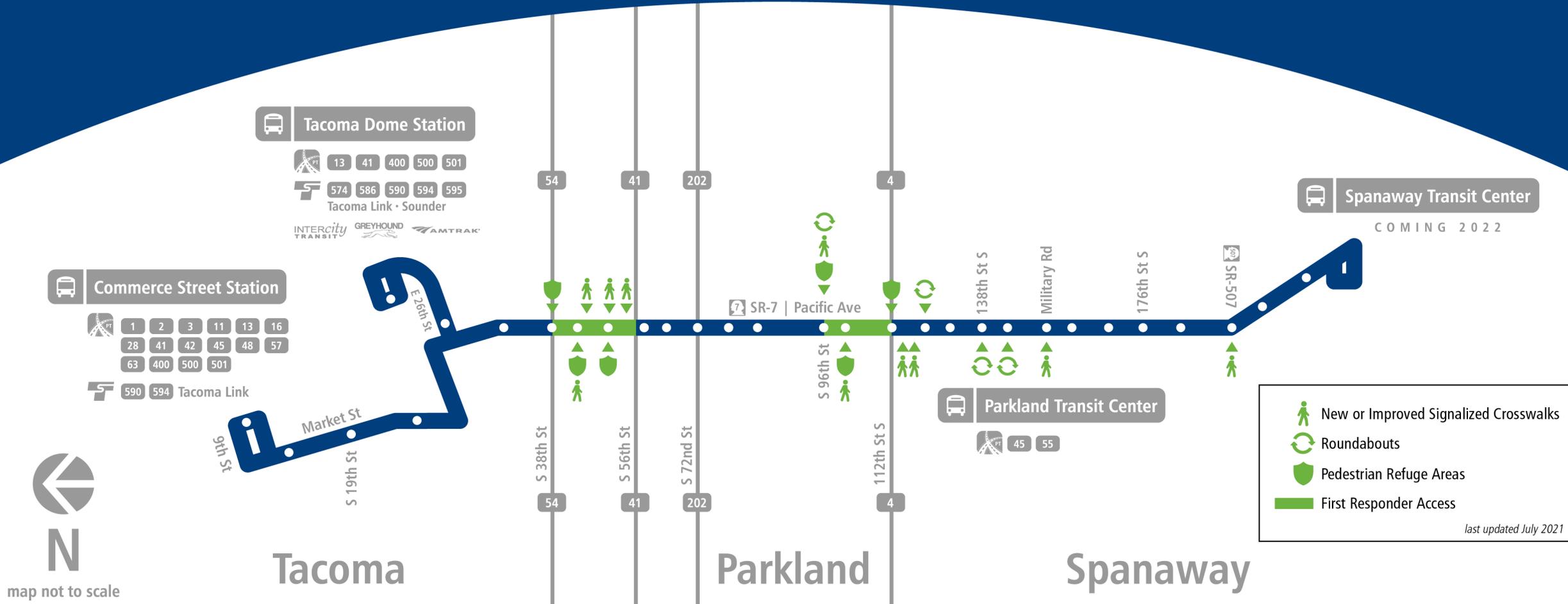
# BRT Lanes Overview

BUS RAPID TRANSIT FROM TACOMA TO SPANAWAY



# BRT Safety Improvements

BUS RAPID TRANSIT FROM TACOMA TO SPANAWAY



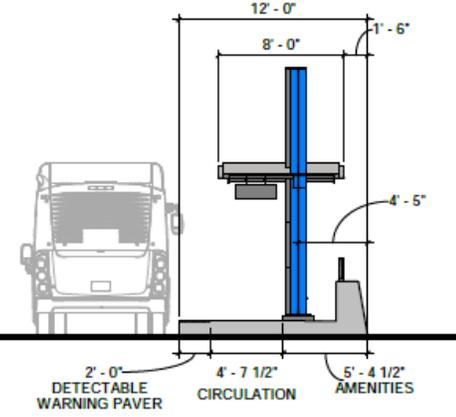
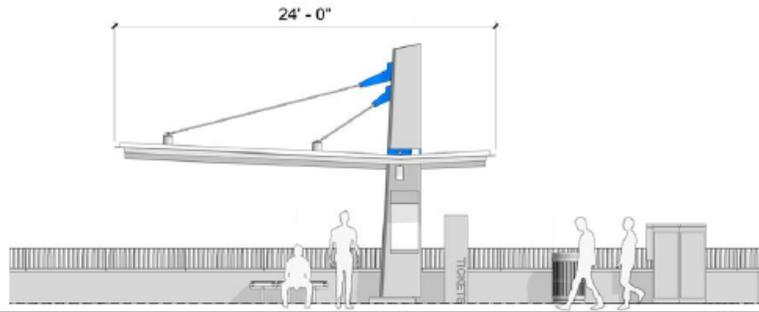
last updated July 2021

# Stations will feature

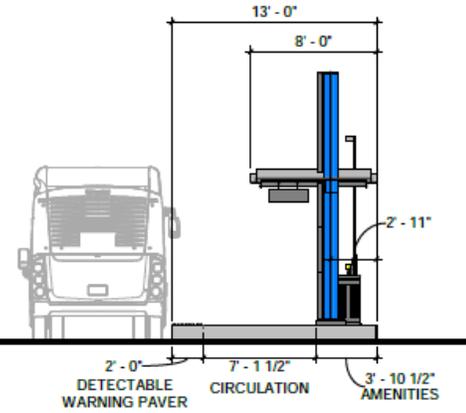
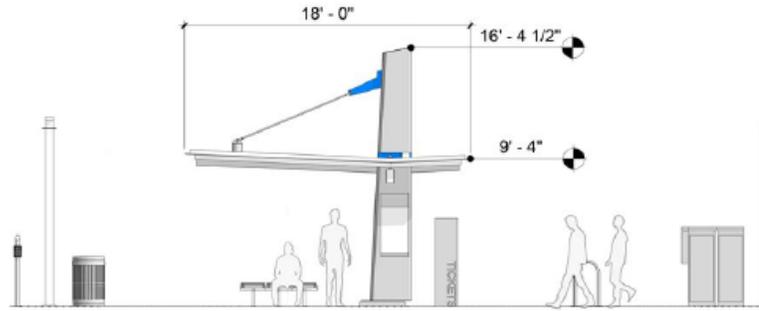
- ORCA Card readers
- Real-time bus tracker
- Protection from weather
- Ticket vending machines
- Parking for bikes and e-scooters
- Platforms spanning entire length of bus
- Raised platforms for improved accessibility



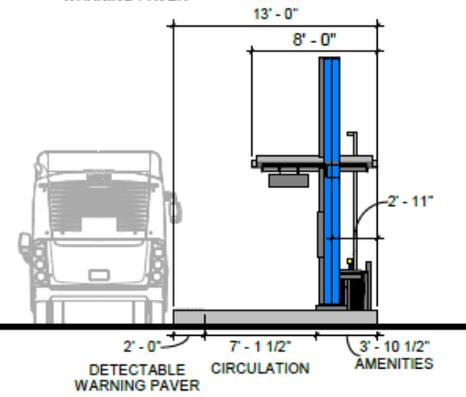
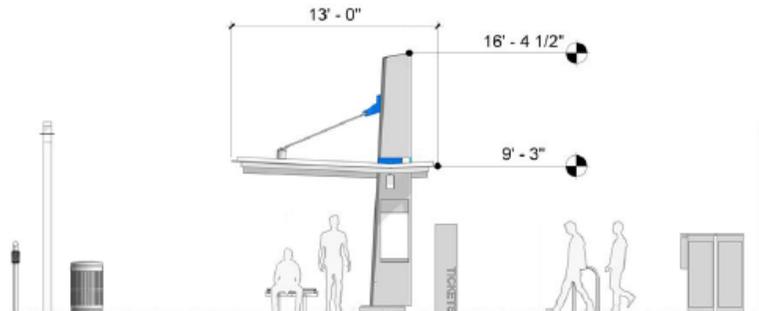
24 FT



18 FT



13 FT



SHELTER SCALABILITY

CONCEPT: MONOLITHIC







# Updated Project Maps

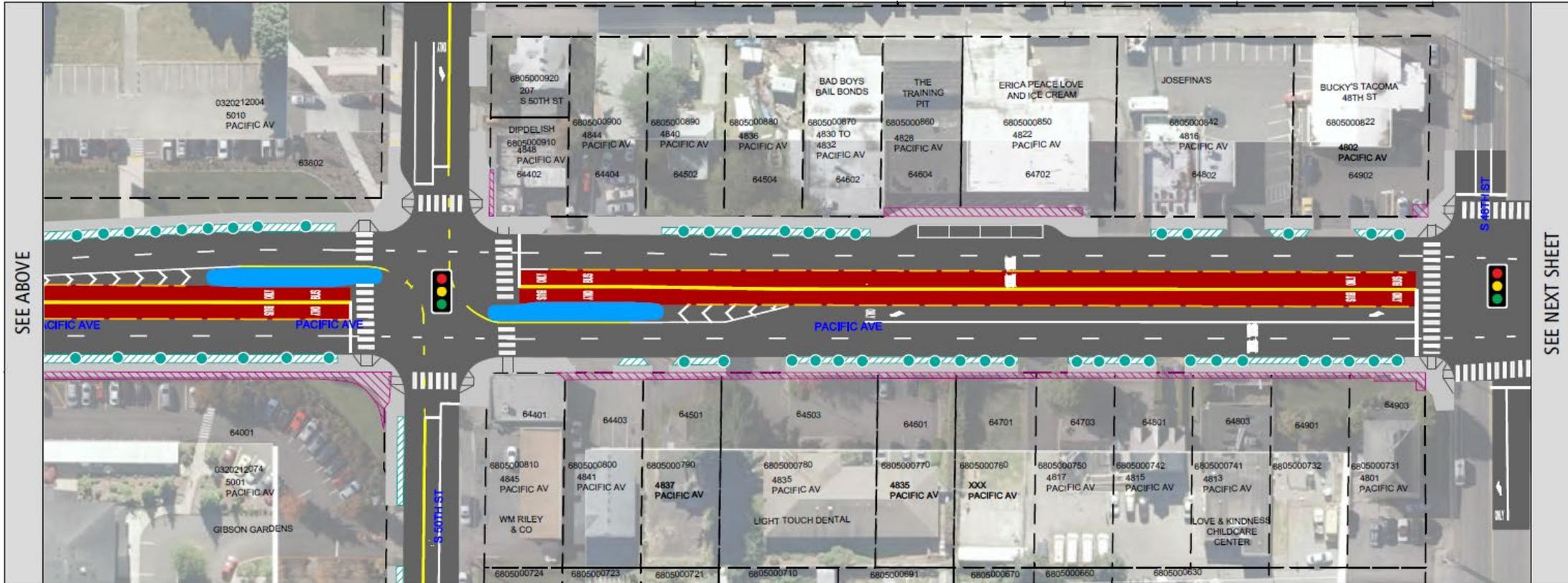
Key Design Changes:

- Curb Side Stations between 57<sup>th</sup> and 84<sup>th</sup>
- Roundabout at 96<sup>th</sup>
- Station Refinements

*Design Development at **RideStream.org***

# S. 50th Street

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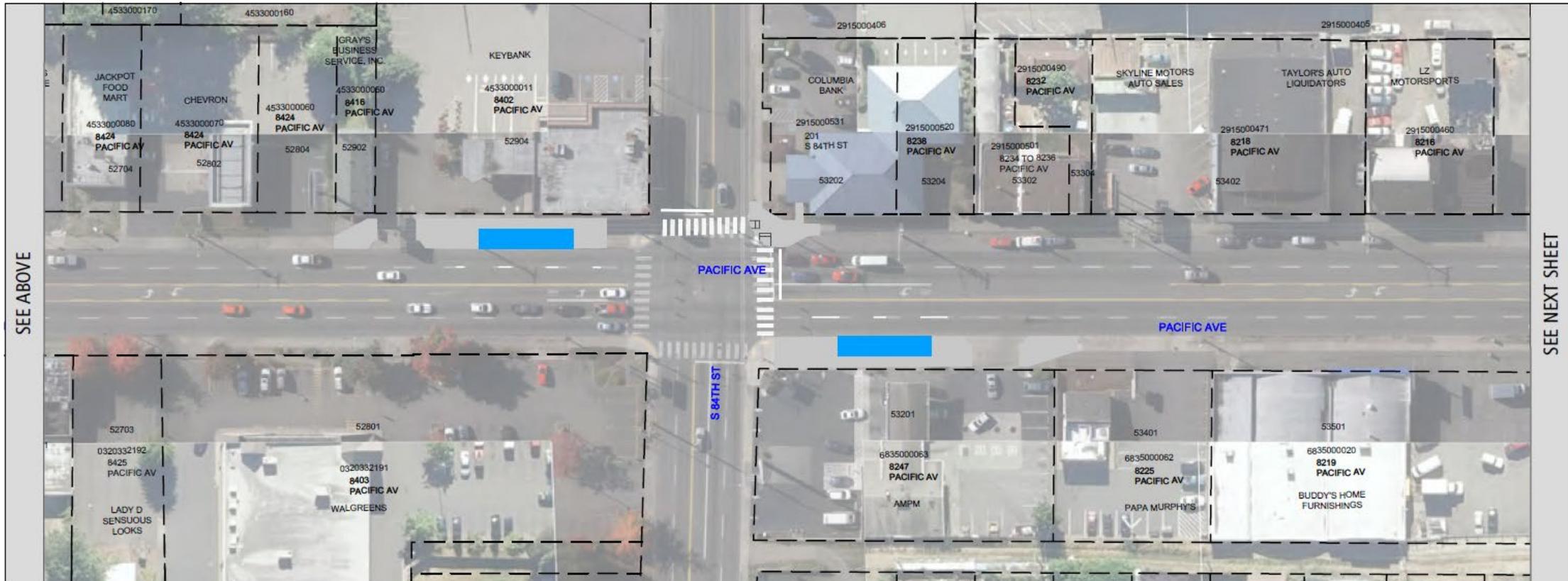


DRAFT – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Jurisdiction: City of Tacoma

# S. 84th Street

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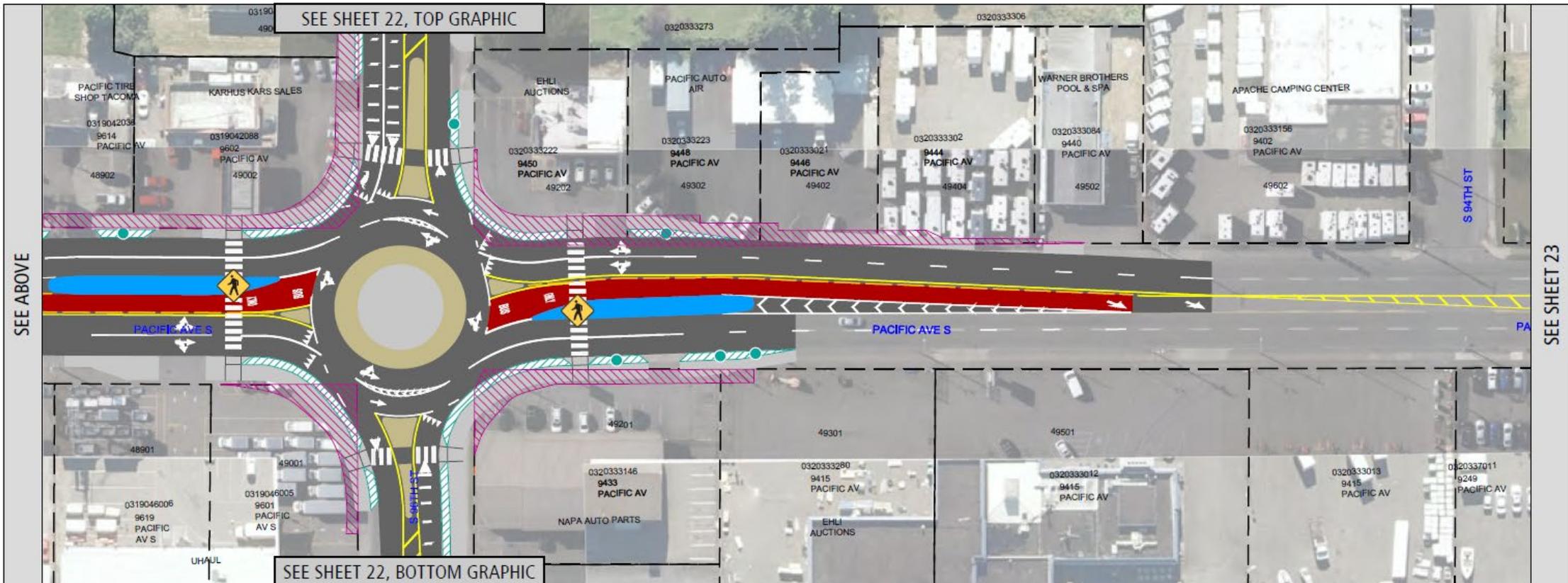


DRAFT – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Jurisdiction: City of Tacoma

# 96th St. Roundabout

DRAFT – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



DRAFT – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Jurisdiction: City of Tacoma

# Project Timeline

## 2017

- Assess corridor conditions
- Develop project purpose & need
- Mode selection
- Develop alternatives

## 2018

- Select locally preferred alternative
- Begin FTA Small Starts application
- Conduct additional traffic analysis
- Begin initial environmental review

## 2019

- Continue environmental review
- Begin design
- Launch BRT Community Committee

## 2020-2021

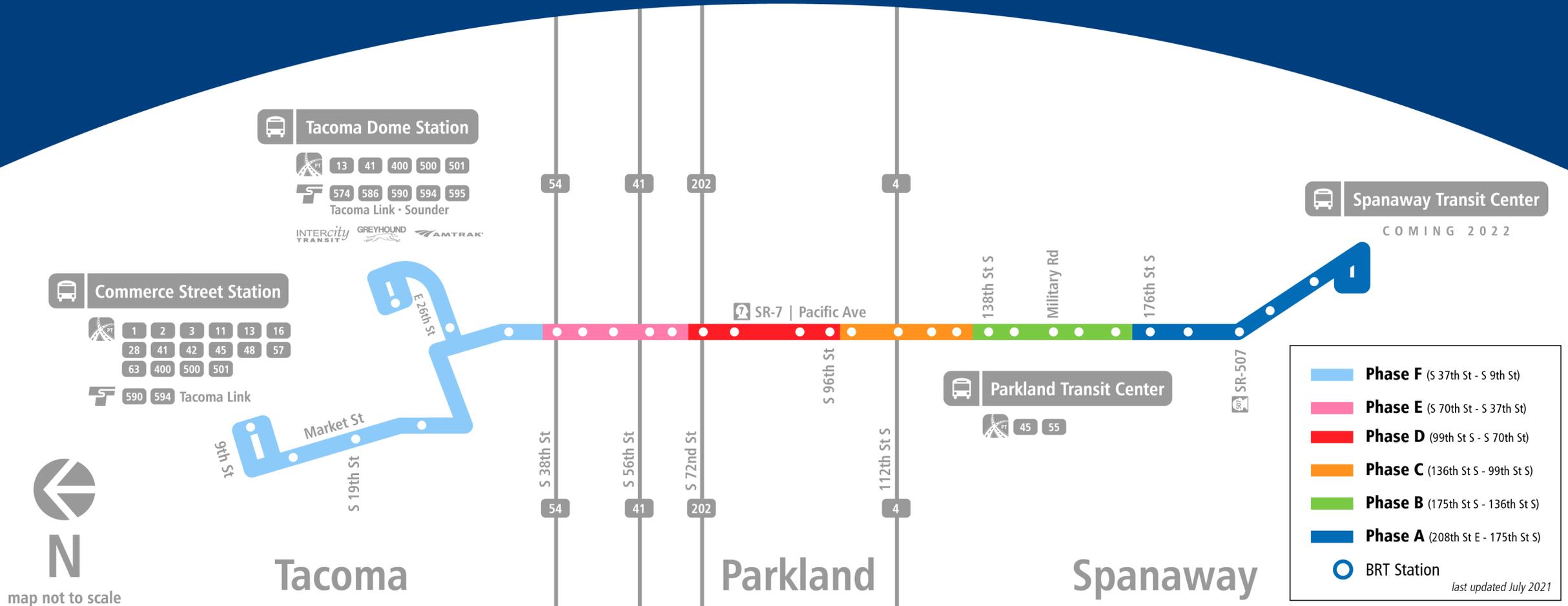
- Continue design
- Finalize NEPA environmental review
- Begin property acquisition

## 2022-2025

- Continue property acquisition
- SEPA Checklist Issued
- Begin construction
- Open to service

# Project Phases

## BUS RAPID TRANSIT FROM TACOMA TO SPANAWAY



N

map not to scale

# Project Funding

## Bringing resources back to our community.



- **\$60 million** ST Partnership Funds
- **\$19 million** WSDOT LEAP & Other Grants
- **\$13 million** FTA & State Grant Awards
- **\$ 3 million** Pierce Transit Local Funds Grant Match
- **\$75 million** FTA Small Starts Grant Request (Pending)

**\$170 million** Total Budget

# Tacoma Power

## Working with Pierce Transit on their project.

- We are involved in the City of Tacoma, Spanaway, and Elk Plain areas.

## Impacts of road widening:

- Requires moving between 100 and 150 poles and wires further from the roadway
  - System will remain overhead, unless it needs to be changed to accommodate existing structures, buildings, signs, trees, etc.
- Tacoma Power will need additional property rights / easements for poles and wires on private property.
- Power outages will be required in order to perform the work safely and transfer services to businesses and homes.
  - We will work with businesses and home owners with the scheduling of the outages
- Additional work related to underground services may occur.

## Timing:

- Tacoma Power's work may start up to one year prior to Pierce Transit's contractor.

## Example of a new pole location



The orange traffic cone indicates where the pole will be relocated per the current Pierce Transit plan.

This proposed new pole location is on private property.

## Example of a new pole location



Here is another example where the proposed new pole location will be on private property.

# WATER UTILITIES UPDATE

## SEVERAL SECTIONS OF WATER MAIN WILL NEED TO BE RELOCATED FOR PROPOSED BUS PLATFORMS

- Tacoma Water will evaluate these conflicts as Pierce Transit plans progress to completion

## 26 HYDRANTS WILL BE AFFECTED

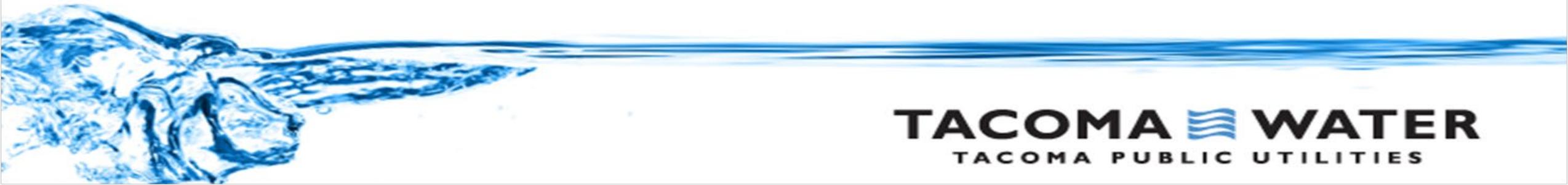
- These range from moving the whole assembly to just moving the hydrant to clear new work

## 259 WATER SERVICES WILL BE AFFECTED

- These include adjusting meter boxes for paving/sidewalk to extending the service to clear improvements

## TIMING:

- Tacoma Water's work may start up to one year prior to Pierce Transit's contractor.



# WSDOT Policy and Process

Traffic analysis is progressing

- Analyze BRT project impacts
- Intersection Control Evaluation is progressing
  - Performance-based
  - Screen and evaluate intersection alternatives
    - Stop control, signal, roundabout, etc
    - Access management
  - Roundabouts at 4 locations in the plan
  - Signals at remaining locations in plan

# Attributes of Roundabouts



- Can improve travel times
- Handles left turns safely and efficiently
- Works well in peak and off-peak hours
- Lower speeds at intersections
  - Helps pedestrian crossings
  - Access management & U-turns
- Transit routes through roundabouts in several Washington cities

# Community Outreach

## LIVE-STREAMED PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Virtual public meeting conducted on December 10, 2020
- Approximately 115 members of the public joined the online meeting
- Project overview, design, timeline, and property owner coordination
- View the recorded meeting at [RideStream.org](https://RideStream.org)

## VIRTUAL BRT TOUR

- Translated in Spanish and Vietnamese
- Approximately 1,500 sessions
- Averaging three minutes per session

## FUTURE UPDATES

- Sixty percent design public meeting early 2022
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Notice early 2022



# Property Impact

## Coordinating with property owners.

### PROPERTY OWNER MEETINGS

- Held meetings with property owners, organized through an online scheduling tool
- Covering design impacts, construction impacts & property acquisition process

### MAILED INFORMATION PACKETS

- Overview of BRT project
- Notice of potential purchase (or temporary construction access) of partial property
- Acquisition process details and property rights

# BRT System Expansion Study

- **Route 2:** S. 19<sup>th</sup> St-Bridgeport
- **Route 3:** Lakewood-Tacoma
- **Route 4:** Lakewood-S. Hill
- **Route 402:** Meridian

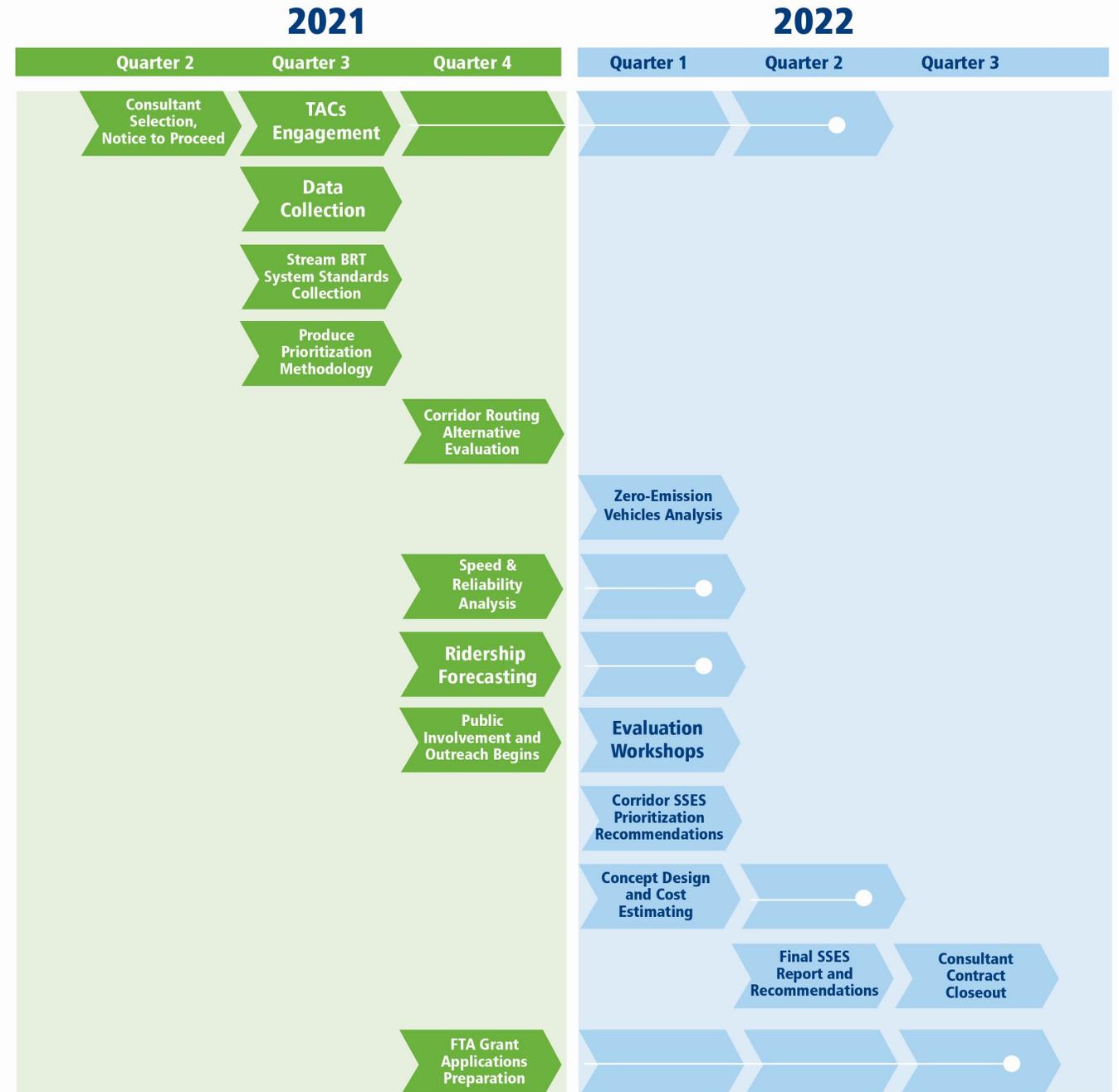


# TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE INVITEES

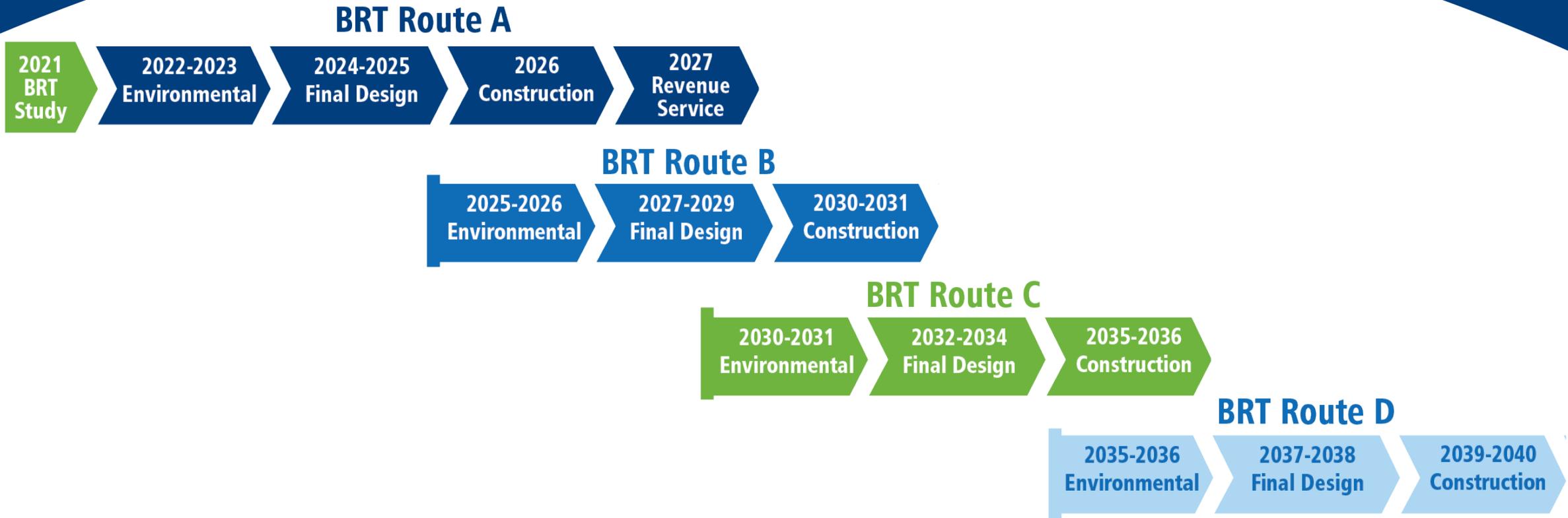
- City of Tacoma
- City of Edgewood
- City of Fircrest
- City of Puyallup
- City of University Place
- City of Lakewood
- City of Milton
- Sound Transit
- WSDOT
- MultiCare Health System
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Pierce County Planning
- Tacoma Community College
- Joint Base Lewis–McChord
- Economic Development Board for Tacoma – Pierce County
- Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce
- Tacoma Metro Parks Department
- Tacoma- Pierce County Health Department
- Pierce Transit's Community Transportation Advisory Group (CTAG)
- Downtown: On The Go!
- Lakeview Light & Power
- Tacoma Public Utilities
- Allenmore Hospital & Medical Center – Tacoma
- St. Joseph Medical Center – Tacoma
- South Hill Mall
- Tacoma Mall

# Study Timeline & Milestones

## STREAM SYSTEM EXPANSION STUDY MILESTONE SCHEDULE



# System Expansion



# In Review....



## A GROWING PROBLEM

Our area's traffic is increasing due to rapid population growth.



## A LASTING SOLUTION

BRT helps us adapt to the growing demand being placed on our roads.



## AN ENRICHED COMMUNITY

Our community thrives with BRT providing the support our area needs.

# Have Any Questions?



Feel free to type your questions into the "Q&A" feature and we will answer them in the order they're received.  
Thank you.



# Pre-Submitted Questions

1. Where are there elements in the design of Stream BRT that detract from the aspirations of Vision Zero?
2. What is Pierce County doing to mitigate hazards to people not in motor vehicles on Pac Ave?
3. Since the Stream BRT program is more than one project, what are some of the most important lessons learned that you will apply to BRT 2?
4. Have partnering staff been an obstacle to getting this project to completion?
5. What policy or procedural changes would you suggest to policymakers to get their staff on the same page to support rapid transit projects?
6. How will this project effect the local environment, especially the widening of roads, which increases habitat loss already threatened in a delicate urban ecosystem?
7. There is a right turn pocket in the northbound direction at S 38th and Pacific Avenue in the 60% design. How will Pierce Transit mitigate the likelihood that pedestrians will be struck by vehicles making right-on-red turns in this lane configuration? Will right-on-red be disallowed at that intersection? Will pedestrians have their own green signal to cross to approach the in-street station?

# Get Involved



visit us at  
[www.RideStream.org](http://www.RideStream.org)



email us at  
[BRT@PierceTransit.org](mailto:BRT@PierceTransit.org)



call us at  
253.983.3407

## Want to receive Email Updates?

visit [PierceTransit.org/StayConnected](http://PierceTransit.org/StayConnected) › enter your email › select "Bus Rapid Transit"





Pierce Transit

***Stream***

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SUB HEADER HERE

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