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## Sound Transit Budget Plans Fail to Bring Rail to Ballard

### Description

The Sound Transit board met in Tacoma to discuss three possible plans to address a funding shortfall of \$34.5 billion by 2046. All options fall short of providing light rail to 15th and Market Street in Ballard, where voters expected a connection in 2016. The board aims to adopt a new plan in May, but this schedule may change.

CEO Dow Constantine introduced the proposals as starting points for discussion. Key decisions include whether to delay the West Seattle Link Extension, which has federal support, or to postpone another line planned from South Kirkland to Issaquah, which has not begun planning.

The three scenarios all propose limiting Ballard Link to either Seattle Center or Smith Cove. Ballard Link is projected to cost over \$17 billion, making it the most expensive of the new light rail projects. It is also expected to have the highest ridership, with between 90,000 and 147,000 daily users by 2046.

Seattle Councilmember Dan Strauss urged the board to include a route to Market Street, citing its importance for future ridership. He noted that Ballard had significant support for ST3 at the time of voting. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci expressed concerns about past delays and the need for more reliable transit solutions. The board will continue to explore these options in the coming weeks.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **shortfall** //ˈʃɔrt,fɔl// (noun): money that is not enough for a need
2. **proposals** //prəˈpəʊzəlz// (noun): plans or ideas offered for people to consider
3. **postpone** //pəʊstˈpəʊn// (verb): to decide to do something at a later time
4. **projected** //prəˈdʒektɪd// (adjective): expected in the future based on information
5. **ridership** //ˈraɪdərˌʃɪp// (noun): the number of people who use a transport system
6. **scenarios** //səˈnɛrɪəʊz// (noun): different possible plans or situations for the future

### Comprehension Questions

#### Multiple Choice

1. What is the funding shortfall amount discussed by the Sound Transit board?



- Option: \$34.5 million
- Option: \$34.5 billion
- Option: \$17 billion
- Option: \$10 billion

2. When does the board aim to adopt a new plan?

- Option: March
- Option: April
- Option: May
- Option: June

3. Which line has federal support?

- Option: West Seattle Link Extension
- Option: Ballard Link
- Option: South Kirkland to Issaquah
- Option: Northgate Link

4. How many daily users is Ballard Link projected to have by 2046?

- Option: 75,000
- Option: 80,000
- Option: 90,000 to 147,000
- Option: 200,000

5. Which councilmember stressed the importance of including a route to Market Street?

- Option: Claudia Balducci
- Option: Dow Constantine
- Option: Dan Strauss
- Option: The Sound Transit board

6. What is Ballard Link projected to cost?

- Option: \$10 billion
- Option: \$17 billion
- Option: \$20 billion
- Option: \$34.5 billion

### True-False

7. The Sound Transit board met in Tacoma to discuss a funding shortfall of \$34.5 million.



8. All options discussed provide light rail to 15th and Market Street in Ballard.
9. Dan Strauss is a Seattle Councilmember.
10. Claudia Balducci is in favor of past delays in transit planning.
11. The board plans to explore options in the coming weeks.
12. Ballard Link is expected to have the lowest ridership among the new light rail projects.

### Gap-Fill

13. The funding shortfall is projected to be \$34.5 billion by \_\_\_\_\_.
14. The board may postpone the line planned from South Kirkland to \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Ballard Link is projected to cost over \$17 billion, making it the most expensive of the new light rail \_\_\_\_\_.
16. The expected ridership for Ballard Link is between 90,000 and 147,000 daily \_\_\_\_\_ by 2046.
17. Councilmember Dan Strauss urged the board to include a route to \_\_\_\_\_ Street.
18. The board aims to adopt a new plan in \_\_\_\_\_.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. \$34.5 billion 2. May 3. West Seattle Link Extension 4. 90,000 to 147,000 5. Dan Strauss 6. \$17 billion

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. 2046 14. Issaquah 15. projects 16. users 17. Market 18. May

### Vocabulary quizzes



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**Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )**

1. What type of agreement is typically formed between two or more parties to work together?  
Option: Sole proprietorship  
Option: Partnership  
Option: Corporation  
Option: Contract
  
2. How much power does a gigawatt represent?  
Option: 1 million watts  
Option: 1 billion watts  
Option: 1 trillion watts  
Option: 100 megawatts
  
3. Which term refers to the fundamental facilities and systems serving a country or city?  
Option: Ecosystem  
Option: Infrastructure  
Option: Architecture  
Option: SCADA
  
4. What is the process of sending energy from one location to another called?  
Option: Transmission  
Option: Generation  
Option: Distribution  
Option: Conversion
  
5. What document is submitted formally to a governing body to request action?  
Option: Proposal  
Option: Petition  
Option: Brief  
Option: Mandate
  
6. What process involves enhancing the quality or value of something?  
Option: Diminution  
Option: Enrichment  
Option: Extraction  
Option: Reduction
  
7. What term describes a situation where there is a deficiency or lack of something needed?  
Option: Surplus  
Option: Shortfall  
Option: Excess



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Option: Balance

8. What do you call formal suggestions put forward for consideration or discussion?

- Option: Proposals
- Option: Contracts
- Option: Offers
- Option: Agreements

9. What action means to delay or defer an event to a later time?

- Option: Advance
- Option: Postpone
- Option: Proceed
- Option: Continue

10. What term refers to an estimate or forecast of future events or trends?

- Option: Reflected
- Option: Projected
- Option: Retrospective
- Option: Calculated

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

11. The increase in train ridership is attributed to better services and \_\_\_\_\_ .

12. There are multiple scenarios being considered for the upcoming project, including best-case and \_\_\_\_\_ .

13. The company received an unsolicited proposal that they were not expecting or \_\_\_\_\_ .

14. Customers can scan the QR code to access additional information and \_\_\_\_\_ .

15. The brushing scam involves sellers sending products to random addresses to create a false sense of \_\_\_\_\_ .

16. The courier service is responsible for the delivery of many parcels throughout the \_\_\_\_\_ .



17. The traffic was redirected to avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ caused by the construction.
18. The system requires two-factor authentication for enhanced \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Many companies prefer to automate repetitive tasks to save time and \_\_\_\_\_.
20. The city has implemented programs to reduce unemployment and assist job \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. The technology sector has seen significant growth in recent years.
22. Innovative technologies can disrupt traditional business models.
23. Theoretically, the project should yield significant benefits if executed correctly.
24. Entry-level positions are often the starting point for many careers.
25. The airport is currently conducting maintenance on its runways and terminals.
26. During peak travel seasons, flights tend to be more expensive.
27. The company's operations are designed to maximize efficiency and minimize waste.
28. Weather conditions are often the cause of delays in air travel.
29. The airline issued many cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances.
30. Passengers must check the gates for their boarding information before departure.

**Answer**

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Partnership 2. 1 billion watts 3. Infrastructure 4. Transmission 5. Petition 6. Enrichment 7. Shortfall 8. Proposals 9. Postpone 10. Projected

**Gap-Fill:** 11. infrastructure 12. worst-case 13. requesting 14. promotions 15. sales 16. week 17. delays 18. security 19. resources 20. seekers

**Matching sentence:** 1. sector 2. disrupt 3. theoretically 4. entry-level 5. airport 6. flights 7. operations 8. delays 9. cancellations 10. gates

**CATEGORY**

1. Business - LEVEL3



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