



Sound Transit Secures Funding for Main Light Rail Spine, Cuts Ballard Line

Description

Sound Transit's board in Seattle has approved a new long-term plan. This plan will guide transit projects over the next 25 years and address a large funding gap of \$34.5 billion. The board voted 16-2 in favour of the plan, with Claudia Balducci and Dan Strauss voting against it.

This decision comes after a year of work called the Enterprise Initiative. Officials noted that rising costs and delays due to inflation and shortages increased the budget needed for projects approved by voters in 2016. The board managed to resolve the funding gap and ensure full funding for many projects, while some will only receive partial funding.

Projects fully funded for construction include the Tacoma Dome Access Improvements and the West Seattle Link Extension. However, others like the Ballard Link Extension need more funds before construction can begin.

The plan also includes cost-saving measures and new revenue ideas. Sound Transit aims to prioritise projects already in progress and explore further funding from different sources. Seattle's Mayor, Katie Wilson, welcomed the plan but expressed concern for the Ballard light rail's future. Voters approved the ST3 measure in 2016, promising major transit expansions, and they continue to expect results.

Vocabulary List:

1. **funding** //ˈfʌndɪŋ// (noun): money used to pay for something
2. **inflation** //ɪnˈfleɪʃən// (noun): when prices rise and money buys less
3. **shortages** //ˈʃɔːrtɪdʒɪz// (noun): not having enough of something needed
4. **resolve** //rɪˈzɒlv// (verb): to find a way to fix something
5. **construction** //kənˈstrʌkʃən// (noun): building something like roads or buildings
6. **prioritise** //praɪˈɔːrɪ,taɪz// (verb): to decide something is more important first

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice



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1. What is the funding gap that the new long-term plan addresses?
 - Option: \$25 billion
 - Option: \$30 billion
 - Option: \$34.5 billion
 - Option: \$40 billion

 2. How many members of the board voted in favor of the new long-term plan?
 - Option: 14
 - Option: 15
 - Option: 16
 - Option: 18

 3. Which projects are fully funded for construction according to the new plan?
 - Option: Ballard Link Extension
 - Option: Tacoma Dome Access Improvements
 - Option: West Seattle Link Extension
 - Option: Both Tacoma Dome Access Improvements and West Seattle Link Extension

 4. What initiative resulted in the new long-term plan?
 - Option: Enterprise Initiative
 - Option: Inflation Plan
 - Option: Voter Approved Initiative
 - Option: Cost-Saving Initiative

 5. Who expressed concern for the Ballard light rail's future?
 - Option: Claudia Balducci
 - Option: Dan Strauss
 - Option: Katie Wilson
 - Option: Sound Transit Board

 6. In what year was the ST3 measure approved by voters?
 - Option: 2014
 - Option: 2015
 - Option: 2016
 - Option: 2017

True-False



7. The board voted 18-0 in favor of the new long-term plan.
8. The funding gap that needs to be addressed is \$34.5 million.
9. Sound Transit is focusing on projects already in progress as part of the new plan.
10. Claudia Balducci and Dan Strauss voted in favor of the new long-term plan.
11. Some projects will receive partial funding according to the new plan.
12. The new long-term plan is intended to guide transit projects for up to 30 years.

Gap-Fill

13. The Sound Transit board's new long-term plan will guide transit projects over the next _____ years.
14. The vote on the long-term plan was 16-2 in _____ of the plan.
15. The board resolved the funding gap of \$34.5 _____ as part of the new plan.
16. Projects like the Ballard Link Extension need _____ funds before construction can begin.
17. Katie Wilson welcomed the plan but expressed _____ for the Ballard light rail's future.
18. Voters approved the ST3 measure in _____, promising major transit expansions.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. \$34.5 billion 2. 16 3. Both Tacoma Dome Access Improvements and West Seattle Link Extension 4. Enterprise Initiative 5. Katie Wilson 6. 2016

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 25 14. favor 15. billion 16. more 17. concern 18. 2016

CATEGORY



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