



⇄⇄ Snohomish County

# Light Rail Communities

Results from Online Open House #1 | June 22 - July 23, 2018

## INTRO

Snohomish County presented its Light Rail Communities project to the public and stakeholders through an online open house, as well as a mailed postcard. The feedback that was received will help to inform Snohomish County’s planning efforts in advance of the arrival of light rail.

Below is a summary of the feedback received for both the survey questions and the interactive map that respondents could place a pin on the map and provide comments or suggestions.

## RECAP

51 survey responses	114 map comments	1,466 unique visitors to online open house	454 emails submitted for future communication
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- ⇒ 30 percent of visitors went to three or more pages.
- ⇒ Visitors spent 3:11 minutes at the online open house.

## Q1

What do you like about the station areas’ neighborhoods?

These were some of the themes we heard:



## Q2 | What is your vision for the station areas' neighborhoods in the future?

- Plenty of affordable housing that doesn't displace current residents.
- Consider access to the station areas as well as mobility across I-5.
- Improve walkability; increase ADA, cyclist and pedestrian facilities as well as building connections to existing trails.
- Increase density and build tall buildings (40 stories) to encourage transit oriented development.
- Keep crime at bay and create economic stability.
- Some respondents said they wanted more parking while others said they wanted less to encourage people to utilize public transit and reduce congestion.

## Q3 | How could light rail benefit or impact achieving your vision for these neighborhoods in the future?

### **BENEFITS:**

- Reduce urban sprawl by increasing density and creating actual neighborhoods.
- Bring more amenities to these areas.
- Reduce traffic and increase connectivity to other areas of the region.
- Improve quality of life.

### **IMPACTS:**

- At-grade crossings could increase traffic.
- Gentrification, displacement of people and affordable housing due to a rise in property values.
- Increase pollution due to more people driving to the stations.
- Increase crime.
- Noise might become a problem due to denser living.
- Reduce habitat for birds and other animals.

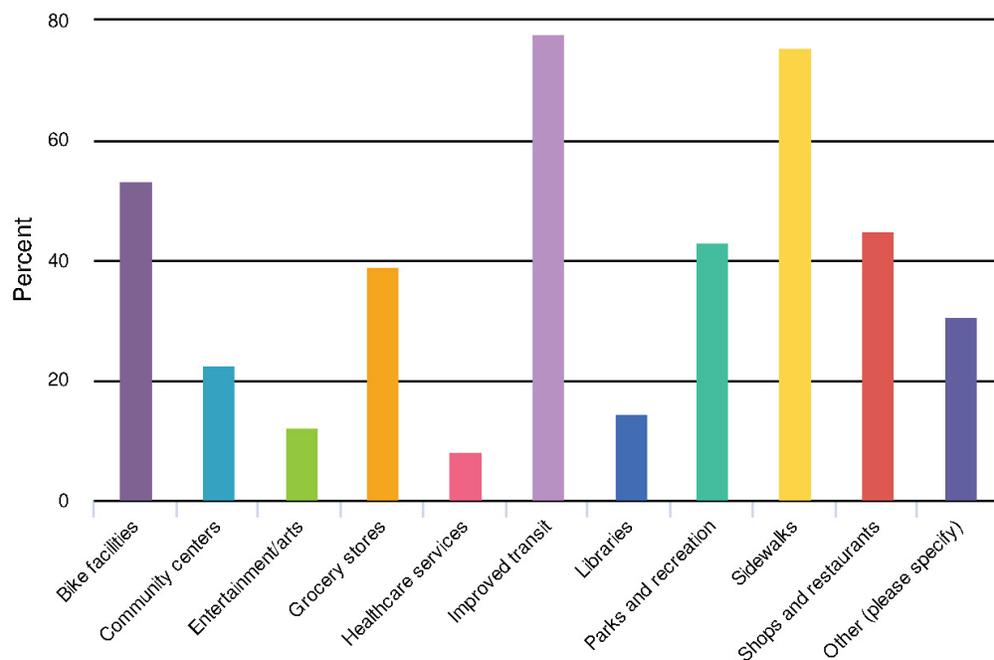
## Q4

### What should Snohomish County consider during the station area and subarea planning phases?

- **Affordable Housing:**  
Ensure there is plenty of affordable housing and decrease the potential for residents to be displaced.
- **Station Accessibility:**  
Consider how people can get to and from the station areas. Road improvements, additional bus and bike routes, more sidewalks, pedestrian sky bridges, and access to Paine Field were all noted by respondents. Some respondents are interested in more parking while others think less parking and more density will increase people's dependence on public transit and ease congestion on roads.
- **Encourage density:**  
Density should be increased near stations to reduce potential sprawl and encourage residents to use transit by living near it.
- **Amenities:**  
Consider maintaining green spaces, increasing community spaces and encouraging retail within the stations.

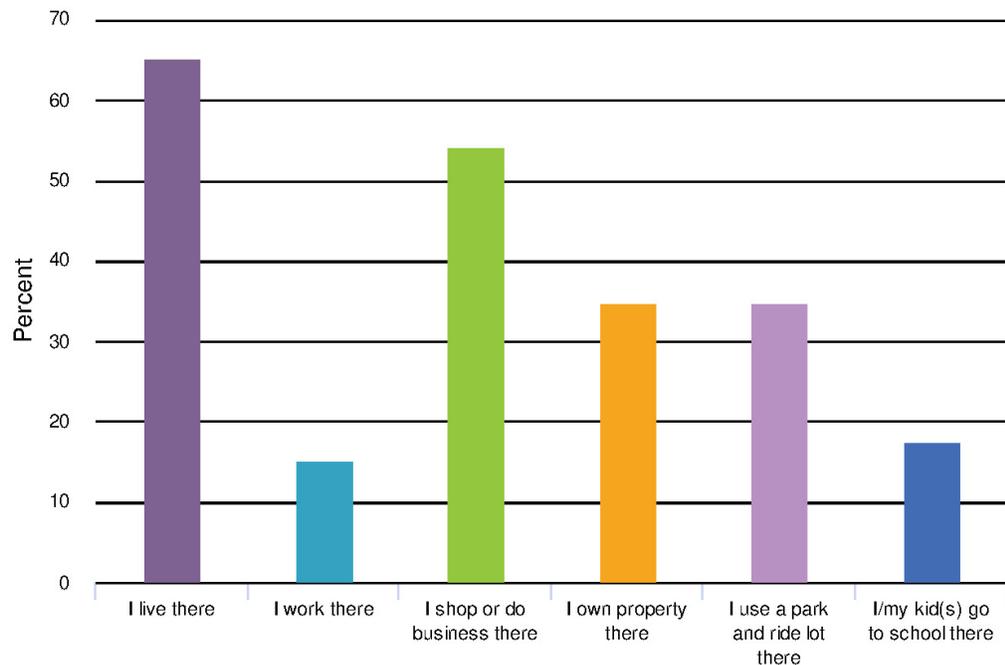
## Q5

### Which amenities would you like to see in the future station areas? (Select up to 5)



## Q6

How do you currently interact with the station area(s) or broader subarea? (Please check all that apply.)



## Interactive Map

Respondents were asked to place a pin on a digital map and leave a comment. This is a summary of the comments that were received.

- Ensure there is plenty of affordable housing near the stations.
- Minimize at-grade crossings to improve safety and decrease congestion.
- Respondents want a plethora of amenities such as retail, public plazas, grocery stores, a library, restaurants and cafes.
- Build bike lanes and sidewalks on arterials that feed into the station areas.
- Build an alternate route over I-5 to help move cars, buses, cyclists and pedestrians in and out of the station area.
- Some respondents are interested in more parking while others think less parking and more density will increase people's dependence on public transit and ease congestion on roads.
- Focus on pedestrian-friendly development to improve livability of the neighborhoods, including trees, planter strips and covered walkways.
- Realign and expand some roads and intersections to ease congestion and optimize traffic flow.