



*S Lander St in an essential east-west corridor in Seattle's SODO neighborhood, providing connectivity to freeways, other industrial areas, and downtown.*

The project will:

- Improve freight mobility and safety, promote living-wage jobs, and reduce traffic congestion by constructing a bridge over the railroad tracks between 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

### **History, cost and funding**

- For over 20 years, the City of Seattle has identified a need to build a bridge over the railroad tracks on S Lander St between 1st Ave S and 4th Ave S to improve freight mobility and safety.
- With \$20M in voter-approved funds from the Levy to Move Seattle, the City set out in 2016 to design an efficient and cost-effective bridge that addressed the criticisms of past efforts. An additional appropriation was made by City Council in Fall 2016.
- The total project cost estimate is being revised from \$123M to \$102M based on the actual bid amount and property purchase needs.
- To fund this project, the City has worked tirelessly over the past two years with project partners, including the USDOT, the State of Washington, Port of Seattle, and other partners to ensure this critical infrastructure and freight mobility project is fully funded.

### **Mobility**

- S Lander St is closed over 4.5 hours each day for train crossings. This leads to travel delays, lost revenues, increased idling and carbon dioxide emissions, and safety risks.
- Every day, the street serves 13,000 vehicles (approximately 16% of which are trucks) and 1,400 pedestrians. Many of the pedestrians are traveling to and from the adjacent SODO light rail station.
- The project will improve freight mobility in the State's largest and densest manufacturing and industrial area, the Duwamish MIC.
- S Lander St is included in the State-wide freight plan as a critical first/last mile connector, recognizing its importance in the regional transportation system.
- The project will provide reliable access for public safety and emergency responders.

### **Safety**

- This crossing ranks in the top 0.5% nationwide for highest risk at-grade crossings by the Federal Rail Administration.

- 485 times a day people walking, biking, or driving cross the tracks against the gates and flashing lights putting themselves, and the rail cargo at risk.
- There have been 3 pedestrian fatalities since 2011 at this location resulting from train impact.

### **Port-City partnership & economic impact**

- The Port of Seattle has long identified this project as one of their highest priority capital investments for improved mobility adjacent to Port terminal operations.
- With last year's contribution from the Safe and Swift Corridor Program, the S Lander St Bridge Project is now fully funded.
- Through our joint efforts on the S Lander St Bridge Project, the City and Port have created a partnership to promote freight mobility in three (3) key corridors in the City including S Spokane St, E Marginal Way, and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave W/Elliott Ave W/Mercer St.
- Collectively, the City and Port recognize:
  - Investments in efficient movement of goods to and from Port terminals enables Seattle's competitiveness in the global economy.
  - The maritime industry generates nearly \$38B in economic impact for the state, and supports tens of thousands of family-wage jobs.
  - The movement of goods on City streets is a vital component of sustaining the City's economic vibrancy and quality of life.
  - The 15<sup>th</sup> Ave W, Elliott Ave W and Mercer St corridors are critical to Seattle's tourism economy, a growing industry in Seattle and King County, with visitors spending \$7B and generating \$718M in state in local taxes in 2016.
  - Leveraging our joint dollars is key to successful pursuit of State and Federal funding.

### **Schedule**

- Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2018 and anticipated to last through early 2020.
- S Lander St will be closed for the duration of construction.

## FAQs

### Why is this project important?

- The S Lander St Bridge will enhance mobility in this critical freight corridor and improve safety for all users.

### How will the project create more reliable freight movement?

- The bridge will create reliable access adjacent to one of the largest port operations in the United States.
- It will improve safety for the more than 3,000 freight rail cars per day on the tracks, and reduce truck delays, congestion and emissions for more than 13,000 vehicles each day including 2,100 surface freight trucks per day.
- This project will improve the reliability of the last-mile connections between the Interstates and the Port of Seattle and area manufacturing in the Duwamish MIC, the largest MIC in the state.

### Is the project fully funded?

- Yes, SDOT has worked with project partners, including the state, Port of Seattle, and those in the private sector to close the funding gap.

### Will this project address safety and access in the SODO neighborhood?

- The project will increase safety by separating trains from people driving, walking and riding bikes and creates an unimpeded access point for emergency responders.
- The bridge also provides access between regional transit hubs and employment centers.

### How will the bridge benefit cyclist and pedestrian mobility?

- The new bridge will feature a 14-foot multi-use path on the north side of the bridge, and the road and path will be barrier separated.
- The bridge approaches will include new curb ramps that meet current standards for accessibility.

### How will you factor in public safety under or near the new bridge?

- Several safety features are being included as part of the S Lander St Bridge design, including lighting, barriers, graffiti coatings, and fencing as well as eliminating items that have the potential to create unwanted or nuisance uses including benches, obscured areas, or low-utilization parking.

### What will happen to street parking in the project area?

- Street parking on S Lander St between 1st Ave S and 4th Ave S will be removed to accommodate the new bridge structure.
- An additional 34 parking spaces will be added underneath the new bridge structure, west of the railroad track.
- A few public parking spaces will be removed where Occidental Ave S dead ends at the south side of the new S Lander St Bridge. These spaces need to be removed to allow for sufficient vehicle turnaround space.
- We will continue to evaluate overall parking impacts and potential best use of parking along other adjacent streets to maximize the overall capacity of parking in the neighborhood.

**How will bicycle and pedestrian access be affected during construction?**

- Access will be maintained across S Lander St between 1st Ave S and 4<sup>th</sup> Ave S throughout construction for pedestrians. People riding bikes will need to dismount and walk their bikes while on the path through the construction zone.

**Will access to adjacent business be maintained during construction?**

- Access to businesses on S Lander St will be maintained throughout construction using alleys and connections from 1st Avenue S and 4th Avenue S. Pedestrian/bicycle access through site will also be maintained on S Lander. SDOT committed to keeping the public informed throughout the project via wayfinding signage, regular email and web updates and staff available to respond to questions and concerns as they arise.