

powered by feet first



# sound access for all

taking a stance to advance walkability

Contact us for more information  
about Sound Access for All

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## Sound Access for All

Feet First's Sound Access for All (SAFA) campaign aims at improving pedestrian access to Sound Transit facilities, especially future Link Light Rail stations.

This campaign encourages Sound Transit and local jurisdictions to design facilities and adopt policies facilitating people walking to Link Light Rail, which supports smart growth and transit-oriented development at the emerging urban centers near these stations.

### About Feet First

Since 2001, Feet First has worked to ensure all communities in Washington are walkable. We envision people walking every day for their health, transportation, environment, community, and pleasure.

### Overview

Designing pedestrian-friendly light rail stations is critical to building transit ridership as well as supporting smart growth and transit-oriented development. The construction of the Link Light Rail system is an opportunity to build these communities all over the region. The time to take advantage of this opportunity is now. Sound Transit is currently making station-area planning and preliminary engineering decisions that will shape the urban form of the surrounding communities for decades to come.

This campaign will work to ensure that Sound Transit stations are designed to provide real choices to walk. We will identify and champion station-area pedestrian improvements that contribute to sustainable urban development such as pedestrian bridges across freeways, new sidewalks, and safer street crossings. These treatments will expand and improve the walksheds surrounding the stations, thereby enabling light rail users to easily and safely walk to the station. We will also educate the local community leaders served by Sound Transit about the importance of policies, programs, and investments that support walking.

#### Specific activities of SAFA include:

1. Educating elected officials and agency personnel, building coalitions with other organizations and local interests, and participating in Sound Transit's public process.
2. Fostering discussions at targeted future station locations, we will sponsor events to bring stakeholders together.
3. Encouraging cities with future Link Light Rail stations to adopt the Feet First Agenda, as list of nine program and policy initiatives that constitute best practices.



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# Sound Access for All

The SAFA campaign is funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Bullitt Foundation, which will fund campaign activities into 2014. We are currently seeking additional funding to expand this campaign and carry it into the future.

## Targeted Campaign Station Locations

### Northgate Station

In 2012, Feet First and its partners persuaded Sound Transit and the City of Seattle to create a \$20 million for pedestrian and bicycle access fund for the Northgate Station. This money will go towards partial funding of a pedestrian/bicycle bridge across I-5 to North Seattle Community College (NSCC) as well as additional pedestrian and bicycle improvements within a fifteen-minute walk of the station.

**SAFA activities for the Northgate Station include:**

- helping secure additional funding to complete the NSCC bridge
- monitoring identification and construction of other pedestrian access improvements

### Angle Lake Station

This station, located near the intersection of Pacific Highway S and S 200th Street in SeaTac, has potential for transit-oriented development. However, the current pedestrian environment discourages people from walking. Pacific Highway S is six-lanes or more wide, creating a barrier effectively dividing the station vicinity in two for pedestrians. Nearby land use typically features large surface parking lots that create a hostile pedestrian environment.

**SAFA activities at the Angle Lake Station include:**

- supporting funding of pedestrian improvements to improve walkability around the station
- encouraging land use policies conducive to transit-oriented development

### Hospital Station

The Hospital Station is just east of 116th Avenue NE near Overlake Hospital Medical Center, astride the BNSF right-of-way. As this station is near a major I-405 intersection, nearby roads carry very high traffic volumes, creating potential hazards for people walking to the station. Bellevue's Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan calls for a regional trail along the BNSF right-of-way.

**SAFA activities at the Hospital Station include:**

- supporting improvements to provide safe access to the transit stops along NE 8th Street
- encouraging handicapped access improvements near the hospital
- ensuring station design can accommodate a future trail along the BNSF right-of-way

### Overlake Transit Center Station

This station occupies the current site of the Overlake Transit Center next to SR-520. A pedestrian bridge is proposed across SR-520 to connect the transit center to the Microsoft west campus as well as the westbound flyer stop at NE 40th Street. Construction of this bridge will save Sound Transit thousands of annual service hours for the Route 545 Redmond to Seattle bus, which must currently divert to the transit center adding 7-10 minutes to each trip. The pedestrian bridge will allow buses to serve the transit center without this time-consuming detour.

**SAFA activities at the Overlake Transit Center Station include:**

- advocating for accelerated completion of the pedestrian bridge across SR-520
- supporting additional pedestrian access improvements as needed



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