



Puget Sound Regional Council

2024 FHWA REGIONAL COMPETITION: PROJECT SPONSOR FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

AGENCY: Sound Transit
PROJECT: Graham Street Station - Design

Question #1: Given the proximity to other light rail stations on this route, please provide more information on current alternatives for accessing high-capacity transit on this corridor.

Answer #1: People in the MLK Jr Way and Graham Street area can currently take King County Metro bus route 106 to access the Link system at an adjacent station (such as Columbia City Station). However, there are significant benefits in travel time, reliability and span of service to adding the Graham Street Station to improve access to the Link system. Below is a summary comparing 3 different ways to travel from Graham Street and MLK Jr Way to downtown Seattle (International District): 1) "Link Only" - assuming the future Graham Street Station; 2) "Bus and Link" trip and 3) "Bus Only." Summary:

- **Travel Time:** The "Link Only" (assuming the future Graham Street Station) trip is approximately 13 minutes faster than the "Bus to Link" trip or "Bus Only" trip.
- **Span of service:** The "Link Only" trip offers the most service throughout the day and night.
 - KCM Route 106 operates every 15 minutes in peak periods and every 30 min at night.
 - Link operates every 8 minutes in peak periods; every 10 minutes in off-peak periods; and every 15 minutes very late at night/early in the morning. Link operates 20 hours a day.
- **Reliability:** The "Link Only" trip is most reliable because it doesn't get stuck in traffic. The "Bus Only" and "Bus to Link" trips are less reliable because buses are often stuck in traffic. According to King County Metro reports, route 106 runs 27% late, all day.

Example Trip: Travel from Graham Street & MLK Jr Way to Downtown Seattle (International District Station).	Travel Time	Transfer Time	Total Time
1) Link Only: Using the future Graham Street Station to International District Station on Link	18 minutes	0 minutes	18 minutes
2) KCM Bus to Link: Take KCM Route 106 to adjacent Link Station (such as Columbia City Station), then take Link to International District Station	23 minutes	Up to 8-10 minutes	31-33 minutes
3) Bus Only: Take KCM Route 106 to International District Station without transferring to Link	31-32 minutes	0 minutes	31 minutes
Difference: The "Link Only" trip is approx 13 minutes faster than "Bus to Link" trip or "Bus Only" trips.			

Sources: Google maps, KCM Route 106 schedules; est Link travel times from Sound Transit modeling.