



Construction **ALERT**

LINK LIGHT RAIL

March 11, 2010

UPDATE

Sub-surface voids underneath Beacon Hill

Background

Approximately one year ago, Sound Transit was alerted by a Beacon Hill homeowner of a hole she discovered at the surface of her front yard. This discovery launched an extensive and thorough investigation that focused on finding and filling any additional holes, or “voids”.

In the first phase of that investigation, a total of nine sub-surface voids, in depths varying from 20 to 60 feet, were found and immediately filled with a Controlled Density Fill (CDF), which is a self-compacting, cementitious material. CDF was used because it expands within the voids to act as a plug and protects against any future loss of earth at the location.

In addition, grout (a strong cement-like setting mix) was injected every 10-15 feet into the sub-surface soil between the bottom of the filled voids and the top of the light rail tunnels. These operations were completed in July 2009.

Reporting and Analysis

Sound Transit’s investigations and data analysis indicate that the voids were caused by the over excavation of materials during tunneling operations. That investigation further indicates that there remain approximately 400 cubic yards that may require filling.

Sound Transit believes that these remaining voids are not large nor are they near the surface. Most importantly, there is no imminent danger to private property, land or structures, or to any City right of way. Because available data provides the general locations of where the discrepancies of materials are located, Sound Transit is confident that it will be able to find and fill the remaining voids completing the investigation.

Next Steps

Sound Transit is finalizing a work program to find and fill the remaining voids. Sound Transit is currently working with affected property owners on the best solutions for accomplishing this goal, as a majority of the work will take place on private property. Once more information is known about the specifics of the work program, Sound Transit will coordinate the work not only with the affected property owners, but also with the surrounding neighbors prior to any work taking place. We expect the work program to take about four to six months and to include drillings, observations, exploration of voids and the ultimate filling of the voids. Once the details of the program are set, Sound Transit will be sure to keep the neighborhood apprised of all the construction activities.

Sound Transit is committed to working with the property owners in this neighborhood and we appreciate your cooperation. If you have any questions or would like additional information on this matter or the Beacon Hill Station in general, please contact Jennifer Lemus, Sound Transit Community Outreach, at 206.398.5314 (work) or 206.423.1407 (cell). She can also be reached by e-mail at Jennifer.Lemus@soundtransit.org.