Public Documentation Showing WSDOT Certification of Implemented, Effective Cathodic Protection of the I-90 Floating Bridge Carrying an Electric Light Rail Trackway is Important for Accountability

A Polite and Timely Demand

from SmarterTransit.org

September 17, 2025

Electric Light Rail is Now Operating on WSDOT's I-90 Bridge

Smarter Transit Agrees with Sound Transit and Washington State DOT that Cathodic Protection is an Essential Part of the Light Rail Trackway Installed on the I-90 Floating Bridge

*Officially signed certification that **cathodic protection** == **technical physical measures to prevent current leakage from damaging the bridge on which the electrified track is installed** -- is operating successfully as intended must be made publicly visible.*

This Powerpoint -- issued by John Niles, Sound Transit taxpayer and co-founder of Smarter Transit -- is support for a forthcoming Public Disclosure Act request to Washington State DOT

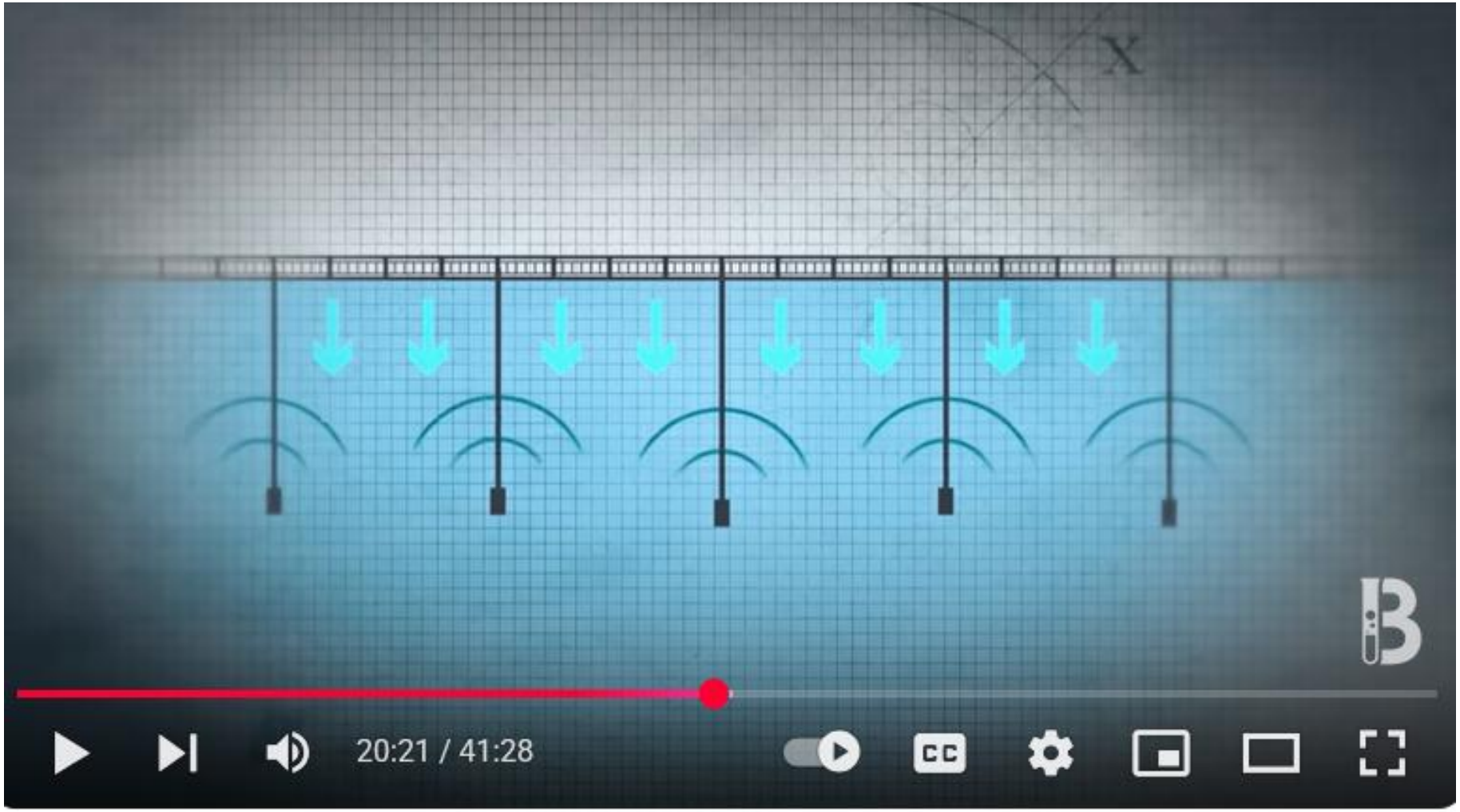
Background: Sound Transit and Washington State DOT both know that a *cathodic protection system* for the I-90 floating bridge is an essential element of the infrastructure system that is installed for light rail to operate successfully. Tip of the iceberg evidence:

Track installed on I-90 floating bridge
July 25, 2019
From: https://www.soundtransit.org/get-to-know-us/news-events/project-updates/track-installed-i-90-floating-bridge

Over the last few months, crews have been busy installing track on the I-90 floating bridge. This will be the first time light rail will operate on a floating bridge which presents numerous challenges such as added weight and stray electric current.

Sound Transit will use over 9,000 light weight concrete blocks attached to the floating bridge using a high-strength polymer. This avoids adding extra weight to the bridge and prevents thousands of holes being drilled into the bridge deck. Rail will then be secured to the concrete blocks and steel tie bars will be placed between them to maintain the correct gauge. **A cathodic protection system will also be installed to prevent stray electric current from corroding the bridge's steel anchor cables.**

MORE EVIDECE: Image illustrating a few of the 1,400 anodes hanging in the waters of Lake Washington to “polarize the bridge” that are one element of many in the I-90 cathode protection system already installed. Image captured from a 45-minute video issued in August 2025 celebrating Sound Transit’s light rail on a floating bridge at YouTube Building a Railway on the World's Longest Floating Bridge | Blueprint -



Critical Path Declaration of Sound Transit in May, June, and July 2025 for Completion of the I-90 East Link Light Rail Extension

Excerpts follow on next three pages as reported in three documents posted by Sound Transit

https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/System-Expansion-Monthly-Status-Report-May-2025.pdf
&
https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/System-Expansion-Monthly-Status-Report-June-2025.pdf

&
https://www.soundtransit.org/sites/default/files/documents/System-Expansion-Monthly%20Status-Report-July-2025.pdf

The following three pages from Sound Transit “System Expansion Monthly Status Reports” have language implying that a formal certification titled “WSDOT’s acceptance [of the] Stray Current and Cathodic Protection system on the floating bridge” will be issued by Washington State Department of Transportation before electric light rail operates under power on the I-90 floating bridge. ***Smarter Transit formally requests public visibility of the signed documents providing that certification.***

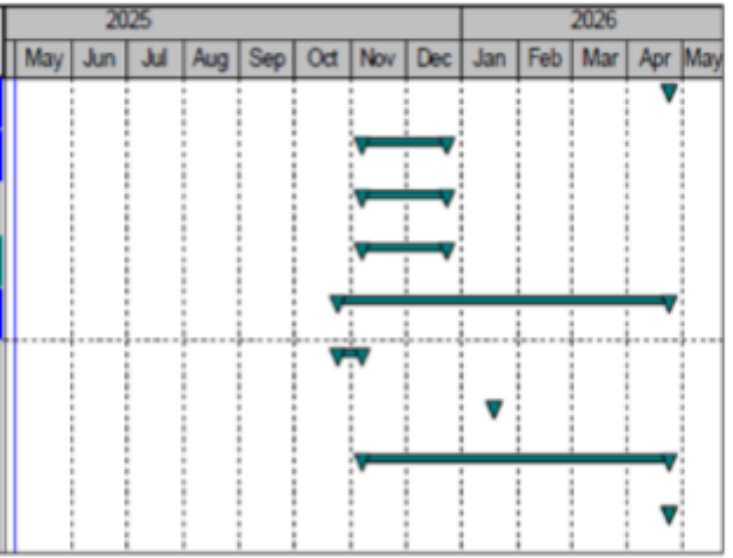
in July 2025.

Link light rail
East Link Extension

Critical Path Analysis

The East Link critical path for the May update continues to run through E130's completion of trackwork and followed by WSDOT's acceptance Stray Current and Cathodic Protection system on the floating bridge, and E750 access to complete Overhead Catenary System (OCS) installation, and perform Systems Integration Testing (SIT).

Activity ID	Activity Name	Start	Finish
	East Link Extension	24-Apr-26	24-Apr-26
	System Integration Testing - Eastlink Extension	07-Nov-25	23-Dec-25
	System Integration Testing Summary	07-Nov-25	23-Dec-25
	End to End SIT	07-Nov-25	23-Dec-25
	East Link Rail Activation	24-Oct-25	24-Apr-26
	SSCRS - Safety and Security Certification Committee	24-Oct-25	06-Nov-25
	T20 - Transition To Operations Committee	17-Jan-26	17-Jan-26
	Pre-Revenue Service	06-Nov-25	23-Apr-26
	Revenue Service	24-Apr-26	24-Apr-26

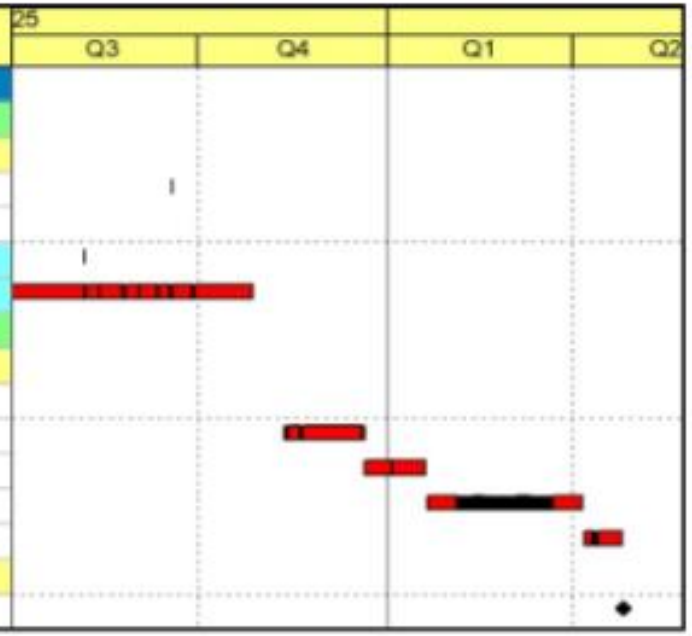


Link light rail
East Link Extension

Critical Path Analysis

The East Link critical path for the May update continues to run through E130's completion of trackwork and followed by WSDOT's acceptance Stray Current and Cathodic Protection system on the floating bridge, and E750 access to complete Overhead Catenary System (OCS) installation, and perform Systems Integration Testing (SIT).

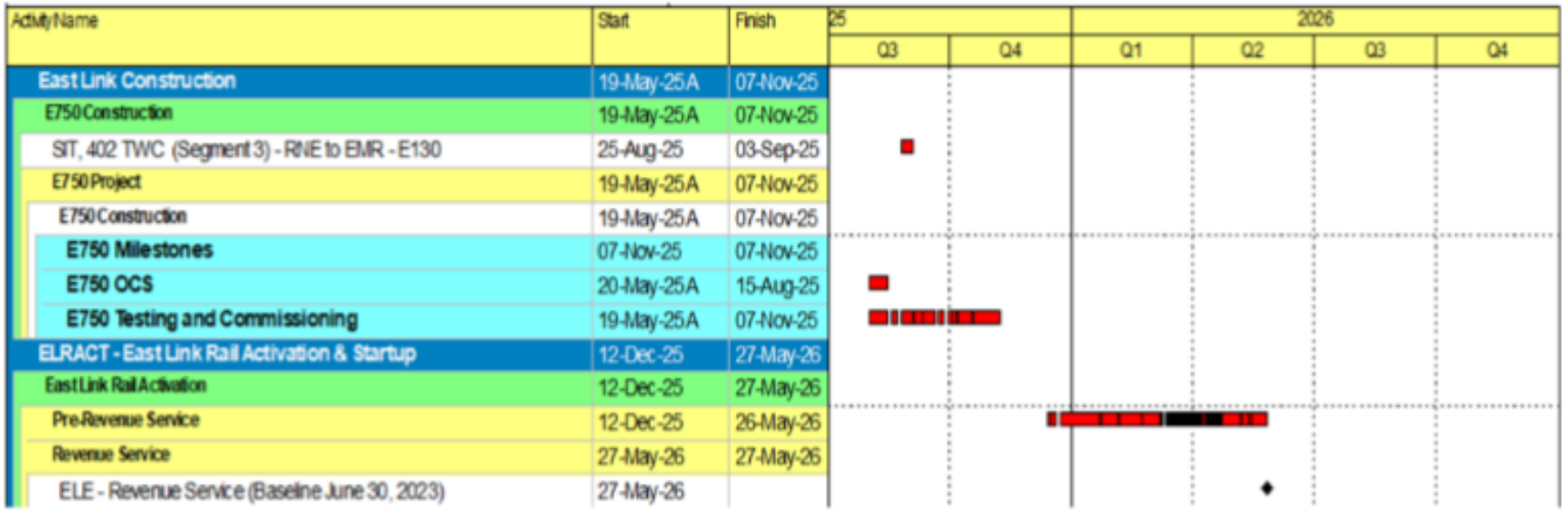
Activity Name	Start	Finish
East Link Integrated Schedule	19-May-2025 A	25-Apr-2026
E750 Construction	19-May-2025 A	27-Oct-2025
E750 Project	19-May-2025 A	27-Oct-2025
E750 Engineering	18-Sep-2025	18-Sep-2025
E750 Construction	19-May-2025 A	27-Oct-2025
E750 OCS	20-May-2025 A	06-Aug-2025
E750 Testing and Commissioning	19-May-2025 A	27-Oct-2025
East Link Rail Activation	10-Nov-2025	25-Apr-2026
Pre-Revenue Service	10-Nov-2025	24-Apr-2026
Milestones	10-Nov-2025	10-Nov-2025
Operator Familiarization	11-Nov-2025	20-Dec-2025
Validation Period	20-Dec-2025	19-Jan-2026
Simulated Service	20-Jan-2026	05-Apr-2026
Link Extension Opening Preparation	06-Apr-2026	24-Apr-2026
Revenue Service	25-Apr-2026	25-Apr-2026
ELE - Revenue Service (Baseline June 30, 2023)	25-Apr-2026	



Link light rail
East Link Extension

Critical Path Analysis

The East Link critical path for the May update continues to run through E130's completion of trackwork and followed by WSDOT's acceptance Stray Current and Cathodic Protection system on the floating bridge, and E750 access to complete Overhead Catenary System (OCS) installation, and perform Systems Integration Testing (SIT).



Activity Name	Start	Finish
East Link Construction	19-May-25 A	07-Nov-25
E750 Construction	19-May-25 A	07-Nov-25
SIT, 402 TWC (Segment 3) - RNE to EMR - E130	25-Aug-25	03-Sep-25
E750 Project	19-May-25 A	07-Nov-25
E750 Construction	19-May-25 A	07-Nov-25
E750 Milestones	07-Nov-25	07-Nov-25
E750 OCS	20-May-25 A	15-Aug-25
E750 Testing and Commissioning	19-May-25 A	07-Nov-25
ELRACT - East Link Rail Activation & Startup	12-Dec-25	27-May-26
East Link Rail Activation	12-Dec-25	27-May-26
Pre-Revenue Service	12-Dec-25	26-May-26
Revenue Service	27-May-26	27-May-26
ELE - Revenue Service (Baseline June 30, 2023)	27-May-26	