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36,000 tunnel segments almost done for U Link

By [JOURNAL STAFF](#)



Tommy Long photo courtesy of Sound Transit [\[enlarge\]](#)

Workers are wrapping up production of more than 36,000 segments for the University Link tunnel in Seattle.

Each tunnel ring is made of six precast concrete segments that each weigh 4,000 to 6,000 pounds. The rings are being connected to line the light rail tunnels.

The segments are made at the Traylor Technopref Precast plant in Tacoma.

Sound Transit has on its website a short video of how the tunnels are being bored and how the rings are put into place. The YouTube is at <http://tiny.cc/yos4aw>. Scroll to the bottom of the page.

Three tunnel-boring machines are being used on University Link. They're scheduled to finish digging the tunnels later this year, though tunnel work will continue for several months after because crews need to build "cross passages" between the northbound and southbound tunnels and do other work.

Sound Transit officials say excavation of the cross passages is one of U Link's top five risks.

One of the TBMs digging a tunnel from Husky Stadium to Capitol Hill is scheduled to reach the Broadway station this month.

U Link is a 3.15-mile extension of light rail from downtown to Husky Stadium. The total cost is \$1.9 billion. The line is scheduled to open in 2016 and is expected to have 70,000 boardings a day in 2030.

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