

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

Sound Transit Crosslake Connection Grand Opening

March 28, 2026

Sen. Cantwell Remarks

[AUDIO]

Sen. Cantwell: I love that Senator Murray is the grandmother of Sound Transit.

Unknown: I think it was godmother.

Sen. Cantwell: I've got a better title. She is fighting every day for transit funding and the lead appropriator in the United States Senate on the Democratic side -- she is the GOAT. There's a lot of dark days back there, so trust me she deserves that.

I haven't seen this many people since we celebrated the Seahawks victory in a parade. This, too is another historic moment.

Thank you Councilmember Balducci, thank you to Sound Transit Chair Dave Somers, thank you to Dow Constantine, for your role, both as a county exec and a Sound Transit board member and now leading the charge to get this project over the goal line. And thank you [Girmay], thank you, Mayor Wilson, thank you to so many other people I know that Chair Teresa Hutson, former mayor Greg Nickels, Seattle Building Trades [Executive] Secretary Monty Anderson and Northwest African [American] Museum CEO [Brandon] Bird, they're all here. They've all played a big role in this, thank you so much.

[UNCLEAR] many construction workers and the trades for their tireless work on this. I mean, they survived COVID. They survived downturns, they survived all of this and kept us going. And why are we here today?

We're here because Puget Sound is an economic engine for the country. We know how to build planes and trucks and satellites, and now we're leading the way on next generation energy. Puget Sound in this economy is larger than the economy of 36 states.

But what do we need? Well, we know we need to connect people and with this expansion and this backbone, we have that future growth. Now, Alberto Ortoll, who lives about a mile from this station, can take the light rail to his job as a manager at Microsoft. The trip takes about 35 minutes. He's so excited about this flexibility to get to work quickly after a morning meeting or get home after a late night. And on days that he does drive afternoon rush hour traffic has been so bad, he had to leave at 3pm or wait till 7pm just to avoid it.

Well, no one likes crosstown traffic, but now Alberto can take light rail to work, and we can sit here today and celebrate this facility that the entire region can come home and celebrate the Northwest African [American] Museum and Jimi Hendrix Park, where music and the legend is accessible to now everybody in the region.

You know, I worked in business for a while. I could tell you all the young innovators wanted one thing. They wanted to be close to Sound Transit. And who can blame them? Because mass transit is now making life more affordable. It is 22.7 miles from Downtown Redmond to Sea-Tac airport. For a car

getting an average gas [mileage], that's about a gallon of gas -- and because of President Trump's illegal war now we're paying \$5.50 a gallon, which we can't afford, but Sound Transit is delivering you with just \$3 for a move across the lake.

So -- we want the Sonics back. We don't want to pay \$30 to park. We want the World Cup to be a success, Dow, and we want the first-ever floating bridge with a light rail system that goes across it and we're here to celebrate.

So thank you engineers at WSP. Thank you to the UW engineering and engineers for making this possible. Thank you to the federal support which, [Sound Transit] has received \$4 billion in federal grants [in the last decade] and is the largest single user of federal subsidized loan programs, which has saved Puget Sound taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars by this success.

So let's get on with the celebration. Let's continue to fight for transit. We'll have another big bill before the Congress this year. And our colleagues are already trying to X out transit. Today, they need to look at Seattle and look at this project and say this is making a very big economy work for the nation. Thank you all very much.