PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

# BRIDGING THE GAP: USING COMPLEX DOCUMENTS FOR GENERAL

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

:RachelRoo7

Rachel Glessner\*, Program on the Environment, University of Washington

Site Supervisor: Eugene Kramer, Seattle Subway

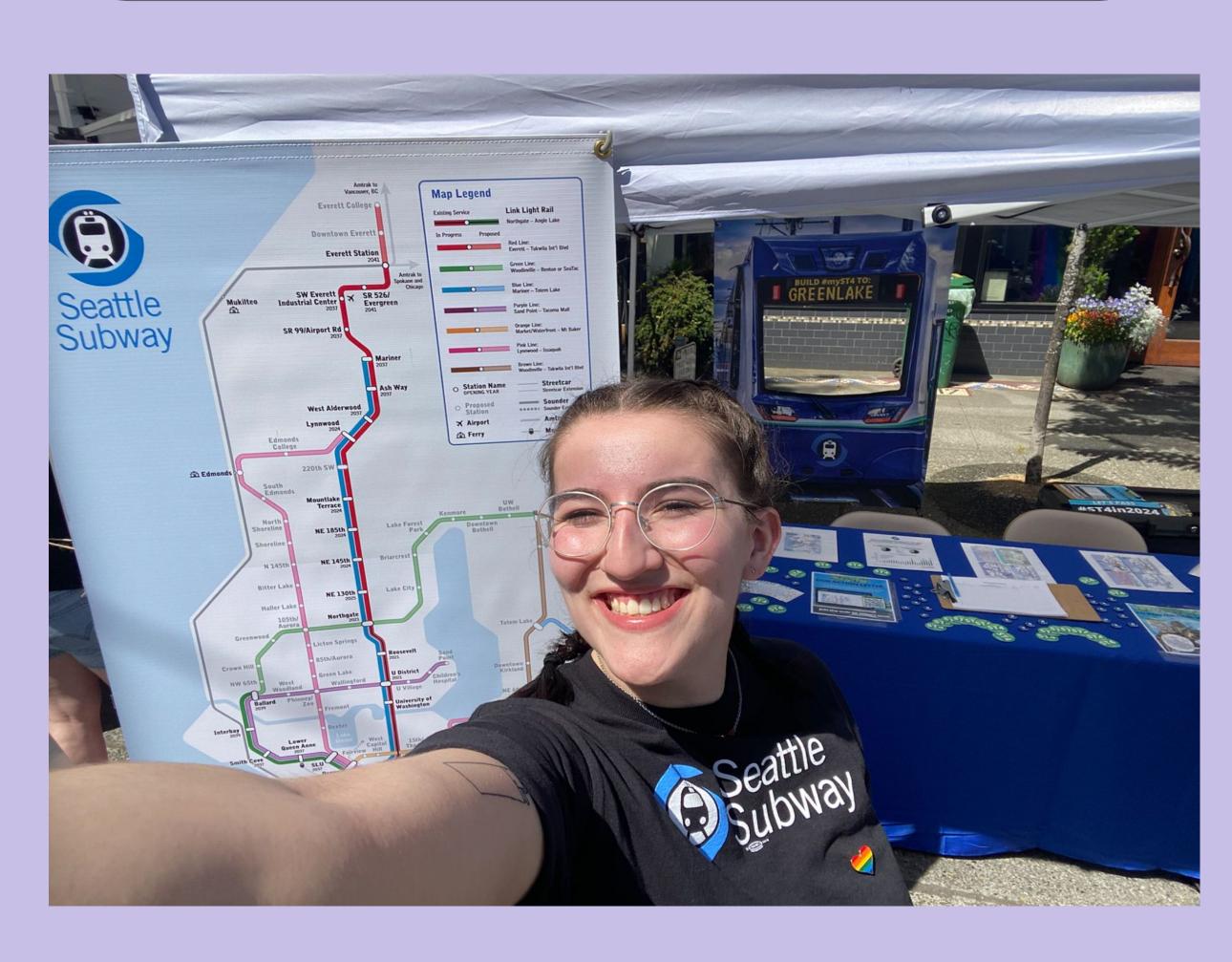
Faculty Advisor: Leah Rubinsky, Program on the Environment, University of Washington



## Background

Environmental impact statements (EIS), are required by NEPA before any project is started to assess the impact said project will have.

They contain a great deal of pertinent information that isn't shared properly/ made accessible to local communities



(Fig. 1) Rachel Glessner tabling for Seattle Subway at Capitol Hill Pride, advocating for better transit systems throughout the Seattle community.

#### **Thesis**

Environmental impacts statements (EIS) need to be made more accessible and understandable in order to become more effective environmental communication tools

## Internship and Methods

- worked with seattle subway to advocate for more expansive link light rail systems in the greater seattle area (fig. 1)
- Wrote an EIS for the Aurora Corridor
- Observed a difference between public info. and private info

#### Results

- There is a disconnect between federal and public environmental knowledge
- More digestible language needs to be used to grab attention and provide information (fig. 2)
- Easily dispensable synthesises of EIS summaries, spaces to speak about results and accessible versions are ways to use EIS as communication tools

Environmental Factor:	No action plan	Alternative action 1:
Water Quality	-pollution from road runoff	-slight decrease in road runoff
Air Quality	-excess heat -traffic pollution	~15% decrease in traffic reducing pollution

(Fig. 2) Chart excerpt from EIS of environmental factors and how they change the surrounding environment, could be used in an infographic

## Significance

- Set a precedent for sharing environmental information
- Environmental knowledge should be more accessible



(Fig. 3) Seattle Subway vision map of future transit systems in Seattle

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