Open house Jan. 25 on B7–Revised light rail alternative

The City of Bellevue will host an open house to provide information and hear feedback on an East Link light rail route for which City Council members want additional analysis. An open house on the B7–Revised alternative will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 25, in Room 1E-108 of Bellevue City Hall.

B7–Revised is a variation of the B7 route alternative studied by Sound Transit in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) of the East Link project. Council members want additional work on the revised route in order to compare it with the alternative considered in the DEIS. Specifically, they want to find out if design changes can improve performance, reduce impacts and reduce costs. The Council is working to ensure that East Link, the largest and most expensive transportation project in Bellevue’s history, best serves the needs of Bellevue residents and travelers.

The Jan. 25 event is the first of up to three public meetings on the B7–Revised alternative. For more information, visit the project web page at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/b7-revised-light-rail-route.htm; or contact Maher Welaye, Senior Project Manager, at 425-452-4879 or mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov

NEP on hiatus; more Neighborhood Match funds available

Important changes were made in two of Bellevue’s long-standing Neighborhood Outreach programs with adoption of the 2011-12 operating budget and the 2011-17 capital budget,

- **Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP)** – Projects selected by residents in the last NEP cycle will go forward as planned. But no new projects will be considered during the next three years while NEP is on hiatus. Current Council direction is for NEP to resume operation in 2014.

- **Neighborhood Partnerships** – This program, which offers 50 percent matching grants for neighborhood improvements, will expand its outreach to the community in 2011. The total of matching funds available each year has doubled – from $50,000 to $100,000.

For more information about these and other neighborhood programs and projects, call Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or see the web site at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-outreach-intro.htm.

All hands on deck!

**Twenty-four Horizon Heights neighbors** turned out on Saturday, Dec. 4, to help install landscaping at their new neighborhood entry.

Located at 152nd Avenue SE, the Horizon Heights entry was constructed as part of capital improvements on 152nd SE, and with partial funding from the Neighborhood Match Program.
Ready for this?

Sign up now for Neighborhood Preparedness Workshop

Are you prepared to take care of your family and help your neighbors in an emergency? Could you make it through the first three days of a disaster without any assistance?

The Bellevue Fire Department Office of Emergency Management invites you to a free workshop focusing on neighborhood emergency preparedness – what to do before, during and after the crisis. Find out about SPAN (Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbors), a program that teaches neighborhoods how to prepare for, and respond to emergencies. If your neighborhood is already SPAN-trained, come share your success stories and tell the city how the program can work even better for all of Bellevue’s neighborhoods.

The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 3, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave NE. Please register by Jan. 27 by e-mailing vowens@bellevuewa.gov; include your name, phone number, email address and the number of people attending. Direct questions to Vernon Owens, 425-452-6033.

Comment on SR 520 toll rates through Jan. 5

Don’t forget to provide the state Transportation Commission your feedback on the proposed SR 520 toll rates. Tolling begins Spring 2011. Comments can be made through Jan. 5, and information is posted on the commission website. A final hearing is scheduled 6:30 p.m., Jan. 5, in the Sound Transit Board Room at Union Station, 401 S. Jackson St., Seattle. You also can visit the website if you have questions about how tolling will work on SR 520.

January meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

1/1 New Year’s Day – All city offices closed
1/3 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Continued discussion of East Link Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS), discussion of East Link work program (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/4 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm
1/4 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Hearing on City Council Ordinance 5979, a Comprehensive Plan Amendment related to the Transportation Element http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm
1/6 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (5:30 pm, 1E-108) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm
1/6 Bellevue Network on Aging (5-8 p.m., 1E-120) Annual retreat http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm
1/10 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Council feedback to Sound Transit Board on East Link SDEIS; Wilburton Local Improvement District (LID) information; electrical charging stations; update on Environmental Stewardship Initiative; electrical reliability update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/11 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm
1/12 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Accessory dwelling units Land Use Code; camp and conference center Land Use Code; Shoreline Master Program
1/12 Cherry Crest Elementary School Conditional Use Public Meeting (6:00, 1E-112) Discussion of revised application to demolish the existing school and construct a new 70,000-square-foot school at 12400 NE 32nd St.
1/17 Martin Luther King Jr. holiday – All city offices closed
1/18 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Land Use Code Amendment relating to performing arts center (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, action on Wilburton LID Formation Ordinance http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/24 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional issues
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
1/25 East Link B-7 Revised Open House (5-7 p.m., 1E-108) Opportunity to learn about, comment on the study of B-7 Revised, the City Council’s preferred light rail alignment from I-90 to Downtown
1/26 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Shoreline Master Program

Bellevue’s Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.