

neighborhood news



February 2016

news for and about
Bellevue neighborhoods



Neighborhood Leadership Gathering

You are invited

Tuesday, February 23

6:30–8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108 • Light Refreshments

Join the conversation with David Berg, Transportation Director, as he shares how the City of Bellevue plans for and responds to the pressures facing the transportation system in Bellevue at the next Neighborhood Leadership Gathering.

With the Puget Sound region's economy booming, Bellevue is again experiencing an upswing in private development and construction – along with a growing workforce and population. Add dropping gasoline prices and it's no wonder that we see more cars on our roadways and why traffic rises to the top of everyone's conversations. "The good news is that people want to live or work here and this is a good problem for Bellevue to have," said David Berg, "So, what does this mean for our neighborhoods?" Dave will provide a birds-eye

view of city, downtown, and neighborhood challenges in transportation and engage residents in a back and forth conversation about choices we can make to address these challenges together as a community.

Throughout the conversation, Transportation staff will poll neighborhood leaders on topics including: sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, cut-through traffic, neighborhood protection, and speeding. The input received will help the City's understanding of neighborhood priorities and will shape our City's response to "traffic" now and in the future.

Neighborhood association members, emerging leaders and those interested in becoming more involved in their neighborhood or the City are encouraged to attend. These gatherings give neighborhood leaders an opportunity to have their voices heard on critical community issues focused at the neighborhood level. There is no cost to attend and light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6836.



MyBellevue App Changing How You Connect with the City

Since the city launched its mobile app, MyBellevue, nearly two years ago, residents

have been able to conveniently enter more than 4,000 service requests via the app. Often using their smart phones, users have reported graffiti, asked for street sign repairs and been able to access city news, employment opportunities and the city's social media.

MyBellevue is a free app available on Windows, Androids Google Play and The

App Store. The app is a great way to stay connected, and a convenient option to let the city know of things that need attention.

"Over the last four months, the city responded to nearly 100 requests from residents using MyBellevue to report street lights that needed attention," said Stephanie Dompier, the program administrator for the app. "MyBellevue is a great way for us to capture this information and a convenient way for the public to report it."



Public Invited to Comment on Energize Eastside Draft EIS



Tuesday, March 1, 6-9 pm
Bellevue City Hall

The Phase 1 draft environmental review of Energize Eastside, PSE's proposal to build a new electric substation and approximately 18 miles of high-capacity electric transmission lines from Renton to Redmond, is now available for public comment. It includes four alternatives.

Residents will have an opportunity to learn more and comment at an open house and public hearing at City Hall early March. The meeting will begin with a 30 minute open house, followed by a short presentation and an oral comment period.

Energize Eastside is intended to address a deficiency in electrical transmission capacity that could begin in 2017. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is led by the City of Bellevue in cooperation with Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond and Renton.

In addition to the March 1 open house in Bellevue, the same information and opportunities will be provided at the following other public meetings:

- Kirkland Justice Center, 11750 NE 118th St., Kirkland, Feb. 23, 6-8 p.m.;
- Renton City Hall, 1055 S. Grady Way, Renton, Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m.;
- Newcastle Elementary School, 8440 136th Ave. SE, Newcastle, Feb. 27, 2-4 p.m.;
- Redmond City Hall, 15670 NE 85th St., Redmond, Feb. 29, 6-8 p.m.; and

Please note that you only have to attend one meeting for your comment to be received. Comments may be submitted orally at the public hearings or in writing. The deadline for submitting comments is March 14.

Resident also have the following options to comment:

Online at: www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org

By email to: Info@EnergizeEastsideEIS.org

By mail to:

City of Bellevue
Development Services Department
Attn: Heidi M. Bedwell
450 110th Ave. NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

The Energize Eastside EIS is not a permit. It is one of many sets of information permitting agencies will consider as they decide whether to approve the project and issue necessary permits. The EIS process is a separate requirement that must be completed before any permits may be issued.

The EIS is a two-phased process providing environmental review of PSE's proposal and alternatives. Phase 1 focuses on the programmatic aspects of the project, including whether or not the type of project PSE has proposed is the best way to improve electrical grid reliability for Eastside communities and what other types of solutions should be explored.

Scoping for Phase I is now complete, and the Draft EIS was released for public comment on Jan. 28. A complete project description and the Phase I draft, including the studied alternatives, are available at www.EnergizeEastsideEIS.org.

For the second phase of environmental analysis the Environmental Coordinator will select among the alternatives evaluated in the Phase 1 DEIS and examine project-level alternatives, including possible alternate locations for project components. There will be multiple opportunities for public comment during Phase 2. Scoping for Phase 2 is anticipated to begin this spring.





TRAFFIC CORNER

123rd Ave SE Sidewalk and Traffic Improvement Project

A new neighborhood sidewalk and traffic improvement project in Woodridge are being built this winter. The five foot, 0.4 mile sidewalk—funded through the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program—will connect existing sidewalk on the east side of 123rd Ave SE between SE 20th Pl and SE 26th St. The sidewalk will help to get students walking to and from nearby Woodridge Elementary school and other neighborhood destinations, such as the Norwood Swim Club.

In 2007 the Neighborhood Sidewalk Program was established to help address the sidewalk needs and priorities of the city's many neighborhoods. Candidate sidewalk projects have been frequently requested and/or long supported by the residents in the community; however, in most cases these projects are too small to compete with larger projects for funding and too large to be completed by other capital programs such as the Neighborhood Enhancement Program and/or the Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvements Program

The traffic improvement project, along the same corridor as the sidewalk, will help to reduce the speed of people driving. Speed studies revealed that people are driving too fast along this residential street, especially in the school zone. City staff worked closely with a group of resident volunteers—in the form of a traffic committee—to develop the traffic improvement project. A landscaped neighborhood traffic circle will be built at 123rd Ave SE and SE 21st St along with a series of landscaped curb extensions and medians between SE 20th Pl and the Norwood Swim Club. These elements will visually narrow the roadway opposed to vertical measures such as speed humps; the traffic committee did not favor additional speed humps in the neighborhood.

Construction is expected to last through spring and into summer. Please use caution, drive safely, and obey flaggers directing motorists through the construction zone. Pay close attention to people walking and biking in the area.



February 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.)

2/1 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Downtown Livability Early Wins, AGEIS Request for Bel-Red Medical Office (BR-MO) Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Amendment, Budget Kickoff (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation Award, Energize Eastside Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Council Comments Status, Consent Calendar, Consideration of Hearing Examiner's Recommendation on St. Luke's, Public Storage and Belle-View Office Park Rezones
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/2 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Election of officer and lake hills art project
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

2/2 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Joint Meeting of Eastside Cities' Human Services Commissions/Advisory Committees – Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland and Redmond Bellevue's 2015-16 Human Services Needs Update
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

2/4 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) Letter of Recommendation – Annual Report – Request for Council approval; Water System Plan – Request Environmental Services Commission approval & recommendation for Council Adoption; Review Proposed Changes & Additions to Utility Capital Investment Plan (CIP); Utilities Property Management Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

2/8 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Parks & Open Space System Plan, Olympic Pipeline, ST3 Subarea Equity
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm



2/10 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Downtown Livability
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/11 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Vision Zero Transportation Element Policy; Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond (BKR) Travel Demand Model Update; Transportation CIP Budget
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

2/15 President's Day – All city offices closed

2/16 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Annual Business Survey, IT Crowdfunding (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/16 Arts Commission (4:30, 1E-109) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

2/18 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Finalize Focus Areas for 2017-2018 Human Services Funding
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

2/22 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, NPDES Municipal Storm Water Permit Annual Report, Parking Penalties, Energize Eastside DEIS
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

2/23 East Main CAC (4:00 1E-113) Continuation of discussion of draft recommendations on redevelopment issues around the future East Main light rail station
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-station-areas.htm>

2/24 Planning Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Eastgate Land Use Code
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

2/25 Transportation Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative Workshop http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

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 425-452-6836.