



CITY OF BELLEVUE  
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

# WELCOME!

to the Woodridge  
Neighborhood Traffic  
Open House

**Tuesday, May 22, 2018**

**7:00-8:30 pm**

**Woodridge Elementary**

[www.bellevuewa.gov/woodridgetraffic](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/woodridgetraffic)

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# PROJECT BACKGROUND

We heard from the community an increasing concern about commuter traffic using Woodridge streets. Traffic is:

- Impacting neighborhood livability
- Creating safety concerns
- Making it difficult to get home



## SCOPE

Discourage weekday, evening commuter traffic from using primary neighborhood streets

## WHY HAS TRAFFIC INCREASED IN WOODRIDGE?

- Congestion on arterials
- Neighborhood bypass options
- Growth
- Lack of travel options
- Routing apps
- Minimal entrances/exits
- Proximity to freeway
- Curvilinear street network

## WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

A group of 15 volunteers from Woodridge (a traffic committee) have been working with staff to identify traffic hotspots and develop solutions. The traffic changes that have already occurred and planned reflect community ideals and travel patterns identified from a community survey (272 respondents), open house (March 2017), and three traffic committee meetings.

# TIMELINE

## February 2017

Woodridge residents invited to respond to community survey to detail traffic concerns. 272 Woodridge residents respond

## August-October 2017

Traffic Committee meetings held with volunteers from Woodridge and staff to develop solutions to traffic issues

## February 2018

All-way stop and crosswalk installed at 128th Ave SE/SE 26th Pl

## June 2018

Turn restrictions installed

## December 2018

Based on traffic studies and community feedback, turn restrictions remain, are removed, or are modified.

## March 2017

Community meeting held at International School to kick-off project. Call for volunteers to serve on Traffic Committee

## January 2018

Residential area signs installed at all entrances into Woodridge

## May 2018

Community open house at Woodridge Elementary

## June-December 2018

Turn restrictions evaluated, community feedback gathered, and traffic studies conducted



# WHAT'S BEEN DONE

The Woodridge Traffic Committee and staff developed and implemented solutions to traffic concerns.

## All-way stop at 128th Ave SE and SE 26th PI



## Do not block driveway signs



Available tonight  
(while supplies last)

## Residential Area Signs



SE 8<sup>th</sup> St



SE 21<sup>st</sup> St



SE 26<sup>th</sup> St



SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St

# WHAT WE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS

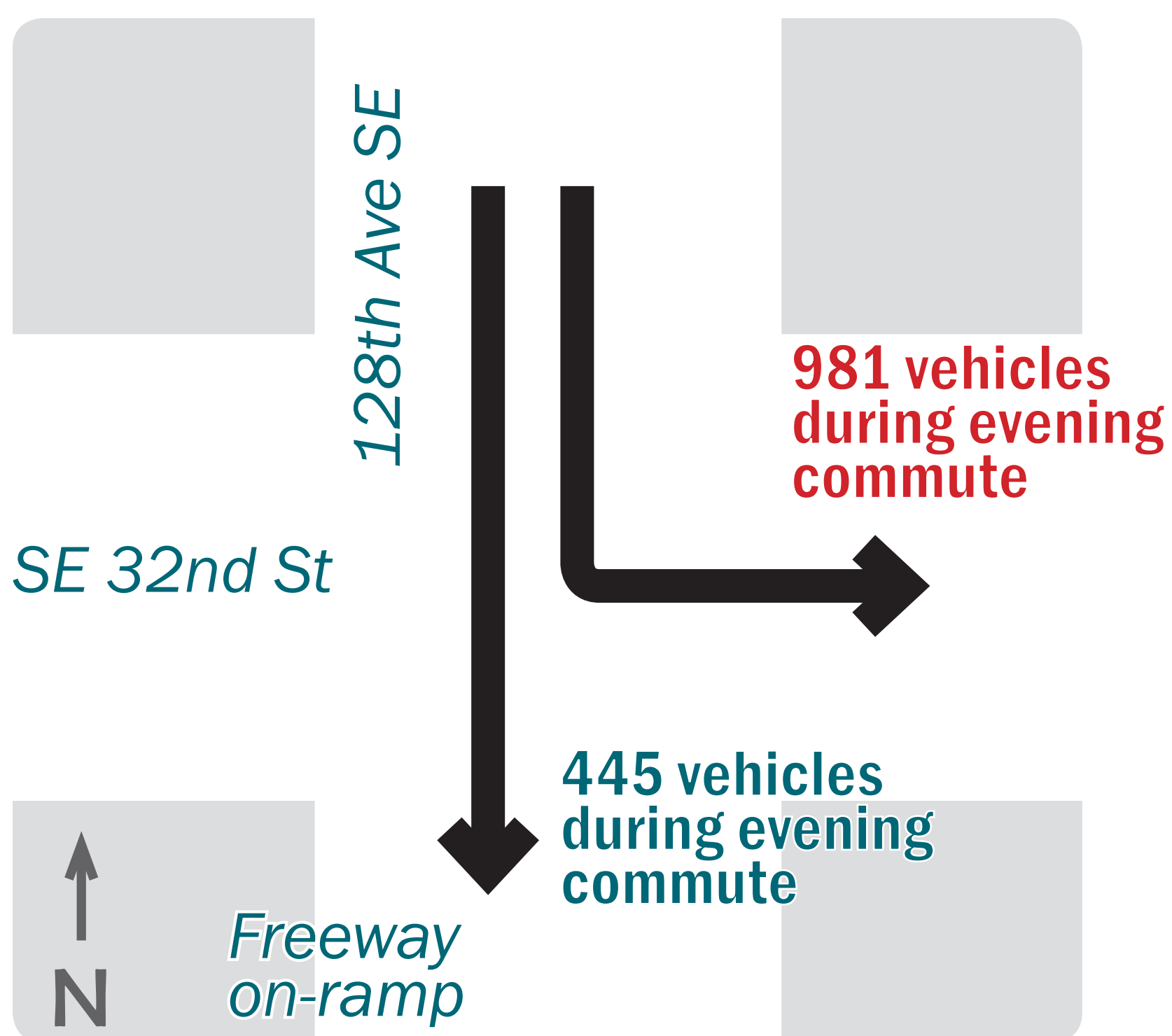
On a scale of 0-100, how bad do Woodridge residents describe traffic in Woodridge?

**85**

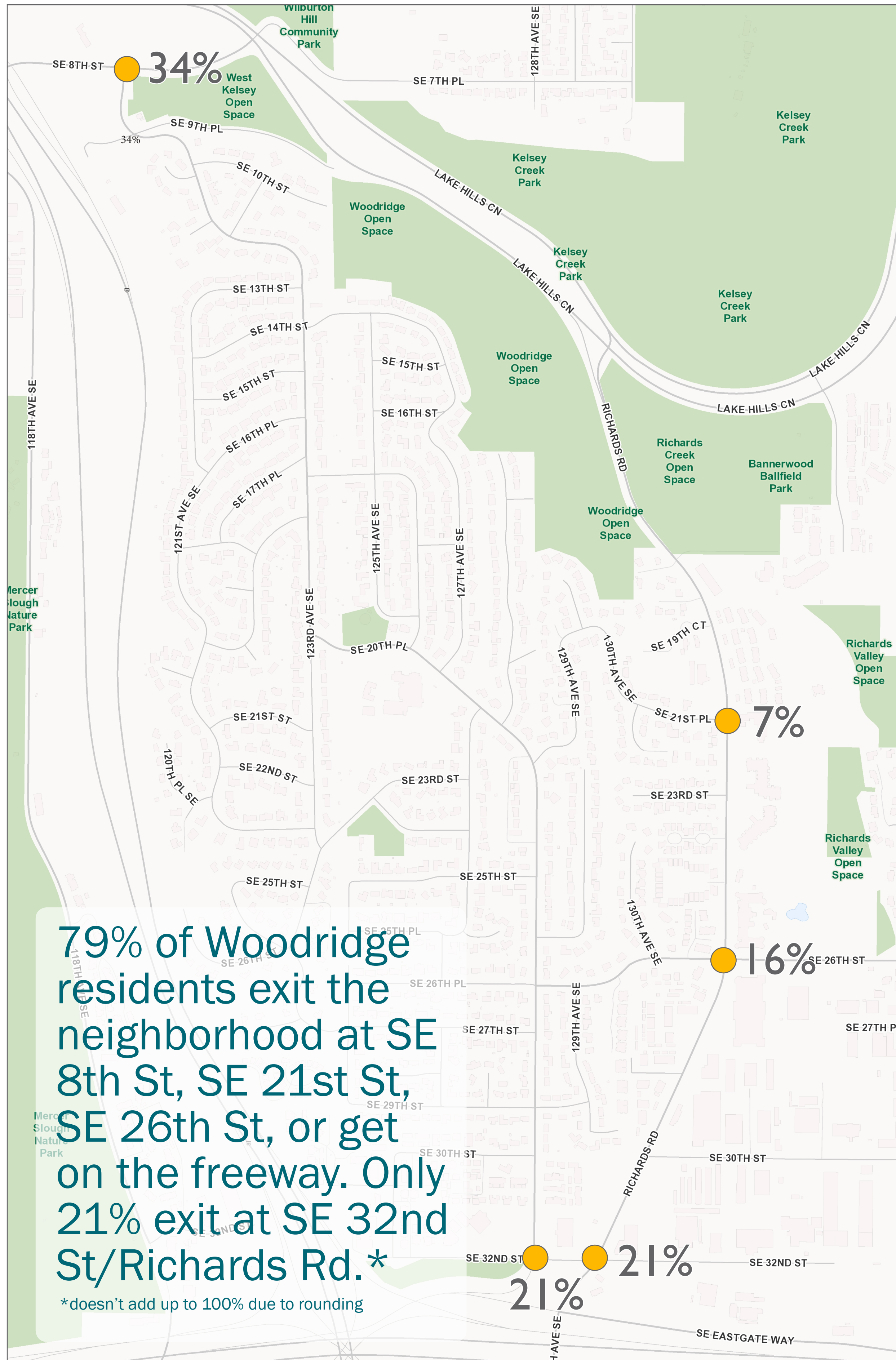
0 = there is not much traffic in Woodridge  
 50 = there is some traffic increase (correlated to city growth)  
 100 = too much traffic (big traffic increase above and beyond normal city growth)

Are more vehicles getting on the freeway or turning onto SE 32nd St?

**SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St (twice as many)**



Where do Woodridge residents exit the neighborhood?



On typical weekdays between 4-7 pm, only 25% of Woodridge residents drive out of the neighborhood; 75% are either driving in or not driving anywhere

**5**

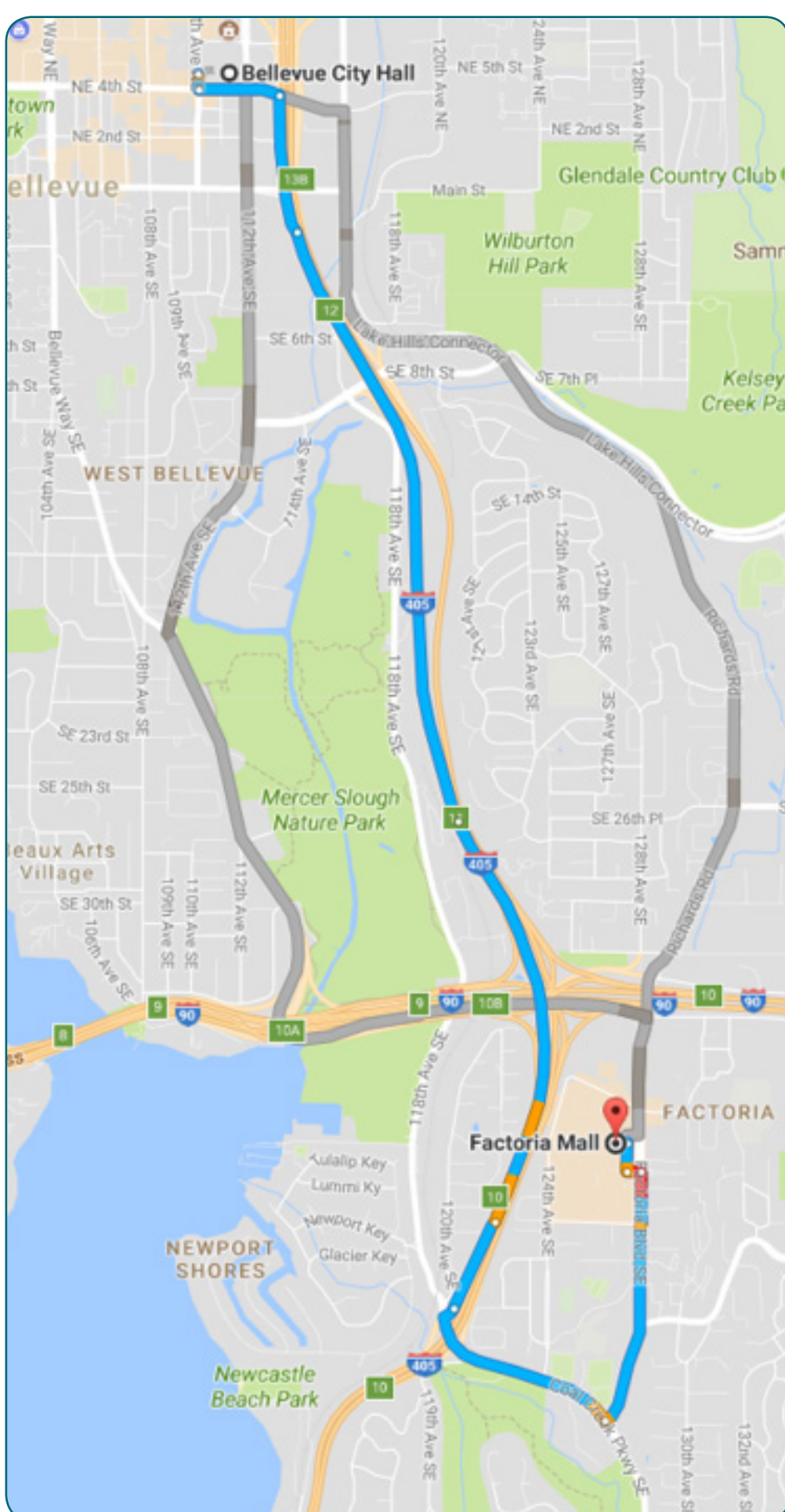
# NAVIGATION APPS



Navigation apps (e.g. Google Maps, Waze) can route traffic into neighborhoods when adjacent arterials are congested, such as during the evening commute.

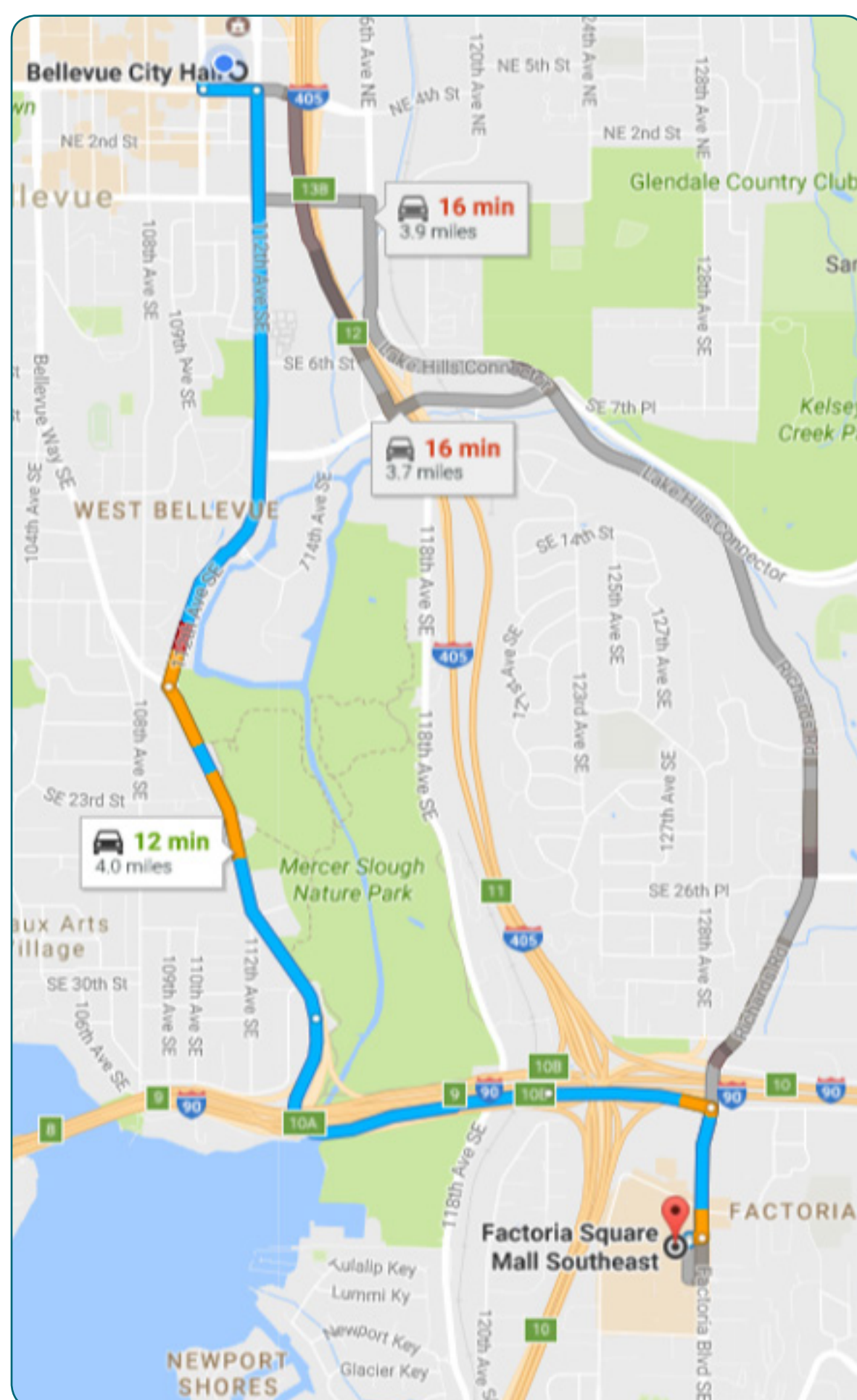
Navigation apps remove streets from their routing when turn restrictions are in place

Effect of navigation apps (Google Maps example) Sample trip from Bellevue City Hall to Factoria Square Mall



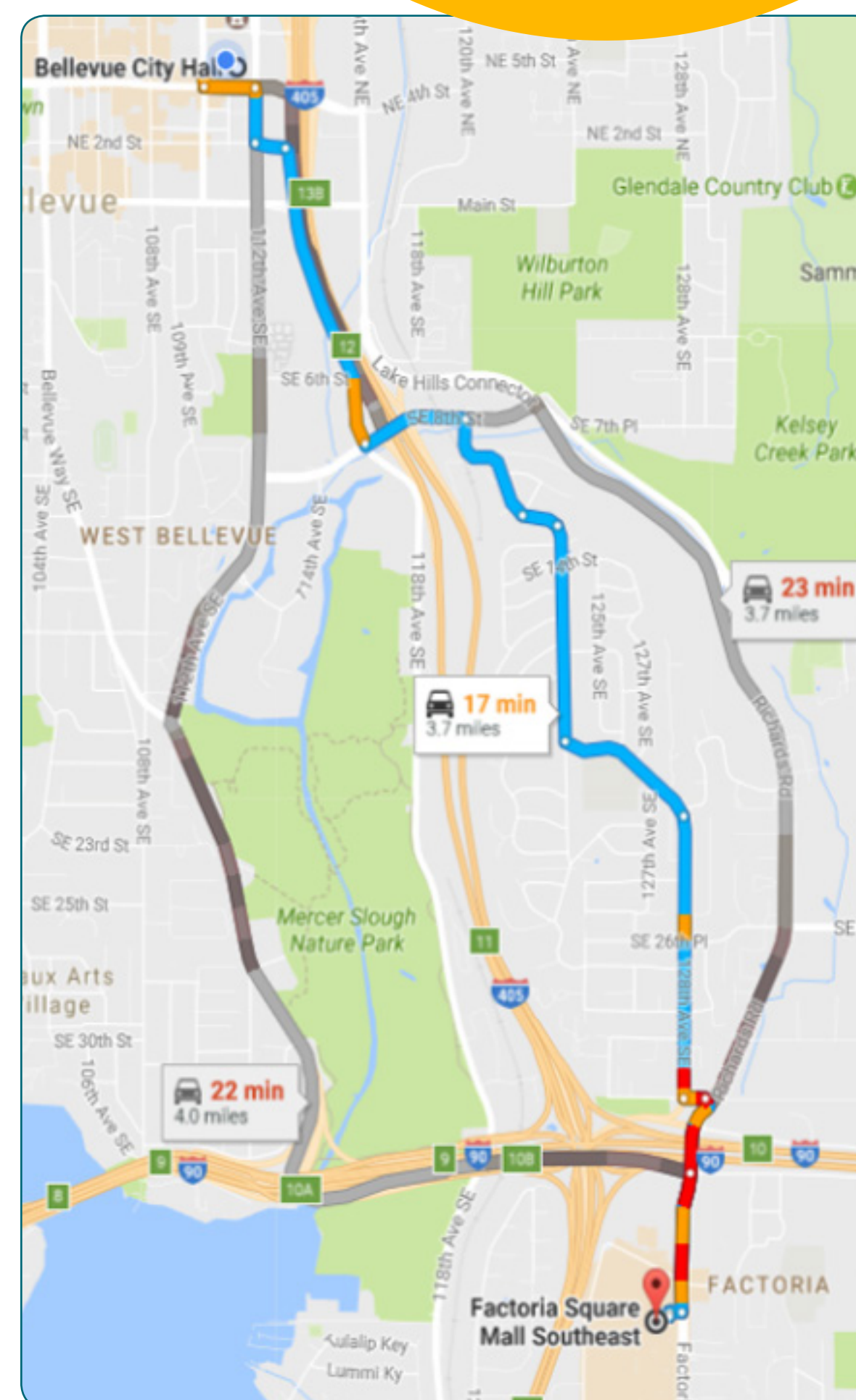
12 pm

Freeway route  
Freeways are largely clear so they are the fastest and suggested route



3 pm

Arterial route  
Evening commute—which has lengthened in recent years—begins and routes now shift to the arterial network

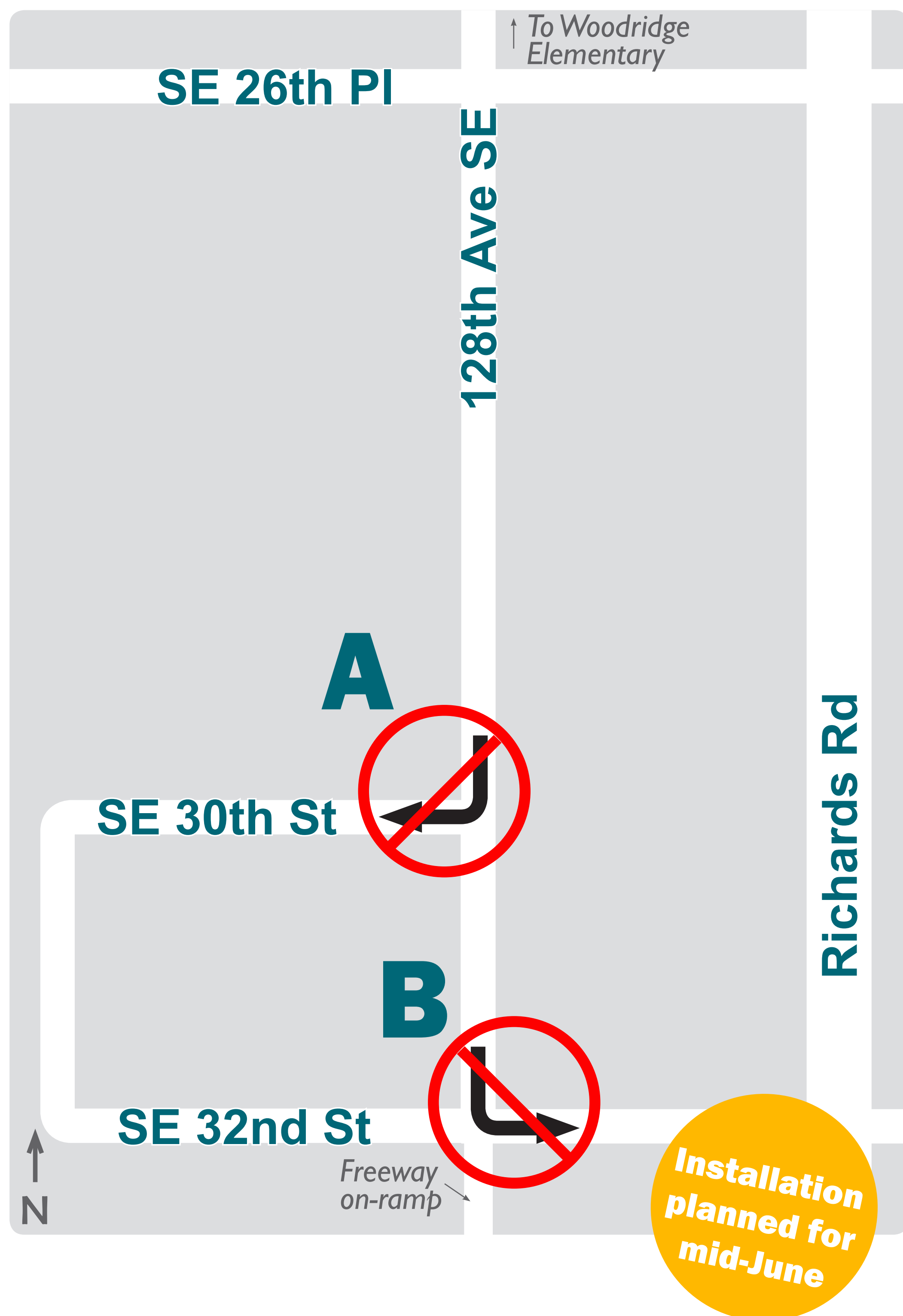


5 pm

Local route  
Evening commute in full swing—the freeway and arterial network is well-saturated with traffic shifting into neighborhoods.

# WHAT'S PLANNED

Strategic time-based (weekdays, 4-7 pm) turn restrictions will be placed at SE 30th St and SE 32nd St to discourage commuter traffic from using Woodridge streets during the evening commute.



- In effect Monday-Friday, 4-7 pm
- Bikes and buses exempt
- Will be a pilot project through December to gauge effectiveness and community feedback



**A** Southbound 128th Ave SE motorists cannot turn right (west) onto SE 30th St

**B** Southbound 128th Ave SE motorists cannot turn left (east) onto SE 32nd St

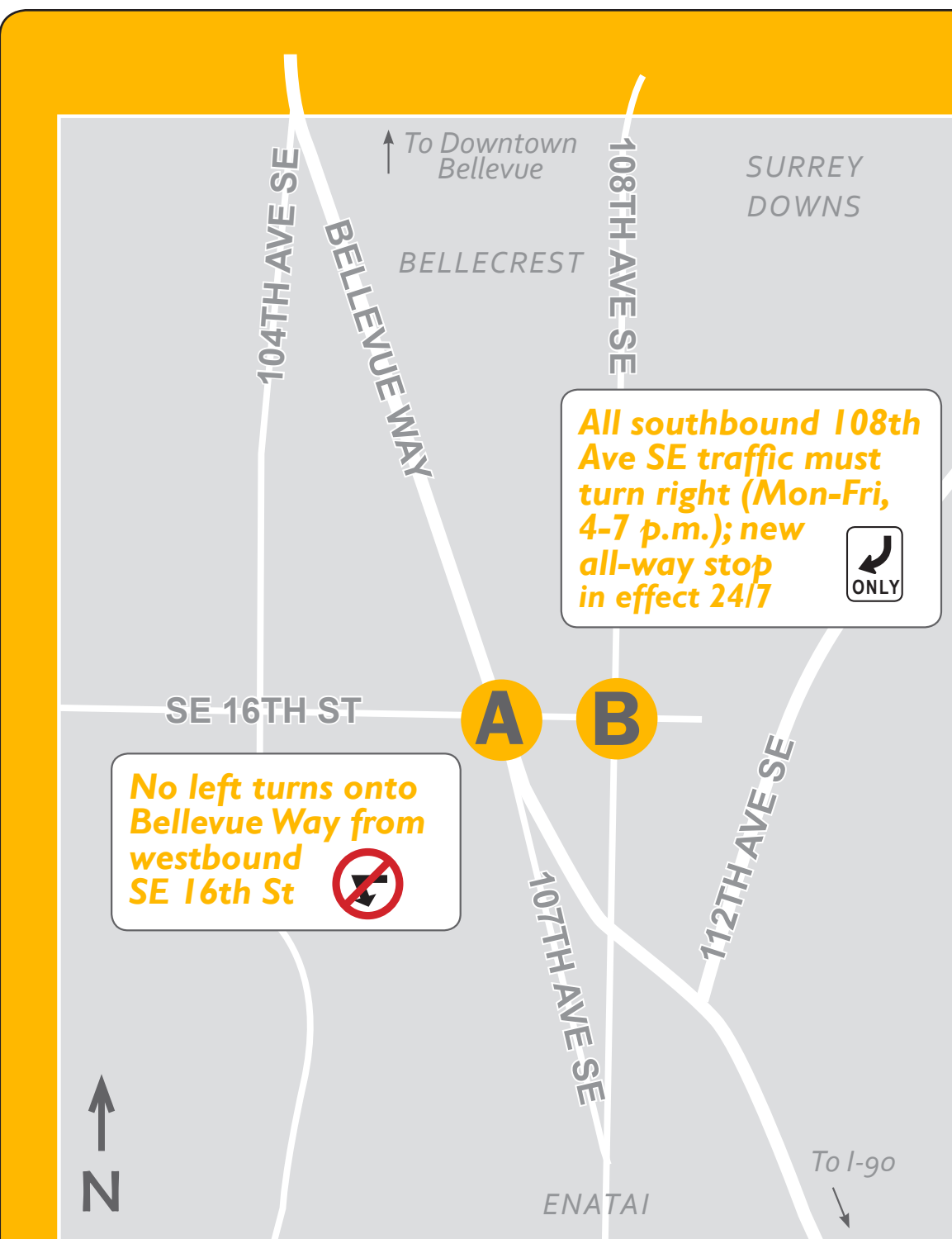


# WHY TIME-BASED TURN RESTRICTIONS?

## Time-based turn restrictions offer numerous benefits:

- Proven to be effective (see below)
- Navigation apps will remove streets from their routing
- Regulatory in nature and can be enforced
- Can be targeted when/where problem is most severe (e.g. weekday, evening commute) versus 24/7
- Traditional traffic calming (e.g. speed humps) not as effective in discouraging commuter traffic
- Can be easily tested and adjusted

55% of March 2, 2017 meeting attendees stated they would be willing to travel farther and/or longer for the possibility of less traffic



Restrictions in effect: Mon-Fri, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm  
Restrictions do not apply to transit or people biking.

### Case Study

Recently installed time-based turn restrictions on 108th Ave SE at SE 16th St (south of downtown Bellevue) helped to drive down volumes by 750 vehicles during the three-hour commute time (4-7 pm). This represents a 63% reduction in evening traffic in the key direction of travel.

Volume before restriction: 1,173 vehicles  
Volume after restriction: 429 vehicles ↓



# QUESTIONS

## **When will they be installed?**

Mid-June. A follow-up postcard will be mailed out in the coming weeks along with information on NextDoor.

## **When are turn restrictions in effect?**

Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.

## **Are resident exempt?**

No, all motorists must obey the restrictions.

## **Are bikes and buses exempt?**

Yes, like other turn restrictions in the city, bikes/buses are exempt.

## **What is the fine if disobeyed?**

\$136.

## **How long will they be in place?**

They will be installed on a pilot basis until the end of 2018. Community feedback and traffic volume data will be collected to determine whether the restrictions will be modified, made permanent, or removed.

## **Can cameras be used to enforce the restrictions?**

Washington state law prohibits the use of cameras to enforce this restriction. Cameras are permitted to enforce red-lights and school zone speed limits.

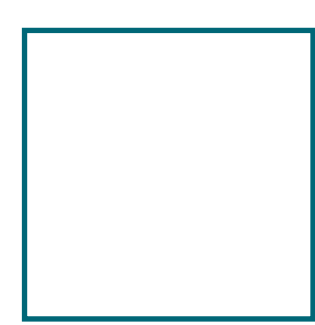
## **How do I provide feedback during the pilot?**

An online survey will be made available while the pilot is in effect to help gather community perspectives.

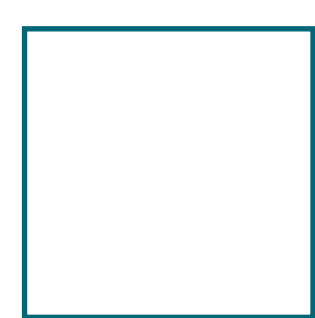
## **Can residents can be given a sticker to be exempt from the restrictions?**

No such program currently exists in the city. Such a program would be logistically challenging to administer and has legal implications. Implementing such a new program would require policy and resource changes that currently aren't in place.

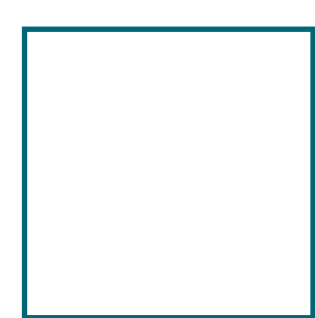
# WHAT'S NEXT



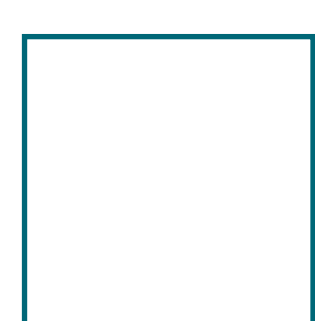
You'll receive another postcard in the mail as installation of the signage nears. A post will also be made on NextDoor.



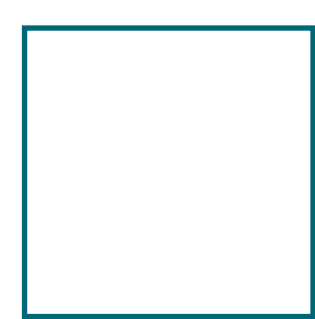
Enforcement officers will issue warnings and \$136 citations.



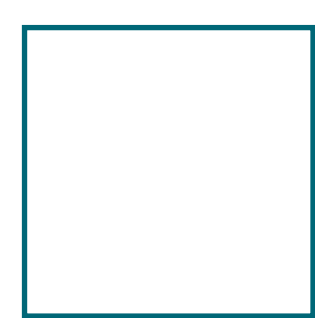
Routes through neighborhood will get removed from navigation apps.



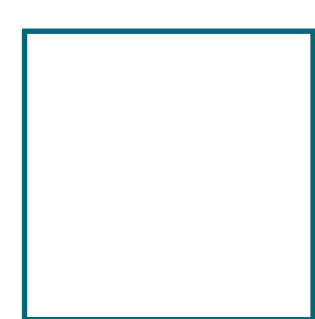
Traffic study conducted following installation to show impact on traffic volume.



Opportunity to provide feedback for the next six months. Link to online survey will be on postcard and NextDoor post.



In December, based on the traffic study and community feedback, you'll be notified on whether the restrictions remain, are modified, or are removed.



Keep informed:  
[bellevuewa.gov/woodridgetraffic](http://bellevuewa.gov/woodridgetraffic)