

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

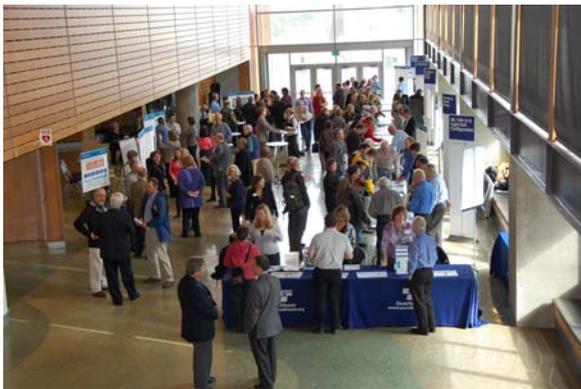
News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

June 2012

Open House offers a closer look at East Link light rail cost saving options

Bellevue residents are invited to join City and Sound Transit staff on Tuesday, June 5, for the second of two open house meetings focusing on potential cost-saving modifications of the East Link Light Rail project. The event is scheduled for 4-7 p.m. in the Bellevue City Hall Concourse.

East Link is the voter-approved project extending light rail from Seattle, across Lake Washington on Interstate 90 to Bellevue and on to the Overlake Transit Center in Redmond. In November 2011, the Bellevue City Council and the Sound Transit Board agreed to establish a collaborative framework to share the additional cost of a tunnel in downtown Bellevue. Since that time, the City and Sound Transit have been engaged in a Collaborative Design Process which includes the identification of ideas with the potential to reduce project costs.



More than 200 people attended an initial open house on April 26 where the cost-saving ideas were introduced and grouped into three categories: (1) ideas that had been previously reviewed and not selected; (2) ideas that merit further engineering review and would not affect the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) project description; and (3) ideas that involve potential changes to the MOU project description.

The June 5 open house will provide information from the Cost Savings Report, including engineering analysis that has been done to evaluate technical feasibility, potential for cost reductions, and potential environmental impacts. Meeting participants will have an opportunity to review information about each idea, talk with City and Sound Transit staff, and submit their comments. Public input from both open houses, stakeholder meetings and other comments will be weighed by the City Council and Sound Transit Board as they decide later this month which of the potential cost saving ideas merit further engineering and analysis. A final decision on whether to include any of the ideas that would change the project description in the MOU would be made after additional engineering and environmental analysis, likely in early 2013.

The East Link project is entering the next design phase, leading up to construction beginning in 2015, and the beginning of service in 2023. Project questions can be directed to Michael Kattermann at the City, 425-452-2042, mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov or to Katie Kuciemba at Sound Transit, 206-398-5459 or katie.kuciemba@soundtransit.org.

Are you taking advantage of special benefits for neighborhoods?

Twenty-some neighborhoods have applied for matching grants already this year. If your neighborhood isn't among them, you may be missing a perfect opportunity to work with your neighbors to complete a

much-needed project – mailbox replacement, sign improvement, landscaping upgrade – with funding help from the City.

Neighborhood Matching Grants are available to help residents build small local improvements, conduct neighborhood clean-ups, and organize neighborhood associations. Other benefits exclusively offered to neighborhoods include:



Neighbor Link Events – block parties and picnics and neighborhood service projects – may be eligible for help from the City. Neighborhood Outreach offers ideas and resources, design and printing of flyers and party banners and – when your event includes a food drive or other community service project -- Seattle Mariners tickets to give away. This is limited to the first 25 neighborhoods to register.

NEW THIS YEAR: ***Private, Guided Walking Tours*** of Bellevue’s popular annual sculpture exhibit are offered to the first six neighborhood groups to sign up. City Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne will conduct the tours of the Bellwether exhibit on weekdays between July 15 and October 1-- morning, mid-day or at 5 p.m. for groups of 6-10 neighbors. Prior to each 90-minute tour, each neighborhood group also will be invited to enjoy complementary coffee hosted at Vovito Caffé and Gelato in The Bravern, across NE 6th Street from City Hall.

For more information on any of the above neighborhood opportunities, contact Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836 or NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

Help determine City spending priorities

Two open house events are scheduled this month to provide information and gather public input on City spending for 2013-2014. Currently, City staff are submitting their operating budget proposals for the next biennium, along with their capital spending proposals for the years 2013-19. As part of the budget review and decision-making process, community members are invited to contribute their opinions on City spending priorities. Comments will be recorded during a pair of open house meetings:

- 🚧 Tuesday, June 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.; and
- 🚧 Thursday, June 14, 7-8:30 p.m. in Bellevue City Hall Room 1E-108.

Anyone unable to attend is welcome to send comments to FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov.

Stop being baffled by language barriers

In Bellevue’s diverse community, neighbors come from all over the world and everyday communication can be a challenge. Wouldn’t it be perfect if everyone could learn how to speak and how to listen to achieve a better understanding of one another?

The City is offering a free workshop to provide everyday tips and strategies for communicating with limited-English speakers. Led by Marci Williams, ESL Coordinator for Hopelink Adult Education, the workshop will be held Thursday, June 28, at 7 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall. Content will include tips for speaking, listening, writing and understanding, as well as some exploration of cultural cautions and taboos. The program is designed for people who want to be culturally sensitive in today’s world and want to communicate respect, as well as those who speak another language and want to help foster understanding and communication. The workshop is part of the neighborhood forum educational series, sponsored by Neighborhood Outreach. For more information contact Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-6836.

Street overlay starts this month

More than 21 miles of East Bellevue streets will get a new surface this summer through the City's annual Pavement Overlay Program. As part of the program's \$4.4 million schedule for 2012:

- Overlay will begin in June on 156th Avenue NE between Bel-Red Road and NE 28th Street; next will be work on 148th Avenue NE between Main Street and Bel-Red Road.
- In July and August, paving will move to NE 8th Street, from 124th Avenue NE through the intersection of 156th Avenue NE, and on 164th Avenue SE between NE 8th and SE 14th Street.



Workers also will fix or replace curbs, gutters and sidewalks as needed, and install 96 new curb ramps to make it easier for people with disabilities to get around. Before work begins in a neighborhood, flyers will be distributed to affected residents and "No Parking" signs will be set up a couple of days beforehand. On major thoroughfares, electronic message signs will alert drivers to upcoming traffic impacts.

For more information about street overlay, see the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/overlay.htm> or contact Teresa Becker, Pavement Management Program Manager, at 425-452-7942 or tbecker@bellevuewa.gov.

City welcomes newly annexed neighborhoods

Bellevue became a city of more than 130,000 this month with the annexation of three South Bellevue neighborhoods. Following a successful citizen-led petition drive and several weeks of planning for transition from King County to City services, the City Council voted May 21 to approve the annexation of Eastgate, Tamara Hills and Horizon View.

As of June 1, the annexing neighborhoods added 5,400 new residents, 1,850 residences and 700 acres to the City. To welcome new residents, Council and staff have scheduled:

- ✚ A welcome reception from 7:30 to 8 p.m. during the Monday, June 18 City Council meeting;
- ✚ Drop-in informational meetings hosted by the City's neighborhood staff from 10 a.m. to noon June 19 and 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. June 20 at the Newport Way Library, and from 10 a.m. to noon June 21 at South Bellevue Community Center;
- ✚ An evening of information and family fun from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 26 at the South Bellevue Community Center.

For more information, call Neighborhood Outreach staff at 425-452-6836 or e-mail NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov.

June 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.)

6/4 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Ashwood Park Master Plan/Downtown Fire Station, Development Services Code Amendment Work Program/Downtown Livability Initiative (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, public hearing on requested street vacation of a portion of 95th Avenue NE

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

6/5 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Utility Wraps project proposal, Bellwether 2012: reGeneration update, introduction of new Commissioners and farewells to three Commissioners who have completed their terms http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

- 6/5 East Bellevue Community Council** (6:30, Lake Hills Village Professional Center, 655 156th Ave. SE, Bellevue) Courtesy public hearing for Conditional Use Application for new Puget Sound Energy transmission line connecting Phantom Lake and Lake Hills Substations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm
- 6/5 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Preliminary review of Goal 5 and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications; begin full application review of Goal 1 applications
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
- 6/5 East Link Open House** (4-7, City Hall Concourse) Opportunity to review and discuss potential light rail cost saving measures (see above article)
- 6/7 Bellevue Network on Aging:** Network On Aging will take part in the Eastside Human Services Forum June event, 7:30-9:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center, 4063 148th Ave. NE
- 6/7 Environmental Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Budget proposal wrap-up, Rate/Revenue Stability Design, Renewal & Replacement http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm
- 6/11 City Council** (4:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Workshop on East Link cost-savings options http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 6/12 Parks & Community Services Board** (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm
- 6/12 Budget Open House** (7:00, Crossroads Community Center) Opportunity to comment on City spending priorities (See related article.)
- 6/12 Human Services Commission** (6:00, 1E-112) Full application review of Goal 1, 2 and 3 applications
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
- 6/13 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
- 6/14 Transportation Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Transportation Facilities Plan Update, Downtown Transportation Plan Update, Capital Investment Program 1st Round Plan Priorities
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm
- 6/14 Budget Open House** (7:00, 1E-108) Opportunity to comment on City spending priorities
- 6/18 City Council** (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link cost-savings options, 7:30 reception and recognition for South Bellevue annexation volunteers (8:00 regular meeting, Chambers) Proclamation recognizing Eastgate Annexation, Consent Calendar, medical marijuana collective garden work program update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 6/19 Human Services Commission** (6:30, 1E-113) Full application review of Goal 4, 5 and CDBG applications
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
- 6/25 City Council** (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link cost-savings options, regional issues, SR 520 tolling diversion onto City streets, Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm
- 6/26 Human Services Commission** (6:00, 1E-113) Determine CDBG funding recommendations and begin preliminary General Fund application recommendations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm
- 6/27 Planning Commission** (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm
- 6/28 Bellevue Network on Aging** (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Bel-Red Corridor update, committee reports
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.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 452-6836.