Wilburton – Grand Connection
City of Bellevue Transportation Commission– Project Update

July 13th, 2017
Tonight’s Discussion

• Grand Connection
  • Overview of Sequence One work
    • Meydenbauer Bay to Civic Center District
  • Overview of the Draft Framework Plan
  • Updates on the Interstate 405 Crossing
    • Sequence Two
Goals of the Grand Connection

• Enhanced pedestrian and cyclist experience through Downtown
  • Safety
  • Connectivity
  • Mobility
  • Experience

• Improve public spaces

• Pursue opportunities for programming

• Connection across Interstate 405

• Companion effort to the Wilburton Commercial Area

• A City Council Priority
Visioning Process

• **Sequence One**
  - Meydenbauer Bay to Civic Center District

• **Sequence Two**
  - Interstate 405 Crossing
  - Interface with Eastside Rail Corridor and Wilburton Commercial Area

- Placemaking Improvements
- Cohesive Design Strategies
- Identity
- Route
Context
The Route
The Identity

- Natural Landscape
  - Enhanced vegetation
  - Sustainable infrastructure
- Playful Landscape
  - Play for all ages
- Historical / Collaborative Landscape
  - History of Bellevue and the history we are making
  - Agriculture
  - Technology
Cohesive Design Strategies

- Planting
  - Gateways
  - Urban Gardens
- Sustainability
  - Stormwater
  - Energy Production
- Weather Protection
- Paving
Cohesive Design Strategies - Paving

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Cohesive Design Strategies – Weather Protection

CANOPY LAYER

LINEAR

SINGLE

POLE
Cohesive Design Strategies
Art and Culture

• A defining element of the route
• Supportive of cohesive design strategies and gateways
• Elevate the role of arts and culture in Bellevue
• Encourage new concepts and support Bellevue’s creative economy
• Create whimsy and discovery
• Speak to:
  • Cultural diversity
  • Technology
  • Performance
  • Sustainability
Mobility and Connectivity

• Embrace technology as part of the route
• Improve last mile connectivity
• Improve mobility for users of all ages
• 8 to 80 cities
• Navigate challenging topography

Potential regional connectivity options
Public Space Improvements

- Improve flow for users of all abilities
- Flexible, adaptable, and programmable space
- Multiple purpose space
- Food trucks
- Farmer's market
- Play

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Draft Framework Plan

- **Sequence One**
  - Meydenbauer Bay to Civic Center District

- **11 Chapters**
  - Introduction
  - Public Engagement
  - The Route
  - Route Identity
  - Cohesive Design Strategies
  - Art and Culture *
  - Connectivity and Mobility
  - Public Spaces
  - Interstate 405 Crossing **
  - Programming
  - Implementation and Next Steps

*Appendix to the Framework Plan

**Information only – covered in Volume 2 and Wilburton EIS
Bellevue Transit Center

Overview

The Bellevue Transit Center serves as an important gateway to the City. With the addition of the Downtown East Link light rail station to the east, this area will continue to serve a large population that enters Bellevue via this important transit hub. For many that work and visit Bellevue, this is their initial experience with the City. Proposed improvements through the Downtown Transportation Plan will improve conditions for cyclists and pedestrians on the north side of the transit center.

The design team first began by examining the movement of buses in the area. As an important transit node, it is essential that bus movements remain efficient and fluid. The dual purpose of the area as a significant location along the Grand Connection warrants consideration for improvements and a focus on pedestrians, cyclists, and transportation alternatives. The design proposal seeks to have all buses enter from one direction to simplify the bus movements while reducing opportunities for conflict between non-motorized transportation and buses. The diagram (next page) illustrates the buses entering the transit center from the west, but depending on the routes, the configuration could be modified so that all buses enter from the east.

The concept as proposed represents an ideal situation where the south lane of the transit center could be removed, allowing for the transit center to be connected to the public space and plaza to the south as part of the City Center development. Additionally, this would create space for bike lanes and alternative transportation options. Two alternatives exist in order to accommodate for the current number of bus routes, or a reduced number. Angled spaces are provided to the north of the transit center to preserve the existing number of bays.

Next Steps: Compass Plaza

- Design refinement and phasing approach for the Compass Plaza reconfiguration, including materials, programming, and art installations.
- Explore the opportunity to expand the plaza to the west as a long-term strategy.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate and partner with private development improvements and City initiatives.
- Engage in tactical urbanism events to test and demonstrate potential future improvements.
- Explore programming and cultural pinch opportunities.
Draft Framework Plan

June - September
• Distribute to Council
• Open to public comment
• Presentations to boards, commissions, public, civic organizations

September - October
• Refine (Council Direction)
• Catalogue public comments for future refinements

October - November
• Return to Council for adoption
Interstate 405 Crossing
Interstate 405 Crossing
Visioning Goals

- Safe and comfortable connection
- Opportunities for public space
- Integration and cohesion with future development opportunities
- Interface with 116th Avenue NE
- Interface with Eastside Rail Corridor
- Signature in form, design, & experience
Interstate 405 Crossing
Alternative One
Interstate 405 Crossing
Alternative One
Interstate 405 Crossing
Alternative Two
Interstate 405 Crossing
Alternative Three
Interstate 405 Crossing
Alternative Three