



## City of Bellevue/South Downtown I-405 Access Study

### Stakeholder forum #1 agenda

**Date:** 6/25/2020

**Location:** Zoom

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

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#### Forum objectives

- Introduce the south downtown Bellevue I-405 access study
- Provide an overview of the study process and timeline
- Share how the city will engage stakeholders and community members in developing the study
- Answer questions and share next steps

Time	Item	Lead
6:00 p.m.	Welcome, opening remarks and review meeting objectives	Paula Stevens/Laura LaBissoniere Miller
6:10 p.m.	Purpose of the stakeholder forums	Shuming Yan
6:15 p.m.	Study overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- History</li><li>- Purpose and need</li><li>- Timeline</li><li>- Guiding principles</li><li>- Decision making</li><li>- Evaluation criteria</li></ul>	Shuming Yan
7:00 p.m.	Break	All



<b>7:05 p.m.</b>	Community and stakeholder engagement process	Marie Jensen
<b>7:20 p.m.</b>	Questions and answer	Laura LaBissoniere Miller/Shuming Yan
<b>7:50 p.m.</b>	Next steps	Laura LaBissoniere Miller



## City of Bellevue/South Downtown I-405 Access Study

# Stakeholder Forum #1 Summary

June 25, 2020 6-8 p.m. | Zoom

### Panelists

#### Bellevue Transportation Department

- Paula Stevens, Assistant Director
- Shuming Yan, Project Manager
- Marie Jensen, Public Involvement Manager

#### Washington Department of Transportation

- Karl Westby, Traffic Manager
- Barrett Hanson, Design Manager

#### PRR, Engagement Consultant

- Laura LaBissoniere Miller, Facilitator/moderator
- Nancy Thai, Assistant Facilitator

### Overview

#### Welcome

Laura LaBissoniere Miller, facilitator with the consultant PRR, welcomed participants, gave an overview of the virtual meeting logistics, and invited the project team to introduce themselves.

Andrew Singelakis, City of Bellevue Transportation Department director, Paula Stevens, City Assistant Transportation Department Director, welcomed the group to the first City of Bellevue South Downtown I-405 Access Study stakeholder forum and thanked everyone for their participation. Transportation staff introduced themselves. The Director was unable participate in the entire forum as he needed to attend a Transportation Commission meeting.

Laura reviewed the forum objectives, including introducing the City of Bellevue's South Downtown I-405 Access Study, providing an overview of the study process and timeline, sharing how the city will engage stakeholders and community members in developing the study and answering questions. Please see the Appendix for the presentation.

#### Stakeholder forum purpose

Shuming Yan, project manager, shared the purpose of the stakeholder forums is to inform and listen to stakeholder input. The study team identified key stakeholders in the study area, including developers, property owners, and neighborhood associations. Shuming shared that the study team met with some of the stakeholders prior to the forum and will be available to meet throughout the



study process. The city will use the forums to share study information and answer questions ahead of broader community engagement. Participants will be invited to ask at the end of the forum and complete a questionnaire to gather additional feedback.

## **Study overview**

Shuming shared that nearly two decades of planning by the City of Bellevue, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Sound Transit have shaped downtown Bellevue. The city, WSDOT and Sound Transit created plans such as the I-405 Master Plan, South Transit 2 and Bellevue Comprehensive Plan to guide growth in the area. Karl Westby shared about the I-405 Master Plan. One of the key elements of that plan was new access and improvements in downtown Bellevue, including south downtown. While the South Downtown I-405 Access Study focuses on a potential new interchange to and from I-405 in the south downtown area, the city is planning other initiatives, such as the Comprehensive Plan Update, subarea studies and the Mobility Implementation Plan, to address broader transportation issues within the entire city. Shuming spoke about Bellevue's obligation due to the Washington State Growth Management Act to plan for growth in the city. Most of the growth is expected in downtown, East Main, Wilburton and BelRed areas.

## **Purpose and need**

Next, Shuming reviewed the purpose and need of the study. Studying a potential new interchange supports the city's plan for growth, eases congestion, improves safety for drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, improves access to Bellevue and I-405, supports urban design, land use, economic development and transportation policies and ensure consistency with the I-405 Master Plan and other policies. Shuming explained the city will consider a "no-build" option as well. This is expected to be a state funded project, and we need to know the cost, and therefore the preferred alternative for funding consideration by state legislature.

## **Timeline and study guiding principles**

Shuming then reviewed the planned study timeline with the study kickoff in June, developing and screening alternatives in July, evaluating the alternatives from August through October and identifying a preferred alternative by the end of year. The study team will host four stakeholder forums, two online open houses, two council briefings and document the study in January 2021. He shared the study's guiding principles:

- Facilitate safe multimodal connections
- Improve access and efficiency
- Support economic development and urban design policies
- Align with existing plans & policies, including I-405 Master Plan
- Engage stakeholders and the community
- Assess cost considerations



## Decision making

Shuming gave an overview of the city's decision-making process. Stakeholder and community input will be shared with the study team to help inform the alternatives analysis and recommendation to City Council. Based on technical analysis and input from stakeholders and the public, the study work group will present the information to the City Council to inform their selection of a preferred alternative in consultation with WSDOT. The ultimate funding decision for final design and construction of the project is in the hand of state legislature.

## Evaluation process

Shuming gave an overview of the evaluation criteria. The study team will first conduct a fatal flaw screening of the alternatives for alignment with local, state, and federal plans and policies and constructability. The study team will then consider travel time, missing links, barriers to or conflict points with non-motorized traffic, impact on property development, alignment with adopted plans and urban design policies, cost and stakeholder and public input.

## Community and stakeholder engagement

Marie Jensen, City of Bellevue Transportation Department Public Involvement Manager, reviewed the community and stakeholder engagement process. She will be the point of contact for these meetings and can coordinate one-on-one meetings as requested. The study team is hosting four online stakeholder forums, two online open houses and opportunities to meet one-on-one with city staff during the study. She shared the purpose for the forums and online open houses:

- Stakeholder forum #1: Introduce study.
- Stakeholder forum #2: Share and screen alternative concepts.
- Online open house #1: Introduce study and share alternative concepts for feedback.
- Stakeholder forum #3: Review alternative evaluation.
- Stakeholder forum #4: Share preliminary preferred alternative.
- Online open house #2: Share and gather input on preferred alternative before presenting to council.

After a short break, Laura facilitated the question and answer portion of the forum. A summary of stakeholder questions and comments are below:

## Questions

### Study considerations

- It's hard to see how a "no action" option would be compatible with the purpose statement. (Note: question was asked and answered during the presentation)
  - *The no action will be considered because the preferred alternative has to outperform the no action to justify the cost. It is also a state and federal requirement to compare the preferred alternative to no action.*

- Has the City of Bellevue studied impacts to traffic if vehicle access to 114th Avenue was cut off at Northeast Second Street?
  - *All existing city policies and plans have assumed 114th Avenue will remain open. Some alternatives do require a portion of the road be taken by a ramp, but we will look for alternatives that do not require this.*
- With new development planned between Northeast Second Street and Main Street, is the city planning for commuters to use the Northeast Second Street interchange to access I-405 southbound to I-90, or accessing I-90 from Bellevue Way (potentially cutting through residential areas)?
  - *Detailed traffic modelling will occur in the next phase. Likely, people will do both (some will use the new interchange and some will use Bellevue Way) based on their perception of which route is faster, which could change from day to day.*
- How has the city estimated transit-oriented development needs of the East Main Station area when the station area development, size, design and layout is not yet known?
  - *In the planning process, the city assumed a certain level of growth in the city, including in the station area. The city used a computerized travel demand model to estimate future travel demand by different travel modes based on assumed growth. Work in the future will involve this more, not in this study.*
  - *The study team will forward this question to the East Main Transit Oriented Development (TOD) team for their consideration as they engage in the land use code amendment effort which has just begun.*
- How can the city complete a traffic study before transit is complete?
  - *There are major developments occurring along I-405 and waiting to perform this study could limit our alternatives. In the traffic modelling, we will assume the light rail is open, since our study timeline is assumed to be 2035. We designed the traffic model to answer travel demand questions such as light rail usage in the future after it opens.*
- Is the city able to use place markers and projections for the impact of light rail completion?
  - *This was answered by the question above.*
- What is the expected duration of interchange construction?
  - *This depends on the configuration of the preferred alternative.*
- Will the study examine potential impacts to the wetland on the east side of I-405 (the Second Street options), including the cost of mitigation and identifying options that do not impact the wetland?
  - *Yes, and if mitigation is required, we will include it in the cost estimate.*
- How would construction of the interchange affect traffic congestion? What are the city's plans to minimize congestion during construction?
  - *For major projects, we consider the impacts to traffic during construction and typically have a construction mitigation plan.*

## Transit and bicycle connections

- What assumptions is the study team making about the incomplete bike plans on Main Street, Northeast Second Street and 114th Avenue? Will the city further develop those plans so the city can better understand the impacts of these alternatives on the bicycle network?
  - *Traffic modelling is based on 2035, so it includes the regional bike facilities planned for completion by then. We will consider their usage and how an interchange works with these facilities.*
- How can we incentivize non-vehicle transportation? For example, in some European countries, caregivers can travel on public transportation for free while traveling with their children during the day.
  - *There are other studies and plans, such as the Mobility Implementation Plan, that will look at other transportation methods.*
- Another stakeholder commented their support to promote multi-modal planning, however pointed out that people trying to access I-405 will not be walking or cycling.
  - *The goal of this project is to improve vehicle access to I-405, but we also want to make sure we limit impact to other modes of transportation.*

## Other

- Could the city send the list of stakeholder forum participants and share the Coalition for 114th Avenue Access letter to the City Council with the group.
  - *Yes, provided participants do not have concerns with providing this information. (Participants are listed at the end of this summary)*
- Recognizing that the routing app Waze influences driving behavior, does the city imagine the app will influence driving behavior in the future?
  - *We realize people will use this app to find the quickest way at a particular time, but preferred route changes depending on time of day and day of week, and people will also base their decisions on their personal experience.*
- Is it possible to get directional signage to direct traffic to preferred routes leaving Bellevue?
  - *Yes, signage is a less costly public works project, and there are also state and federal standards on roadway signage. the city has a traffic operation division in charge of route signs and markings. Shuming will pass this suggestion along to the staff in charge.*
- What is the estimated time for funding approval?
  - *The funding approval is in the hands of state legislature. Prior to COVID-19, we were hopeful for as soon as next year. Now, it is very uncertain. We are hopeful that this project could be funded after the completion of the I-405 Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes Project, which is estimated for 2024.*



- Can you please provide Shuming's contact information?
  - *Information is provided in the slideshow and will be sent in follow up correspondence.*
- Will information be shared with participants so that we can forward it to our communities?
  - *Yes. Marie will forward information to stakeholders to pass on.*

## Next steps

After all stakeholder questions were addressed, participants were invited to join the next stakeholder forum on July 23. Laura shared that the city plans to host the first online open house from August 3-21 and a council briefing on September 8. She reminded the group to participate in the follow-up survey. The study team thanked the participants for attending the first forum.

## Attendees

Stakeholders in attendance:

1. Pete Aparico, Columbia Pacific Advisors
2. Rebecca Bloom, Columbia Pacific Advisors
3. Andrew Coates, KGIP
4. Walter Scott, Legacy Commercial
5. Mesha Averill, Legacy Commercial
6. Jennifer Anderson, Master Builders Association of King & Snohomish Counties
7. Kevin McDaniel, Master Builders Association of King & Snohomish Counties
8. Mike Akers, Olson's Tack Shop
9. Hanna Tania, Pioneer Development Corporation, Inc.
10. Brian Franklin, PMF Investments LLC
11. Tim Jackson, PMF Investments LLC
12. Andy Swayne, Puget Sound Energy
13. Mike Read, TENW
14. Chris Forster, TENW
15. Bill Thurston, Pacific Recreation/Bellevue Club
16. Kevin Wallace, Wallace Properties
17. Leshya Wig, Wig Properties LLC
18. Mon Wig, Wig Properties LLC
19. Alex Smith, 700 112 LLC
20. Nanette Lescher, Bellecrest Neighborhood Association
21. Julie Cairone, Downtown Bellevue Residents Association
22. Patrece Banks, Downtown Bellevue Residents Association
23. LeeAnn Guidotti, Wilburton Neighborhood Association
24. Santiago Naranjo, Wilburton Neighborhood Association
25. Cesar Cayvedo, Woodridge Neighborhood Association



26. Erin Kenway, Woodridge Neighborhood Association
27. David Slight, Surrey Downs Community Club
28. Ken Rosenow, Surrey Downs Community Club

Additional study team members in attendance:

1. Andrew Singelakis, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, Director
2. Emil King, City of Bellevue Community Development, Assistant Director
3. Gillian Hagstrom, City of Bellevue Transportation Department, Community Outreach Intern



## Appendix

### Stakeholder Forum #1 Presentation

# South Downtown I-405 Access Study

Stakeholder Forum #1

June 25, 2020



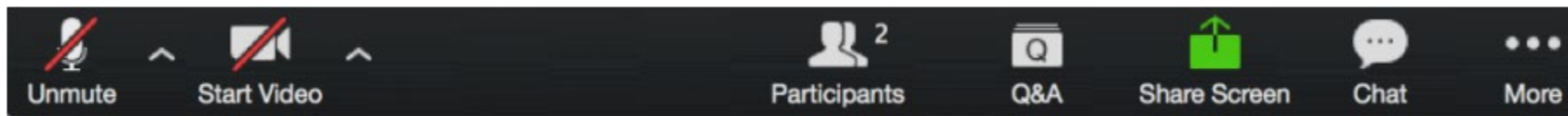
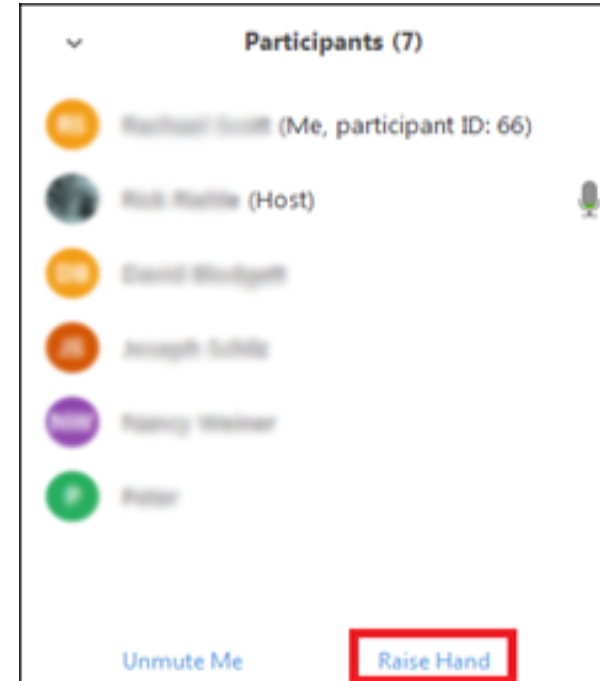
# Agenda

1. Welcome and review meeting objectives
2. Study overview
3. Break
4. Community and stakeholder engagement process
5. Questions and answers
6. Next steps

# Welcome

# Zoom overview

- ✓ Ask a question
- ✓ Raise your hand
- ✓ Technical issues? Email [nthai@prrbiz.com](mailto:nthai@prrbiz.com)



# Tonight's objectives

- Introduce South Downtown I-405 Access Study
- Provide an overview of study process and timeline
- Share community and stakeholder engagement process
- Answer questions and share next steps



# Purpose of stakeholder forums

- Engage and listen to your input
- Share study information and milestones with you
- Answer your questions
- Offer ways for you to provide input

# Study overview

# History

2002 I-405 Master Plan

2008 Sound Transit 2

2009 Bellevue Pedestrian and  
Bicycle Transportation  
Plan

2009 Bellevue Northeast  
Second Street  
Preliminary Design

2015

Bellevue Comprehensive  
Plan

2016

I-405 Master Plan Design -  
Northeast Second and  
Main Street

2019

Bellevue Comprehensive  
Plan amendments

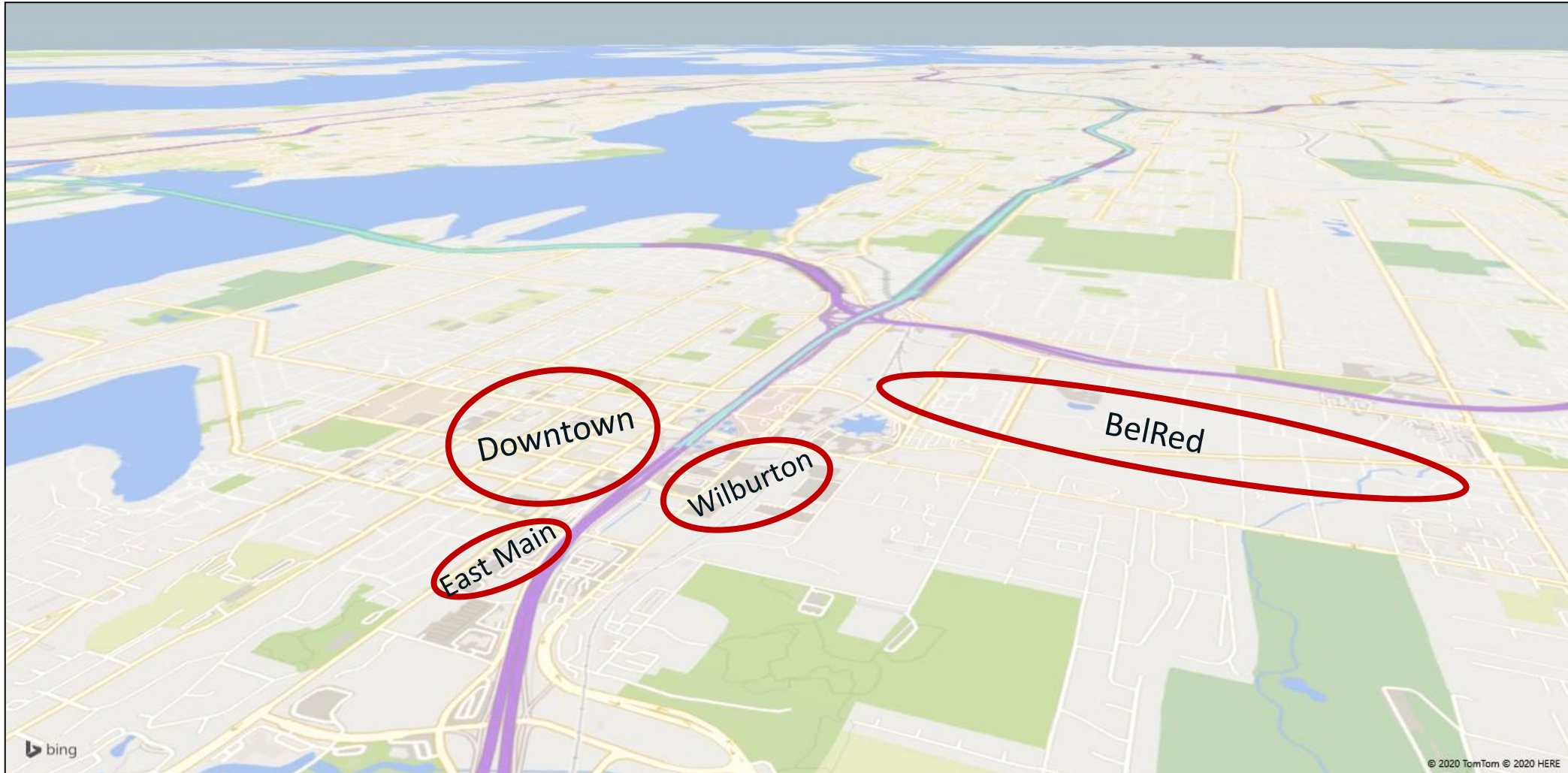
# Looking beyond the study

- Study focuses on improving access to/from I-405 in the south downtown area
- Other city initiatives
  - Comprehensive Plan Update
  - Subarea studies and neighborhood area plans
  - Mobility Implementation Plan

# Shared regional growth

- As required by state's Growth Management Act, all jurisdictions within the central Puget Sound region collaboratively plan for future growth.
- Bellevue, like all other jurisdictions, has an obligation to share this planned growth.
- Receiving areas in Bellevue include Downtown, Wilburton and BelRed.

# Where future growth is expected

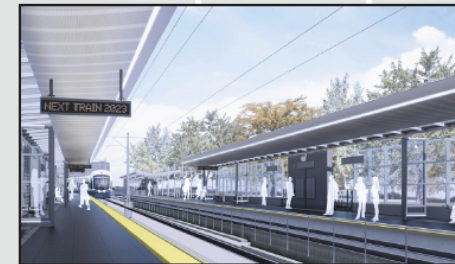


# Need for the study

- Preferred location, configuration and cost estimate needed to position the project for funding.
- Development pending along 114th Avenue and in Wilburton will likely impact interchange options.
- East Main Transit Oriented District land use code amendment requires clarity about the future of 114th Avenue and Main Street.

# Study outcome

- The City Council will select a preferred option for a new I-405 interchange in south downtown Bellevue
- City will consider “no action” option



East Main Station rendering

## Legend

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| ● Link light rail station   | — Grand Connection           |
| — Link light rail   | - - - King County's Eastrail |
| — Main Street linear buffer gateway, Lake to Lake greenway trails | — Potential I-405 access     |

# Project purpose statement

The purpose of this project is to improve south downtown Bellevue vehicle access to/from I-405 for better regional connectivity. Additionally, the project will improve circulation with the local street network for motorized and non-motorized traffic, while minimizing community and environmental impacts. The project should support the City of Bellevue urban design, land use, economic development and transportation policies, improve community connectivity and be consistent with the I-405 Master Plan.

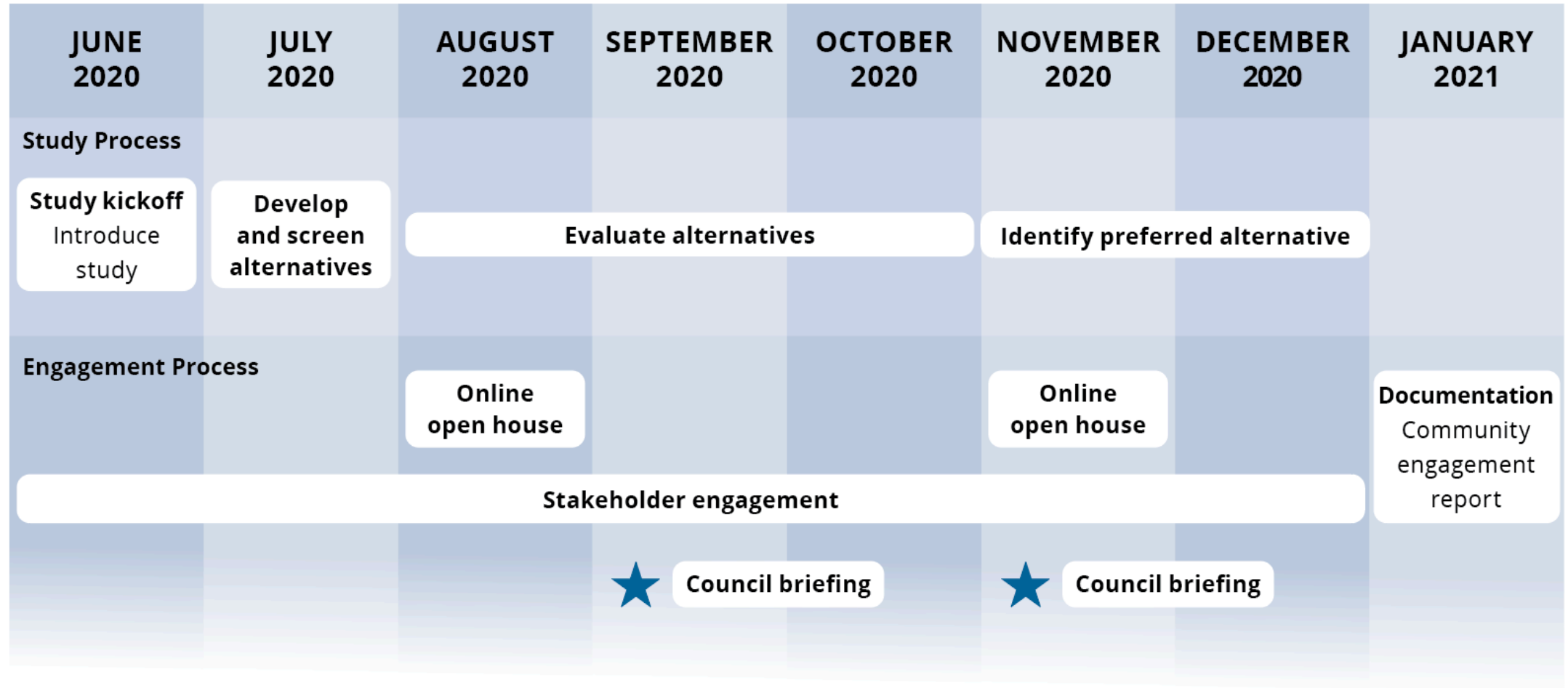
# Project need statement

By 2035, about 22 million square feet of commercial building space and 9000 dwelling units are expected to be added to the areas served by this project. The existing interchanges can not meet the growing demand. To relieve existing congestion, accommodate growth and improve safety, additional interchange capacity in the south downtown area is needed. This need is also identified in the I-405 Master Plan and is intended to complement the half interchange at Northeast 10th Street and the Northeast Sixth Street extension to serve the City of Bellevue and all users of I-405.

# Purpose and need

- Plan for growth
- Ease congestion and improve safety
- Improve access
- Support urban design, land use, economic development and transportation policies
- Ensure consistency with I-405 Master Plan

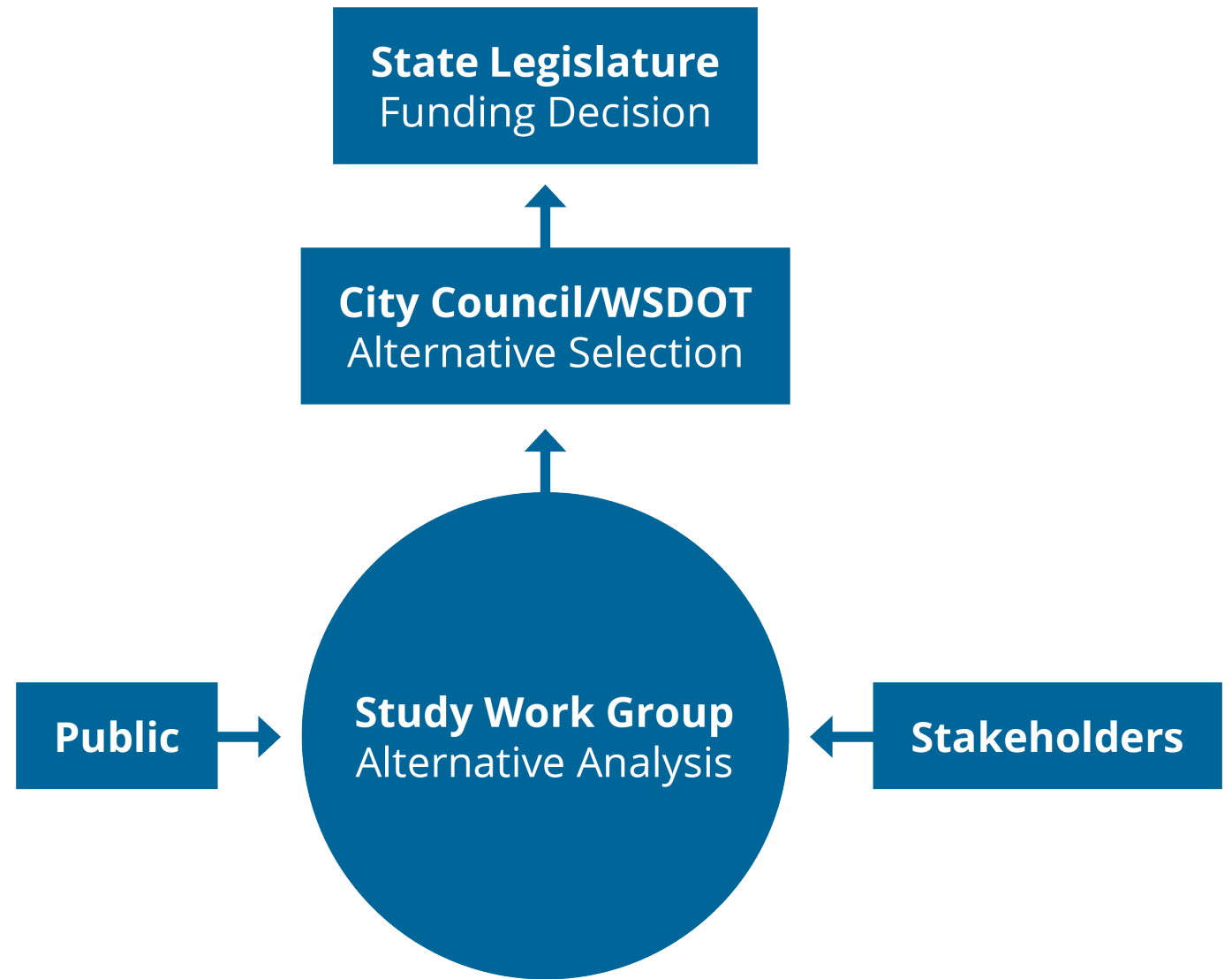
# Study timeline



# Guiding principles

- Facilitate safe multimodal connections
- Improve access and efficiency
- Support economic development and urban design policies
- Align with existing plans & policies, including I-405 Master Plan
- Engage stakeholders and the community
- Assess cost considerations

# Decision making



# Evaluation criteria

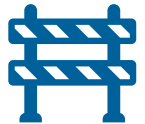
- Tier 1 – Fatal flaw screening
  - Bellevue's plans and policies
  - FHWA and WSDOT policies
  - Constructability

# Evaluation criteria

- Tier 2 – Alternatives evaluation



Travel time



Missing links,  
barriers, or  
conflict points



Impact on  
property  
development



Alignment with  
adopted plans  
& urban design  
policies



Cost



Stakeholder  
Input



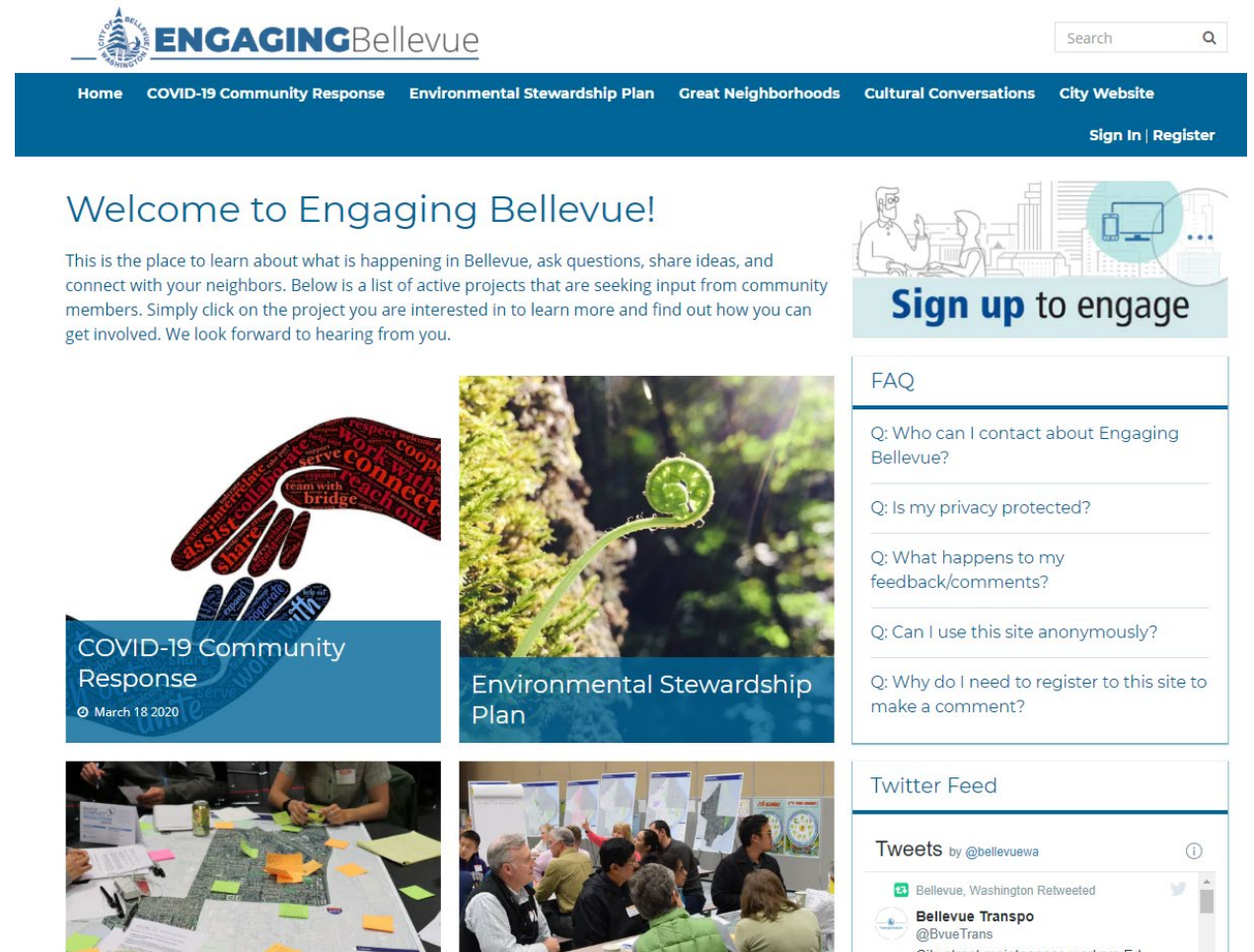
Public input

# Break

# Community & stakeholder engagement process

# Opportunities for input

- Four stakeholder forums
- Two online open houses
- Opportunities to meet one-on-one with city staff during the study



The screenshot shows the Engaging Bellevue website. At the top is the City of Bellevue logo and the text "ENGAGINGBellevue". A search bar is in the top right. A dark blue navigation bar contains links: Home, COVID-19 Community Response, Environmental Stewardship Plan, Great Neighborhoods, Cultural Conversations, and City Website. A "Sign In | Register" link is on the right. The main content area has a "Welcome to Engaging Bellevue!" heading and a paragraph about the site's purpose. Below this are two featured project cards: "COVID-19 Community Response" with a graphic of hands and the date "March 18 2020", and "Environmental Stewardship Plan" with a photo of a fern. To the right is a "Sign up to engage" button with an illustration of people. Below that is a "FAQ" section with questions about contact, privacy, feedback, anonymity, and registration. At the bottom right is a "Twitter Feed" section showing a tweet from @BvueTransp.

**ENGAGING**Bellevue

Home COVID-19 Community Response Environmental Stewardship Plan Great Neighborhoods Cultural Conversations City Website

Sign In | Register

## Welcome to Engaging Bellevue!

This is the place to learn about what is happening in Bellevue, ask questions, share ideas, and connect with your neighbors. Below is a list of active projects that are seeking input from community members. Simply click on the project you are interested in to learn more and find out how you can get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

### COVID-19 Community Response

March 18 2020

### Environmental Stewardship Plan

### Sign up to engage

#### FAQ

Q: Who can I contact about Engaging Bellevue?

Q: Is my privacy protected?

Q: What happens to my feedback/comments?

Q: Can I use this site anonymously?

Q: Why do I need to register to this site to make a comment?

#### Twitter Feed

Tweets by @bellevuewa

Bellevue, Washington Retweeted

**Bellevue Transpo**  
@BvueTransp  
City staff maintenance workers Ed

# Questions and answers

# Next steps

# Upcoming events

- Next stakeholder forum: July 23, 6-8 p.m.
- Online open house: Aug. 3-21
- City Council meeting: Sept. 8
- For more information, please go to <https://bellevuewa.gov> and search “Access study”

# We want to hear from you

- Please take our follow-up survey!
- **Questions or comments?** Contact Shuming Yan at (425) 452-7858 or [SYan@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:SYan@bellevuewa.gov)

Thank you!