



120th Avenue NE, NE 16th Street to Northup Way Roadway Improvement Project Frequently Asked Questions

The BelRed area is transforming!

As population and housing in BelRed grow, the transportation system needs to grow too. One of the biggest transportation changes coming to the BelRed neighborhood is the future Spring District/120th East Link light rail station. This important new transit hub will change how people use the 120th Avenue NE corridor, and the roadway needs to be updated to keep up with the changing neighborhood.

What changes are planned for 120th Avenue NE?

Improvements to 120th Avenue NE between the future NE 16th Street and Northup Way, that we're designing now will support the overall vision for the BelRed area to have a thriving economy, walkable neighborhoods, connections to parks and open spaces, environmental enhancements and a multi-modal transportation system. This is the final phase of the 120th Avenue NE Roadway Improvement project.

We've been working together with Sound Transit, King County Metro and adjacent property owners to design a corridor that has improved access and mobility for lots of different users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, transit users, and freight. For this final piece of 120th Avenue NE we are looking to:



Widen the roadway



Install sidewalks and bike lanes



Replace an undersized, non-fish passable culvert with a culvert structure to provide fish passage in the future



Upgrade utility and stormwater facilities



Improve landscaping and lighting



Enhance corridor signage



Pave and stripe the roadway

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For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2064 (voice) or email mjensen@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

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Frequently Asked Project Questions:

Would one northbound and one southbound vehicle lane be sufficient to support the level of expected traffic instead of the two lanes in each direction as shown in the April 2021 online open house?

Since the online open house and completion of the 30% design milestone in May 2021, our team has conducted additional traffic analyses related to this question. Previous traffic studies completed for the full 120th Avenue NE Corridor showed that widening between the future NE 16th Street and Northrup Way was needed to support future traffic demands for this area and reduce congestion. Due to changes in development such as Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Facility-East, Spring District/120th Station, and transit oriented development, the latest traffic modeling in this area is indicating that two lanes in both directions are not needed for this full segment between NE 16th Street and Northrup Way. The updated traffic analysis is showing that north of the future NE 18th, this segment could perform adequately with one through lane in each direction with turn pockets. The team will use this updated lane configuration as the project is advanced from 30% to 60% design in late 2021.



Is future congestion along this portion of the 120th Avenue NE Corridor expected to primarily occur in the northbound or the southbound direction?

Our future traffic modeling demonstrates that most future congestion is expected to occur in the southbound direction; however, there are also some intersection approaches where congestion in the northbound direction is expected. Based on the recent updated traffic analysis, the southbound congestion will be mitigated by a second southbound lane extending to the future NE 18th street instead of the full corridor length. Intersection congestion will be mitigated by providing turn pockets and turn lanes at the intersections.

Is future congestion along the 120th Avenue NE corridor expected to happen in the morning, the afternoon, or both?

Traffic analysis has primarily focused on the expected number of roadway users during peak evening commute times. The evening peak hours typically represent the highest congestion levels, and the team expects that future congestion on 120th Avenue NE in the morning would be similar or slightly better than it would be in the evening hours.

How will traffic lights on this section of 120th Avenue NE be sequenced to help limit congestion?

The City is continuing to monitor traffic flows along 120th Avenue NE and other roadways in the BelRed area to determine how to best synchronize lights at intersections and keep traffic moving. We're continuing to monitor and adjust traffic flows as new developments occur and as traffic patterns in the area change. New traffic signals and corridors like this utilize adaptive signal control that can respond in real-time to congestion or events that cause delay.

Do you expect fish and other species to use the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek once improvements to 120th Avenue NE are completed?

As part of the corridor design process, our biologists and environmental team are studying the stream crossing and fish passage. Washington State policies and regulations require the design of crossings and culverts to provide passage for fish and wildlife that may use the stream. This project will open up a connection across 120th Ave NE between the West Tributary of Kelsey Creek stream channel to the east and a large wetland on the west. This stream improvement when combined with other downstream improvements in the future will provide a fish passable stream connection and an improved riparian environment critical for fish and other wildlife to thrive in an urban area.

Project Website

BellevueWA.gov/120thavenuecorridor

