



# City of Bellevue

Bellevue Grand Connection:

I-405 Crossing – Downtown to Eastrail  
**Community Engagement Summary for 30% Design**

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## Project overview

The Grand Connection program is 1.5 miles of interconnected public and pedestrian-focused spaces. It starts at Meydenbauer Bay Park and continues east through downtown Bellevue across I-405 to the Eastrail. It will be a place where people who live, work, learn and play in Bellevue can walk, bike, roll, relax, gather, eat and shop. The next element of the Grand Connection is the crossing over I-405—the Grand Connection Crossing, which will link downtown Bellevue to the Eastrail and Wilburton for people traveling without a car.

The Grand Connection Crossing will start at the City Hall Plaza and end at Eastrail, ultimately tying downtown Bellevue to a 175-mile regional trail network that connects more than half a million Eastside residents. **Error! Reference source not found.** shows a map of the future crossing.

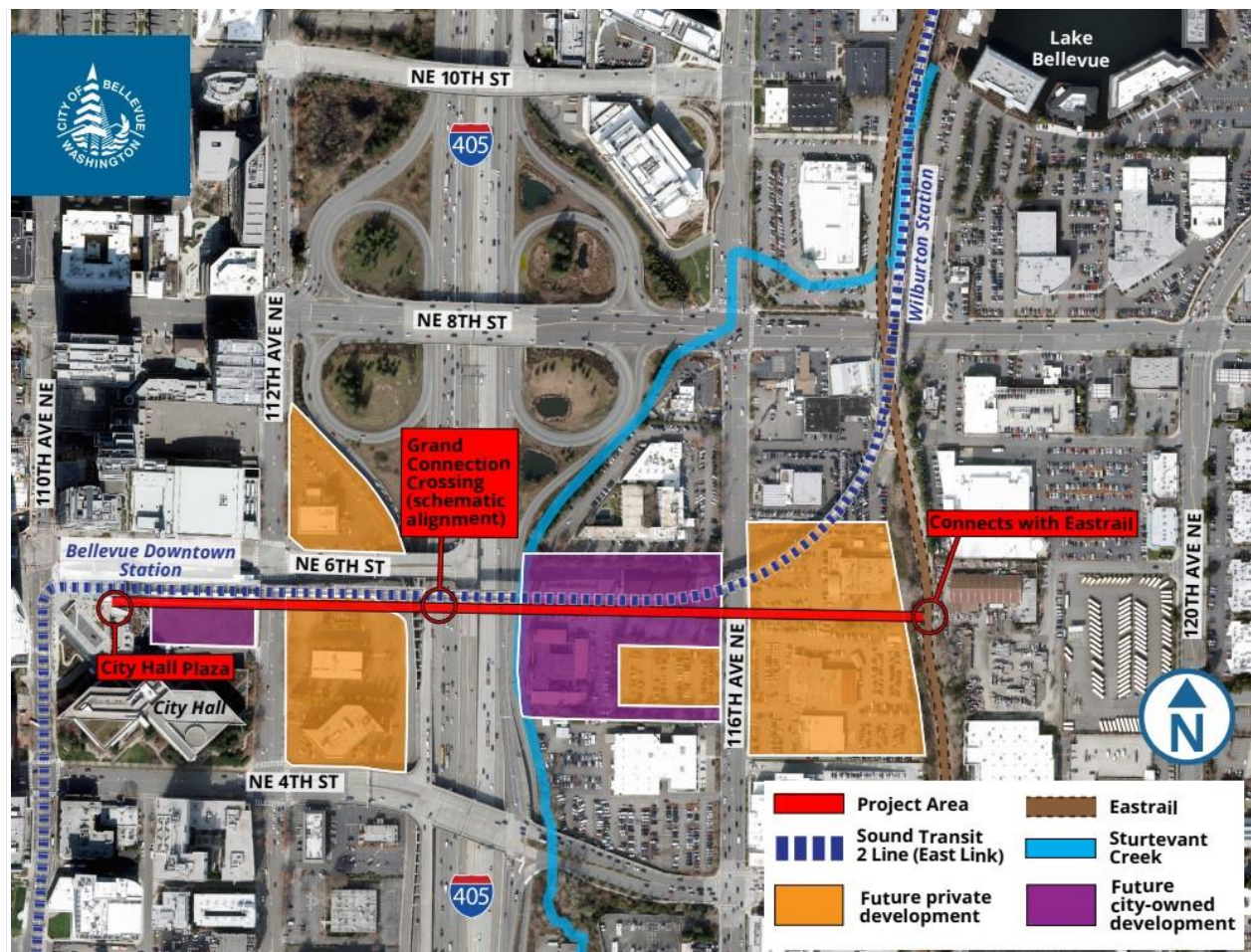


Figure 1: Grand Connection I-405 Crossing Area

The Grand Connection Crossing will support the transformation of the Wilburton area into Bellevue's next urban mixed-use community, where improved amenities, greater livability,



opportunities for healthy living and economic vitality will serve the needs of a diverse and growing population.



Figure 2: A community member attending the in-person open house in May leaving a comment on project roll plot.

This crossing will also be compatible with a future lid park over I-405, which is a component of the city's Grand Connection Framework Plan. When complete, the crossing will help people of all ages and abilities to safely and conveniently access a network of events, jobs and recreational opportunities beyond the downtown core and will create a vibrant landmark with activated outdoor spaces that celebrate and serve the community.

## Purpose of this document

This document summarizes the outcomes of the community engagement conducted throughout 2024 to inform development of 30% design for the Grand Connection Crossing.

## Summary of community engagement activities for 30% design

From December 2023 through November 2024, the project team surveyed and/or spoke with community members at 24 community engagement events. The purpose of this outreach was to share information about and gather public input on the Grand Connection Crossing 30% Design, an initial phase in the design process that involves laying out the major design elements of the project and establishing an estimated cost and timeline. For more details about the specific outreach events, please see *Appendix A* for event summaries. The project team shared quarterly project updates with the Friends of the Grand Connection (FOGC), please see *Appendix B* for FOGC Quarterly Meeting Agendas

*Table* includes community engagement activities for the Grand Connection Crossing project,



including two online open houses and an in-person open house. For more details about the specific outreach events, please see *Appendix A* for event summaries. The project team shared quarterly project updates with the Friends of the Grand Connection (FOGC), please see *Appendix B* for FOGC Quarterly Meeting Agendas

*Table 1: Community engagement activities for the Grand Connection Crossing*

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT
October 10, 2023	Friends of the Grand Connection (FOGC) Executive Committee	Initial introduction of the project team to the FOGC Executive Committee and sharing of early FOGC feedback for the project.	11 people
October 24, 2023	Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) Breakfast Meeting	Presentation of the design team and plans for Grand Connection Crossing work in 2023/2024; shared a 3-D model of the project.	Approx. 150 people
October 26, 2023	FOGC Steering Committee	Introduction of the project team to the FOGC Steering Committee. Same presentation as provided at BDA Breakfast meeting.	29 people
December 5, 2023	Design Charette	Hybrid meeting in-person and virtually on Teams, using the Miro digital engagement tool. Attendees included city and business partners, who shared their aspirations and visions for the Grand Connection Crossing. The charette helped the project design team clarify priorities and set expectations of what is technically feasible within the project area to city staff and business partners.	57 people
January 24, 2024	FOGC Q1 2024 Meeting	Quarterly meeting to check-in and share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects and solicit feedback.	12 people
February 13, 2024	FOGC Executive Committee	General check-in and sharing of plans for alignment analysis review in April. Shared plan for the Sound Transit 2 Line opening.	11 people



DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT
February 26 - March 24, 2024	Online Open House	Located on the EngagingBellevue.com website. Community members visited the online open house to learn about the project and outcomes from the design workshop. The online open house included a 14-question survey focused on the potential use and vision for the crossing. An “Ideas Board” featured images of other non-motorized crossings; participants commented what they liked about the images. They could also share their own images and comments on those images. The city translated the online open house and survey questions into six languages: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.	1,463 site visitors
March 6, 2024	FOGC Steering Committee	General check-in and share plans for alignment analysis review in April/May.	29 people
April 9, 2024	FOGC Executive Committee	Presentation of alignment screening process.	11 people
April 27, 2024	Sound Transit launch of the \ 2 Line starter line	The city staffed a table at this event that drew Bellevue residents and visitors from a diverse range of neighborhoods, cultural communities and ages. Staff shared a project flyer and invitation to the upcoming in person open house. A flyover video clip played on a loop to help people envision the crossing. There was also a children’s activity to attract visitors to the table.	Approx. 850 people



DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT
May 2, 2024	In-Person Open House	Evening in-person open house at Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Project staff shared a project overview flyer before introducing an interactive, Mad Libs-style activity to gather community input. Project display boards were set up around the room and a 3D architectural model and roll plots featured the project alignment alternatives. A flyover video clip played on a loop throughout the open house to help people envision the crossing. Community members could share comments with project staff, in writing on the roll plot and by filling out the Mad Libs-style form. Project partners, including Wilburton Vision Implementation, Eastrail Multi-Use Corridor and Friends of the Grand Connection teams shared information about their projects and initiatives with open house attendees.	136 people
May 20, 2024	FOGC Q2 2024 Meeting	Quarterly meeting to check-in and share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects and solicit feedback.	12 people
May 28, 2024	Permitting, Land Use, Sustainability, and Housing (PLUSH) Committee Presentation	Presentation of alignment screening process and public engagement to date.	Approx. 15 people
June 11, 2024	FOGC Steering Committee	Outreach and Type, Size and Location (TS&L) Update.	29 people
June 21, 2024	Wilburton Property Owners Meeting	Introductions, TS&L and outreach update.	8 people



DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT
June 23, 2024	Eastrail grand opening of the NE 8 <sup>th</sup> Street bridge	The city staffed a table at this grand opening event that drew Bellevue residents and visitors from a diverse range of neighborhoods, cultural communities and ages. Same format as the 2 Line launch event.	Approx. 100 people
July 4, 2024	Bellevue Family Fourth festival	The city staffed a table at this community festival that drew Bellevue residents and visitors from a diverse range of neighborhoods, cultural communities and ages. Same format as the 2 Line launch event.	Approx. 310 people
July 31, 2024	FOGC Q3 Meeting	Quarterly meeting to check-in and share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects and solicit feedback.	11 people
September 10, 2024	Crossroads Farmers Market	The city staffed a table at the weekly farmers market to build awareness of the project with Crossroads community members and share how the city envisions this crossing as a mechanism to bridge communities that are currently physically disconnected by the freeway.	Approx. 5 people
September 21, 2024	Eastside Welcoming week Resource Fair	The city staffed a table at this community event that drew residents from the east side of Bellevue and visitors from a diverse range of neighborhoods, cultural communities and ages. Staff shared a project flyer and had a children's activity to attract visitors to the table. Same format as the 2 Line launch event.	Approx. 65 people



DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	ENGAGEMENT
September 26, 2024	Bellevue Farmers Market	The city staffed a table at the Bellevue Farmer’s Market to inform the public on current initiatives and projects happening in Bellevue. The transportation department staff provided information about the Grand Connection Crossing detailing about future connectivity between the communities on the eastside of I-405 and downtown Bellevue and inviting interested people to join mailing list.	Approx. 30 people
October 16 – November 8, 2024	Online Open House	Located on the EngagingBellevue.com website. Community members visited the online open house to learn about the project and the outcomes of the alignment study as well as the Type, Size and Location (TS&L) study. The online open house included a one-question survey focused on the potential use of the crossing. The city translated the online open house and survey questions into six languages: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.	1,624 site visitors
October 23, 2024	FOGC Q4 2024 Meeting	Quarterly meeting to check-in and share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects and solicit feedback.	13 people
December 03, 2024	FOGC December 2024 Meeting	Share an update about the Delivery method selection, 30% design milestone, next steps, and the Fall online open house.	10 people

### **Impact of community engagement activities for 30% design**

One of the primary objectives of the outreach was to build project awareness among those who live, work, play and learn in Bellevue. The number of subscribers to the Grand Connection Program’s project alerts serves as one metric to demonstrate how outreach events are contributing to build awareness among the Bellevue community.





Before community outreach for the Grand Connection Crossing, the overall Grand Connection Program had a project email list with 524 subscribers in 2022 and 544 subscribers in 2023. After a year of continued community outreach in 2024, the project subscriber list doubled to 1,075.

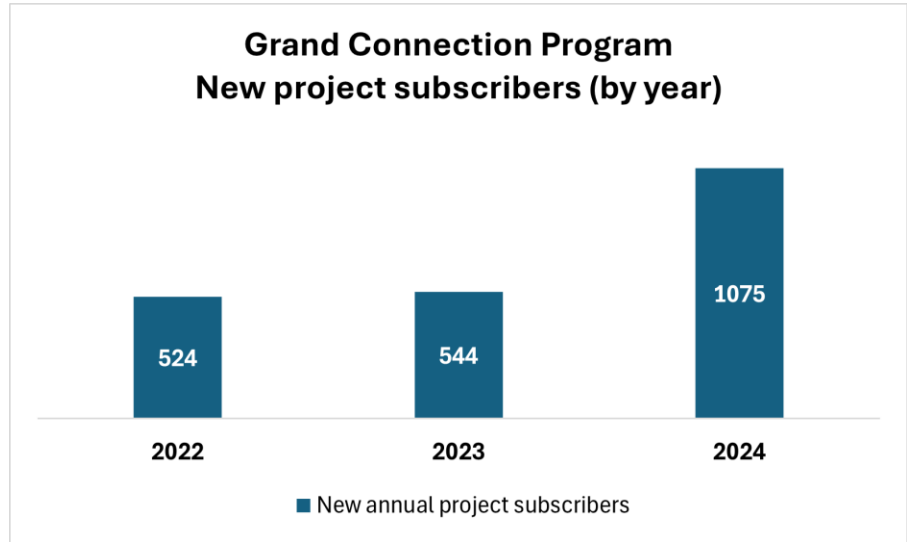


Figure 3: Graph showing the increase in Grand Connection Program email list subscribers by year from 2022 to 2024.

Of the total 1,075 subscribers to the Grand Connection Program email list in 2024, 538 were new project subscribers. The graph in Figure 4 shows the number of new subscribers per month across 2024. The first spike in subscribers can be seen in May when the project team held an in-person open house. The next largest increase occurred in the months of July through October when most of the project outreach events occurred. These included the Bellevue Family Fourth, the Welcome Week Resource Fair and the second online open house.

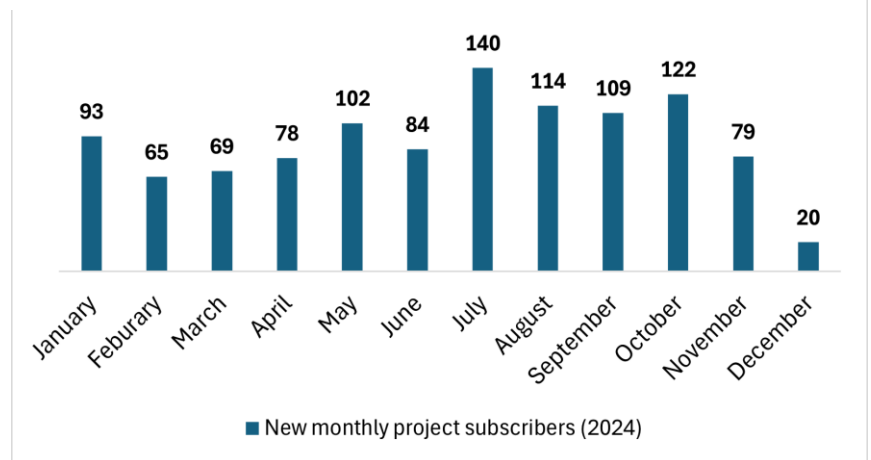


Figure 4: Break down of new project subscribers in 2024 shown by month.

During all outreach events and in all project communications, attendees and recipients of project communications were invited to sign up for project alerts via hyperlinks and QR codes. Once users sign up for alerts, they are added to a listserv to receive project updates and information managed in the GovDelivery platform.

Users can continue to sign up for the Grand Connection Program’s listserv on both the program webpage housed on the City of Bellevue’s Community Development pages as well as the project page for the Grand Connection Crossing housed on the city’s



Transportation department site.

## Key themes from community engagement

Participants in these community engagement events shared how they plan to use the crossing, elements they would like to see on the crossing and what will make them feel safe and welcome. Where feasible, the design team used this feedback to inform the 30% design concepts.

To develop this analysis of key themes, the project team reviewed survey responses from the online open houses and analyzed qualitative feedback from community members on comment forms and interactive activities at in-person events to identify key themes and insights. The following section summarizes key themes from community feedback.

### Sentiments about the project

In the initial survey in February/March 2024, 90% of survey respondents expressed support for the project. Most survey respondents could envision themselves using the crossing in the future and imagine enjoying the experience. In conversations at in-person outreach events, many community members echoed this support for and excitement about using the crossing, and some expressed appreciation for a connection to the Eastrail from downtown Bellevue.

In the initial survey in February/March 2024, roughly a quarter of survey respondents shared concerns about the project. Most survey respondents who expressed concerns about the project cited the use of taxpayer dollars for a project they consider a lower priority than other issues facing Bellevue, such as homelessness. A few people said Bellevue should invest in parks, greenspace and active transportation in underserved neighborhoods, such as Factoria. A few people expressed concerns that constructing the crossing would foreclose on future opportunity to build the lid park over I-405 that is part of the greater Grand Connection vision.<sup>1</sup> At in-person community engagement events, negative comments were minimal and tended to echo the concerns expressed in the survey, although a few people also expressed concern about the long construction timeline and lack of certainty about funding availability. In the final survey response only one survey respondent expressed opposition to the project, mentioning that they found the project to be an “extravagant facility” that the city does not need.

### Priorities

More than two-thirds of the respondents to the initial survey in February /March 2024 agreed that in addition to providing active transportation, this crossing should offer easy access to nearby shopping and dining and space for public art and performances. The final survey in

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<sup>1</sup> The City of Bellevue is intentionally designing this crossing to be compatible with a future lid park.



October/November 2024 echoed these priorities: the majority of respondents ranked accessing shopping and dining and attending a public as important.

Nearly 80% of people who responded to the February/March 2024 survey told us that this crossing needs to be safe, accessible and welcoming to all users, regardless of age, race or ethnicity, language spoken or ability. There was no similar question on the final survey in October/November 2024.

In the initial survey in February/March 2024, community members shared how they intend to use the crossing. Nearly 70% of survey respondents said they would use it for exercise and 67% of survey respondents for accessing shopping, dining and entertainment. Other common reasons for using the crossing include gathering with friends (45%), connecting with nature (45%), commuting (43%) and viewing public art or attending a performance (40%). In reviewing the MadLibs activity from the in-person open house, it was clear that open house attendees also intend to use the crossing for exercise (35% of people who completed the activity), accessing shopping, dining and entertainment (53%) and commuting (12%). In the final survey in October/November 2024, accessing shopping, dining and entertainment (69%) and exercise (65%) remained as top activities respondents saw themselves using the crossing for in the future. Similar to the initial survey, other common activities include commuting (54%), viewing public art or attending a performance (54%), connecting with nature (42%) and gathering with friends (41%).

### Elements and amenities

The initial survey in February/March 2024 asked community members about which elements and amenities they would like to see on the crossing. Respondents' highest priority elements for the crossing are stairs and ramps to access nearby shops and restaurants and landscaping and green spaces where users can connect with nature. Nearly half of February/March 2024 online open house participants supported these priorities.

The initial survey also asked what would make people feel safe and welcome on the crossing: 87% of survey respondents said trash cans and regular maintenance and 85% indicated lighting was important to enhance public safety. About 80% of respondents said separation of high-speed modes (e.g., bicycling) from low-speed modes (e.g., walking) was important to them. These same elements and amenities were high priorities for people who spoke with the project team at in-person events. The final survey in October/November 2024 did not ask a question about elements and amenities, but the community will have a chance to share more feedback about priority elements with the project team during the 60% design phase.



Figure 5: Amenities that people shared they would like to see on the crossing

## What's next for community engagement

The project team plans to update community members on the latest project news through the [city project website](#), and will continue community outreach efforts to gather feedback and share project information as the project progresses into the 60% design phase in 2025.



## Appendix A: Summaries from community engagement events

This appendix includes summaries for community engagement events from February through September 2024.

### October 24, 2023 – Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) Breakfast Meeting

<p><b>Audience:</b> Members of the BDA and community attendees</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Tuesday, October 24, 2023 7:30a.m.-9:00a.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Meydenbauer Center, 11100 NE 6th St, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 100 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Jun Suk An (COB) Lorelei Williams (WSP)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To update the BDA on the Grand Connection Program and introduce the Grand Connection Crossing project.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Grand Connection Program slide deck and LMN project model</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> The Grand Connection Crossing project team were invited as guest presenters to the BDA Breakfast Meeting in October. The project team shared an overview of the Grand Connection Program and the crossing. The project team shared with attendees the vision for a seamless pedestrian experience from Meydenbauer Bay Park through Downtown over I-405 to the Eastrail in the Wilburton neighborhood.</p>	



## February 2 to March 24, 2024 – Online Open House

<b>Audience:</b> Community members who live, work and play in the City of Bellevue	<b>Date and time:</b> Monday, February 26 to Sunday March 24, 2024
<b>Location:</b> EngagingBellevue.com	<b>Number of engagements:</b> 1,463 site visitors
<b>Purpose:</b> To build community awareness of and interest and engagement in the Grand Connection program and the crossing, as well as expand the diversity of people who participate in the community engagement. To share an overview of the Grand Connection program and Grand Connection Crossing project, describe outcomes from a recent Design Workshop with key partners and provide an opportunity for participants to share their input by taking a survey and engaging in an “Ideas Board.”	
<b>Downloadable Handouts:</b> A project overview and FAQ flyer, Design Workshop Summary	
<b>Summary</b> The City of Bellevue project team held an online open house from February 26 to March 24, 2024, on the city’s EngagingBellevue.com website. About 1,463 people visited the online open house website. The online open house included a 14-question survey focused on the potential usage and vision of the Grand Connection Crossing. It also included an “Ideas Board,” where participants viewed images of other non-motorized crossings and indicated what they liked about the images. A total of 353 community members contributed and submitted a survey. 352 surveys were completed in English, and one was completed in Simplified Chinese. The English online open house was translated to provide the same information and survey questions in six languages: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.	
<b>Key findings from the survey results were:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community members who responded to the survey indicated their top reasons for using the crossing in the future included exercise (69.3%) and accessing shopping, dining or entertainment (67%). Other popular reasons for using the crossing include gathering with friends (45.3%), connecting with nature (45%), commuting (41.8%) and viewing public art or attending a performance (39.8%).</li><li>• The highest priority elements for the crossing are stairs and ramps to access nearby shops and restaurants and landscaping.</li><li>• To feel safe and welcome, respondents prioritized trash cans and regular maintenance, lighting and separation of high-speed modes (e.g., bicycling) from low-speed modes (e.g., walking).</li><li>• Most survey respondents (90.7%) indicated the formal purpose and need statement provided adequate justification for the project.</li></ul>	
<b>Notes</b> A copy of the February/ March 2024 Online Open House Summary report can be found on the <a href="#">city project website</a> . The results of the survey listed on the February/ March 2024 online open house	



site visitors can be in the February/ March 2024 Online Open House Summary report.



## April 27, 2024 – Sound Transit 2 Line Grand Opening

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents of Bellevue and surrounding areas, users of the 2 Line</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Saturday, April 27, 2024 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall Plaza 450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 850 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Jun Suk An (COB) Anthony Gill (COB) Jesse Canedo (COB) Jacob Melaragno (COB) Aditi Mukherji (COB) Brooke Brod (COB) Jesse Canedo (COB) Eldon Luo (COB) Conny Garcia Gaitan (PRR) Emma Browning (PRR) Sabrina Lopez (PRR) Kate Shannon (PRR) Lorelei Williams (WSP) Jeanne Acutanza (WSP)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Engage and communicate with community members about the Grand Connection project, specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Inform and invite people to the Open House on Thursday, May 2.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> LMN project model, drawing activity, Vision to Implementation poster board, May 2 open house invitation poster board, project alignment flyover video (displayed by the Friends of the Grand Connection).</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, an invitation to the Open House, additional ORCA cards supplied by the Friends of the Grand Connection.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> Sound Transit hosted the East Link Light Rail Opening Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Attendees joined to celebrate this expansion and were encouraged to visit resource tables set up along each station. The Grand Connection Crossing project was invited to table at this event. The Bellevue Grand Connection project staffed a booth in the City Hall Plaza to inform people about this project and invite them to the open house. The project team handed out flyers, jotted questions down, led kids through the drawing activity and presented the project model. The project team interacted and spoke with over 850 community members who attended the opening event. These attendees included people of all ages, children under the age of 18 and council members.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> 15 people were identified with limited English proficiency, all were Spanish speaking. Negative comments were minimal and focused primarily on the project timeline being too long and the unknown funding.</p>	





**Questions/Comments:**

- What are the pros and cons of each alignment?
- Is the project funded?
- When will it be complete?

**Photo:**





## May 2, 2024 – In-person Open House

<p><b>Audience:</b> Community members who live, work and play in the City of Bellevue</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Thursday, May 2, 2024 5:00p.m.- 8:00p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue Botanical Gardens 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> 136 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Jun Suk An (COB) Laura Milstead (COB) Anthony Gill (COB) Aditi Mukherji (COB) Laura LaBissoniere Miller (PRR) Conny Garcia Gaitan (PRR) Emma Browning (PRR) Lorelei Williams (WSP) Jeanne Acutanza (WSP) Jamie Strausz-Clark (3Si)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To build community awareness of and interest and engagement in the Grand Connection program and the crossing, as well as expand the diversity of people who participate in the community engagement. Project staff engaged open house participants by sharing general information about the Grand Connection program and provided a deeper dive into the Grand Connection Crossing project, including: the project schedule, alignment alternatives for the crossing and initial feedback received by the community from the February online open house. Project staff also communicated future opportunities for public input.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Welcome table with project handouts and mailing list signup, refreshments, children drawing activity, project posterboards (project overview, benefits, map, rendering, timeline, community feedback, alignment alternatives), flyover video, 3D architectural model and roll plot featuring project alignment alternatives.</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, project survey response statistics flyer, Title VI documentation, Mad Lib- style activity</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> The City of Bellevue held an open house on May 2, 2024, at the Bellevue Botanical Garden from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. About 136 people attended the open house. Project staff greeted attendees at a welcome table and shared a project overview flyer before introducing an interactive, Mad Libs-style activity to gather community input. Project display boards were set up around the room and a 3D architectural model and roll plots featured the project alignment alternatives. A flyover video clip played on a loop throughout the open house to help people envision the location for the crossing. Community members could provide their comments directly to project staff, by writing on the roll plot and by filling out the Mad Libs-style form. Project partners, including Wilburton Vision Implementation, Eastrail Multi-Use Corridor and the Friends of the Grand Connection teams shared information about their projects and initiatives with open house attendees.</p>	



### Notes

Comments and feedback were welcomed at the open house and many of the community members chose to directly share them with project staff throughout the evening. Other ways community members could share their thoughts with project staff were in writing on the roll plot and by filling out the Mad Libs-style form. Throughout the evening attendees engaged in conversation with team members. The team answered questions and shared information about the project. Overall, many open house participants expressed enthusiasm for the crossing and encouraged the city to build the crossing as quickly as possible. A copy of the Open House Summary report can be found on the [city project website](#).

### Questions/Comments:

- Cost concerns
- Long project timeline
- Integration of the crossing with a future lid park
- Enthusiastic comments for the crossing that encourage the city to build the crossing as quickly as possible

### Photos:





## May 28, 2024 – Permitting, Land Use, Sustainability, and Housing (PLUSH) Committee Presentation

<p><b>Audience:</b> PLUSH Committee members (developers, building contractors, realtors and professional service providers)</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Tuesday, May 28, 2024 2:30p.m.-4:00p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> 330 112th Avenue NE #100 Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 15 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Jun Suk An (COB) Pearl Leung (FOGC) Adam Amrhein (LMN) Lorelei Williams (WSP)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To update the PLUSH Committee members about the Grand Connection Crossing project and share highlights from the online open house.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Grand Connection Crossing Project Status Review slide deck</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> The project team shared an update of the Grand Connection Crossing and gave a brief overview of the <a href="#">“Friends of the Grand Connection,”</a> to PLUSH members. Plush members learned about Bellevue’s proposed pedestrian and bicycle corridor connecting the downtown area with Wilburton. The project team shared feedback from the open house that closed in late March, where community members shared their preferred modes of travel, intended uses for the corridor, and desired key features. PLUSH members raised concerns about the I-405 crossing costs and its coexistence with the I-405 expansion, the project team confirmed the project is in close communication with WSDOT regarding the I-405 expansion plans.</p> <p><b>Questions/Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the park on Old Main part the Grand Connection?</li> <li>• What is the length of the bridge?</li> <li>• When will the construction costs come out?</li> <li>• Where are things at with the city-owned sites?</li> <li>• Can you specify how this project won’t inhibit the future expansion of the freeway?</li> <li>• What is the project timeline and when will it be complete?</li> </ul>	



## June 21, 2024 – Wilburton Property Owners Group (WPOG) Meeting

<p><b>Audience:</b> Members of the Wilburton Property Owners Group</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Friday, June 21, 2024 10:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall Plaza 450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> 8 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Janet Shull (COB) Jun Suk An (COB) Lorelei Williams (WSP) Natalie Quick (NQC)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> To update the WPOG members about the Grand Connection Crossing project, including an overview of the open house, alignment alternatives and next steps in the project.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Grand Connection Crossing Project Update slide deck</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> The project team shared a project update that included an overview of the in-person open house, the draft Type, Size and Location study, the alignment alternatives, and next steps.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> 15 people were identified with limited English proficiency, all were Spanish speaking. Negative comments were minimal and focused primarily on the project timeline being too long and the unknown funding.</p> <p><b>Questions/Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lincoln Center site is interesting could it be open space?</li> <li>• Is the city pursuing an LID similar to the Seattle Waterfront?</li> <li>• Where are things at with the city-owned sites? Has a consultant been selected to look at development possibilities on those two sites?</li> <li>• Is there an estimation for the types of uses on the site?</li> <li>• The presentation be shared after today’s meeting?</li> <li>• How will the project fit into the Wilburton LUCA and how will it relate to the Transportation Manual?</li> </ul>	



## June 23, 2024 – NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Eastrail Bridge Opening

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents of Bellevue and surrounding areas, bikers, and walkers of Eastrail, Users of Wilburton Light Rail Station</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Sunday, June 23, 2024 11:30a.m.- 1:30p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Wilburton Link Station/Eastrail 800 118<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98005</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 100 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Anthony Gill (COB) Jesse Canedo (COB) Parker Bowen (PRR)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Communicate and engage with community members about the Bellevue Grand Connection project and specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Informing about future connectivity between the crossing to Eastrail and inviting interested people to join mailing list.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> City of Bellevue branded tablecloth and materials, drawing activity, four posterboards (map, rendering, timeline, community feedback), flyover video (displayed by Friends of the Grand Connection), tablets for mailing list signup.</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, Friends of the Grand Connection Flyer, MadLib inspired activity</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> King County Parks hosted an opening ceremony for the Eastrail Bridge over NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street on Sunday, June 23, 2024. Attendees joined to celebrate this opening through visiting resource tables, listening to speakers, watching a Japanese cultural performance, and viewing the new art exhibit on the bridge displaying Japanese American histories in the Bellevue area. These attendees included people of all ages, children under the age of eighteen, council members, and King County leadership. The Bellevue Grand Connection project staffed a resource booth located at the bottom of the ramp-up to the bridge. Staff shared information about the Grand Connection Program and the crossing project and invited people to join a mailing list to receive updates on the project's progress. The City of Bellevue representatives handed out flyers, answered project-related questions, led kids through the drawing activity, and presented the posterboards displaying the project map and renderings.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Negative comments were minimal, though there was concern about the project timeline and the funding needs. There were many suggestions on how to improve other parts of Eastrail that were unrelated to the crossing. Many were incredibly happy about the prospect of an Eastrail connection over the 405 to downtown.</p> <p><b>Questions/Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will the Wilburton Trestle Bridge be complete?</li> </ul>	



- When will Eastrail be complete?
- Is this project what is opening today?
- Will my neighborhood connect to the Eastrail network?
- Is the project funded?
- When will it be complete?

**Photos:**





## July 4, 2024 – Bellevue Family Fourth

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents of Bellevue and surrounding areas, Tourists, Extended Families, Fireworks and Festival Enthusiasts</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Thursday, July 4, 2024 4:00p.m.-8:30p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue Downtown Park 10201 NE 4<sup>th</sup> St, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 310 people (Approx. 150 were children ages 10 and under)</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Laura Milstead (COB) Aditi Mukherji (COB) Parker Bowen (PRR)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Communicate and engage with community members about the Grand Connection program and specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Invite community members to sign up for the project listserv. Inform about broader Transportation department goals such as pedestrian safety and efforts to lower speed limits.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Informational handouts, drawing activity, bridge building activity, memory match cards activity, three posterboards (project area map, Program timeline, community feedback), tablet for mailing list signup.</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, Friends of the Grand Connection Flyer, Pedestrian Safety Badges and Wristbands, Pens and Pencils, Flower Seeds, and Candy.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> The Bellevue Downtown Association and the City of Bellevue hosted the Bellevue Family 4<sup>th</sup> Festival and Fireworks Show in Bellevue Downtown Park on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Attendees joined to celebrate the holiday by spending the afternoon at the park and setting up picnic spaces, visiting booths, dining at Food trucks and other vendors, listening to Live Music, and watching the fireworks show. Attendees included people of all ages, many of whom were families with children under the age of eighteen. The Bellevue Transportation Department staffed a booth located on the Park’s lawn and shared information about the Grand Connection Program and the crossing. The project team invited people to join a mailing list to receive updates on the progress of the project. They also promoted general initiatives in the Transportation Department, such as reducing speed limits and promoting pedestrian safety. The City of Bellevue representatives handed out flyers and handouts, like fluorescent tags and wristbands to increase pedestrian visibility. They answered project related questions, led kids through a popsicle stick and candy bridge building activity, and let interested parties take part in the memory match or ring toss activities. There were several posterboards on display to draw in interested guests to ask questions.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Most guests were unaware of the project’s existence and held positive demeanors once learning the goals of the project. Negative comments were minimal, with only some slight skepticism</p>	





about the project meeting the timeline on display. The bridge building activity was a **massive** success. The transportation department booth attracted more children and families than any adjacent booth. An estimated half of the booth's visitors for the day were children under ten.

**Questions/Comments:**

- When will this project be complete/when will it be funded?
- What is a "lid park"?
- How does this connect to Eastrail/Is this booth for Eastrail?
- Is this project related to construction near Factoria on I-405?
- What is the City of Bellevue doing for pedestrian safety and dangerous drivers?
- What changes are coming to the Wilburton Neighborhood?

**Photo:**





## September 10, 2024 – Crossroads Farmer’s Market

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents and visitors attending the mid-day farmer’s market</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Tuesday, September 10, 2024 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Crossroads Bellevue 15600 NE 8th Street Bellevue, WA 98008</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 5 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Laura Milstead (COB) Aditi Mukherji (COB)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> As a community on the eastside of I-405, the project team wanted to build awareness of the project with Crossroads community members to share how we envision this crossing as a mechanism to bridge communities that are currently physically disconnected by the freeway.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Informational handouts, two posterboards (project area map and program timeline), bridge building activity, sign-up sheet for city’s transportation news</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, project listserv sign-up and candy</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> The Crossroads Farmer’s Market provides a standing table reservation for community programs to inform the public on current initiatives and projects happening in Bellevue. Shoppers were invited to stop by the table as they picked up groceries in the parking lot of the mall. Overall, this was the least attended engagement event of the summer for the project team.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Attendance at the market was very light. Of the few people staff spoke with, only one or two were familiar with the project as they had an engineering background and closely followed city capital projects such as the Eastlink expansion.</p> <p><b>Questions/Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will the project be complete, how will it be funded and what is the total cost?</li> <li>• Will this help me use the light rail system?</li> </ul>	



## September 21, 2024 – Eastside Welcoming Week – Resource Fair

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents of East Bellevue and surrounding areas, Extended Families and Tourists. Attendees seeking workforce resources from their local government and service agencies.</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Saturday, September 21, 2024 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Crossroads Bellevue 15600 NE 8th Street Bellevue, WA 98008</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 65 people (Approx. 7 were children aged 12 and under)</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Laura Milstead (COB) Gillian Hagstrom (COB) Conny García Gaitán (PRR) Emma Browning (PRR)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Communicate and engage with community members about the Grand Connection program and specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Invite community members to sign up for the project listserv and visit the online open house in October. Inform about broader Transportation department goals such as pedestrian safety and efforts to lower speed limits.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Informational handouts, drawing activity, bridge building activity, two posterboards (project area map and program timeline) and tablet for mailing list signup.</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, Vision Zero, QR code links to in-language project webpages and Candy.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> The City of Bellevue participated in a national celebration by celebrating and hosting Eastside Welcoming Week 2024 with several events throughout Sept. 13-22. The project team participated in the Welcoming Week Resource Fair hosted by the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Team (DAT) held at Crossroads Bellevue on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Attendees walked around the Crossroads open areas and stop at resource tables set up by Local agencies, organizations, businesses and community partners that shared workforce and business assistance resources with both immigrants and residents alike. Attendees included people of all ages, residents and visitors to the city. The Bellevue Transportation Department staffed a table and shared information about the Grand Connection program and the crossing. The project team handed out flyers and invited people to join a mailing list to receive updates on the progress of the project. They also promoted general initiatives in the Transportation Department, such as reducing speed limits and general info of their Vision Zero initiatives. The City of Bellevue representatives answered project related questions and led kids through a popsicle stick and candy bridge building activity. Two project posterboards were on display to draw in interested guests to ask questions.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Most guests were unaware of the project’s existence and held positive demeanors once learning the goals of the project. Negative comments were minimal, with only some slight skepticism about the project meeting the timeline on display. The bridge building activity was successful.</p>	



**Questions/Comments:**

- When will this project be complete/when will it be funded?

**Photo:**





## September 26, 2024 – Bellevue Farmer’s Market

<p><b>Audience:</b> Residents and visitors attending the afternoon farmer’s market near downtown Bellevue</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Thursday, September 26, 2024 3:00 – 7:00p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue Presbyterian Church 1717 Bellevue Way NE, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> Approx. 30 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b> Laura Milstead (COB) Aditi Mukherji (COB) John Murphy (COB) Keri Pravitz (FOGC) Sarah Langton (FOGC)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Communicate and engage with community members about the Bellevue Grand Connection project and specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Informing about future connectivity between the communities on the eastside of I-405 and downtown Bellevue and inviting interested people to join mailing list.</p>
<p><b>Display and presentation materials:</b> Informational handouts, one posterboard (project area map).</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, project listserv sign-up, local speed reduction one-pager and the bridge building activity.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b> The Bellevue Farmer’s Market provides a standing table reservation for community programs to inform the public on current initiatives and projects happening in Bellevue. Shoppers were invited to stop by the table as they picked up groceries in the parking lot of the church. The Transportation staffed one table with information about the Grand Connection Crossing as well as the Local Speed Limit Reduction initiative. The Friends of the Grand Connection (FOGC) staffed a table next to Transportation to provide information on the Grand Connection Program and ways to get involved with the Friends group. Attendees who frequented the Transportation table largely were drawn by the display maps of the Crossing as well as the local streets map where speed limits were going to decrease. Many were parents with children who participated in the bridge building activity providing an opportunity for the parents to speak with staff about the Crossing as well as the proposed speed reductions.</p> <p><b>Notes</b> Some but not many of the attendees were familiar with the Crossing project or the larger Grand Connection program.</p> <p><b>Questions/Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will the project be complete</li> <li>• How will it be funded</li> <li>• What is the total cost?</li> </ul>	



Photo:





## October 16 - November 8, 2024 – Online Open House

<p><b>Audience:</b> Community members who live, work and play in the City of Bellevue</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b> Wednesday, October 16 to Friday, November 8, 2024</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> EngagingBellevue.com</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> 1,624 site visitors</p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b> To continue to build community awareness of and interest and engagement in the Grand Connection program and the crossing, as well as expand the diversity of people who participate in the community engagement. To share an overview of the Grand Connection program and Grand Connection Crossing project, it include sharing key themes from community engagement to date and how that feedback was considered and addressed in the project design to date, the outcomes of the <a href="#">alignment study</a> as well as the <a href="#">Type, Size and Location (TS&amp;L) study</a> and what features and characteristics will create the identity for the crossing.</p>	
<p><b>Downloadable Handouts:</b> A project overview/FAQ flyer, Structural Type, Size and Location Report, Alignment Alternatives Report, May 2024 In-Person Open House Summary, February/March 2024 Online Open House Summary, Design Charette Summary.</p>	
<p><b>Summary</b> The City of Bellevue project team held an online open house from October 16 to November 8, 2024, on the city’s EngagingBellevue.com website. This online open house showcased the City of Bellevue’s progress to date on the design of the project. About 1,624 people visited the online open house. The online open house included updated rendering of graphics of the crossing, and shared an update about what the City of Bellevue is considering for the <a href="#">Metro and Lincoln Center properties</a>. It also included a one-question survey focused on the potential usage and vision of the Grand Connection Crossing. A total of 170 community members contributed and submitted a survey. 165 surveys were completed in English, three were completed in Simplified Chinese, one was completed in Korean, and one was completed in Spanish. The English online open house was translated to provide the same information and survey questions in six languages: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.</p> <p>Key findings from the survey results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The top reasons for using the crossing in the future were accessing shopping, dining or entertainment (69%) and exercise (65%).</li> <li>• Other popular reasons were commuting (54%) and viewing public art or attending a performance (54%)</li> <li>• 18 community members included “other” as a choice and included a response. Their responses were detailed examples that fit into the top four categories. Only one of the responses was negative in sentiment overall, naming the project as an extravagant facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notes</b> The results of the survey listed on the October/November 2024 online open house can be found listed in <i>Appendix C</i>.</p>	



## Appendix B: Friends of the Grand Connection (FOGC) Quarterly Meeting Agendas

This appendix provides the FOGC Quarterly agendas for 2024.

### FOGC Q1 2024 Meeting

<b>Date:</b> 01/24/2024	<b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall
<b>Purpose:</b> Share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects, solicit feedback and direction	
<b>Attendance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anthony Gill (CED)</li> <li>▪ Jesse Canedo (CED)</li> <li>▪ Keri Pravitz (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Patrick Bannon (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Pearl Leung (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Sarah Langton (Community Advocate)</li> <li>▪ Maher Welaye (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Matt Jack (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Jun Suk An (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Augusta DeVries (CED)</li> <li>▪ Laura Milstead (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Aditi Mukherji (CED)</li> </ul>	<b>Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Active crossing update</li> <li>– Comms update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Augusta/one pager for Legislative Session</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Funding development consultants</li> <li>– Funding for 30-100% Design: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ legislative priorities, potential for federal earmarks, timing and procurement method for construction</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Purpose of the corridor and ROW</li> <li>– City Hall Plaza: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Code of Conduct and RFP Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### FOGC Q2 Meeting

<b>Date:</b> 05/20/2024	<b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall
<b>Purpose:</b> Share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects, solicit feedback and direction	
<b>Attendance:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anthony Gill (CED)</li> <li>▪ Jesse Canedo (CED)</li> <li>▪ Keri Pravitz (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Patrick Bannon (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Pearl Leung (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Sarah Langton (Community Advocate)</li> <li>▪ Maher Welaye (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Matt Jack (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Jun Suk An (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Augusta DeVries (CED)</li> <li>▪ Laura Milstead (Transportation)</li> </ul>	<b>Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Active crossing update</li> <li>– WSP/Design team update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Open house highlights, next presentation to council, update on type, size, and location</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Comms Update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bellevue Chamber PLUSH Presentation – Natalie Quick, King County Open Space Equity Council, upcoming engagement opportunities, summer events &amp; outreach, 2 Line Opening Update,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aditi Mukherji (CED)</li> </ul>	<p>community engagement open house update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HR&amp;A update</li> <li>– Light updates:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public space management, City Hall Plaza activation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	--

## FOGC Q3 Meeting

<p><b>Date:</b> 07/31/2024</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall</p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects, solicit feedback and direction</p>	
<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anthony Gill (CED)</li> <li>▪ Jesse Canedo (CED)</li> <li>▪ Keri Pravitz (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Patrick Bannon (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Pearl Leung (Amazon)</li> <li>▪ Sarah Langton (Community Advocate)</li> <li>▪ Maher Welaye (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Matt Jack (BDA)</li> <li>▪ Jun Suk An (Transportation)</li> <li>▪ Aditi Mukherji (CED)</li> <li>▪ Will Palmer (CED)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– HR&amp;A site visit debrief</li> <li>– Grand Connection Crossing update:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TS&amp;L report complete, delivery method memo, next milestones</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Prioritization exercise planning and design tradeoffs</li> <li>– Comms and engagement update:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Summer community engagement opportunities</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Online Open House update</li> </ul>

**FOGC Q4 2024 Meeting**

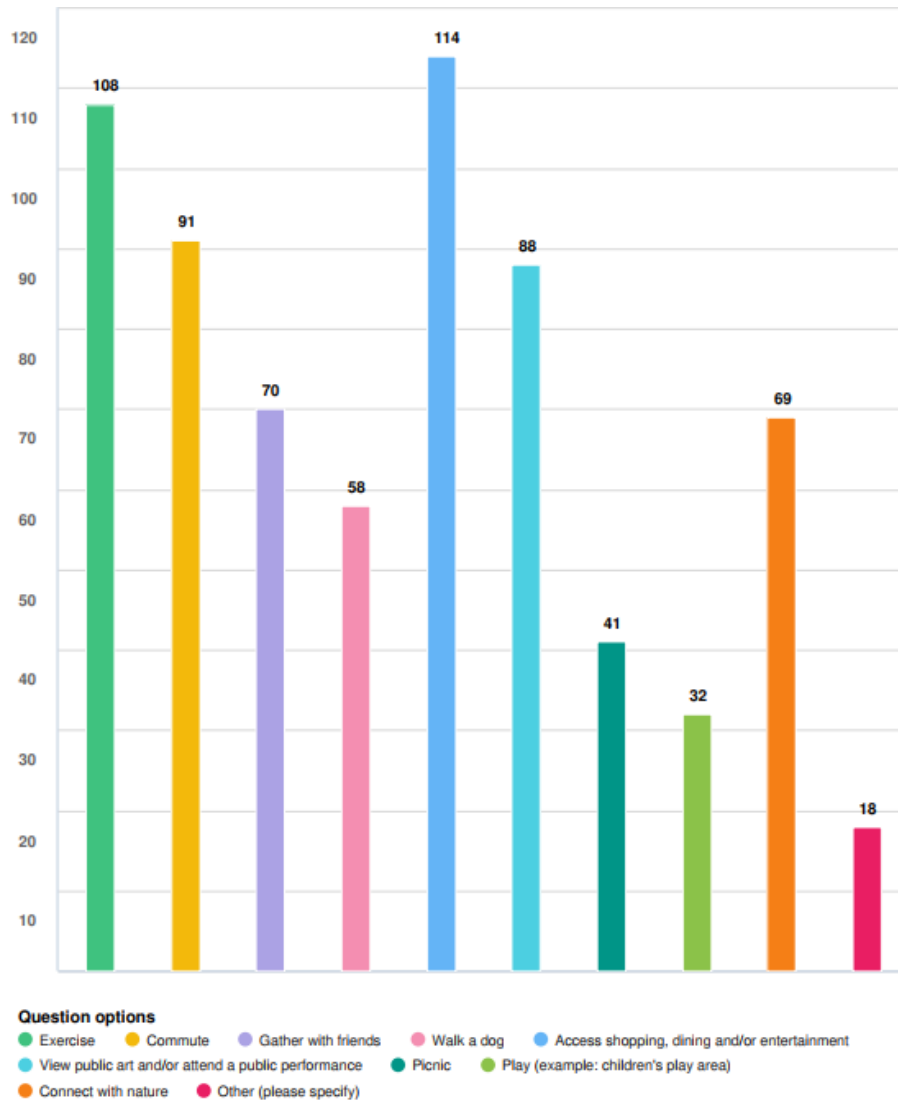
<p><b>Date:</b> 10/23/2024</p>	<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall</p>
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Share information and timelines for Grand Connection-related projects, solicit feedback and direction</p>	
<p><b>Attendance:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anthony Gill (CED)</li> <li>2. Jesse Canedo (CED)</li> <li>3. Keri Pravitz (Amazon)</li> <li>4. Patrick Bannon (BDA)</li> <li>5. Pearl Leung (Amazon)</li> <li>6. Sarah Langton (Community Advocate)</li> <li>7. Maher Welaye (Transportation)</li> <li>8. Matt Jack (BDA)</li> <li>9. Jun Suk An (Transportation)</li> <li>10. Augusta DeVries (CED)</li> <li>11. Aditi Mukherji (CED)</li> <li>12. Will Palmer (CED)</li> <li>13. Emily Sherman (CED)</li> </ol>	<p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Delivery method updates</li> <li>– BDA study tour recap</li> <li>– Council study session recap</li> <li>– Lincoln Center and Metro Sites</li> <li>– Guiding principles and district concept development</li> <li>– Funding development</li> </ul>



## Appendix C: Engaging Bellevue Online Open Houses Survey Responses

The following pages provide detailed results of responses to the October/November 2024 online open house survey<sup>2</sup>. Surveys were answered in English, Simplified Chinese, Korean and Spanish.

**Question: What activities would you like to be able to do on this crossing in the future?**



Optional question (168 response(s), 2 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

Figure 6: English Survey Responses

<sup>2</sup> The survey also included optional demographic questions. None of the survey respondents chose to answer the demographic questions in any language.



<b>Option: "Other (Please Specify)"</b>
Music should be included. Live music would be best.
Safe transportation.
Cycle. Connect to Eastrail
Water views and waterfalls and water features
Farmers Market, Public Market/Swap meet, Athletic Event access (marathon, regional competitive outdoor events)
Travel being pushed in a wheelchair
Ride a bike
The favorite parks I've seen in a city are the new Hudson River pier parks in New York City. They have so much greenery and it's a nice place to visit and also now brings in lots of tourists who spend \$ and develop a positive impression of the city. I know this isn't over water and a different scenario, but it's an example of a small park done really well. Here are some examples below <a href="https://hudsonriverpark.org/the-park/piers-and-places/">https://hudsonriverpark.org/the-park/piers-and-places/</a> <a href="https://hudsonriverpark.org/locations/pier-55-little-island/">https://hudsonriverpark.org/locations/pier-55-little-island/</a>
Drive automobiles across
Bike
Bicycle-access to other bike routes
Allow venues, such as the Bellevue Farmers Market, to be held on the Grand Connection.
Ride bike
Get away from the highway and its noise and pollution as easily as possible.
Walk a rabbit in stroller if it's accessible.
The City does not need this extravagant facility, so there are not activities that would benefit from its construction.
Market
Gain/enjoy unique views from the crossing.

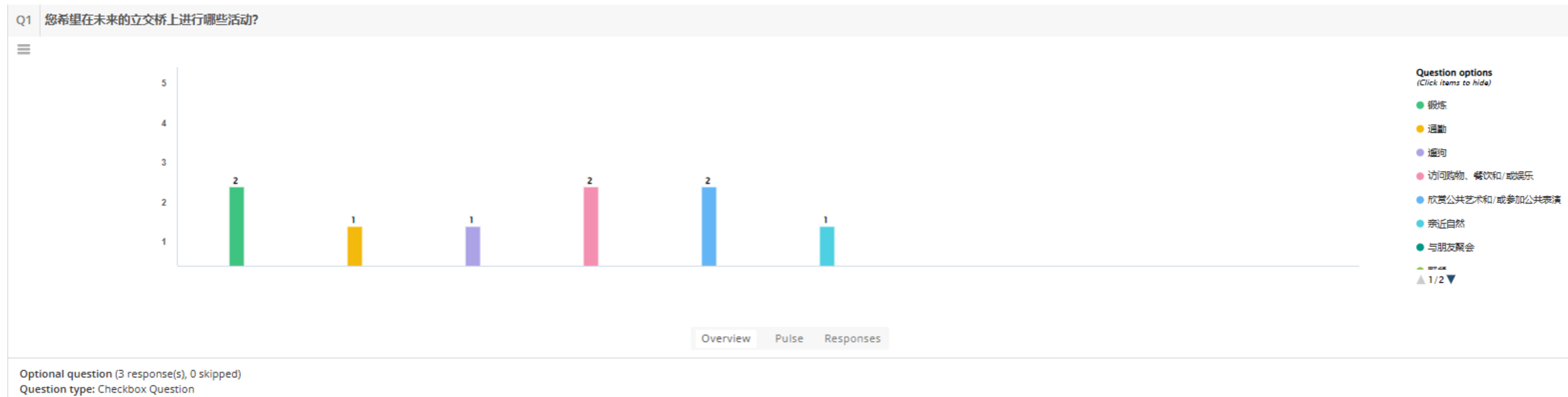
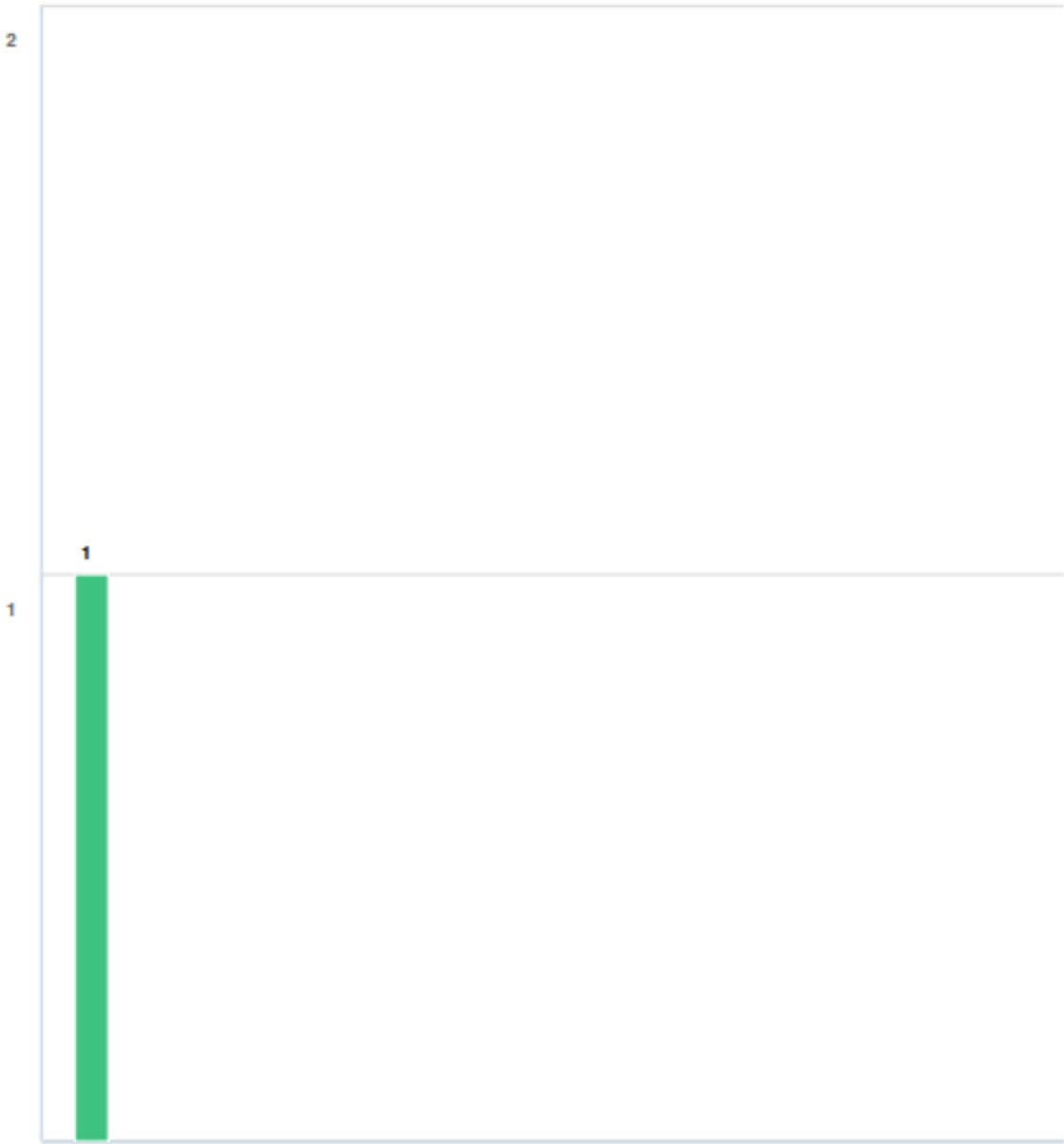


Figure 7: Survey Responses in Simplified Chinese



Figure 8: Korean Survey Responses



**Question options**

- Ver arte público o ir a una presentación pública
- Hacer ejercicio
- Ir al trabajo
- Reunirme con amigos
- Sacar a pasear al perro
- Acceder a tiendas de compras, comedores o entretenimiento
- Hacer picnic
- Jugar (por ejemplo, en áreas de juegos para niños)
- Conectar con la naturaleza
- Otra

Optional question (1 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

Figure 9: Spanish Survey Responses



## Appendix D: October Online Open House Notification Strategy

### Print and Emailed Outreach

The City of Bellevue Project team informed the public about the online open house by including information about the project and open house in the quarterly city newsletter *Its Your City* and placing project blurbs in the monthly e-newsletters *Neighborhood News* and *ChooseYourWayBellevue*. The project team also shared a press release and emailed an online open house invitation to the expanding project subscription list of community members interested in the project.

### Community Based Organization Outreach

Between October 16 – November 8, 2024, the project team sent an informational email with project and the online open house information by City’s DAT team to approximately forty organizational contacts that belong to the [Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls](#) listserv.

### Social Media

The city posted notices on social media sites. The city translated social media posts into Spanish and Vietnamese to social media sites that reach Bellevue residents who speak those languages.

### Notification Visuals

<b>Social Media Post</b>
--------------------------

Grand Connection Crossing  
Community Engagement Summary for 30% Design

Bellevue Transportation Dept: X (formally known as Twitter)

**Post**

Bellevue Transportation Dept @BVueTrans

Looking for a way to ~bridge~ the Bellevue Community? We invite you to check out initial designs for the Grand Connection Crossing at the online open house until October 30!  
[engagingbellevue.com/1405-crossing-...](https://engagingbellevue.com/1405-crossing-...)

4:37 PM · Oct 16, 2024 · 1,119 Views

1 Reply 4 Retweets 4 Likes

Post your reply

**Relevant people**

- Bellevue Transportation @BVueTrans Official Tweets from the City of Bellevue, WA Transportation Department; monitored Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. [Follow](#)

**Explore**

- Daniel Penny Acquitted in Neely Death Case 1 day ago · Crime · 268K posts
- CEO Assassin Suspect Detained in Pennsylvania 1 day ago · Crime · 600K posts

**Translations:**

- 想要与Bellevue社区“连接”吗？我们邀请您在10月30日前查看大型综合立体交通网络-立交桥的初步设计，参加线上开放日！
- 想找出Bellevue社区“连接”起来的方式吗？我们邀请您在10月30日前通过线上开放日，查看大型立交桥的初步设计！
- Bellevueの地域住民を橋渡しする方法を探していますか？オンラインオープンハウスで10月30日までグランドコネクションクロッシングの初期設計をご確認ください！
- 커뮤니티의 브릿지를 찾고 계십니까? 10월 30일까지 개최되는 온라인 오픈 하우스에서 그랜드 커넥션 육교를 위한 초기 설계를 확인하시기 바랍니다!
- Ищете способ «объединить» сообщество Bellevue? Мы приглашаем вас ознакомиться с персональными проектами «Большого связывающего перехода» на онлайн-дне открытых дверей до 30 октября!
- ¿Busca una manera de ~construir puentes~ en la comunidad de Bellevue? Lo invitamos a ver nuestros diseños iniciales para el Gran cruce de conexión en la jornada de puertas abiertas en línea hasta el 30 de octubre.
- Tìm kiếm một cách thức để ~kết nối~ Cộng Đồng Bellevue? Chúng tôi mời quý vị xem qua các thiết kế ban đầu cho Giao Lộ Kết Nối Lớn tại ngày hội mở cửa trực tuyến cho đến ngày 30 tháng 10!

Bellevue Transportation Dept: X (formally known as Twitter)

**Post**

Bellevue Transportation Dept @BVueTrans

There is still time to participate in the Grand Connection Crossing online open house! The site site will be open through Nov. 8.

We encourage you to go check-out the initial design!

Bellevue Transportation Dept @BVueTrans · Oct 16

Looking for a way to ~bridge~ the Bellevue Community? We invite you to check out initial designs for the Grand Connection Crossing at the online open house until October 30!  
[engagingbellevue.com/1405-crossing-...](https://engagingbellevue.com/1405-crossing-...)

9:23 AM · Nov 1, 2024 · 424 Views

1 Reply 0 Retweets 1 Like

**Relevant people**

- Bellevue Transportation @BVueTrans Official Tweets from the City of Bellevue, WA Transportation Department; monitored Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. [Follow](#)

**Explore**



Grand Connection Crossing  
Community Engagement Summary for 30% Design

City of Bellevue, Washington - Government; Nextdoor

**City of Bellevue**  Public Information Officer Laura Milstead · 17 Oct

Looking for a way to ~bridge~ the Bellevue Community? We invite you to check out initial designs for the Grand Connection Crossing at our online open house until October 30!

[www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house](http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house)

想要与Bellevue 社区“连接”吗? 我们邀请您在10月30日前查看大型综合立体交通网络-立交桥的初步设计, 参加线上开放日!

想找出將Bellevue 社區「連接」起來的方式嗎? 我們邀請您在10月30日前透過線上開放日, 查看盛大連接十字路口的初步設計!

Bellevueの地域住民を橋渡しする方法を探していますか? オンラインオープンハウスで10月30日までグランドコネクションクロッシングの初期設計をご確認いただけます!

커뮤니티와의 브릿지를 찾고 계십니까? 10월 30일까지 개최되는 온라인 오픈 하우스에서 그랜드 커넥션 육교를 위한 초기 설계를 확인하시기 바랍니다!

Ищете способ «объединить» сообщество Bellevue? Мы приглашаем вас ознакомиться с первоначальными проектами «Большого связывающего перехода» на онлайн-дне открытых дверей до 30 октября!

¿Busca una manera de ~construir puentes~ en la comunidad de Bellevue? Lo invitamos a ver nuestros diseños iniciales para el Gran cruce de conexión en la jornada de puertas abiertas en línea hasta el 30 de octubre.

Tim kiếm một cách thức để ~kết nối~ Cộng Đồng Bellevue? Chúng tôi mời quý vị xem qua các thiết kế ban đầu cho Giao Lộ Kết Nối Lớn tại ngày hội mở cửa trực tuyến cho đến ngày 30 tháng 10!





Social media posts shared by the city's cultural outreach assistants;

Shared to through personal social media platforms to the Chinese, Korean, and Spanish speaking communities in Bellevue

**English:**

The City of Bellevue is progressing on the initial design of the Grand Connection Crossing, an active crossing over Interstate 405 that will make it easier for people to walk, bike or use a wheelchair from downtown Bellevue to the regional trail (Eastrail). The city invites all who live, work, and play in Bellevue to learn more about this project at the online open house on October 16 at [www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house](http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house).

**Spanish:**

La ciudad de Bellevue está progresando en el diseño inicial del Gran cruce de conexión, un cruce activo sobre la Interestatal 405 que les simplificará a peatones, ciclistas o usuarios de sillas de ruedas ir desde el centro de Bellevue hasta el sendero regional (Eastrail). La ciudad invita a todas las personas que viven, trabajan y juegan en Bellevue a conocer más sobre este proyecto en la jornada de puertas abiertas en línea el 16 de octubre en [www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-sp](http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-sp)

**Korean:**

Bellevue 시는 그랜드 커넥션 육교의 초기 설계를 진행하고 있습니다. 405번 주간 고속도로 위를 가로지르는 이 육교는 Bellevue 다운타운에서 지역 경전철(Eastrail)까지 보행자, 자전거 이용자 또는 휠체어 이용자가 더 쉽게 접근하도록 만듭니다. 우리 시는 10월 16일에 진행되는 온라인 오픈 하우스([www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-ko](http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-ko))에서 이 프로젝트에 대해 자세히 알아볼 수 있도록 Bellevue에서 생활하고 근무하고 활동하는 모든 사람들을 초대합니다.

	<p><b>Chinese (Traditional)</b>          Bellevue 市正在推進盛大連接十字路口的初步設計，這是橫跨 I-405 的活躍十字路口，可讓民眾從 Bellevue 市中心步行、騎自行車或使用輪椅，更輕鬆地前往區域步道 (Eastrail)。市府邀請所有在 Bellevue 生活、工作和觀光的人參加 10 月 16 日的線上開放日，深入了解此專案的相關資訊，網址為：<a href="http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-zht">www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-zht</a>。</p> <p><b>Chinese (Simplified)</b>          Bellevue 市正在推進大型綜合立體交通網絡 - 立交橋的初步設計，這是一座跨越 405 洲際高速公路的活動立交橋，將方便人們從 Bellevue 市中心步行、騎行或使用輪椅前往區域步道 (Eastrail)。市政府邀請所有在 Bellevue 生活、工作和娛樂的人們於 10 月 16 日在 <a href="http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house">www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house</a><a href="http://www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-zhs">www.engagingbellevue.com/i405-crossing-open-house-zhs</a>。</p>
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# Grand Connection Crossing Community Engagement Summary for 30% Design



**Design updates for the Grand Connection Crossing!**  
City of Bellevue WA sent this bulletin at 10/16/2024 04:25 PM PDT

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## Grand Connection Crossing

### Design updates available at our online open house!

The city invites you to view the preliminary design concept for the Grand Connection Crossing at our online open house available now through **October 30**. The most high-profile element of the Grand Connection program, the crossing will enable people walking, biking and rolling to safely travel over Interstate 405, and connect downtown Bellevue to Eastrail and the Wilburton neighborhood. The crossing will also create more opportunities for events, recreation and economic development and be recognized as a destination the Bellevue community can enjoy.



Visit the open house to view project updates and learn how community input informed the initial design concept. You can access the open house at [EngagingBellevue.com/405-crossing-open-house](https://engagingbellevue.com/405-crossing-open-house). The open house information is also provided in the following languages:

- 简体中文
- 繁體中文
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- 越南語
- Русский
- Español
- Tiếng Việt

You can find additional information about the Grand Connection Crossing and subscribe for project updates at [BellevueWA.gov/405-crossing](https://BellevueWA.gov/405-crossing).

[Visit the open house](#)

[Learn more about the Crossing](#)

[Learn more about the Grand Connection Program](#)



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## Council Roundup: Grand Connection Crossing takes shape



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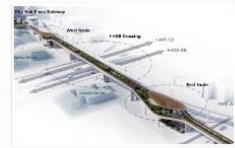
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Published October 25, 2024

### Plus: budget talks and preparation for the 2025 state legislative session

During Tuesday's City Council meeting, the council received an update on two important milestones for the **Grand Connection Crossing**. The crossing will provide safer travel for people walking, biking and rolling over I-405, enhance connections to regional transit and trail networks in Bellevue and better integrate downtown with the emerging neighborhood in Wilburton.



The first is the completion of a report that establishes the crossing's location, which will begin at City Hall Plaza on the west and continue over I-405 to Eastrail on the east. The report is a crucial step to begin engineering documentation and environmental review.

The city and consultant design teams will also publish the preliminary design of the crossing which includes design drawings for the entire crossing, environmental documentation and project cost estimates, which will be presented to the Council in early 2025 along with more information about a funding plan.

To view drawings for the crossing, learn how community input formed the initial design, and tell the design team how you envision using the crossing, visit the [online open house](#) available now through Nov. 8.

City staff also presented on the work underway to analyze potential uses for the city-owned properties along the crossing route to enhance the user experience, support Bellevue's continued economic innovation, and seamlessly integrate downtown and Wilburton into a connected urban neighborhood. Visit the [project page](#) for more information.

### Budget areas discussed

The City Council completed its series of 2025-2026 budget presentations with a session focused on the final two Strategic Target Areas that guide city operations - High Performance Government and Thriving People and Communities.

In the 2025-2026 proposed budget, Bellevue continues its commitment to providing exceptional city services through data-informed and collaborative decision making, strategic investment of public resources, strong commitment to our employees and inclusive community engagement.

New investments include increased resources toward a more citywide approach to community engagement, maintaining city facilities and investments focused on increasing energy efficiency and future space planning, and establishing an inclusive innovation forum where people from the private and public sector can gather to exchange ideas and advise the city on how technology and innovation supports opportunity, equity, mobility and economic development. The budget also provides funding for Cross-Cultural Center Without Walls programming and initiating the next phase of study to site a future cross-cultural facility.

The Thriving People & Communities target area guides the city's investments to advance Bellevue as a community in which each and every member has access and opportunity to meet their essential physical and behavioral health, economic, recreational and social needs, feels a sense of belonging, and has an opportunity to thrive. The preliminary budget recommends \$10.8 million to support human services programs, including a one-time investment of \$2.5 million to support services and programs that had received pandemic funding.

The Human Services Commission formed recommendations that include several funding sources: the Human Services Fund, Behavioral Health and Housing-Related Services Housing Stability Program and Community Development Block Grant funding.

The Commission based their process and funding recommendations on policy in the Human Services Strategic Plan and data found in the Human Services Needs Update, prioritizing the areas of greatest need and disparity.

### City prepares for 2025 legislative session

The council discussed the city's 2025 State Legislative Agenda in advance of the upcoming legislative session in Olympia beginning Jan. 13. The agenda establishes the city's policy priorities and positions for the upcoming session. The 2025 State Legislative agenda also communicates the city's perspective to both the public and state lawmakers, highlighting what issues the city believes should be prioritized at the state level.

Key priorities for Bellevue this session include funding to continue Grand Connection Crossing design work, investments for ongoing transportation projects along the I-405 corridor and SR 520, improvements for the digital permitting platform [bellevuewa.gov/perm](https://bellevuewa.gov/perm) and partnership to address the housing affordability crisis in Bellevue and throughout the state.

### Planning for growth

City Council unanimously voted to approve [Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update](#) which occurs roughly every decade and guides how the city plans for growth and development over the next 20 years.

### Proclamations issued

Two proclamations were issued by council proclaiming the month of October as [Disability Employment Awareness Month](#) and [Hispanic American History Month](#).



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# Grand Connection Crossing Community Engagement Summary for 30% Design

## City of Bellevue; City wide press release

City of Bellevue, WA | Transportation

City of Bellevue » City News

### Design updates for Grand Connection Crossing

Published October 27, 2024

**City nears completion of preliminary design concept for crossing over I-405**

The City of Bellevue is progressing on the initial design of the Grand Connection Crossing, a bridge over Interstate 405 that will make it easier for people to walk, bike, and roll from downtown to Eastrail. The city invites all who live, work and play in Bellevue to learn more about this project at an [open house](#) through Wednesday, Oct. 30.

The crossing will connect downtown Bellevue to Wilburton and help transform the Wilburton area into Bellevue's newest vibrant neighborhood. According to the design concept, the west end of the crossing will be City Hall Plaza and the east end will be the Eastrail regional trail. The crossing structure will be compatible with a future light rail park over I-405 functional in the near term and the first step to forming what will be a destination on its own.

The Grand Connection program is a series of projects and initiatives designed to improve the experience for those walking, biking, and rolling between Meydenbauer Bay Park through downtown Bellevue across I-405 to Wilburton. As part of the program, the crossing will integrate into a wider redevelopment of two city-owned properties along the crossing's alignment.

The preliminary design concept is almost complete, informed by feedback from community members through online and in-person open houses. Now the city would like to share the vision with the community.

Visit the open house to view project updates and learn how community input informed the initial design concept. The open house information is also provided in the following languages:

- 简体中文
- 繁體中文
- 日本語
- 한국어
- Español
- Tiếng Việt

You can find additional information about the Grand Connection Crossing and subscribe for project updates at [Grand Connection Crossing](#).

City of Bellevue, WA

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How may I help you?

## It's Your City; City of Bellevue Quarterly Newsletter, Fall-Winter 2024 Issue

### Acting City Manager Diane Carlson selected for permanent role

By MICHELLE DU GRAND  
Chief Communications Officer

After about a year on the job in an acting capacity and a public interview process, Diane Carlson is now Bellevue's permanent city manager. The City Council unanimously selected her for the permanent role in September.

In May, the council decided to proceed with a transparent and community-involved interview process with Carlson after she was found to meet all the criteria in a profile for the position developed with community input.

A longtime Bellevue resident with a long and impressive career in public administration and government relations, Carlson served in an acting capacity after the retirement of former city manager Brad Miyake in November 2023.

"[The City Council] put a tremendous amount of thought into this decision," said Mayor Lynne Robinson during the meeting when Carlson was appointed. "To be able to hire someone of Diane Carlson's caliber into a major leadership position with her historic knowledge and without having to have a transition period...is just invaluable. We have a tremendous amount of work ahead of us...I am grateful for the opportunity to hire...an already-tested talent who can hit the ground running and be working at full capacity tomorrow, and I think our city deserves that."

Carlson has strong roots in the community and region. From 2002 to 2012, she served as the City of Bellevue's government relations director, before taking a position as capital division director for King County Metro. She also has led regional initiatives for the

Office of County Executive Dow Constantine and worked for the state Department of Transportation as director of planning, advocacy and initiatives, and for the Association of Washington Cities as senior manager for transportation.

Carlson returned to the City of Bellevue in 2022 to serve as deputy city manager before being appointed acting city manager.

"I'm passionate about Bellevue and recognize that the role of city manager is the highest level of responsibility to serve our community and carry out this council's vision," Carlson said. "I appreciate the council's confidence in me. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I'm looking forward to it."

Bellevue operates under a council-manager form of government, where the City Council hires a city manager to run the operations of the city and the council provides the vision, policies and priorities for the city.

For the public interview process in September, the city enlisted the community's input to submit interview questions for two community forums. In addition, the council held a special meeting where they interviewed Carlson.



### Grand Connection Crossing takes shape

By LAURA MILETAD  
Transportation Public Information Officer

After a year of community engagement and technical analysis, the Bellevue Transportation Department is nearing completion of the preliminary design concept for the Grand Connection Crossing.

While design specifics are still to be determined, the preliminary concept establishes the goals and engineering components of the crossing over Interstate 405. The west terminus will be City Hall Plaza while the east end will intersect with the Eastrail multi-use path.

The crossing is the heart of the Grand Connection program and the key to making downtown accessible for all Bellevue community members and visitors, not just people living or working downtown.

Meant for walking, biking or rolling, the crossing will connect downtown Bellevue with 175 miles of trails and the region's growing light rail network. It will also help catalyze Bellevue's next vibrant urban neighborhood - Wilburton - and its future shopping, dining and housing.

This summer, the project team conducted a Type, Size and Location study focused on:

- cost to build and maintain the crossing
- user experience and safety
- look and visual appearance
- opportunities to connect with future nearby public and private development

Community input from two open houses and informational tables at summer events have also informed the preliminary design. The project team, which includes staff from the Transportation and Community Development departments, as well as consultants, engaged more than 1,100 community members to understand their vision for the crossing, their priorities and what would make them feel safe and welcome.

After reviewing the study and considering feedback, the city is pursuing a design concept that prioritizes user experience and opportunities to connect with nearby future development. The report also confirmed the start and end points for the crossing.

As the project advances to future design phases, the project team will continue engaging people who live, work, learn and play in Bellevue.

The city will upload the preliminary design concept to our project page at the end of the year along with the full Type, Size and Location study. To view the materials and sign up for project alerts, visit [BellevueWA.gov/i405-crossing](#).

