

#### CONSTRUCTION CLOSE TO HOME

# What activities and changes can I expect during construction?

You may see construction equipment moving in and out of the project, crew members wearing hard hats and vests, possible dust and potential loud noises. Watch and be alert for these during the day and especially early morning and evening hours.

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## There's spray paint on my roadway. What does that mean?

There are many reasons for spray paint on your roadway. Nearly any activity that requires digging within the public right-of-way requires "locates" to be performed to determine the location of underground utilities.

This is done to assure that construction equipment does not damage utilities or accidently endanger workers.



#### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & TIMING**

## How long can I expect a construction project to last?

Reasons can vary: size, complexity and type of work; schedule adjustments; unexpected conditions that occur once the project begins. Bellevue's main construction season is during the drier months of spring and summer. A small project may take a few weeks, while larger ones may take a year or more.

The first aspect of a construction project is usually the relocation of any utilities under the roadway. This can take several weeks or months and is done prior to the actual construction project. Delay of construction materials, cold, and/or wet weather can also hinder the schedule.



#### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & TIMING**

# What are the days and hours of construction?

It is typically between the hours of 7 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. However, in order to meet the schedule, contractors may need to extend their hours into the night and/or weekends.

Hours of construction may change due to weather, equipment availability, or other unforseen circumstances.



#### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & TIMING**

# Why can't construction be done at night when there is less traffic?

There is a balance on every construction contract between the need to get work done, the need to move traffic through an area, and the disruption due to construction on adjacent homes and businesses. On occasion, work at night on high volume arterials in non-residential areas are scheduled to avoid daytime traffic congestion. However, excessive noise, premium pay during off hours, and lower quality work due to worker fatigue and poor lightening are main factors. So the balance is limiting work to avoid commute periods and completing the work on time so that residents and businesses are not affected for an extended period of time.



#### **BUSINESSES NEXT TO A CONSTRUCTION SITE**

## Will customers still have access to my business?

Yes, sometimes temporary signage will be installed to direct motorists to businesses impacted by construction. It is helpful to inform customers ahead of time about how to access your business while construction is in process.













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## What do I do when construction closes a road?

When a road closes due to construction, the best detour for commuters is determined. This is most likely an adjacent residential street. In the case of a major arterial or highway, another major roadway is selected as a detour route to minimize traffic impacts.

Plan for a few extra minutes in your morning and evening commute to reduce stress and account for delays.

#### **CONSTRUCTION CLOSE TO HOME**

## How long will the road be closed?

Construction projects seek to stay on schedule, however road closures are sometimes longer or shorter depending what is encountered at the site. Stay informed by checking the status of the project.

#### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & TIMING**

# What do you do to keep a project on schedule?

The City of Bellevue works with the contractor to determine ways to maintain or reduce the overall project schedule. The goal is to complete the project on time and on budget. It is important to restore traffic patterns to normal. This is especially important on high volume roadways.

The City of Bellevue and the contractor work together on a week-to-week basis to keep construction information current.

#### **CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE & TIMING**

# What time should I avoid driving when there's construction?

Avoid the peak travel times weekdays between 6–9 am and 4–7 pm. Or Friday–Sunday 1–8 pm.



#### **SAFETY IS THE MAIN GOAL**

# How do I stay safe while driving through a construction zone?

- Reduce your speed / move early into the correct lane / merge cautiously
- Watch for alerts on electronic message boards black signs with orange letters
- Watch for and follow detour signs
- Allow for extra time when encountering construction
- Stay alert for changes in traffic speeds, slow down or speed up as necessary
- Obey flaggers and police officers

#### **SAFETY IS THE MAIN GOAL**

# Why aren't there police officers at every construction site?

Flaggers and police officers are used in circumstances where the safe operation of traffic cannot be managed without them.

#### A NOTE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Because I live and work in Bellevue, I know firsthand how much construction is going on these days. Even though I carpool or ride my bike to and from work occasionally, it's frustrating to sit in a line of traffic because of roadway work. As the Transportation Director, I want our projects to be carefully planned out and coordinated to minimize future construction impacts. I know that we all have places to go and sitting in traffic doesn't help us reach our destinations on time.

There are many things you can do to help lessen the pain. My advice is to stay informed and use all of the tools mentioned on the back page of this brochure. When you know why you're sitting in traffic, it might help lessen your frustration and stress level. I will do my part if you will do your part: stay informed.

So, what's do you need to know now? Construction will increase, especially in the redeveloping Bel-Red area and on the East Link light rail route from the south, to downtown and to northeast Bellevue. I know that it will be challenging to keep people moving but, be assured that we are planning for this work and we will manage construction impacts to the best of our ability. Whether you bike, carpool, drive, vanpool or walk, Bellevue will be open for business and we will get you to and from your destination.

Thank you for your time and understanding, as more orange barricades and cones sprout up on our roadways. Together, we will get through the busy construction years ahead!

David Berg **Transportation Director** 

# **CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION**

Traffic Advisories www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic\_advisories.htm Capital Investment Program (CIP) Project Interactive Map www.bellevuewa.gov/capital-projects-map.htm Bellevue Traffic Cameras www.bellevuewa.gov/traffic cams.htm Downtown Development Projects <a href="https://www.bellevuewa.gov/development\_activity.htm">www.bellevuewa.gov/development\_activity.htm</a> City of Bellevue MyBellevue app www.bellevuewa.gov/mybellevue.htm Transportation Twitter twitter.com/byuetrans or @byuetrans City of Bellevue Facebook www.facebook.com/bellevuewashington Transportation News Releases www.bellevue.gov/news releases.htm

> East Link Light Rail www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm King County METRO tripplanner.kingcounty.gov/

Choose Your Way Bellevue www.chooseyourwaybellevue.org









**DETOUR** 



#### **BENEFITS OF A COMPLETED PROJECT**

## What are benefits of a completed project?

New bike lanes, new sidewalks, and improved roadways are obvious benefits. Other benefits would include improved American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for curbs and sidewalks, increased access to buses or bicycle lanes, and enhanced safety features such as flashing beacons at crosswalks.

#### OTHER REASONS FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

## Are construction projects always a roadway project?

No, there are many reasons for construction on our city streets. Improvements made by other city departments, projects initiated by private development companies may affect the roadway, and other agencies do work on Bellevue's roadways. The Transportation Department seeks to stay informed of all projects, however, not all projects impacting Bellevue roadways are known.









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