

Overview

As part of East Link light rail construction, Sound Transit's contractor has closed the cul-de-sac in 114th Ave NE for up to two (2) years. 114th Ave NE is part of the regional Lake Washington Loop bicycle route and one of the most popular bicycle connections to Downtown Bellevue.

To provide a safe uphill bike lane on NE 2nd St, approximately 12 on-street parking spaces were displaced on the north side of the street between 110th Ave NE and 112th Ave NE. This on-street parking was available to the general public. The City is working to create new on-street parking within close proximity to where the loss of spaces occurred.



Why is there a new bike lane on NE 2nd St?

The new uphill bike lane on NE 2nd St is part of a detour route associated with East Link light rail construction. Sound Transit is building the future Downtown Bellevue Station and I-405 guideway crossing. This required closing the cul-de-sac at the north end of 114th Ave NE, just south of NE 6th St. The detour will be in place for up to two (2) years.

114th Ave is an important route for people bicycling because it provides a low traffic connection into Downtown Bellevue from the south. Closing the cul-de-sac has a significant impact on people who bicycle along this popular regional corridor. The new bicycle facilities on NE 2nd St help provide a safe alternate route for people bicycling in Downtown. This is consistent with the city's Vision Zero policy, which states that the safety of residents, employees, and visitors to Bellevue is the City Council's highest priority.

Why wasn't I notified about this change?

A late change in plans associated with the bicycle detour resulted in a short project delivery period and insufficient time to notify the impacted community. A different route was originally identified for the bicycle detour during the East Link project design stage.

In the weeks leading up to the start of construction, Sound Transit and the City mutually determined that the original detour would not be feasible due to the way construction was being staged. The bicycle facilities now installed on NE 2nd St were determined to be the best detour alternative. It was installed shortly thereafter to avoid delaying the East Link construction schedule.

Why is there only a bike lane in one direction?

The design of this bicycle detour balances the many competing needs for limited street space.

Bellevue seeks to provide safe and reliable mobility options and equitable access for all people and all travel modes. A separated bike lane is provided on NE 2nd St in the westbound direction from 112th Ave NE to 110th Ave NE because people bicycling uphill will travel much slower than people driving. This could only be accommodated by repurposing existing on-street parking along these blocks.

In the eastbound direction, people on bikes are riding downhill, so they are more likely to be traveling at similar speeds to other traffic. People bicycling are encouraged to use the full travel lane. Shared lane markings (also known as "sharrows") indicate where to ride, and they also alert people driving to look out for people on bikes. Although a bike lane may make it more comfortable for some people to ride downhill, this needed to be balanced with other road users. Because some on-street parking is impacted by the uphill bike lane on the north side of the street, it was important to maintain the existing on-street parking on the south side of the street.



City of Bellevue Transportation Department

East Link Construction / NE 2nd St Bicycle Detour



Why did the bicycle detour remove some on-street parking?

Street space in Downtown is a limited resource. With few route options to choose from, NE 2nd St was determined to offer the safest and most useful alternative bicycle route with the fewest impacts to other road users. A westbound bike lane was determined to be required to provide a safe route for people bicycling up the steep hill between 112th Ave NE and 110th Ave NE.

What is the city doing to replace the impacted on-street parking?

The Transportation Department is working to add new on-street parking spaces to the area within one-quarter of a mile of the parking displaced by the new bike lane on NE 2nd St.

Potential locations are still being reviewed, and the number of new spaces and date when they will be available remains to be determined. The city will reach out to impacted properties to inform them of adjustments.

Where can I park my car in the area today?

There are currently approximately 60 on-street parking spaces within one-quarter mile of the spaces displaced by the new bike lane on NE 2nd St. On-street parking is available...

- on the south side of NE 2nd St west of 112th Ave NE;
- on the west side of 110th Ave NE south of NE 2nd St;
- on the north side of NE 2nd St between 108th Ave NE and 110th Ave NE;
- on the north side of NE 2nd St both east and west of 108th Ave NE;
- on the north side of NE 3rd St between 110th Ave NE and 111th Ave NE;
- on the west side of 111th Ave NE south of NE 4th St;
- on the west side of 107th Ave NE south of NE 2nd St.

The map at the right depicts the on-street parking locations identified above as green lines; the light green area is one-quarter mile.



Who can I contact for more information about this bicycle detour?

For more information about the bicycle detour, steps being taken to mitigate impacts to on-street parking in the area, or East Link light rail construction in general, please contact:

Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach and Community Relations Lead
phone: 425-452-2064 | email: MJensen@bellevuewa.gov

To receive East Link construction alerts, subscribe at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe

For more information about bicycling in Bellevue or on-going and planned projects to help make Bellevue a great place to bike, please contact:

Andreas Piller, Associate Transportation Planner
phone: 425-452-2931 | email: APiller@bellevuewa.gov

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Questions

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