

## South Bellevue East Link Construction Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 6-8 p.m., 1E-108, Bellevue City Hall

# Meeting Summary

### Staff

- Marie Jensen (City of Bellevue)
- John Murphy (City of Bellevue)
- Marci McReynolds (City of Bellevue)
- Cheryl Cohen (City of Bellevue)
- Karen Gonzalez (City of Bellevue)
- Dave Berg (City of Bellevue)
- Nancy LaCombe (City of Bellevue)
- Ryan Shelton (City of Bellevue)
- Maher Welaye (City of Bellevue)
- Luke Lamon (Sound Transit)
- Paul Cornish (Sound Transit)
- Mediation Volunteers (Table Facilitators)
- Harrison Price (EnviroIssues)

### Meeting Background

City of Bellevue staff met with residents from areas adjacent to the E320 East Link contract segment (Surrey Downs, Bellecrest, Enatai, Killarney Circle and Beaux Arts) who may be impacted by East Link construction activity on Bellevue Way SE and 112th Ave SE. The intent of the meeting was to share known impacts and concerns about construction activity that may impact neighborhoods (e.g., traffic diversion and increased speeds in neighborhoods). Attendees confirmed, edited and added to staff-identified impacts; prioritized hotspots that should be focused on for mitigation; and provided initial feedback on mitigation strategies.

### Meeting Structure

The first half-hour of the meeting was an open house-style forum in which attendees had an opportunity to engage in conversations with City staff and spend time getting acquainted with informational boards. Following the open house, Marie introduced the project team, stated the goals for the meeting and walked through a presentation for the group. Key points that Marie covered included:

- Process overload (e.g. Station Area Plans)
- Neighborhood anxiety about construction
- Neighborhood need for assurances
- Need for neighborhood-wide mitigation
- Limited funding for implementation



There were several general comments made highlighting current and past dealings with construction, cut-through traffic in neighborhoods, mitigation tools, and political circumstances. John and Marie emphasized that the purpose of the meeting was to voice concerns and that the breakout sessions would be the best way for everyone in attendance to have an equal opportunity to get their ideas heard and recorded.

Marie went on to introduce the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC) and its role moving forward. She invited community members to join the committee, which will work collaboratively with fellow neighbors and members and City staff to set expectations, share information, and participate in meetings to be scheduled by the City. Following Marie's presentation, John gave an overview of neighborhood traffic conditions, known areas of concern and sample mitigation strategies. After an explanation of the evening's exercise, participants began working with table facilitators to define problems, determine the most important issues, and problem solve to come up with possible mitigation tools.

### **Breakout Session Summary**

For the exercise, attendees worked with a diverse group of four to five residents to identify concerns inside and outside their respective neighborhoods. Each participant chose issues and mitigation strategies they thought were most important. The end product of the exercise was eight annotated maps with eight to 15 identified issues, dots to signify which issues were most important, and possible mitigation strategies to alleviate concerns during construction of East Link.

A summary of the information provided during the breakout sessions can be found below.

Participants' neighborhoods:

- Bellecrest: 9
- Surrey Downs: 9
- Enatai: 16
- Beaux Arts Village: 3

Commonly identified issues:

- Cut-through traffic on 108th Ave SE and 109th Ave SE
- Excessive speeds on 108th Ave SE, 104th Ave SE and SE 25th St
- Difficulty entering and exiting neighborhoods at the intersections of:
  - 108th Ave SE and S Bellevue Way
  - 108th Ave SE and Main St
  - 112th Ave SE and S Bellevue Way
- Unsafe traffic conditions at the intersection of 108th Ave SE and Main St
  - Drivers regularly ignore the current no entry restriction onto 108th Ave SE
- Pedestrian safety near Bellevue High School
- Overflow commuter parking on neighborhood streets
  - Parking availability during the closure of the South Bellevue Park and Ride



Commonly identified mitigation strategies:

- **Cut-through traffic:**
  - Install “local access” signs at all neighborhood entrance points
  - Road closure at 108th Ave SE and Main St
  - Remove SR 520 toll during construction
  - Prohibit left turns onto S Bellevue Way from 108th Ave SE during peak hours
  - Notify workers in downtown Bellevue of preferred alternative routes during construction
  - Toll non-residents using neighborhood roads to access I-90
- **Excessive speeds:**
  - Install additional speed bumps on 108th Ave SE, 109th Ave SE, 25th Ave SE and 104th Ave SE
  - Increase police presence along 108th Ave SE
  - Install speed-measuring radar signs outside of school zones
- **Pedestrian safety:**
  - Improve pedestrian facilities along 108th Ave SE, especially near Bellevue High School
  - Install additional signage and crosswalks
  - Change school hours so they do not conflict with peak cut-through traffic
  - Install “beware of children” signs throughout neighborhoods
- **Overflow parking on neighborhood streets:**
  - Implement a Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ) at the top of the stairs on SE 28th Pl
  - Increase parking patrols in Enatai

