

# Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee

## Summary of Meeting #5 October 25, 2016

### City Staff:

- Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach, Transportation Dept.
- John Murphy, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services, Transportation Dept.
- Sgt. Dave Sanabria, Bellevue Police Dept.
- Capt. Dean Harm, Bellevue Fire Dept.
- Nancy Lacombe, Regional Transportation Project Mgr, Transportation Dept
- Darcy Akers, Traffic Engineer, Transportation Dept

Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee: ☒ Notes in attendance

Beaux Arts Village	Bellecrest	Enatai	Surrey Downs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Stowe	Mike Koehn*	Kevin Paulich	Kerri Patterson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eugenia Yen	Tricia Thomason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Sears	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Nugent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Hudson	Liz Hale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katherine Christopherson	

\*Late arrival

### I. Welcome & Overview of Meeting – Marie Jensen

- At the start of the meeting, noting four members absent, the presiding members decided to continue with the meeting.
- Members were provided packets that include an Agenda, a list of names with accompanying emails received by the City, a report of the Survey Monkey online survey, and a summary of comments from the online survey
- Members were reminded that this process has been fluid and flexible and that they should not feel the need to make any final decisions on the draft plan at this meeting.
- Tonight's meeting is to consider the extensive feedback received on the draft plan and define next steps in the process.

### II. Overview & Analysis of Feedback – John Murphy

- PPT Slideshow posted to [NTMC webpage](#) and included as attachment to this Summary
- Community concerns about cut-through traffic expressed during station area planning processes for South Bellevue and East Main stations; this concern was one of driving factors for starting NTMC.

- Purpose of online survey was to seek residents' opinion if the draft plan meets the project goal to lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link construction on Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
- Respondents who expressed that draft plan "Very well/somewhat well" meets project goal:
  - Beaux Arts Village: 42%
  - Bellecrest: 86%
  - Enatai: 55% (Most number of responses)
  - Surrey Downs: 65%
- Key themes from survey
  - Special placards needed for to facilitate resident access
  - Neighborhoods are unduly impacted by access restrictions
  - Need for enforcement
  - Need for parking permits
  - Increased travel time to freeway
  - 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE/Bellevue Way already congested
  - Bellevue Way already congested
  - Plan meets goal
  - Access out of neighborhood more important than increased traffic potential
- Other themes
  - Familiarity of draft plan
    - Enatai residents not very familiar with work of NTMC
    - Bellecrest and Beaux Arts Village somewhat familiar
    - Though small sample size, more familiarity of NTMC led to respondents thinking plan would meet goal
  - Most respondents preferred black lettering on orange background for signs that communicate that access to southbound Bellevue Way restricted during certain hours
- Over 50 emails were sent to city staff expressing concern for proposed plan, particularly the turn restrictions onto Bellevue Way from south Enatai

### III. Discussion of Feedback & Refinements to Draft Plan - Committee

- Residential Parking Zone (RPZ): Though parking restrictions aren't in the committee's purview, many comments on the survey were around the need to have parking permits as a result of potential spillover parking in neighborhood areas. The City's program requires a level of support from impacted neighbors along with minimum spillover parking occurring. Staff are already working on establishing the legal framework for an RPZ in Enatai on the streets surrounding

the South Bellevue Park and Ride. Additionally, staff had previously forwarded an RPZ request form to a resident regarding parking concerns on 107<sup>th</sup> Ave SE south of Bellevue Way; staff have yet to receive the form back.

- Placard system: Given the amount of comments received on the survey about the need for placards that allow residents to be exempt from any potential access restrictions, the practicality of such a program was discussed.
  - There is no known local or national program that fits a similar scenario to what residents are asking for.
  - Traffic law has to be applied uniformly. City adopts State law and State law has no provision to allow for preferential access using public streets.
  - More research to be done on what some believe is a decal system for single-occupancy vehicles to exit via a high-occupancy vehicle ramp from I-90 into Mercer Island. Regardless, SOV/HOV access is different from what residents are requesting.
  - Many examples referenced relate to on-street parking; not access or exemption from traffic control.
  - Police Sgt. Sanabria advised that a placard hanging from a rear view mirror within a vehicle is not legal (obstruction to driver) and that stickers/decals are difficult to see therefore difficult to enforce.
  - What about a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)? City does not have currently have the capability to institute a system that would transmit the identity of a car or person. Good to Go pass is an RFID-type system.
- 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE/Bellevue Way Intersection
  - Concern about existing difficulty getting out of Enatai at this intersection
  - Transportation Engineer Darcy Akers noted that collision history doesn't warrant any needs for signal adjustments
  - As construction progresses, signal adjustments will occur along Bellevue Way, including 108<sup>th</sup>/Bellevue Way
  - As part of this discussion, it was shared that WSDOT controls the freeway on-ramp meter to I-90 from Bellevue Way; it was suggested that the timing of the meter could lessen congestion on Bellevue Way.
- Traffic monitoring
  - Brief review of 2014 turning movement data at key intersections that was shown at previous NTMC meetings
  - City has collected data on all south neighborhoods; method is static in that a location is chosen for data collection for a specified period of time. There is no continuous traffic data monitoring that is as accurate as static, pneumatic tubes.
  - Suggestion to phase mitigation plan: collect data first, then evaluate tools

- Any significant increase in traffic volume should not be the only indicator when evaluating tools
- Staff to research if Enatai Elementary School caused a significant increase of traffic
- Travel times if restrictions in place
  - Staff shared how long it would take to get from south Enatai or Beaux Arts Village IF there were turn restrictions at 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and 113<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. During the PM commute, traveling north on 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to the Bellevue Way intersection and then south to the freeway would tack on an additional 10 minutes of travel. This was generally not supported by the Committee.
- Revise goal of draft plan?
  - The draft NTM plan essentially represented a fairly restrictive but effective plan to address commuter traffic. It could be viewed on the far end of a spectrum with a “Do Nothing” approach on the other end.



- After the feedback, only one committee member thought the draft plan—that was shared with the community—was a plan to consider for implementation.
- Given community feedback about the need to retain access, the Committee agreed that perhaps the original goal of simply lessening the potential for traffic on neighborhood streets was too restrictive. Rather, perhaps a less restrictive option is the first step, then evaluating conditions once construction is underway, and adjusting as necessary.
- Committee seeks something the realm of slightly to moderately mitigated traffic that better addresses access
  - The Committee plans to spend the next meeting figuring out what this could look like
  - Before any plan is implemented, additional community outreach will be conducted

Attachment: PPT slideshow from 10/25/16 meeting

## Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Meeting #5

### Oct. 25, 2016

- 5:30 – Welcome/Overview of Meeting
- 5:40 – Overview & Analysis of Feedback on Draft Mitigation Plan
- 6:10 – Discussion of Feedback & Refinement to Draft Plan
- 6:45 – Discussion of outreach possibilities
- 6:55 – Wrap Up



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## NTMC Introductions

Beaux Arts Village	Bellecrest	Enatai	Surrey Downs
Tom Stowe	Mike Koehn	Kevin Paulich	Kerri Patterson
Eugenia Yen	Tricia Thomason	Rebecca Sears	Ed Nugent
Cynthia Hudson	Liz Hale	Katherine Christopherson	



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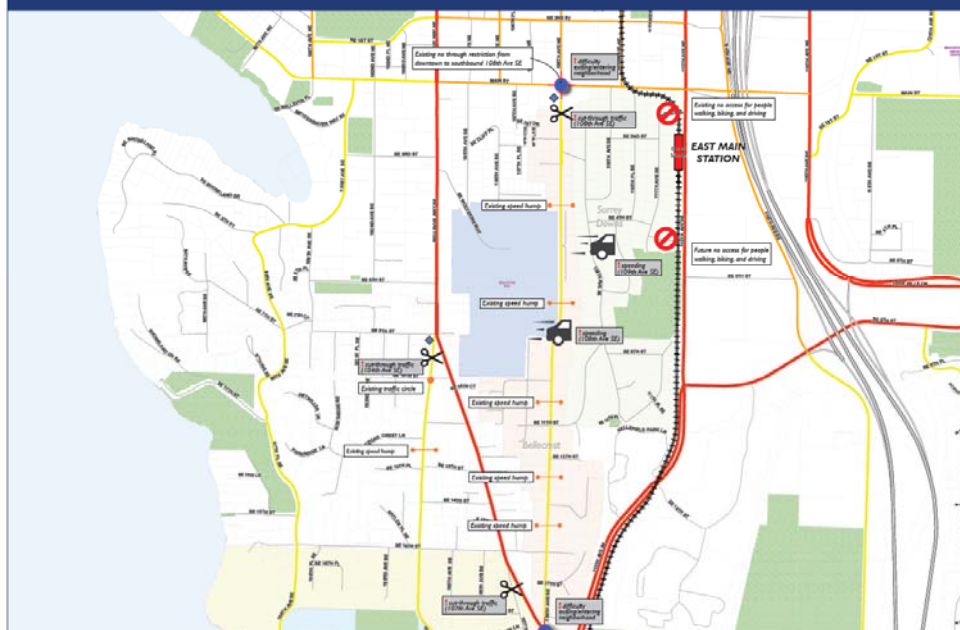
# Draft Plan features

- A:** Sign stating southbound access to Bvue Way restricted 4-7 pm
- B:** Residential area sign
- C:** Residential area sign
- D:** Sign stating southbound access to Bvue Way restricted 4-7 pm
- E:** 4-7 pm left turn restriction from SE 16<sup>th</sup> St to Bvue Way; 7-9 am right turn restriction from Bvue Way to SE 16<sup>th</sup> St
- F:** 4-7 pm left turn restriction from 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to Bvue Way; 7-9 am right turn restriction from Bvue Way to 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE; Sign stating southbound access to Bvue Way restricted 4-7 pm
- G:** no right turn 4-7 pm to Bvue Way
- H:** no right turn 4-7 pm to Bvue Way
- I:** Sign stating southbound access to Bvue Way restricted 4-7 pm



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## South Bellevue Neighborhoods: Known Traffic Concerns and Existing Conditions East Link Construction Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation



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- South Bellevue Station Area Plan:

- 

3

## Outreach on Draft Plan

- NTMC Mailer (mid-September)
- Online survey
- Neighborhood outreach meetings
  - Surrey Downs picnic
  - Bellecrest Neighborhood Association Board meeting
  - Beaux Arts Village Council meeting
  - Enatai Neighborhood meeting
- NTMC member outreach
- Email and phone calls to staff



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## Purpose of Survey

- Project Goal:
  - Lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link light rail construction activities on Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
- 4 NTMC meetings to develop plan
- Public feedback to see if plan met goal
- From outset, this process intended to be fluid with adjustments as necessary
- Not statistically valid



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## Survey Overview

- ~1,650 newsletters sent out
- 347 responses (311 usable)
  - ~20% response rate

### Survey Response by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	# of survey responses	Total Households
Beux Arts Village	29	116
Bellecrest	44	291
Enatai	251	964
Surrey Downs	17	303
Other	6	-
Total	347	1674



## Did plan meet the project goal?

- Original question: After reviewing the Draft Mitigation Plan, how well does the plan meet the goal of lessening the potential for increased traffic in the south Bellevue neighborhoods during East Link construction on Bellevue Way SE and 12th Avenue SE?
- Most # of responses from Enatai
- Very well/somewhat well meets project goal:
  - BAV: 42%
  - Bellecrest: 86%
  - Enatai: 55%
  - Surrey Downs: 65%

### Did the plan meet the project goal?

Community	n=	Very Well	Somewhat well	Not at all	No opinion
Beux Arts Village	29	21%	21%	59%	-
Bellecrest	43	28%	58%	12%	2%
Enatai	219	11%	44%	42%	3%
Surrey Downs	14	21%	43%	29%	7%
Other	6	-	17%	67%	17%
Total	311	14%	43%	39%	3%



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## Familiarity with NTMC

- Enatai residents not very familiar with work of NTMC
- Bellecrest and BAV somewhat familiar

**Prior to receiving the mailer, how familiar were you of the work of the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC)?**

	Very Familiar	Familiar	Not Familiar	Total
Beaux Arts Village	10%	34%	55%	29
Bellecrest	23%	40%	37%	43
Enatai	5%	26%	70%	219
Surrey Downs	14%	21%	64%	14
Other	0%	50%	50%	6
Total	8%	29%	63%	311



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## Familiarity with NTMC and Plan Goal

- Though small sample size, more familiarity of NTMC led to respondents thinking plan would meet goal

**How familiar were respondents with NTMC related to how they viewed the plan meeting project goal?**

	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Not At All	No opinion	Total
Very Familiar	40%	40%	16%	4%	25
Familiar	11%	47%	40%	1%	89
Not Familiar	13%	42%	41%	4%	197



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## Key Themes

- Special placards for residents
- Unduly impacted by access restrictions
- Need for enforcement
- Need for parking permits
- Increased travel time to freeway
- 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE/Bellevue Way already congested
- Bellevue Way already congested
- Plan meets goal
- Access out of neighborhood more important than increased traffic potential



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## Key Themes: Beaux Arts Village

- Unduly inconvenienced by access restrictions
- Getting to I-90 requires too much ground to cover
- Placards for residential access requested



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## Key Themes: Bellecrest

- People generally disregard signs
- There is a strong need for enforcement
- Placards for residential access requested
- Generally, hesitant acceptance



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## Key Themes: Enatai

- Placards for residential access requested
- Unduly inconvenienced by access restrictions
- Realization that plan will likely lessen traffic
- Access generally more important than potential for increased traffic



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## Key Themes: Surrey Downs

- Let's wait and see how traffic actually plays out
- No mention of placards
- Skepticism of plan efficacy



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## Sign Preference

**SOUTHBOUND  
ACCESS TO  
BELLEVUE WAY  
RESTRICTED  
4:00-7:00 PM**

83% of respondents prefer  
black on orange

- More noticeable
- Only advisory

**SOUTHBOUND  
ACCESS TO  
BELLEVUE WAY  
RESTRICTED  
4:00-7:00 PM**

17% of respondents prefer  
black on white

- More official

*Original Question: What color sign do you think will be most effective in alerting motorists to the access restrictions at Bellevue Way?*



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## Emails sent to staff

- 50+ emails received in response to survey
  - Overwhelming majority from Enatai
- Similar themes to those found on the survey
  - Special placards
  - Longer travel time
  - I08<sup>th</sup>/Bellevue Way intersection/signal reconfiguration
  - Enforcement
  - Unduly impacted



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## Additional Information

- Next few slides contain information that:
  - You have already seen at a previous NTMC meeting
  - Gets at some of the comments received through the survey or via email



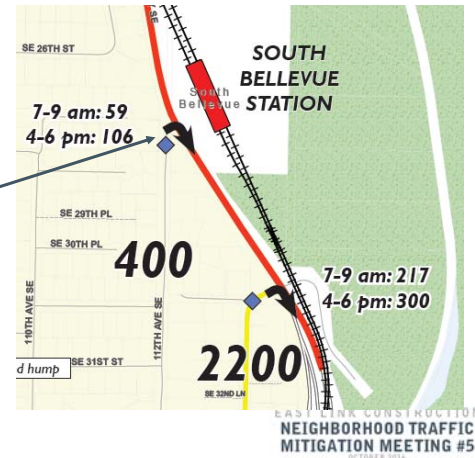
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## Turning Movement Data (2014)

- Enatai (Bellevue Way/I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and Bellevue Way/I 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SE)



Traffic signal at  
I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE



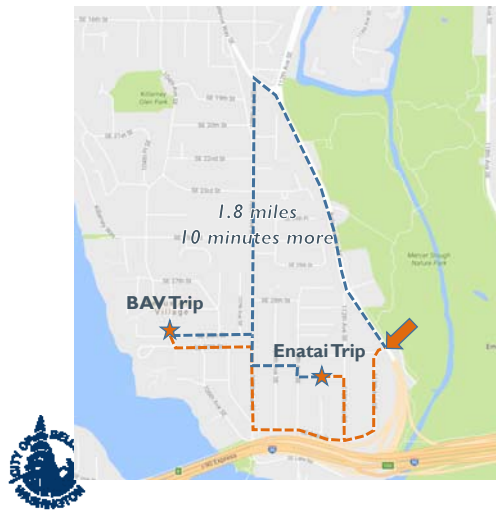
## Turning Movement Data (2014)

- Bellevue Way and I 08<sup>th</sup> Ave SE



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## How does limited access impact travel times?



### BAV Trip

- Current: 1.1 miles, 4 minutes
- Draft plan: 1.8 miles, 7-14 minutes

### Enatai Trip

- Current: 0.5 miles, 2 minutes
- Draft Plan: 1.8 miles, 7-12 minutes
- Travel time increase of 10 minutes
  - Based on Google Maps, 5:30 PM departure

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## Enforcement at Main/108th

- Staff observed 90% compliance during peak hour
- Police conducted focused enforcement (~120 citations) following improvements
- Police noted many citations for residents
- Can always request enforcement at:
  - [http://bellevuewa.gov/Traffic\\_Service\\_Request.htm](http://bellevuewa.gov/Traffic_Service_Request.htm)



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## Placards for Residents

- At least 77 people responded through the survey citing a need for placards
  - BAV: 9
  - Bellecrest: 6
  - Enatai: 61
  - Surrey Downs: 0
  - Other: 1
- No precedent for such a program—nationally or locally
- RCW 46.08.030: “operation of vehicles shall be applicable and uniform upon all person operating vehicles upon the public highways of this state, except as otherwise specifically provided.”
- City has adopted Chapter 308-330 WAC Washington Model Traffic Ordinance which does not include placard provision



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## Revised Goal?

- Existing project goal:
  - Lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link light rail construction activities on Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE
- Feedback: draft plan will largely support project goal
- BUT, resident's have expressed that access is critically important



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## Revised goal?

**Do  
Nothing**



- *Unmitigated traffic*
- *Full access*

???



- *Slightly mitigated traffic*
- *Fairly open access*

???



- *Moderately mitigated traffic*
- *Fairly limited access*

**Draft  
Plan**



- *Heavily mitigated traffic*
- *Severely limited access*



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## Additional Outreach Opportunities

- What we know:
  - Survey reflected unfamiliarity with NTMC and efforts
  - Feedback stage has engaged a lot of neighbors
- What we will do:
  - Continued updates to neighbors from NTMC members
  - Staff available upon request for updates to neighborhood associations
  - Community meeting with opportunity for additional feedback before end of year



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