

September 28, 2017

Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee Meeting (#10)

SUMMARY

5:30-7:30 pm, City Hall 1E-121

City Staff Liaisons:

- Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach
- John Murphy, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services (NTSS)
- Police Sgt. Dave Sanabria
- Karen Gonzalez, Manager, NTSS

Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee: Notes in attendance

Beaux Arts Village	Bellecrest	Enatai	Surrey Downs
Tom Stowe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tricia Thomason	Kevin Paulich <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kerri Patterson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eugenia Yen	Liz Hale <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Sears <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ed Nugent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kim Moloney	Erin Powell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (replaces Mike Koehn)	Katherine Christopherson	

1) Welcome/General Updates

Marie Jensen welcomed the committee; noting Erin Powell as Bellecrest’s new designee due to Mike Koehn’s resignation and noting the absent members.

It was mentioned that over 1,700 mailers were sent to addresses with the neighborhoods the committee represents; over 60 individual comments (email, phone, online survey) were received the first week. The packet contains those comments – some were received prior to the pilot starting, most during, a few additional comments were received after the packet was assembled. All comments and including a log will be posted to the [NTMC webpage](#).

It was announced that overall, a decrease in traffic was noted during the traffic data study.

The purpose of the meeting is for the committee to receive an update on the pilot including status of community feedback, logistics/equipment, enforcement and results of the traffic study.

2) Status of Pilot

- a) Community Feedback: In addition to the mailer, city staff conducted door-to-door outreach to properties within close proximity of the turn restriction, issued

a news release, sent email notices to subscribers, and posted information to social media including Nextdoor. Staff informed Bellevue High School administration and the school's Resource Officer.

The online survey was live Aug. 31; the same time as the mailer reached mailboxes. The survey asked two questions: (1) "What neighborhood do you live in?" and "Please describe your observations and experiences with the pilot turn restrictions." Not all of the 33 responses included specific feedback. Most respondents were from Enatai (five identified themselves as not from a specific neighborhood).

Over 40 direct phone calls and emails were received by staff; most received within the first week of the pilot and have tapered off. Per Karen Gonzalez, this is typical when neighborhood traffic mitigation is implemented as those impacted adjust to the change.

Themes to the feedback:

- inconvenient
- frustrating because of longer commutes
- difficult to reach afterschool activities
- disproportionate impacts
- misinterpretation of what roads were restricted

A breakdown by neighborhood is in the [Presentation](#).

b) Enforcement: Sgt. Sanabria characterized enforcement as a challenge because of driver outrage that officers have experienced. Most of the violators were residents who live in the neighborhoods. In the first days of the pilot, officers flagged violators to warn them about the restrictions. He expressed that commuters seem to understand the restrictions and agree to comply in the future. Officers handed out flyers explaining the restrictions. Now that the beacons are in, officers will issue citations. Sgt. Sanabria noted that the WAZE app reflects the restrictions, Google Maps currently does not. (The City has submitted several requests to Google.) Committee members were encouraged to message to their neighbors to comply with the restrictions. Moving violations are recorded on driver records.

c) Traffic Study analysis

The purpose of the September study (aka "post-pilot") was to measure traffic volume once the pilot began and compare it to the May-June traffic study (aka "pre-pilot"). It's important to understand that volumes fluctuate; they are not the same each day.

Volume data was collected Aug. 31 through Sept. 20. In addition to tube counters, video monitoring was conducted on two Thursdays.

Overall, the traffic study shows a decrease in evening and daily volumes at key locations near the turn restrictions. There are a few anomalies in that locations F, G, and H (see map in [Presentation](#)) were not evaluated in the May-June traffic (pre-pilot) study. Rather, these locations' pre-pilot data is from previous years.

Highlights of the September (post-pilot) study:

- Significant decreases in evening traffic at 112th Ave SE and 113th Ave SE; slight decreases during the day when comparing the May-June vs. Sept traffic study (Enatai) (Map locations J & K)
- Slight decreases in evening and daytime traffic on 108th between Main St and Bellevue Way (Bellevue) (Map locations A, B, C, D)
- Daytime decreases on 104th Ave SE north of SE 16th; minimal increase on 104th south of SE 16th (Map locations E and G, respectively). Daytime and PM Increases on Killarney Way south of SE 16th (Map location F)
- Increases on 104th and Killarney Way are likely attributable to increases in residents using these streets as there were not commensurate increases at locations J and K which would have been indicated commuter traffic cutting through.

3) Committee discussion

Members asked clarifying questions about the data, shared their personal experiences with the turn restrictions, and reflected what neighbors posted on Nextdoor. Most agreed that enforcement is the key to better compliance with the turn restrictions. Enforcement will continue as resources allow. There was agreement that the goal of the pilot was to not show an increase in afternoon traffic in the neighborhoods; initial results show this is the case. There continues to be acknowledgement of the "tradeoff" of residents being inconvenienced vs. not having commuter traffic increase.

4) East Link and nearby construction updates

- Weekend closures on Bellevue Way continue through November. Guideway construction to begin Oct./Nov. will prompt more daytime closures.
- The current northbound closures on 112th end in November; more extended closures planned. By-pass road construction starts next year. All 4 lanes to be restored in 2020.
- City project on 108th Ave SE south of Bellevue Way to wrap up in Oct.
- School zone at Bellevue High School implemented

5) Wrap Up/Next Steps

The online survey will remain open. Staff will continue to message about the pilot and recently met with TransManage staff at the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) to request that it send the information through its employer/employee and Choose Your Way Bellevue newsletters. Police will begin to issue citations (\$136 fine). Another traffic study will be conducted. The Committee will likely reconvene in December.