



# SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION: DRAFT NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MITIGATION PLAN

Your feedback wanted

September 2016

## Project Goal

Lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link light rail construction activities on Bellevue Way SE and 112th Ave SE.

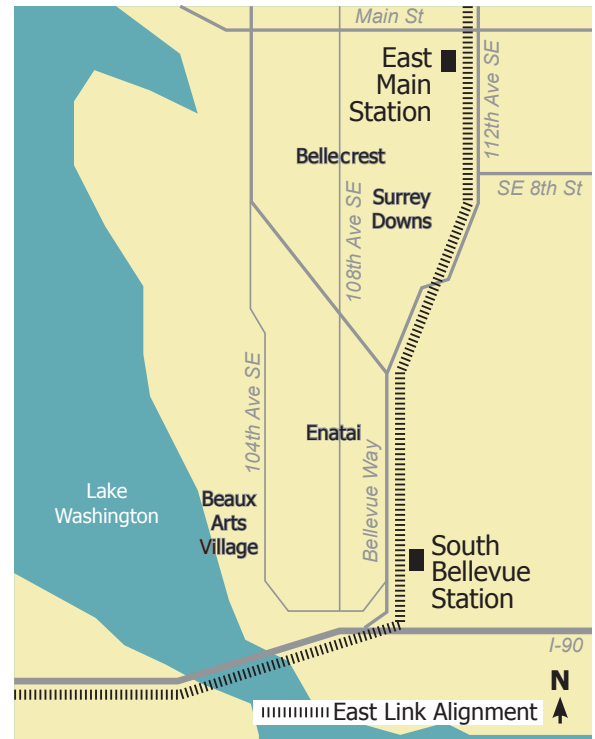
## Background

With the construction of the South Bellevue East Link segment anticipated to begin as early as January 2017, the city is working with affected neighborhoods—through a Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC)—in helping to identify mitigation tools and locations to lessen the potential traffic impacts. Specifically, East Link construction will impact Bellevue Way SE from near the current location of the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride along the roadway to the “Y” intersection (Bellevue Way SE and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE) and extending onto 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. The construction will involve building the tracks of the East Link light rail and the South Bellevue station.

Bellevue Way SE is a major arterial serving neighborhoods south of downtown and downtown Bellevue. It is a key connection for commuters entering and exiting Bellevue via I-90. When traffic becomes congested, typically southbound during the afternoon commute, some drivers bypass the congestion by using 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and other neighborhood streets. The enclosed plan, developed by the NTMC, helps to mitigate these impacts.

## Plan Overview

The draft concept plan (pages 4-5) recommends strategic turn restrictions at key entrances in/out of neighborhood areas to deter commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets.



East Link segment along Bellevue Way SE and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

## We want your anonymous feedback

Complete a short survey by October 16 here:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/COBntmc](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COBntmc)  
to help the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee refine the draft plan (found on pages 4-5).

Hard copy of survey available upon request.

## Staff Contact:

Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach | City of Bellevue Transportation Department  
mjensen@bellevuewa.gov | (425)452-2064



## How we got here

The city's Transportation Department hosted an informational meeting on April 27, 2016 with residents of Bellecrest, Enatai and Surrey Downs neighborhoods and Beaux Arts Village. The purpose of the meeting was to share background on known areas of traffic conditions and constraints, to receive additional feedback on other areas of concerns as they relate to East Link construction, and to address the next steps to form the Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC). The NTMC has met four times to develop the draft concept plan (pages 4-5). The Committee will consider the feedback received by the community and refine the draft concept plan in October.

### April-August 2016

NTMC formed draft concept plan.

**We are here**

### September-October 2016

Outreach to South Bellevue neighborhoods begins; NTMC considers public feedback and finalizes draft concept plan.

### January 2017

East Link construction in South Bellevue anticipated to begin; NTMC plan implementation coordinated at start of construction activities or shortly thereafter.

### January 2017 through 2021

Construction continues in the South Bellevue area and mitigation tools are evaluated and refined on an ongoing basis.

### 2021

Major construction activity wraps up and mitigation tools are removed.

### 2023

East Link opens for passenger service.

## Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC)

The Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC) includes a broad and geographically balanced representation from the neighborhoods of Bellecrest, Enatai and Surrey Downs and Beaux Arts Village. Membership includes one member of the association's board of the below listed neighborhoods and seven "community-at-large" members.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Bellecrest

Mike Koehn  
Tricia Thomason  
Liz Hale

#### Enatai

Kevin Paulich  
Rebecca Sears  
Katherine Christopherson

#### Surrey Downs

Kerri Patterson  
Ed Nugent

#### Beaux Arts Village

Tom Stowe  
Cynthia Hudson  
Eugenia Yen

**Submit plan  
feedback**

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# Draft Concept Plan Notes

- The Committee's priority is to help lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link construction activities on Bellevue Way SE and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE.
- This draft concept plan was developed by members of the NTMC with input from staff from the City of Bellevue Police, Fire, and Transportation Departments.
- The Committee sought to apply tools to the key entrances/exits into/out of the neighborhood areas. The thought being that limited access will be a deterrent to commuters using neighborhood streets.
- This plan was developed in a holistic fashion to ensure restrictions work as a system (e.g. restriction to Bellevue Way from southbound 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE works in concert with restrictions to southbound Bellevue Way at 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and 113<sup>th</sup> Ave SE). This allows residential access to Bellecrest and Enatai but restricts commuter traffic.
- Upon selecting these tools, the Committee extensively discussed the trade-offs associated with their implementation.
- The Committee recognizes that turn restrictions apply to both commuters and residents alike.
- The Committee discussed the use of additional tools (such as one lane zones and full closures on 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE near Bellevue High School).
  - The Committee expressed interest in possibly revisiting these tools but are first proposing the turn restriction concept to share with the community.

There are several tools that can help to achieve this goal of lessening the potential for increased neighborhood traffic (see page 6 for details). Any traffic mitigation tool comes with tradeoffs that can impact both commuters and residents alike. The more restrictive a tool is, the more tradeoffs associated with that tool. Their appropriateness can depend on:

- impacts to residents' travel times
- increased noise
- effectiveness of enforcement
- impact to overall roadway network
- emergency response times
- bus service
- bicycle access

## Subscribe to East Link Construction Updates

[www.soundtransit.org/subscribe](http://www.soundtransit.org/subscribe)

## How this work got started

On April 20, 2015 the Bellevue City Council unanimously approved a final agreement with Sound Transit regarding the East Link light rail project and possible siting of the operations and maintenance facility in BelRed. The Sound Transit Board unanimously approved the agreement on April 23, 2015. The agreement, known as the amended Memorandum of Understanding (amended MOU), is the culmination of years of partnership between the City and Sound Transit to ensure that the East Link project is constructed in a way that meets the needs of Bellevue and the region. It amends a previous legal agreement (the Umbrella Memorandum of Understanding) signed by both agencies in November 2011. The work of the NTMC is called for in the MOU. Specifically, the city "shall work with affected neighborhoods to address traffic related impacts during construction of the Project and to identify mitigation measures to be implemented." To view the MOU, go to: [www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm)

**Draft plan on next page** ➔

## Submit plan feedback

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## Project Goal

Lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link construction activities on Bellevue Way SE and I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE.

## Proposed Tools

### A 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE south of Main St

Sign\* stating access to Bellevue Way restricted 4-7 PM Monday-Friday. Implement East Main Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation or adding a protected left turn signal phase for all legs of the Main Street and 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE while evaluating concurrently with street traffic mitigation.

### B SE 2<sup>nd</sup> St east of 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Residential Area sign for eastbound traffic

### C SE 11<sup>th</sup> St east of 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

Residential Area sign for eastbound traffic

### D 104<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and SE 16<sup>th</sup> St

Sign\* stating access to Bellevue Way restricted 4-7 PM Monday-Friday.

### E SE 16<sup>th</sup> St and Bellevue Way

Turn restrictions: 1) no left turn from westbound SE 16<sup>th</sup> St to Bellevue Way from 4-7 PM Monday-Friday and 2) no right turn from northbound Bellevue Way to SE 16<sup>th</sup> St from 7-9 AM Monday-Friday.

### F 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and Bellevue Way

Turn restrictions: 1) no left turn from southbound 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to Bellevue Way from 4-7 PM Monday-Friday and 2) no right turn from northbound Bellevue Way to 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE from 7-9 AM Monday-Friday. Sign\* stating access to Bellevue Way restricted 4-7 PM Monday-Friday.

### G I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and Bellevue Way

Turn restriction: no right turn from northbound I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to Bellevue Way from 4-7 PM Monday-Friday.

### H I 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and Bellevue Way

Turn restriction: no right turn from northbound I 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SE to Bellevue Way from 4-7 PM Monday-Friday.

### I SE 34<sup>th</sup> St near I 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE

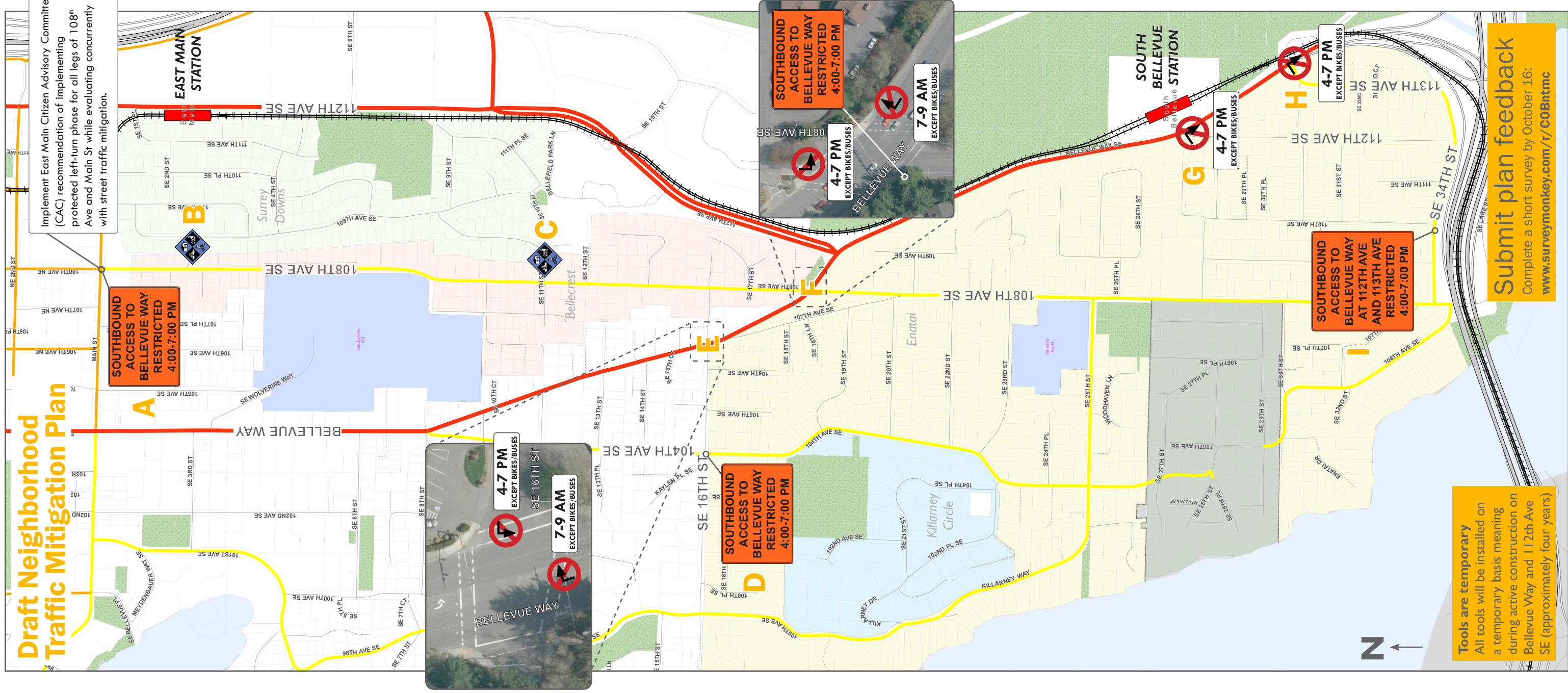
Sign\* stating access to Bellevue Way restricted 4-7 PM Monday-Friday.

\*sign may be black text on orange background or black text on white background

Note: the exact placement of these signs may vary upon implementation and will be evaluated for safety and in best meeting the stated goal of lessening the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets.

## Draft Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan

Implement East Main Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) recommendation of implementing protected left-turn phase for all legs of 108<sup>th</sup> Ave and Main St while evaluating concurrently with street traffic mitigation.



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# Mitigation tools

The Committee considered a wide range of tools (below) that would help to lessen the potential for increased traffic on neighborhood streets during East Link construction activities on Bellevue Way SE and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. The Committee developed tools that would work in a holistic fashion to ensure restrictions work as a system (e.g. restriction to Bellevue Way from southbound 108<sup>th</sup> Ave SE works in concert with restrictions to southbound Bellevue Way at 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and 113<sup>th</sup> Ave SE). This allows residential access to Bellecrest and Enatai but restricts commuter traffic.

## Tools are temporary

All tools will be installed on a temporary basis meaning during active construction on Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE (approximately four years)

**Radar signs** provide a dynamic speed display to the driver of a passing vehicle to encourage the motorist to reduce vehicle speeds if necessary.

**Speed humps** are slightly raised areas of roadway (usually 22 feet in length). They are different from the severe speed bumps that you may find in parking lots. Speed humps reduce vehicle speeds and create delay for motorists.

**Local access only signs** are placed at entrances to neighborhood streets that communicate the street should be traveled by those who have a destination within the immediate area.

**One lane zones**, such as chicanes and slow points, are a series of curb extensions that form S-shaped curves on what would be an otherwise straight roadway or are curb extensions that narrow a roadway, allowing only one car at a time to pass.

**Access restrictions** prohibit ALL traffic from traveling on a street through the use of signage at intersections where heavily traveled roads intersect with less traveled roads.

**Partial closures** restrict the roadway to one direction of travel. They limit vehicular access into neighborhoods while still providing residents with either an exit or entrance depending on the restriction.

**Full closures** physically closes a roadway in a neighborhood and are considered the most restrictive and severe form of traffic calming.

## Enforcement

The NTMC had numerous discussions about the need for adequate enforcement to ensure people driving are obeying proposed mitigation measures (e.g. turn restrictions).

The Police Department has been involved with this work and the NTMC has had the opportunity to speak with officers about the best way to enforce their plan.

While enforcement cannot occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, targeted enforcement will occur in the project area as resources allow.





# East Link and South Bellevue Construction FAQs

## East Link

### What is East Link?

Sound Transit's East Link light rail line will extend 14 miles from downtown Seattle to the Overlake area in Redmond, with 10 stations in Mercer Island, South Bellevue, downtown Bellevue, BelRed (Bellevue) and Overlake (Redmond).

### When will it begin operations?

After a testing period of one year, revenue service will begin in 2023.

## South Bellevue Construction

### When will construction of the South Bellevue segment begin?

As early as January 2017.

### How long will construction of the South Bellevue segment take?

The portion of Bellevue Way SE between the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE is expected to take 26 to 28 months with incentives for the contractor to complete the construction within 19 to 21 months. The South Bellevue segment (E320) construction will be approximately 4 years.

### Has a contractor been hired?

A contractor is expected to be on-board this fall (2016).

### Where will construction equipment staging be located?

Most of the staging will occur at the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride site. Additional staging will also occur adjacent to the alignment along Bellevue Way SE and I 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and within the median of I-90.

### What will be the hours of construction?

Typical construction hours will be Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. However, on occasion, work hours for certain activities may extend until 8 p.m. During weekend road closures, expect work hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

### Where will Sound Transit's contractors park?

Sound Transit's contractors will park within their own designated area but may not park on neighborhood streets.

## South Bellevue Park-and-Ride Closure

### When will South Bellevue Park-and-Ride close and for how long?

Sound Transit anticipates the closure as early as January 2017 and expects the closure to last approximately five years.

### Where will South Bellevue Park-and-Ride commuters park during the closure?

Sound Transit is establishing replacement parking lots in eastside communities. In addition to using church lots, Sound Transit will also use existing underutilized park-and-ride lots. Information on commuter options is available at [kingcounty.gov/metro](http://kingcounty.gov/metro).

### What is being done to prevent hide and ride parking in the neighborhood areas when the Park-and-Ride closes?

The City of Bellevue is prepared to work with Sound Transit to implement parking restrictions in neighborhoods, should they be warranted, to limit the amount of spillover parking as a result of the Park-and-Ride closing.

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## **SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION** Draft Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan

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**We want your feedback by  
October 16!**

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[www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.com](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.com)

## **SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION: Draft Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Plan**

### Question and Comments

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City of Bellevue	PO Box 90012
Transportation Department	Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

[www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.com](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.com)

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SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION  
**NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC MITIGATION**  
SEPTEMBER 2016