

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT:

East Link Project Update

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POLICY ISSUES:

This written monthly project update is informational, and no specific project direction or decisions are requested. The general policy guidance below is informing the City's work on this final design phase of the East Link Project.

MOU with Sound Transit:

The City and Sound Transit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2011 that defines City contributions to a downtown light rail tunnel. The MOU also provides the basis for a Collaborative Design Process (CDP) that was further defined and agreed to in January 2012. The CDP provides the mechanism for the City and Sound Transit to jointly advance the design of the East Link Project through the 60% design phase and identify cost savings to offset the City's tunnel funding contribution.

At the end of the design and permitting phase, the MOU calls for a review of the Project baseline budget and confirmation of the City's financial participation in East Link. The magnitude of policy issues presented at the time of confirmation of the MOU will depend in large part on the Project baseline budget, anticipated to be established in the third quarter of 2014. A subsequent work plan supporting the Council's consideration of the policy issues raised in confirming the MOU will be developed when more is known about the Project baseline budget.

Light Rail Overlay District:

In addition to collaborating with Sound Transit within the framework of the MOU, the City is the permitting agency for East Link within Bellevue. The Council adopted Land Use Code (LUC)

provisions defining development standards and design guidelines, which shape staff's feedback on design issues. The LUC provisions also establish the permitting process for East Link, which incorporates use of a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Comprehensive Plan Policies:

A final component of City work through this phase of East Link implementation involves the City's own long-range planning efforts. The Comprehensive Plan supports reviewing the long-range plans for those areas adjacent to and near transit stations to ensure that the City's vision is met and enhanced by those station areas. The City's separate Station Area Planning effort is underway consistent with these policies.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

This is the second of the monthly updates anticipated through development of the project baseline budget. The presentation will focus on a general project update, an overview of public involvement opportunities, and a review of specific design elements for the City Hall Plaza. An update of the City's overall East Link work program is provided in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

I. East Link Project Updates

Schedule

Sound Transit recently updated the East Link Master Schedule (Attachment B). This schedule shows progress in final design and reflects that Sound Transit is now proceeding into the Right-of-Way acquisition phase of the project.

Contract Packaging

Sound Transit has recently formalized contract packages for procurement of construction services. These contract packages replace the "Segments" used during the environmental and preliminary engineering phases to break up the Project into smaller sub-sections (Attachment C). These packages will also be the basis for the updated Project baseline budget. Sound Transit will also be submitting 90% complete and 100% complete plans for review for each of the contract packages.

Final Design

Final design for the East Link Project is underway, and City staff is working closely with Sound Transit on overall design coordination, scope resolution, construction planning and mitigation. Staff will provide an update on the status of the NE 6th Station design in response to Council direction in July.

II. Public Involvement

Bellevue residents have two primary means through which to provide input on the design and construction of Sound Transit's East Link Light Rail extension. Through Sound Transit's final design process and the City's Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee, the public has multiple opportunities to provide feedback on the design of stations, public art, public safety

elements, noise walls, and landscaping. Through a third City process, Station Area Planning, the public can address pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, traffic concerns and land use impacts, among other things.

The Bellevue East Link Public Involvement Guide (Attachment D) provides a summary comparison of the processes to clarify the types of review covered by each, and how the public can stay involved in each. Staff will present an overview of the public involvement opportunities throughout the East Link design process.

Public Involvement Events:

- The Light Rail Permitting CAC met for an orientation to the East Link Project and tour of the Central Link system on October 24 with City and Sound Transit staff members. Regular meetings have been scheduled twice monthly. More information about the Light Rail Permitting CAC is available on the City's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>.
- The City held a South Bellevue Station Area Planning community brainstorming workshop on October 10. Thirty people attended the meeting to provide input, through small group discussions co-facilitated by neighborhood residents and City staff, on concerns and possible approaches to address these concerns.

III. City Hall Plaza Design

The City has been working closely with Sound Transit to ensure the redesign and reconstruction of the City Hall Plaza is consistent with its original design concept that reflects Bellevue's history. To support this effort the original landscape architect from the City Hall design team was hired and participated in three collaborative design charrettes with City and Sound Transit staff. The new conceptual design for the plaza retains critical physical elements (water, art and plantings) and public gathering space, and also provides an open and generous progression to the City Hall entry. The City Hall Plaza and light rail station will have distinct and complementary identities while providing a seamless pedestrian interface. Staff will present the design of the plaza to be included in the 60% design package as part of the presentation.

IV. Station Naming

Sound Transit's naming process is underway for the East Link stations. Station naming provides an opportunity for residents to participate in the creation of each station's identity, and begin to take ownership of its integration within the City. After conducting initial outreach at the 30% design open houses last spring, Sound Transit is now seeking additional public input. This outreach will include an online survey, which will be distributed via social media, blogs, and direct contact to neighborhood groups and other stakeholders.

City staff will assist Sound Transit with promotion of the survey among Bellevue residents and businesses by providing a link from the City's website, Facebook page, and Twitter account; distributing a link to the survey through existing email distribution lists; and making postcards about the survey available at City Hall

At the September 23 Council meeting, Council provided input into additional names to be included in the survey. The survey reflects this input, including the addition of:

- East Main: add 112th Avenue Station
- Hospital: add Wilburton/Hospital Station
- 120th: add Bel-Red West Station and Spring District Station
- 130th: add Bel-Red East Station.

Staff will report back to the City Council with the survey results after outreach concludes. The Sound Transit Board will select the final name for each station in early 2014.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. City of Bellevue East Link Work Program Update
- B. Sound Transit Project Schedule
- C. Sound Transit East Link Contract Packages Map
- D. Bellevue East Link Public Involvement Guide

City of Bellevue East Link Work Program – Status Update 10/28/13

City staff has developed an East Link work program to fulfill commitments made in the MOU; advance policy direction contained in the comprehensive plan, Light Rail Best Practices Report, and other policy documents; and fulfill the responsibilities of the City as a local jurisdiction with permitting authority.

The following sections provide updates on major accomplishments since the last East Link Update provided to Council in September.

Joint Tasks with Sound Transit

Permit Processing Plan

Per Exhibit E of the MOU, the City must develop a Permit Processing Plan, including submittal standards, timelines, and project-related fee estimates. City and Sound Transit staffs are developing this product through a technical staff group utilizing a negotiated permit timeline used by the City in previous permit processes.

The Light Rail Permitting Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) met for an orientation to the East Link Project and tour of the Central Link system on October 24th with City and Sound Transit staff members. Regular meetings have been scheduled twice monthly. More info about the Light Rail Permitting CAC is available on the City's website at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>.

Design Development

Sound Transit is submitting to the City 60% plans for the Project in a phased delivery through the end of the year. Plans for the Bel-Red area were provided to the City in July and permit submittals are expected in November. City staff is reviewing the plans for consistency with City policies, plans, and code requirements.

City staff continues to work closely with Sound Transit staff through a technical working group to resolve design issues consistent with the Collaborative Design Process Master Plan. Recent areas of discussions have included the NE 6th Station weather protection, City Hall Plaza integration, park mitigation design, and utility relocations.

NE 6th Station Design:

Following the Council discussion in July, City and Sound Transit staff have worked together to assess possible design approaches to maximize weather protection of the NE 6th Station without triggering Fire-Life-Safety requirements. City staff proposed evaluation of three modifications to the base NE 6th Station design to provide additional weather protection:

- 1) Add additional canopy to reduce the two gaps in coverage on each platform from 46' to 20', the minimum opening allowed by City code;
- 2) Add additional canopy to eliminate the two 46' gaps in coverage on each platform and create smoke relief at the back of platforms sufficient to meet the intent of the 20' separation between canopies; and

- 3) Add canopy coverage to the 46' gaps at an increased height sufficient to create smoke relief to meet the intent of the 20' separation between canopies.

The first option above meets recently adopted City code requirements. In order to advance the second and third options further, additional modeling is required to assess whether these options can meet the requirements of City code without triggering Fire-Life-Safety equipment. Sound Transit's deadline for setting the design to be included in the 60% design package arrived before this modeling could be performed. Anticipating that additional design refinements may be identified by the Light Rail Permitting CAC or the public through final design outreach in early 2014, potential further evaluation of these additional options will be combined with the next stage of design evaluation and advancement.

The station design included in the 60% design package will reflect the two 20' gaps in overhead coverage (similar to "Option 1" presented to Council in July). This design will go through a public review process through the Light Rail Permitting CAC and Sound Transit's final design outreach efforts. Sound Transit will provide more information about the station design process at the November East Link Project Update.

Project Cost Estimating and Budget

As described in the Collaborative Design Process Management Plan, the City will participate in the development of East Link Project cost estimates through the design process, jointly review cost estimating deliverables prepared by the final design consultant, and conduct an independent review of the 60% cost estimate to ensure the City has a clear understanding of the basis of the cost estimate and confidence in the final 60% Project baseline budget.

Through a technical working group, City and Sound Transit staff have been working to develop a cost estimate review process that allows for City staff and consultant review and comment on the cost estimates as they are developed in order to build confidence in the overall project estimate at the time of project baselining.

Station Area Planning

Station area planning is a City of Bellevue process that will help to integrate the East Link stations into the surrounding communities, while enhancing their function and value to the area in which they are located. The specific planning work will be tailored to each station area, recognizing their unique character and issues.

The City began station area planning for the South Bellevue park-and-ride station area on October 10 by holding a community brainstorming workshop to identify areas of potential improvements, as well as points of concern. This event was planned and conducted in cooperation with Enatai neighborhood leaders with the goal of creating a community driven process in which stakeholders can make the most of the station coming to their neighborhood. Thirty people attended the meeting to provide input on concerns and possible approaches to address these concerns through small group discussions co-facilitated by neighborhood residents and City staff. Council will receive an update on the Station Area Planning effort, including more detail on the South Bellevue workshop, in November.

Outreach

Sound Transit has begun to reach out to property owners in the Bel-Red area as part of the property acquisition process. City staff is participating in meetings as requested or when properties may be impacted by both the East Link and City projects. The next Final Design open houses for the downtown and south Bellevue areas are anticipated in early 2014.

Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF)

There are no significant updates since the September update.

City Work Program

MOU Contributions

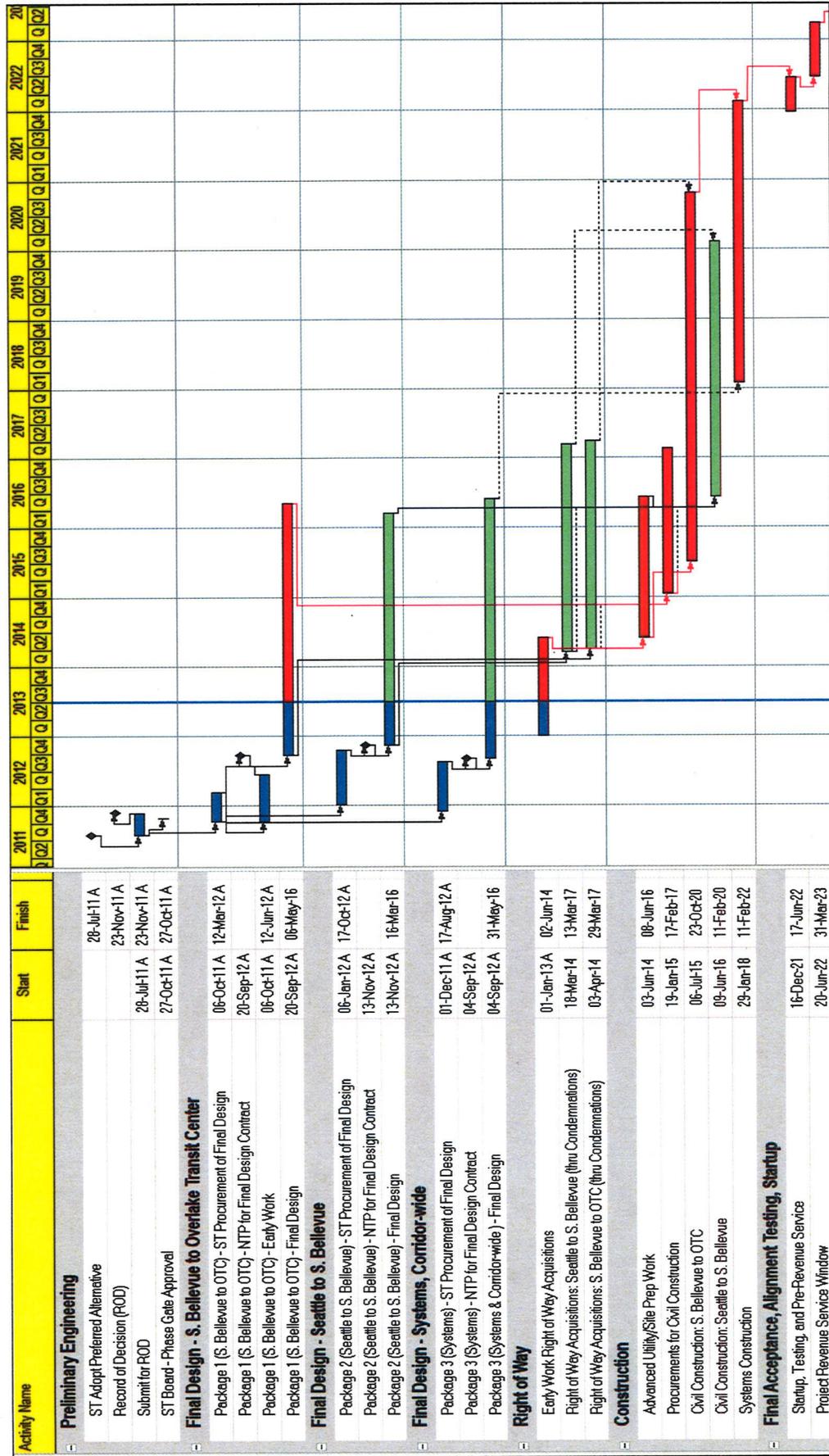
Staff continues to pursue property acquisitions, prepare for transfer of property to Sound Transit, and coordinate utility design and relocation, as directed in the MOU. There are no significant updates since the September update.

Complementary City Planning Efforts and Projects

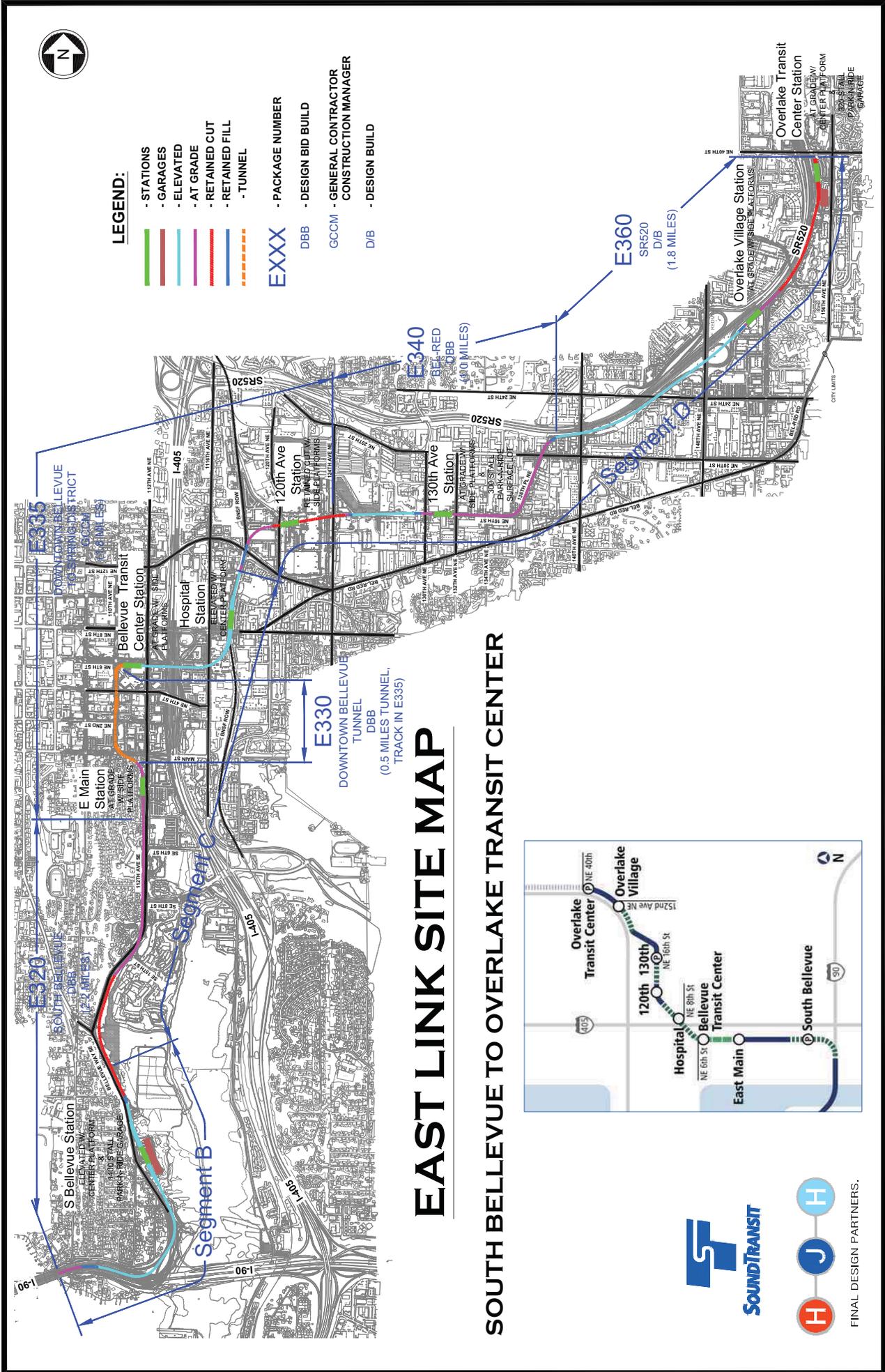
Staff continues to advance a number of related planning efforts and capital projects.

- NE 6th Station Pedestrian Enhancements: Per direction from Council in July, staff will further evaluate potential pedestrian enhancements to support the NE 6th Station as part of the Downtown Livability Initiative. Elements of the Downtown Transportation Plan Update will inform this work. Staff anticipates additional analysis of potential City investments in pedestrian enhancements in early 2014.

EAST LINK MASTER SCHEDULE UPDATE



NO CHANGES this period.



LEGEND:

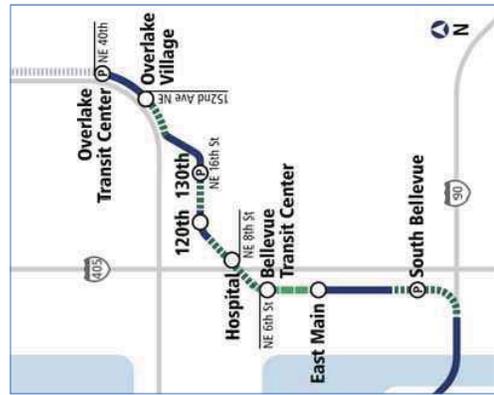
- STATIONS
- GARAGES
- ELEVATED
- AT GRADE
- RETAINED CUT
- RETAINED FILL
- TUNNEL

- PACKAGE NUMBER
- DESIGN BID BUILD
- GENERAL CONTRACTOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGER
- DESIGN BUILD

EXXX DBB GCCM D/B

EAST LINK SITE MAP

SOUTH BELLEVUE TO OVERLAKE TRANSIT CENTER



SOUNDTRANSIT



FINAL DESIGN PARTNERS.

BELLEVUE EAST LINK PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GUIDE

October 2013

Bellevue residents have two primary means through which to provide input on the design and construction of Sound Transit’s East Link Light Rail extension. Through Sound Transit’s final design process and the City’s Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee, the public has multiple opportunities to provide feedback on the design of stations, public art, public safety elements, noise walls, and landscaping. Through a third City process, Station Area Planning, the public can address pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, traffic concerns and land use impacts, among other things.

However, with multiple public processes occurring simultaneously, it can be confusing to understand when and where is the right time to make comments on each project area. The following guide is designed to clarify which process is tasked with what, and how the public can be involved in each.

Topic	City of Bellevue Scope & Role			Sound Transit Scope & Role
	Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)	Station Area Planning (SAP)		
Overall East Link Project Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City-wide perspective in design and permit review of East Link facilities and tracks Reviews project components owned, built and operated by Sound Transit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks/stations Ancillary structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope tailored to each station and community to recognize their unique characters Focused from the station property line outward for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately a 1/2-mile radius and/or a ten minute walk 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for station design, which is focused primarily on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical features and layout of stations Station function <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operations Visual and operation fit of stations
Public Engagement Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will convene in public, bi-weekly meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public comment accepted at each meeting Public has the opportunity to provide input directly to the CAC in advance of any decision making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex: public open houses, briefings and online surveys/comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAP is a city led and stakeholder driven process Public involvement strategy tailored to fit the unique needs of each community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate CAC of area stakeholders for Downtown, East Main and Hospital stations Informal, self-identified ad hoc group at South Bellevue Park & Ride, 120th and 130th stations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public open houses for each station at the 30%, 60%, 90% design milestones Provides briefings to property owners, businesses and key stakeholders upon request <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shares regular project updates online and in person Posts all project documents online Solicits public feedback and comment through online surveys Translates all project materials

Topic	City of Bellevue Scope & Role		Sound Transit Scope & Role
	Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)	Station Area Planning (SAP)	
Development standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews the light rail system and facilities plans for compliance with already adopted standards • The CAC will not develop new development standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends amendments to existing development standards for future development in the planning area as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not applicable to light rail system and related facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must comply with already adopted development standards
Design guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for establishing station context for Sound Transit to use in designing station platforms and associated station facilities • Will review station plans for context sensitive design beginning with the 60% design cycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommends amendments to existing design guidelines for future development in the planning area as appropriate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not applicable to light rail system and related facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must comply with City approved design guidelines
Existing and planned conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station/alignment character and condition background research could help inform CAC context sensitive design recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dependent on timing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on existing station area character and conditions will help inform Sound Transit design team and the CAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will prepare this background work for each station area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design team can use information on existing and planned conditions to help guide its station designs
Parking and traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides review of parking facilities and drop-off areas associated with stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not address neighborhood parking/traffic issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses changes in traffic patterns and parking in areas surrounding stations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May include additional City actions beyond Sound Transit mitigation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for designing parking facilities and drop off areas associated with the stations and for implementing the mitigation identified in the EIS

Topic	City of Bellevue Scope & Role			Sound Transit Scope & Role
	Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)	Station Area Planning (SAP)		
Access and connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews access points to and from the platform relative to ped/bike routes, drop-off and vehicle parking locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews existing ped/bike infrastructure and plans for additional ped/bike facilities to provide direct, safe and convenient routes to stations Reviews and refines transit service within the planning area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must design stations in accordance with existing City of Bellevue code for compliance with access and connectivity requirements
Public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers public safety as an element that informs their recommendation on design and mitigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies safe and secure routes to and from the stations within at least a 1/2-mile radius <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop strategies to address concerns about potential increased crime 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stations designed using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) to enhance site security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, spacious, well-lit stations that promote safety for all users Clear sight lines and visibility, eliminate/minimize dark/hiding areas
Infrastructure needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviews all infrastructure built in Bellevue by Sound Transit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines public facilities (ex: parks, utilities, roads, ped/bike ways, lighting, signage) needs to enhance surrounding area and better integrate light rail facilities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for building all project infrastructure, as well as additional roadways and parks in direct association with East Link
Redevelopment potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most SAP programs will include evaluation of and plan for potential redevelopment of non-single family residential properties There will be NO redevelopment at the South Bellevue Park & Ride Station or to the single family area west of the East Main 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any remnant properties that Sound Transit does not need once operations begin could be sold and/or redeveloped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any potential redevelopment must comply with City of Bellevue zoning and development standards Must obtain city approval through the usual process for any action