

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

**SUBJECT:**

East Link Update: Continued discussion and direction regarding Bellevue-led technical analysis

**STAFF CONTACT:**

Goran Sparrman, Director, 452-4338  
Bernard van de Kamp, Regional Projects Manager, 452-6459  
*Transportation Department*

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

In July 2009, Council adopted Ordinance No. 5891, which adopted the East Link Analysis and Development Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-159). This action allowed up to \$1,070,000 for the project; however, only \$770,000 of funding was identified. At that time, Council authorized the City Manager to determine the appropriate source of the remaining \$300,000 balance.

Staff is proposing to fully fund the project to the level authorized by Council in July 2009. Funding of the remaining balance is proposed to be provided by project cost savings from the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street/106<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-152). This project was completed in 2009 under budget by \$1.8 million, of which \$1.0 million represents local revenues budgeted for the project. Staff is seeking to use \$300,000 of the savings to fund PW-R-159.

As part of the 2010 Work Plan, staff is proposing the execution of four consultant contracts. The contracts will supplement City staff capabilities and capacities in four areas discussed further in the policy issues section of this memo.

The following table provides a summary of the current and proposed commitments on the Council authorized funding of \$1,070,000 (see Attachment 1 for further information).

<b>PW-R-159, East Link Analysis and Development Program</b>		
<b><u>Funding</u></b>		
Current Funding	\$770,000	
Proposed transfer from PW-R-152	300,000	
Total Authorized Funding		\$1,070,000
<b><u>Costs</u></b>		
Current Consultant Contracts	\$576,580	
Proposed Consultant Contracts	250,000	
Total Project Costs		\$826,580
Remaining Funds		\$243,420

The remaining funds are available should additional work on any of the consultant contracts be required.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

On April 22, the Sound Transit Board of Directors revised their preliminary preferred alternative for the East Link light rail project. This action sets in motion work to complete the project environmental review and preliminary engineering by early 2011. There are several immediate tasks that will require City Council, community, and staff involvement in the coming months and others that require resolution before the end of the year.

At Council’s May 3 meeting, there was considerable discussion about the need for additional information ranging from independent noise and environmental evaluation to better understanding mitigation issues and opportunities. Several Councilmembers expressed interest in further exploration of B7 alternatives that would result in serving the South Bellevue Park and Ride lot and methods to assure reasonable costs and boost ridership. In addition, some expressed interest in comparative analysis between the B3 and B7 alternatives and others suggested the city retain an independent consultant to review and assess Sound Transit’s cost estimates on East Link to date. In response, staff is proposing four consultant agreements to initiate this work in a timely fashion:

1. **B7 Modifications Study.** South Bellevue Park and Ride lot relocation to connect with B7: High level planning, concept drawing and cost estimate that considers possible locations and issues associated with moving the park and ride to the south (east or west side of Bellevue Way Key issues to be addressed: access, potential size/capacity of park and ride, order of magnitude cost, number of displacements, major environmental issues. A general comparison of the concept with cost and performance of B3 would be conducted.
2. **Noise Evaluation.** Conduct peer review of Sound Transit’s noise evaluation and develop mitigation menu of options. Consultant work would focus on B7 alternative and city modifications. Consultant would also review B2M noise analysis.
3. **Peer Review of B7.** Review Sound Transit’s work to determine adequacy of the discipline analysis, reliability of assumptions including cost estimates and identify any areas that require additional work.
4. **Environmental/Wetlands Review.** Consultant assessment of Mercer Slough wetland and buffer function and values. Analysis will identify highly sensitive areas within Mercer Slough. Sturtevant Creek will also be evaluated where potentially impacted by the B7 alignment.

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL:**

- X Action
- X Discussion
- X Information

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Bellevue and Sound Transit have been working jointly for several years to develop the East Link light rail project. The voter-approved project will connect Bellevue with Overlake, Mercer Island, Seattle, and areas of north and south King County when it opens for service in 2020/21. Sound Transit is responsible for project development and delivery and is currently

focused on completion of environmental review and preliminary engineering. The City of Bellevue is heavily involved and seeks to influence the system alignment and design to reflect City goals and objectives.

Sound Transit's revised preference (Attachment 2) is largely consistent with the City Council's preferences (Attachment 3) in the downtown and Bel-Red areas. In Downtown, the Board's preference is C9T, with the 108<sup>th</sup> At-Grade Alternative (C11A) also advancing in case funding for the C9T alternative does not materialize. The Board reconfirmed their preference for the D2A alternative in the Bel-Red area, which is consistent with the City Council's preference. The Board did, however, modify the location of the Overlake Village station to be adjacent to the SR 520 corridor and modified the 120<sup>th</sup>/124<sup>th</sup> station (Spring District) to be a retained cut station, subject to a Term Sheet that commits the developer to pay for any costs in excess of that required for a surface alignment and station.

In south Bellevue, there is continued disagreement between the Council and Sound Transit Board of Directors about the appropriate alignment. Sound Transit, in pursuit of \$75 - \$100 million in project cost savings that would be applied to the C9T alternative, adopted the "B2M" alternative. The B2M alternative would route light rail from I-90 to downtown Bellevue along Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Sound Transit is seeking a partnership with the City to evaluate possible B2M configurations in May and June. The City Council supports the B7 alternative in south Bellevue.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. East Link Analysis and Development fund status (PW-R-159)
2. Sound Transit East Link Preliminary Preferred Alternative
3. Bellevue City Council East Link Preferences
4. Ordinance No. 5891

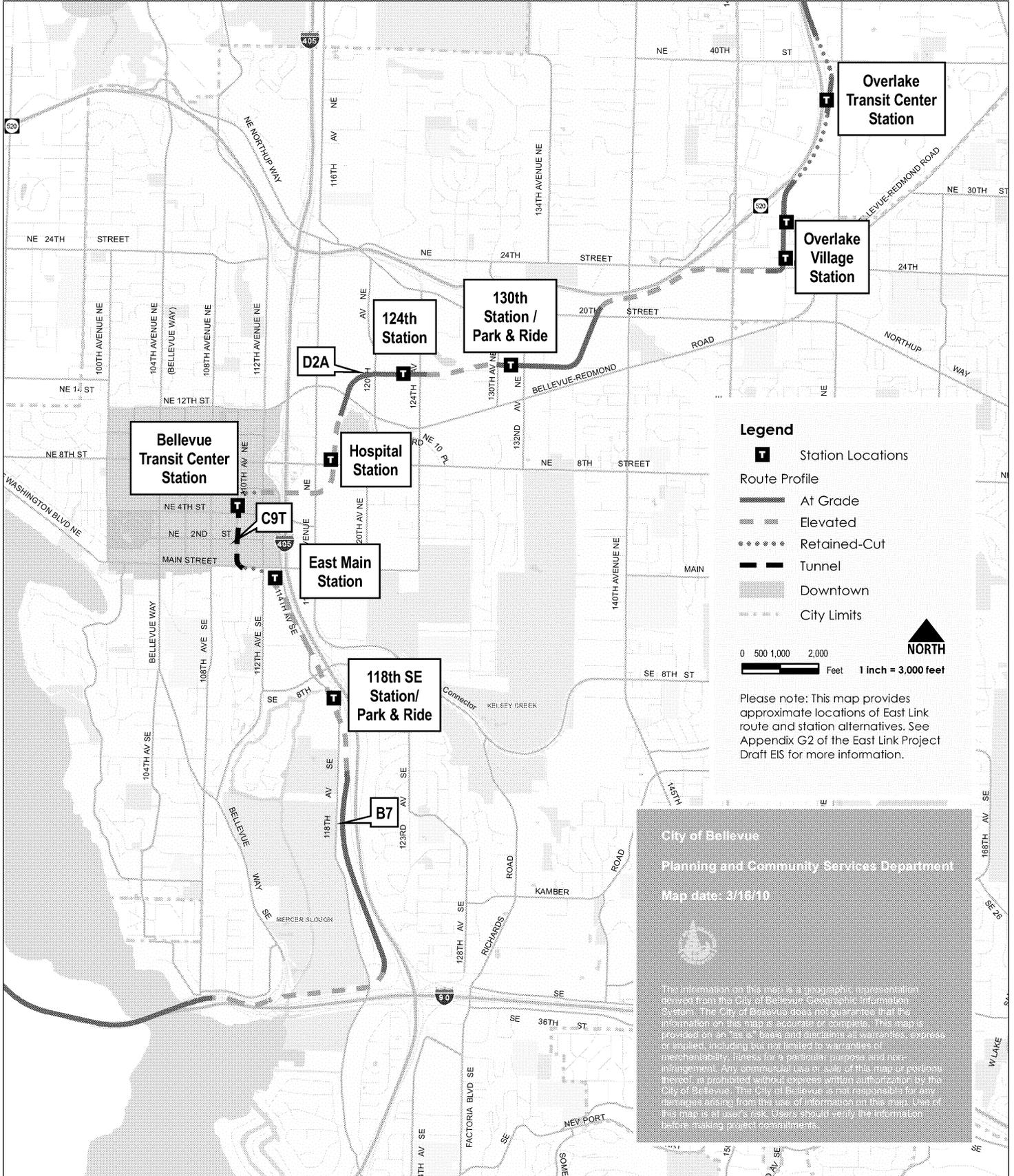
**East Link Analysis and Development PW-R-159: Anticipated Consultant Assistance Requirements**

Task	Purpose	Amount	Scope	Consultant/ Vendor
<b>Current Contracts</b>				
LID feasibility for Downtown tunnel	Specialty consultant to conduct first phase estimate of LID potential in Downtown for contribution to east link.	\$ 49,500	* Phase I: Feasibility analysis - evaluate potential benefit area, rate schedule, and potential revenue generation. * Phase II (unfunded): detailed parcel assessments, other implementation planning.	Macaulay & Associates
Analysis of Potential Parking Tax	Specialty consultant to prepare first phase estimate of revenue for downtown parking tax.	\$ 20,000	* Phase I: Feasibility analysis - evaluate potential revenue generation from a parking tax. Evaluation will consider benefit area, rates, and revenue potential and policy implications. * Phase II: detailed implementation plan (this phase is unfunded).	Berk & Associates
Legal Advice and Representation of City of Bellevue	Assist City of Bellevue Legal Department on East Link issues	\$ 100,000	General and specialized legal advising regarding East Link issues, negotiations, agreements, etc.	Hills Clark Martin and Peterson
Civic/Convention District Master Planning	Develop master plan for City Hall, King Co site and Lincoln Center site	\$ 49,000		Mulvanny G2 Architects
Civic/Convention District Master Planning - construction impacts	City Hall parking garage analysis	\$ 49,000	Analysis of issues of parking garage reconstruction to accommodate LRT alignments on/under 110th Ave NE & NE 6th St.	Magnusson Klemencic
Civic/Convention District Master Planning	City Hall parking garage analysis	\$ 15,000		GLY Construction
Downtown At-grade Traffic Analysis	City evaluation of C4A alternative, including additional modeling of various assumptions and alternatives	\$ 119,000	Consultant advising on traffic simulation software (VISSIM) - Consultant to advise and assist City	PB Americas
VISSIM	Software for Downtown Traffic analysis	\$ 62,743	Hardware and software acquisition & training.	PTV

Task	Purpose	Amount	Scope	Consultant/ Vendor
Review of ST tunnel analyses	Independent review of Sound Transit tunnel evaluations	\$ 30,000	* Review DEIS and 5/14/09 ST Board motion questions regarding C2T. * Review C2T and C3T conceptual engineering. * Identify any outstanding issues, construction risks, potential value analysis strategies. * Review and comment on ST staff supplemental C2T analysis.	Aadland Evans Constructors Inc.
Review of ST tunnel analyses	Tunnel geotechnical analysis	\$ 30,000		Hart Crowser
South Bellevue Park and Ride traffic analysis and Bellevue Way widening	City identified traffic mitigation. Conceptual engineering for street widening.	\$ 49,937	* Review design and traffic mitigation concepts. Conceptual engineering for southbound Bellevue Way widening (add HOV lane from "Y" to I-90). * Identify potential design variations and/or mitigation strategies.	HNTB Corporation
Visual Analysis	Visual analysis and simulation for Segments B & C	\$ 2,400	Diagrams/visual analysis of East Link route.	Renata Homolya
<b>Total Current Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 576,580</b>		
<b>Proposed Contracts</b>				
Peer review	Independent analysis of noise impacts	\$ 50,000	PENDING	
Environmental assessment - Mercer Slough	Analysis and coordinated development of mitigation with ST	\$ 50,000	PENDING - Supplement City staff (primarily Utilities and Parks) review of impacts and mitigation strategies.	
Engineering Review	Preliminary engineering design, studies and analyses related to LPA and FEIS	\$ 50,000	* Identify potential value analysis candidates. * Identify potential design improvements. * Advise on design conflicts, variations.	?
Cost Estimating	Independent Review of Sound Transit Cost Estimates	\$ 50,000		
Traffic analysis	Independent analysis of traffic impacts, review of Sound Transit evaluations	\$ 50,000	Review and analyze traffic impacts and proposed mitigation. Develop alternate mitigation strategies and proposals	
<b>Total Proposed Contracts</b>		<b>\$ 250,000</b>		



# Bellevue's Preferred East Link Light Rail Route B7-C9T-D2A



CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 5891

AN ORDINANCE 1) amending the 2009-2015 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to create a new CIP project entitled East Link Analysis and Development Project(CIP Plan No. PW-R-159) with a project budget of \$1,070,000; 2) transferring budget totaling \$1,010,000 from four existing CIP projects and a fund recommended by the City Manager to fund PW-R-159, East Link Analysis and Development Project; and 3) amending the 2009-2010 General CIP Fund to increase the appropriation by \$60,000 representing funds contributed by the Transportation operating budget.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City's 2009-2015 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan adopted by Ordinance No. 5851 on December 1, 2008 as previously amended is hereby further amended to create a new CIP project entitled East Link Analysis and Development Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-159) with a project budget of \$1,070,000.

Section 2. The City's 2009-2015 CIP Plan adopted by Ordinance No. 5851 on December 1, 2008 as previously amended is hereby further amended to transfer budget totaling \$1,010,000 from four existing CIP projects and a fund recommended by the City Manager to fund PW-R-159, East Link Analysis and Development Project.

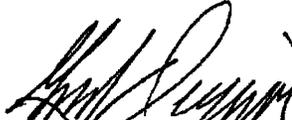
CIP Plan No.	Transfer Amount
PW-R-44, Transportation Planning Studies	\$150,000
PW-R-130, High Capacity Transit Study	40,000
PW-R-147, Early Implementation of Downtown Plan	320,000
PW-R-153, Early Implementation of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan	200,000
<b>To be recommended by the City Manager</b>	<b><u>\$ 300,000</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,010,000</b>

Section 3. The 2009-2010 General CIP Fund appropriation adopted by Ordinance No. 5851 on December 1, 2008 as previously amended is hereby further amended to increase the appropriation to said CIP fund by \$60,000 representing funds contributed by the Transportation operating budget.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after passage and legal publication.

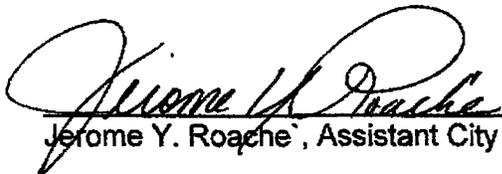
Passed by the City Council this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009  
and signed in authentication of its passage this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July,  
2009.

(SEAL)

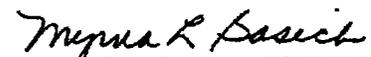
  
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Grant S. Degginger, Mayor

Approved as to form:

Lori M. Riordan, City Attorney

  
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Jerome Y. Roache, Assistant City Attorney

Attest:

  
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Myrna L. Basich, City Clerk

Published July 23, 2009