

Appendix B
Public Involvement Summary

Bel-Red Corridor Project Public Involvement Summary

Steering Committee Appointment:

- In October 2005, Mayor Marshall appointed, and the Council confirmed, a Steering Committee made up of 16 people (with two alternates) to guide the Bel-Red Corridor Project. One Committee member subsequently resigned from the project, so the committee has 15 members. The Committee consisted of three former City Council members (two of whom, Mike Creighton and Terry Lukens, serve as co-chairs), three members of city boards and commissions (Planning Commission – Doug Mathews; Transportation Commission – Joel Glass; Parks & Community Services Board – Kurt White, later replaced by Faith Roland), and several at-large members from neighborhoods in close proximity to the study area (Bridle Trails, Downtown, Wilburton, Sherwood Forest, and Lake Hills). The Committee also had at-large members who represent the business community. This composition created a Committee that provided both a broad, citywide perspective and an understanding of neighborhood issues and concerns.

Steering Committee Meetings and Workshops

- Regular Committee meetings were held at the Highland Community Center early in the process, and later at Bellevue City Hall after building construction was completed. Each regular Steering Committee meeting was open to the public, and included a public comment during which anyone wishing to speak to the Committee could do so, subject to a 3 minute per person limit.
 - 10/27/05: Project kick-off meeting, with introductions and overview of the project scope, public involvement plan, preliminary economic analysis, and timeline.
 - 12/01/05: Reports on economic/market study results and land use existing conditions, and a review of comments received at the November 9 DEIS scoping meeting.
 - 01/19/06: Transportation system components, high capacity transit overview, and land use redevelopment opportunities.
 - 02/02/06: Environmental sustainability concepts and Bel-Red stream corridor evaluation.
 - 03/02/06: Draft land use and transportation attributes (later termed objectives), services and retail uses, and redevelopment opportunities.
 - 04/06/06: Debrief on the recent Portland light rail and transit oriented development tour, and adoption of project objectives to frame development of alternatives for the DEIS.
 - 05/04/06: Conversation with business and property owners in the Bel-Red Corridor study area.

- 06/01/06: Reviewed results form May 16 business, reported on the Redmond Overlake planning charrette, reported on the property owner panels, and introduced draft land use and transportation alternatives to the committee and public.
 - 06/29/06: Directed staff to begin the DEIS with three action alternatives and a no action alternative.
 - 10/05/06: Briefing on Sound Transit Phase 2, and update on the Safeway site, and a discussion of the process leading up to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - 11/14/06: Presentation by Sound Transit on the East Link planning, update on major regional transportation projects, and a presentation by the Wright Runstad Company that recently purchased the Safeway site.
 - 12/07/06: Overview of the upcoming public process and the issues and questions related to selecting a preliminary preferred alternative.
 - 02/01/07: Update on the Sound Transit Board's decision regarding East Link alternatives, briefing from City of Redmond staff on Overlake neighborhood plan update, and staff presentation on the draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 - 03/01/07: Report by staff on the comments received in the DEIS, presentation on stream corridor restoration opportunities, and discussion of the components for consideration in developing the preliminary preferred alternative,
 - 04/25/07: Reviewed and discussed draft preliminary preferred alternative map, and information related to services and light industrial uses. Directed staff to include an analysis of building heights in the FEIS.
 - 05/03/07: Discussion and direction on preliminary preferred alternative map. Directed staff to begin the FEIS with an approved preliminary preferred alternative.
 - 6/13/07: Discussed and amended the “vision statement”, viewed a draft concept plan that could represent a development pattern based on the preliminary preferred alternative, reviewed the process of developing a building height analysis, and received a briefing of workforce/affordable housing issues and strategies.
- Special workshops
 - 03/10/06: Steering Committee members toured Portland's Tri-Met Max Light Rail system and visited a number of stations where transit oriented development could be observed.
 - 06/12/06: Developed land use and transportation alternatives for analysis in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 - 03/29/07: Developed a preliminary preferred alternative – with subsequent direction to analyze it in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Community Meetings/Open Houses

- 11/09/05: Open house, presentation and small group discussions related to the scope of the Bel-Red Corridor Study for preparation of alternatives and analysis in an environmental impact statement. This meeting was both a kick off meeting for the project and conducted under the framework of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), since the City of Bellevue determined that the action being contemplated was likely to have a significant environmental impact.
- 04/18/06: Open house and presentation on potential land use, transportation, environmental and parks components to be included in draft alternatives.
- 06/08/06: Open house and presentation to review information related to land use, transportation environment and parks and provide input to the Steering Committee in developing the draft alternatives.
- 02/15/07: Open house to review the analysis and findings of the alternatives studied in the DEIS.
- 03/20/07: Open house, presentation and small group discussions to provide input to the Steering Committee in preparing a preliminary preferred alternative for analysis in the FEIS.

Outreach to the Business Community

- 03/16/06: Open house on project for businesses and property owners within the Bel-Red Corridor study area
- Business and property owners panels:
 - 05/16/06: Prior to the Steering Committee selecting the draft DEIS alternatives, business and property owners were invited to participate in a panel discussion format regarding the various land use and transportation components that could be part of the alternatives.
 - 06/06/06: Business and property owners reviewed the key components of the draft alternatives, and in a panel discussion format, provided comments for the Steering Committee to consider.
 - 03/14/07: Prior to the Steering Committee selecting Preliminary Preferred Alternative: Staff reviewed the land use and transportation components of the alternatives analyzed in the DEIS, and asked the panelists to express their level of support for these components, and if there was anything else that should be considered in the preliminary preferred alternative.
- 05/04/06: Business and Property Owner “conversation” with Steering Committee. One entire steering committee meeting was dedicated to hearing from the owners of businesses and properties in the Bel-Red Corridor study area about their long-term plans.

- 04/25/07: Developer Open House. Bel-Red Corridor property owners were invited to display their potential future development plans. The public was welcome to observe these displays and converse with property owners.
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce:
 - 12/08/05: Staff provided a general overview of the project, the timeline and public involvement plan, and the potential land use, transportation, environmental and parks/open space issues to be addressed.
 - 02/08/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and responded to questions.
 - 06/14/07: Staff provided an update on Steering Committee recommendation on the preliminary preferred alternative, a summary of the process and key issues considered by Committee, and discussed the next steps.
- Bellevue Downtown Association:
 - 02/14/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and responded to questions.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Comment Period and Public Hearing

- 45-day comment period 01/25/07 to 03/12/07. The minimum required 30-day public comment period was extended at the beginning in anticipation of the considerable public interest this planning project would generate. Comments on the DEIS could be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator during this period in a variety of forms, including letter, e-mail, fax, and public hearing comments.
- 02/15/07: DEIS Public hearing held in the Bellevue City Council Chambers.

Boards and Commissions Briefings

- Planning Commission
 - 09/21/05: Staff provided an introduction to the project, including information on project scope, context, schedule, public involvement process, planning principles to guide project, major policy issues.
 - 02/07/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 - 06/27/07: Reviewed the preliminary preferred alternative and draft concept plan.
- Transportation Commission

- 09/08/05: Staff provided an introduction to the project, including information on project scope, context, schedule, public involvement process, planning principles to guide project, major policy issues.
- 01/25/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- 6/14/07: Reviewed the preliminary preferred alternative and draft concept plan.
- Joint Planning Commission/Transportation Commission:
 - 04/19/06: In advance of the public release of the draft land use and transportation alternatives, staff briefed the commissions on the planning process with the steering committee, and the public involvement opportunities including the special outreach to the business and property owners in the Bel-Red Corridor.
- Parks and Community Services Board:
 - 06/13/06: Briefing on the major components of the draft alternatives, including land use, transportation, environment, and parks and open space.
 - 02/15/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
 - 03/13/07: Discussed the Bel-Red Corridor alternatives and took action regarding Board recommendations to the Steering Committee.
 - 04/10/07: Reviewed “Great Streams” concept and parks and open space components of the draft preliminary preferred alternative.
 - 06/12/07: Reviewed the preliminary preferred alternative and draft concept plan.
- Environmental Services Commission:
 - 03/01/07: Staff provided an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and reviewed environmental sustainability concepts being considered for the Bel-Red Corridor, including implementing low impact development techniques.
 - 6/14/07: Reviewed the preliminary preferred alternative and draft concept plan.
- Human Services Commission:

- 10/18/05: Staff provided an introduction to the project, including information on project scope, context, schedule, public involvement process, planning principles to guide project, major policy issues.
- 05/02/06: Staff provided a project update, with an overview of the planning principles, objectives, and public involvement opportunities.
- Redmond Planning Commission:
 - 09/27/06: Presentation by Bellevue project staff on Bel-Red alternatives being analyzed in the DEIS and next steps.

City Council Briefings

- Joint meeting with Redmond City Council:
 - 11/27/06: Discussed the simultaneous and adjacent planning efforts being undertaken by Redmond in Overlake and by Bellevue in the Bel-Red Corridor.
- Briefings:
 - 08/01/2005: Reviewed and approved the proposed study area, scope, principles, and public involvement process. Authorized forming the project Steering Committee.
 - 10/06/2005: Adopted a motion that established the Bel-Red steering committee, identified its charge as proposed, and confirmed the proposed slate of members.
 - 02/27/2006: Briefing from Committee co-chairs on status of project, and issues considered to date.
 - 05/01/2006: Management brief from staff regarding public involvement process - particularly the involvement of the business and property owners, and the project schedule.
 - 06/13/06: Management brief from staff addressing the release of draft land use and transportation alternatives, the public and Steering Committee review of the alternatives, and next steps in the process including the Steering Committee taking action to send alternatives to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) process.
 - 02/20/07: Reviewed findings from the recently released draft environmental impact statement for the Bel-Red Corridor Project and discussed next steps on selecting a preliminary preferred alternative.
 - 05/29/2007: Reviewed to components of the preliminary preferred alternative to be analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the next steps in the process.

East Bellevue Community Council

- 02/02/06: Staff provided an introduction to the project, including information on project scope, context, schedule, public involvement process, planning principles to guide project, major policy issues.

Affiliated meetings/briefings

- Sound Transit East Link Workshop.
 - 04/05/07: Sound Transit hosted a workshop to provide information and to solicit public comment through small group discussions on the various alternative alignments and station locations for a light rail corridor through the Bel-Red Corridor study area.
- Women's Transportation Seminar, Puget Sound Chapter
 - 12/12/06: Staff provided a general overview of the study, and provided some details on the three action alternatives analyzed in the DEIS.

Mailings and Publications

- "Interested Parties" receive e-mail announcements of upcoming meetings.
- "It's Your City" publication provides periodic updates to every household in the City.
- Notice of community meetings
- Bellevue Reporter/Seattle Times/Seattle PI provide local press coverage.