

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE, SCOPING MEETING AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Bel-Red Corridor Project

EIS file #: 05-127994 LE

Description of Proposal: The purpose of the project is to develop a preferred long range (2030) land use and transportation vision for the project area. The project will include technical work involving real estate, economics, land use and urban design, transportation, and environmental review. Substantial opportunity for comment by stakeholders and the general public will be provided through a Steering Committee, meetings of the Planning and Transportation Commissions and the City Council, and project-related public meetings. Once the final recommendations from the project are approved by the City Council, implementation of these recommendations will begin, likely in 2007. These implementing actions may include amendments to the City's comprehensive plan, subarea plans, Land Use Code, and Capital Improvements Program. The City will conduct a programmatic environmental review under the auspices of WAC 197-11-210 SEPA/GMA integration, with expanded scoping consistent with WAC 197-11-410. This approach will integrate Bel-Red Corridor planning and decision-making with the environmental review while facilitating consideration of environmental issues, and promoting public participation and interagency cooperation.

Location: The Bel-Red Corridor Project area is bounded by SR 520 on the north, I-405 and 116th Avenue on the west, Bel-Red Road on the south, and on the east, 148th Avenue plus a small triangle bounded by Bel-Red Road, NE 20th Street and 156th Avenue. See Figure 1.

Proponent: City of Bellevue

EIS Required: The City of Bellevue (Lead Agency) has determined that this proposal is a major action under SEPA, having a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required and will be prepared at a programmatic level, appropriate to the early planning stage. The City has preliminarily concluded that the EIS will discuss impacts to earth, water resources, plants, animals, energy and natural resources, environmental health, land and shoreline use, housing, aesthetics, light and glare, recreation, historic and cultural resources, transportation, air quality, noise, economics, public services and utilities. The previous EISs listed below will serve as background information, and may be included by reference: *EIS for the Overlake Hospital Master Plan/NE 10th Extension*, February 2005; *EIS for the Downtown Implementation Plan Update and Downtown Subarea Plan*, 2003; *EIS and Section 4(f) Evaluation for the I-405 Corridor Program*, 2002; and *EIS for the SR 520 Corridor Bridge Replacement Program*, expected in early 2006.

Alternatives: A No Action Alternative for the 2030 planning horizon will assume a continuation of existing zoning, committed and planned transportation system changes, and adopted regional growth assumptions. The No Action Alternative will provide a baseline for comparison with up to three alternatives including varying assumptions of increased development density of differing land use types, coupled with transportation system changes such as arterial roadway improvements, High Capacity Transit routes and stations, and upgrades to the non-motorized system.

Scoping Meeting: 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Wednesday, November 9, 2005
Stevenson Elementary School
14220 NE 8th Street

Comments: Agencies, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment. You may comment on the alternatives, elements of the environment, probable significant impacts, mitigation measures, and potential conditions on any licenses or approvals to be considered by the City.

Comments Due: Comments may be submitted in writing through December 23, 2005 and should be addressed to Carol Helland, Land Use Director, Department of Planning and Community Development, City of Bellevue, PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012.

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Figure 1

