

Neighborhood News



City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

October 2011

Have a role in updating the Downtown Transportation Plan

An 18-month planning process will focus on updating Bellevue's Downtown Transportation Plan to address emerging mobility issues and accommodate Downtown residential and commercial growth through 2030. All aspects of the Downtown transportation system – roadways, signals, transit and facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists will be included in the project which gets underway with a public introduction next month.



The plan update will consider and incorporate changes in the transportation environment within the city and the region. For instance, projects such as RapidRide bus service, East Link light rail, expansion and tolling on SR 520, the Bel-Red Subarea Plan and other local and regional land use and transportation plans were not assumed when the current plan was adopted in 2004, and now need to be considered.

Downtown Bellevue mobility issues affect everyone. And during the 18-month planning process, the City will provide a variety of opportunities for everyone to get involved – from traditional public meetings, to an interactive web site, to bicycle tours and guided pedestrian audits. The Transportation Commission, as principal advisory body for the project, will play a key role in the public process – providing guidance and recommendations, and listening to ideas and concerns from the community.

A Nov. 1 open house and “scoping” meeting will offer residents an opportunity to learn more about the plan update and to share their opinions about specific types of transportation issues that the plan should address. The event is scheduled from 4:30 to 6:30 in the City Hall Concourse and Council Chambers. For additional information, see the project web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm> or contact the project manager, Kevin McDonald at kmcdonald@bellevuewa.gov

City, Sound Transit approach agreement on East Link

Hundreds of people e-mailed, wrote on comment cards, or spoke at meetings last month to express their views on East Link light rail. The Bellevue City Council wanted to hear from everyone – particularly those living near a potential light rail line – as they consider an agreement with Sound Transit on routing and funding of rail within Bellevue.

The Sound Transit Board has decided on B2M – I-90 to Bellevue Way, and 112th NE to Downtown – as their preferred alignment for East Link's “B” segment. The Bellevue City Council majority has consistently supported B-7 (a route following I-90 across Mercer Slough and running north along I-405) and, at the same time, launched a robust community discussion of potential B2M design options, impacts, and mitigation concerns, as well as a proposed HOV lane along Bellevue Way.

Outreach included more than 40 individual and small group meetings, a Sept. 20 open house and a Sept. 26 public hearing. Meanwhile, the City and Sound Transit continue their discussions leading up to an October decision on

the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – a binding agreement on the East Link alignment and funding for the Downtown tunnel. Currently, the MOU is scheduled for signing on Oct. 25.

If individuals still wish to comment on light rail alignment, design options, mitigation or related issues, they can write to the Council at PO Box 90012, Bellevue WA 98009, e-mail Council@bellevuewa.gov or speak during the Oral Communications portion of Monday City Council meetings. News of other opportunities or developments will be posted on the web site <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>.

Position available on regional housing board

Make your voice heard on affordable housing programs and funding by joining the ARCH Citizen Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB consists of 12-15 community residents and housing professionals that work with ARCH staff to evaluate local funding proposals and increase awareness of housing issues on the Eastside. Board members contribute their understanding of housing and community issues, as well as certain specialized perspectives including real estate, housing development, planning, finance, assisting persons with low income or special needs, faith community, racial diversity, architecture and residents of affordable housing.

The CAB also strives to be representative of the Eastside communities that make up ARCH. The CAB typically meets one Wednesday evening per month for two hours. More information about ARCH and the ARCH Citizen Advisory Board is on the website: www.archhousing.org To apply contact Arthur Sullivan at 425-861-3677 or asullivan@bellevuewa.gov

Transportation Commission seeks new member

Applications are being accepted for a vacant position on the Bellevue Transportation Commission. The seven-member commission meets on the second Thursday evening of each month and advises the City Council on Transportation issues. Members must be Bellevue residents. The person appointed to the vacancy will serve until the term expires in May 2012, and then will be eligible for appointment to a full four-year term. To apply online, go to <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/apply-boards.htm>, or call 425-452-6466 for more information.



Be a part of Sister Cities celebration

On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Bellevue Sister Cities Association will host the 2011 statewide Sister Cities Conference. And on the previous evening, Oct. 21, the City will hold a gala event to recognize Washington State's Japanese Sister Cities and to celebrate this area's strong cultural, economic and friendship ties with Japan.

Bellevue's oldest sister city affiliation, established in 1969, is with Yao, Japan. The largest percentage of sister city relationships in Washington State are with cities in Japan, and Mt. Rainier officially enjoys a "sister peak" relationship with Mt. Fuji. Local sister cities with Japan have made various efforts to support Japan after the tragic earthquake and tsunami in March. The Oct. 21 event is one more way for Bellevue to honor its long association with Japan.

Organizers are hoping for an audience of 80-100 at the event, and participants will be rewarded with dinner, entertainment and a variety of activities, including music, dancing, and crafts. Lori Matsukawa, KING 5 News anchor, and the Consul General of Japan in Seattle will be featured speakers. Sponsors and supporters include Uwajimaya and Nintendo, the Japan American Society, Aki Matsuri Eastside Foundation, and the Bellevue Downtown Association.

The Oct. 21 event will be held from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m. in City Hall. Tickets, which include dinner, are \$60. For reservations or more information, contact sbarber@bellevuewa.gov.

Progress on the annexation front

Annexation efforts are moving forward in four unincorporated neighborhoods of South Bellevue. Residents of Eastgate, Tamara Hills, Hilltop and Horizon View are working with City staff to obtain signatures of property owners who want to be part of the City of Bellevue.

The Tamara Hills neighborhood has already crossed the threshold of signatures needed for annexation. Owners representing more than 56 percent of assessed value have signed the petition to annex and residents say they are making plans for their future in Bellevue. Under the direct petition method, owners of property representing at least 50 percent of the area's assessed valuation must agree to annex. Eastgate has reached the 40 percent mark, while both Hilltop and Horizon View are working with the City on pre-annexation issues and gearing up to launch their petition drives.

Two community meetings in the annexation area have given residents an opportunity to ask questions and get information to help them make a decision about joining the City. Another open house – featuring services from all City departments – is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 25, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Eastgate Elementary School, 4255 153rd Ave. SE. Meanwhile, City staff is meeting with residents in neighborhood meetings and individual drop-in sessions. The next two drop-in meetings are scheduled Oct. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Lewis Creek Visitor Center, and Oct. 12 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Factoria Mall Police Substation. For more information about annexation or to arrange a meeting in your neighborhood, contact Nicholas Matz, nmatz@bellevuewa.gov, 425-452-5371, or Cheryl Kuhn, ckuhn@bellevuewa.gov, 425-452-4089. Information is also available on the web site www.bellevuewa.gov/sbaa.htm

Meet the candidates

Candidates for Bellevue City Council, King County Council and Bellevue School Board will share their views on issues facing the City, county and school district at the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) Candidate Forum on Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Bellevue Hilton, 300 112th Ave. SE. All are welcome; seating will be first-come, first-served and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Other local candidate forums include:

- **Oct. 5** – 7:00 p.m. at Overlake Golf & Country Club, 8000 NE 16th St. in Medina, sponsored by Meydenbauer Bay Neighbors Association
- **Oct. 11** – 6:00 p.m. at Lexus of Bellevue, 101 116th Ave. SE, sponsored by Newport Hills Community Club (6- 6:30 meet & greet, 6:30-8:30 City Council and School Board Candidate Forum, 8:30-9 meet & greet)



October meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

10/3 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link discussion (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/4 Arts Commission (4:00, 1E-109) Presentation from Ballet Bellevue; Bellwether 2012 planning; discussion and prioritization of non-monetary ways the Commission can help local arts groups http://www.bellevuewa.gov/arts_comm.htm

10/4 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd.) Written updates on 145th Place SE construction and Phantom Lake Restoration project; discussion of Community Council web presence http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

10/4 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Update on Eastside Winter Shelter; King County Veterans Plan to End Homelessness http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/6 Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (5:30, 1E-108) <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/eastgate-corridor.htm>

10/6 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Winter weather presentation; Storm System Plan - Policy updates; Storm System Plan - issues & plan recommendations
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/environ_serv_comm.htm

10/6 Public hearing on Conditional Use Permit for Bellevue Toyota (7:00, Council Chambers) Opportunity to comment on the application to build a three-story parking structure for 716 cars just north of the current sales and service facility at 3080 148th Ave SE

10/6 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30-10:30am, 1E-112) 2010 Census / Bellevue Demographics update, committee reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

10/10 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) East Link http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/11 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

10/12 Planning Commission Retreat

10/13 Lake Hills Boulevard Landscaping Project Open House (7-8:30 p.m., Lake Hills Library meeting room, 15590 Lake Hills Blvd.)

Opportunity to review and comment on a landscaping project proposed for Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) funding along Lake Hills Boulevard west of 148th Avenue

10/13 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Downtown Transportation Plan, Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project, Impact Fees Update

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

10/17 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) East Link (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/18 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-113) Review of "Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice" (report required by HUD after monitoring visit) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

10/24 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Human Services Commission's recommendation on Community Development Block Grant funding, East Link

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

10/25 South Bellevue Annexation Open House (5:30-8 p.m., Eastgate Elementary School, 4255 153rd Ave. SE) Opportunity for residents of the Potential Annexation Area to learn more about City services and discuss the annexation process

10/26 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined

Fire Prevention Week

Bellevue's nine fire stations will welcome visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 8, to kick off Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15.



Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.