

NE 15th / 16th Street: 116th Avenue NE to NE 20th Street



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Project Overview

The NE 15th/16th Street Multi-Modal Corridor Project focuses on designing and constructing a new and improved roadway along the current NE 15th/16th Street alignment from 116th Avenue NE to NE 20th Street. This project is one of several high-priority transportation improvements that resulted from the 2008 Bel-Red Subarea Plan to address planned residential and commercial growth anticipated in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas. The new NE 15th/16th Street corridor will be designed to integrate a variety of elements, including multi-modal transportation corridors, transit-oriented development, green space, and plazas.

NE 15th/16th Street corridor will also accommodate Sound Transit's future East Link light rail line and stations, along with regional trail connections. The City of Bellevue is currently in the early design phase of the project. Additional funding will be needed to acquire right of way and complete the engineering and construction phases.

In the conceptual design engineering process, the City has been working closely with Sound Transit, local stakeholders, and the City Council to consider long-range planning, future infrastructure, and

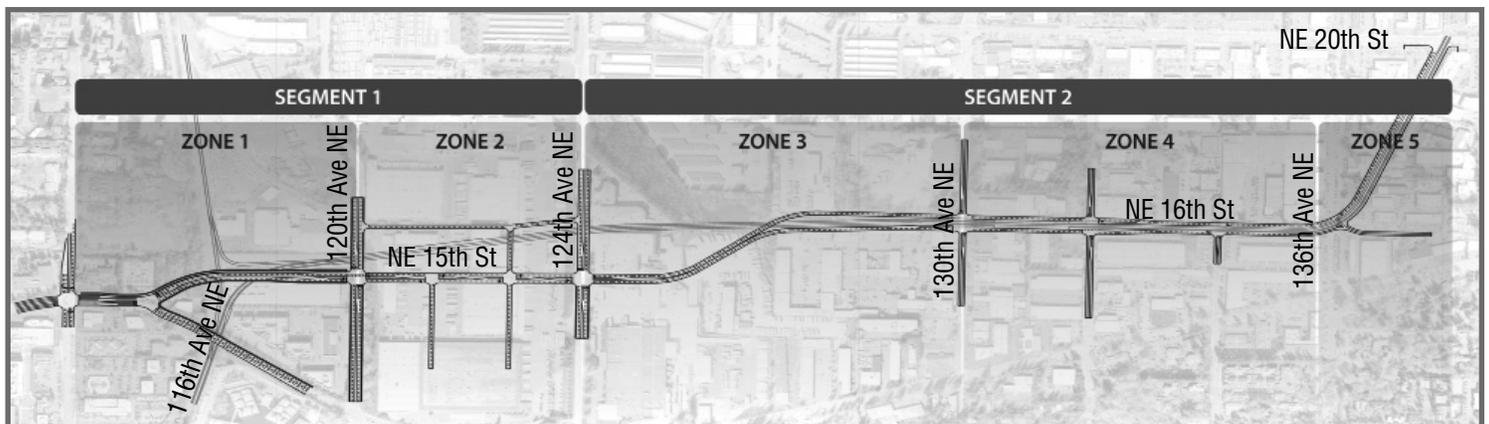
development in the planning for the new NE 15th/16th Street corridor. The City's conceptual design concepts for this area incorporate the objectives and principles set forth in the Bel-Red Subarea Plan.

Project objectives:

- Design a unique corridor, a focal place-making feature, and a multi-modal corridor
- Create a connective green spine linking landscape, open-space, and the corridor
- Develop a high quality pedestrian and bicycle connection
- Integrate light rail and stations with pedestrian-oriented development to encourage future ridership

Guiding principles:

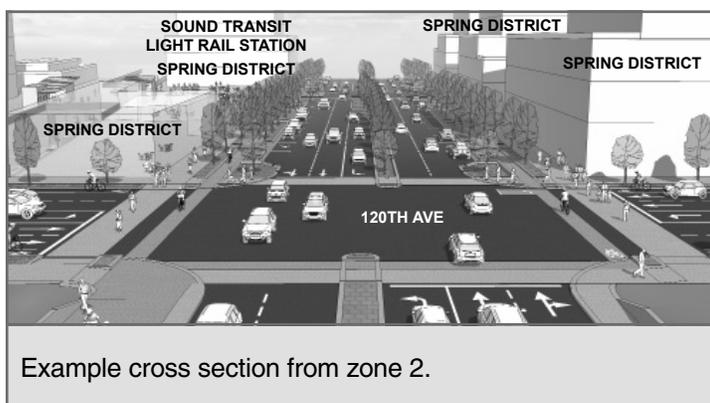
- Create a sense of place
- Strive toward narrowed roadway cross-sections while striking a balance to provide all desirable elements
- Manage and limit impacts, allow for transitions along the corridor, and consider phased implementation and development



NE 15th/16th Street project limits

Corridor Elements

The NE 15th/16th Street Multi-Modal corridor is comprised of five separate zones, which reflect variations in topography, land-use, and planned development including transit-oriented development, stream crossings, and other Sound Transit light rail provisions and engineering constraints. The design concepts currently being considered for each zone present different combinations of amenities including pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, on-street parking, and landscaping.



Example cross section from zone 2.

Pedestrians and bicycles

- Provide connectivity, access, and circulation for bicycles and pedestrians within the Bel-Red area, and to new proposed development, light rail stations, open spaces, parks, regional trails, and to Wilburton, Downtown, and Overlake
- Bicycle facilities will connect with other bike system improvements along 120th Avenue NE, 124th Avenue NE, and 130th Avenue NE

On-street parking

- Provide for short term public parking during off-peak times
- On-street parking is being considered adjacent to light rail stations, near transit and taxi service, and around retail, banking, or other services

Landscaping

- Provide buffers between travel lanes, parking areas, and sidewalks or plazas

- Landscaping strips may include trees, groundcover, and shrubs and be co-located with utilities like fire hydrants and street lighting
- Landscaped medians create a boulevard effect along a street corridor
- Natural drainage practices may be implemented in landscaping areas to allow roadway or sidewalk water runoff to permeate the soil and be filtered naturally

Next steps

The City is soliciting public input on the preliminary design concepts for the NE 15th/16th Street corridor through the end of 2010. To comment on the design concepts, please review the informational materials and complete a questionnaire.

Beginning in 2011, the design team will review public comments and refine the concepts and cost estimates. In the first quarter of 2011, the City will present the refined preliminary design concepts to the City Council. Following City Council direction, the project team will move forward to complete the pre-design for Segment 1 to 15 percent, and the pre-design for Segment 2 to 5 percent. The City will continue to engage stakeholders and members of the public in the project as concepts continue to be refined throughout the design process.

For more information

Visit the project website:

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/ne-15th-street-construction.htm>

Or contact:

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