Would you like more information? Connect to the Wilburton Connections Website! www.bellevuewa.gov/wilburton-connections.htm

Sign up for project updates, called E-Alerts, at:

www.bellevuewa.gov/mobility-public-involvement.htm

Submit written comments to: Tresa Berg, Public Involvement Manager City of Bellevue Transportation Department P.O. Box 90012 Bellevue, WA 98009-9012 Tberg@bellevuewa.gov

Title VI Compliance: It is the City of Bellevue’s policy to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with the Title VI Coordinator. For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at 425-452-4270.

For more information, contact Service First –

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City of Bellevue
Transportation Department
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Inside, you will find information about:

✓ The Greenway Design Concepts **Open House**
✓ The Local Improvement District **Public Hearing**
✓ Wilburton Connections Area **Project Updates**
These projects are a part of the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative, which was formed to address continuing growth in Downtown Bellevue and to support planned growth in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas.

Wilburton Connections is a group of high priority transportation projects in the west section of the Wilburton neighborhood. Two new projects have been added recently to Wilburton Connections: 120th Avenue Northeast, Stage 2; and 120th Avenue Northeast, Stage 3.

In addition to news on the Wilburton Connection effort, this Project Update contains information on the Bellevue Botanical Garden Greenway Project because of its proximity to the Wilburton Connections projects. Please drop by the open house on Oct. 20 to learn more about all of these greenway design plans.

**Ideas for Greenway Design Concepts Sprouting Soon! Extending the Bellevue Botanical Garden Experience**

You’re invited to an Open House on October 20th!

Reinforcing the image of Bellevue as the “City in a Park,” early design work has begun to enhance the greenway that leads from SE 1st Street east to Main Street along the Bellevue Botanical Garden and east to the entrance of the Wilburton Park and north of a small section of 124th Avenue NE. The work is being done in conjunction with improvements at the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center, the Bellevue Botanical Ravine Garden, which starts construction in the spring of 2011, and the Wetland Sun Terrace Garden. Incorporating elements of design and nature found at the Botanical Garden, the new greenway will include special landscaping, natural drainage, improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and improved lighting and signage. While located nearby, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Greenway project is not part of the Wilburton Connection projects.

Nearby businesses and residents are invited to attend an open house on **October 20, 2010, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-112** to see the design concepts of alternative street frontages along SE 1st Street, Main Street, and 124th Avenue NE. For more information, please contact Patti Wilma, 425-452-4114 or pwilma@bellevuewa.gov.
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Moving forward with LID Funding for 120th Avenue NE, Stage 1 and the NE 4th Street Extension . . .

On Monday, September 20, 2010, the Bellevue City Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to form the Wilburton Connections Local Improvement District (LID), setting the date of Thursday, October 21, 2010, at 7 p.m. for a Public Hearing. (If necessary, the public hearing may be continued on October 28, 2010, the timeframe will be determined). Legal notice of the hearing and an estimate of the assessment for each parcel of property within proposed district will be mailed to all affected property owners and published in the Seattle Times at least 15 days before the hearing. The purpose of the formation public hearing is to hear objections to the formation of the LID. Testimony is allowed on the improvements to be constructed, what properties should be included in the LID, and whether it is appropriate to form an LID.

Background of the LID Discussions . . .

In January 2009, the City Council endorsed the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative and put in place high priority transportation projects and other investments to be funded over a 10-year period. This work plan includes the Wilburton Connections projects and was the product of extensive Council discussions centered on funding projects to ensure enough transportation system capacity is put into place to address existing congestion and to support future growth. The financing plan for the Wilburton Connections projects calls for a variety of funding sources including a property tax increase, state and federal grants, transportation impact fees, and a Local Improvement District (LID). The LID is a financing mechanism that provides a way for properties that directly benefit from a transportation project to pay a share of the project costs. LIDs are used to pay for the design and construction of public works improvements, such as the expansion of street capacity, new sidewalks, water lines, sewer extensions or street lights.

The city is planning to form an LID to help pay for the NE 4th Extension and 120th Avenue NE, Stage 1 projects. The LID process includes the formation of a narrowly defined district that consists of only those properties that gain a special benefit from the proposed project. The city then issues bonds to fund the design and construction of the project. Once the project is completed, the property owners in the LID district are assessed a proportionate share of the project cost, based on the special benefit received.

Do you have questions or comments about LID funding?

If you have any LID comments or questions, please contact Eric Miller at 425-452-6146 or emiller@bellevuewa.gov, or Jen Benn at 425-452-4270 or jbenn@bellevuewa.gov. For more information about LIDs in general, please connect to www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/lid_faqs.pdf.

NE 5th Street Neighborhood Traffic Plan

A traffic analysis will be performed on NE 5th Street between 120th Avenue NE and 124th Avenue NE to evaluate the affects the Wilburton Connections projects will have on the Wilburton neighborhood.

Project Update: A public involvement process is underway, which includes a traffic committee consisting of staff, resident volunteers, and adjacent businesses. This committee has been reviewing the traffic analysis findings and identifying possible options to address community concerns. Proposed alternatives will be shared with the Wilburton neighborhood for public comment at a workshop this fall. For more information, contact Vangie Garcia at 425-452-6103 or Vgarcia@bellevuewa.gov.

NE 6th Street Extension: I-405 to 120th Avenue NE

This project will conduct a pre-design analysis for the extension of the NE 6th Street HOV/Transit only connection from its current T-intersection, which ends in the median of I-405, to the east over the northbound lanes of I-405 and 116th Avenue NE to a new “T” intersection with 120th Avenue NE. The improvements may include two lanes in each direction with turn lanes at the signalized intersection of the I-405 HOV ramps and 120th Avenue NE. The design will include street lighting, landscaping, irrigation, storm drainage, detention, and other utility improvements. Additionally, a 14-foot wide non-motorized pathway will be integrated with the extension, which will be designed to connect to the future regional trail within the BNSF corridor. The project will be closely coordinated with existing and potential development in the area, which includes the 120th Avenue NE project, Sound Transit East Link project, and the Washington State Department of Transportation.

Project Update: We are preparing the base mapping, working with agency stakeholders, and beginning conceptual design. For more information, contact Nancy LaCombe at 425-452-4382 or NLacombe@bellevuewa.gov.
**Wilburton Connections Project Updates . . .**

**120th Avenue NE: NE 300 Block to NE 700 Block, Stage 1**
This project will widen the existing roadway to five lanes, two lanes in each direction with center-turn lane pockets from the 300 block to the 700 block. Bike lanes and sidewalks will be included on both sides, along with landscaping, street lighting, storm drainage and detention, and utility improvements. It will also take into account access needs of adjacent businesses and protection of the nearby Wilburton neighborhood. This project will be designed and constructed to accommodate the new NE 4th Street Extension and the planned extension of the NE 6th Street High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) only facility.

**Project Update:** We are continuing engineering design and are in right-of-way negotiations. For more information, contact Steve Costa at 425-452-2845 or scosta@bellevuewa.gov

**120th Avenue NE: NE 8th Street to NE 12th Street, Stage 2**
This project is funded for design to extend, realign and widen 120th Avenue NE from NE 8th Street to south of NE 12th Street with intersection improvements at NE 8th Street. The improved road will have two travel lanes in each direction with turn pockets or a center-turn lane. Bike lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk on both sides of the roadway, street lighting, landscaping, irrigation, storm drainage, and water quality treatment will also be added. The project will be coordinated with the 120th Avenue NE improvements south of NE 8th Street (Stage 1) and the widening of 120th Avenue NE between NE 12th Street and Northup Way (Stage 3).

**Project Update:** We have applied for a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II grant of $30 million dollars to pay for the construction of this project. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

**NEW! 120th Avenue NE Improvements: NE 12th Street to Northup Way, Stage 3**
This project is funded for design to extend, realign and widen 120th Avenue NE from NE 12th Street to Northup Way. The improved road will have two travel lanes in each direction with turn pockets or a center-turn lane. Bike lanes, curb, gutter, and sidewalk on both sides of the roadway, street lighting, landscaping, irrigation, storm drainage, and water quality treatment will also be added. The project will be coordinated with the 120th Avenue NE stages 1 and 2 projects.

**Project Update:** We have applied for a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II grant of $30 million dollars to pay for the construction of this project. For more information, contact Paul Krawczyk at 425-452-7905 or pkrawczyk@bellevuewa.gov

**NE 4th Street Extension: 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE**
This project will extend NE 4th Street from 116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE. It will be a new five-lane roadway with sidewalks (including planter strip) and bike lanes on both sides. Other project elements will include landscaping and irrigation, street lights, structural walls, traffic signals, storm drainage and detention and other utility improvements. It will also include modifications to existing or installation of traffic improvements and signal equipment at the NE 4th Street/116th Avenue NE intersection and the NE 4th Street/120th Avenue NE intersection. The design and implementation of this project will be closely coordinated with the 120th Avenue NE project. The project will also take into consideration the existing and potential future development and ownership interest of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway corridor.

**Project Update:** The project team is working closely with adjacent businesses, property owners, and private developers in the immediate vicinity. Construction of the improvements will now be accomplished in two stages:

- **Stage I** will construct the roadway between 116th to the west edge of the BNSF right of way
- **Stage II** will complete the connection to 120th Avenue NE and construct the 120th Avenue NE intersection improvements.

For more information, contact Marina Arakelyan at 425-452-4632 or marakelyan@bellevuewa.gov