



# MEMORANDUM

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DATE: May 14, 2009

TO: Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Main Street and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Conceptual Design project

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this agenda item is to update and seek input from the Commission on the Main Street and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Conceptual Design project and to provide information on the upcoming Open House scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2009. No formal action is requested of the Transportation Commission.

## **Background**

The Downtown Implementation Plan recommended an evaluation of design concepts that would enhance the character of the Main Street corridor from Bellevue Way to 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and widen NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Bellevue Way to 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Concepts for both streets are being done in conjunction with each other. This ensures that travel demand impacts, urban design features and comparisons and contrasts are designed to balance the southern edge of the Downtown and define the area as a unique Downtown neighborhood. While this project is being led by the Transportation Department, it is a multi-departmental effort with close coordination and team representatives from Planning and Community Development, Parks and Community Services, Police, Fire and Utilities.

This pre-design analysis project is developing proposed designs and improvements for each corridor; urban design elements and features such as hardscape/paving types, furnishings, landscaping schemes; an urban design toolkit of street improvements that can be utilized throughout the corridor by future developers, existing property owners and Bellevue CIP projects; park and greenway alternatives; identification of high priority properties for early acquisition opportunities; and conceptual cost estimates. In addition, this project is also developing a gateway framework for the intersection of Main Street and Bellevue Way as well as concepts for a linear park along NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and the “four corners” of NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Work completed under this conceptual design project is being closely coordinated with other Downtown initiatives including Great Streets, NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pedestrian Corridor, Meydenbauer

Bay Project, Art Walk, Wayfinding, Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, and Mid-block Crossings as well as Sound Transit's East Link project to ensure continuity in the overall vision of a vital and vibrant Downtown. In addition, this process will identify urban design elements and enhancements that can be implemented as development occurs along the Main and the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> corridors by property owners in the area, or with future City CIP projects within the corridor.

**Current Activities:** The Transportation Department is preparing for an Open House scheduled for May 19, 2009 at City Hall from 4-7pm. The intent of the open house is to gain public input on the conceptual designs that staff have developed for Main Street and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street as well as the gateway framework and the linear park concepts. These concepts are described below.

Main Street. Several planning efforts have been undertaken along Main Street. Most recently through the Downtown Implementation Plan (DIP), Main Street was recommended for improvements that would enhance the character of the corridor through improvements to the streetscape, landscaping and pedestrian environment.

Two concepts have been developed for Main Street between Bellevue Way and 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. In each concept, Main Street between 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE would be narrowed from five lanes to three lanes with the remaining roadway right-of-way reallocated to pedestrian facilities, on-street parking, and bicycle facilities. The block between Bellevue Way and 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and the block between 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE would only be narrowed from five lanes to four lanes to accommodate turning movements.

The traffic analysis performed as part of this project supports these lane configuration concepts. In each concept, the north side of Main Street would have a wide promenade with landscaping, on-street parking and bike facilities and the south side of Main Street would have a generous sidewalk with landscaping and bike facilities. These corridor improvements are consistent with the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan.

NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. This conceptual design project builds upon a previous preliminary design analysis for widening NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from three lanes with on-street parking to five lanes. A five-lane roadway configuration is needed on NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to accommodate future travel demand once NE 2<sup>nd</sup> connects with the future ½ diamond interchange planned for I-405.

Due to the unknown construction timeline of the I-405 interchange project, this conceptual design project has identified streetscape design concepts for the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street corridor that include both an interim concept (before the interchange is completed) and a full build out concept. Under the interim concept, NE 2<sup>nd</sup> would be a three lane roadway with on-street parking on both sides. The traffic analysis performed as part of this conceptual design project supports these lane configuration concepts.

Gateway Framework. The City currently envisions five gateways into the downtown core. These gateways are located at 1) Bellevue Way and Main Street, 2) NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, 3) Bellevue Way and NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 4) NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 112<sup>th</sup>

Avenue NE, and 5) NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. As part of this conceptual design project, staff identified a conceptual framework for the development of these gateways to ensure consistency and relevance. The gateway framework includes the identification of main themes for each gateway and general gateway elements. Additional work on the gateway at Bellevue Way and Main Street will be done by Planning and Community Development as a separate project.

Linear Park. The City’s adopted Downtown Implementation Plan includes “Park Row,” a green, linear corridor and public park opportunity north of NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between 108<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Through the extension of 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE the City maintained ownership of remnant parcels at the “four corners” of NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. Through agreement with adjacent development, one of the parcels is to be constructed in conjunction with a planned hotel. However, the hotel project is currently on hold.

As part of the Main Street and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Conceptual Design project, a concept has been developed for the future linear park along NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Due to the uncertainty of property acquisition in this area, the concept of the future linear park is envisioned to develop in three phases. The first phase includes a concept for a park located on only the “four corner” parcels the City currently owns. The second phase includes the “four corners” and the properties from 110<sup>th</sup> to 111<sup>th</sup> between NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, including vacating NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place between 110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup>. The third phase includes all of the properties from 108<sup>th</sup> to 111<sup>th</sup> between NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

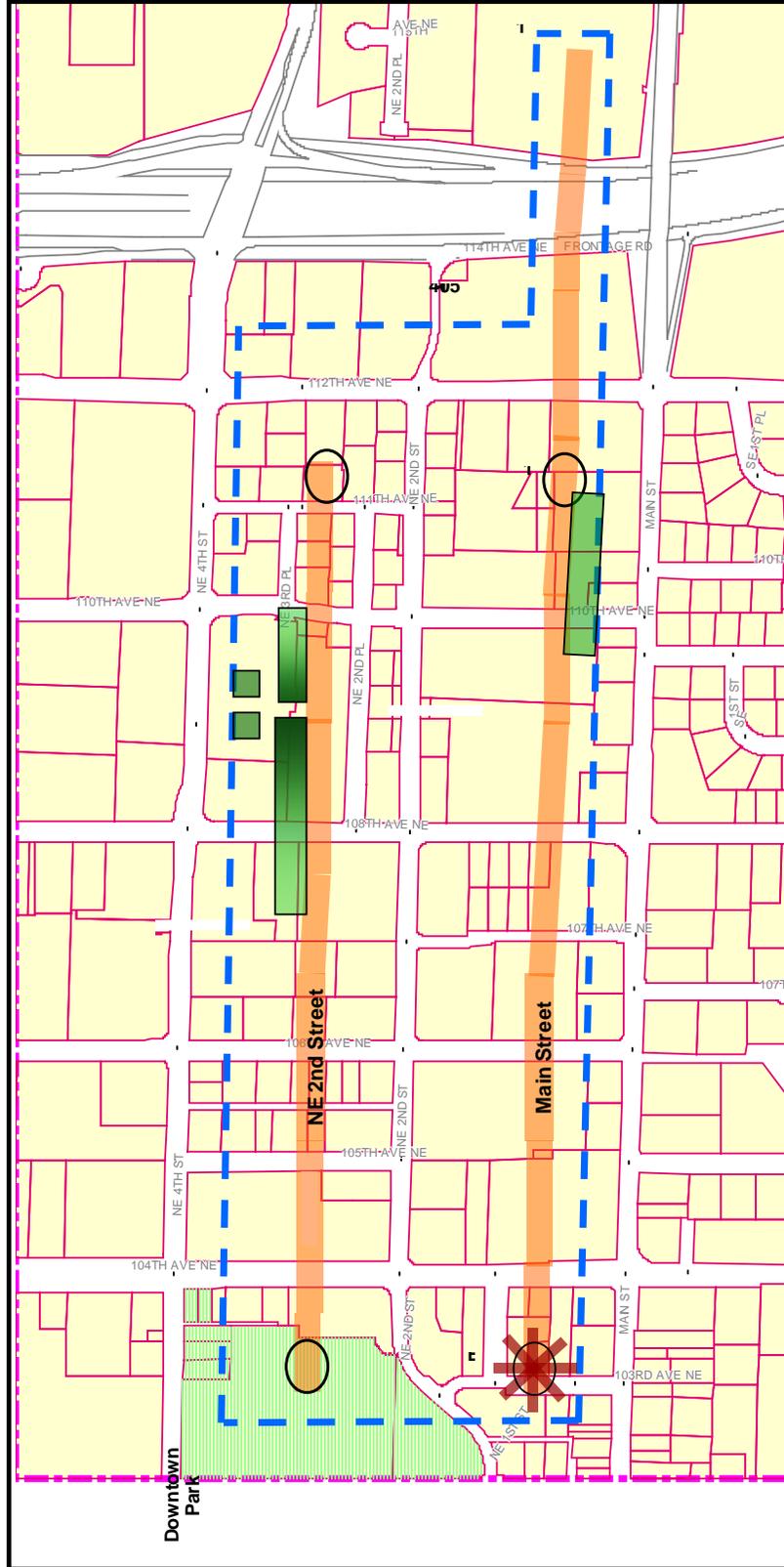
## **Next Steps**

Next steps in the project include:

- Hosting an Open House on Tuesday, May 19 from 4-7pm in the City Hall Concourse.
- Collecting and summarizing public comments from the open house and outreach efforts to project stakeholders.
- Returning to the Transportation Commission to share results of the public outreach effort and seek endorsement of the concepts for Main Street, NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Linear Park and the gateway framework.
- Presenting project concepts to City Council for consideration and approval.

**Commission Action:** At the Transportation Commission meeting, staff seeks input from Commissioners on the concepts for Main Street, NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, the NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Street linear park and the gateway framework. No formal action is requested of the Transportation Commission.

**Main Street and NE 2nd Street Conceptual Design**  
 Bellevue Way to 112th/116th Avenue NE  
 Project Area Map



-  Project Area
-  Corridors: Conceptual and streetscape design for Main; Streetscape design plan for NE 2nd.
-  Potential linear park concept and/or urban green space.
-  Downtown Gateway Design Concept
-  Intersection Plans / Potential entry treatments