

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

January 2009

The time is NOW to comment on light rail for Bellevue and the Eastside

Light rail is coming to Bellevue, and important decisions are coming up *right away*. Don't miss your best chance to weigh in on local routing for the rail system.

The City Council is encouraging Bellevue residents to comment on a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) recently released by Sound Transit for the East Link portion of transit improvements approved by voters in November. East Link includes the extension of light rail across Lake Washington on I-90, through downtown Bellevue, connecting to the Overlake Transit Center.



On Dec. 12, Sound Transit, the agency that will build and operate the light rail system, began a 75-day comment period on the draft EIS, a detailed study of the potential routes in Bellevue and the Eastside. **The deadline for submitting comments on the potential alignments is Feb. 25, 2009.**

Sound Transit will hold two public meetings in Bellevue, offering participants a chance to review maps and other information about the alternatives, ask questions of Sound Transit and City staff, and submit oral or written comments on the draft EIS. The meetings, including time for formal public testimony, are scheduled for:

Wednesday, Jan. 28 – 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bellevue High School, 10416 Wolverine Way

Thursday, Jan. 29 – 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE

The Bellevue City Council is taking an active role in the East Link review process as well. Council will hold its own public hearing, providing an additional opportunity for residents and others to voice their opinions. Council will then forward those comments to Sound Transit, along with its preferences on specific light rail routes and other project details. That hearing is **Monday, Feb. 2**, after 8 p.m., in the Council Chambers, Bellevue City Hall.

The draft EIS is available online at www.soundtransit.org/x3245.xml. Printed copies are available for review at local libraries and city hall. Comments may be submitted to Sound Transit by e-mail at eastlink.deis@soundtransit.org or USPS mail at: Attention: East Link DEIS Comments, Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 South Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.

Printed copies of the Executive Summary and CDs of the draft EIS are available free, or printed copies can be purchased, by contacting Elma Borbe at Sound Transit (206-398-5445) or elma.borbe@soundtransit.org. For more information about East Link or the draft EIS, see the Sound Transit website (www.soundtransit.org/eastlink) or contact Sound Transit staff, Ann Mueller at 206-370-5511 or ann.mueller@soundtransit.org.

For more information about Bellevue's role, visit the City's web page (<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail.htm>) or contact Bellevue staff, Bernard van de Kamp at 425-452-6459 or bvandekamp@bellevuewa.gov.

Fourth 'Great Community' Workshop Use Conflict to Strengthen Communities

Got Conflict? Make it Work for You is the topic for Bellevue's fourth Great Community Workshop Thursday, Jan. 8, 7-9 p.m., at Bellevue City Hall, Room 1E-108. Andrew Kidde and Cheryl Cohen, co-managers of the City's Neighborhood Mediation program will facilitate an interactive evening. In addition to highlighting the program's services, which include conflict coaching, mediation, conflict resolution training, and group facilitation, Cheryl and Andrew will engage participants in role playing and learning exercises.

All communities experience conflict and often it is easier to avoid, ignore, or deny it, but community conflict is inevitable – and how you handle it makes a difference. Learn ways to work through conflicts and to promote a positive community spirit. You will gain a better understanding of the many ways that conflict develops and learn tools to calm people who are upset and techniques for focusing discussion along a productive path. You'll see how conflict can be an opportunity to find creative solutions, build relationships, and strengthen communities.

Future workshops are scheduled for Thursday evenings, Feb. 5 and March 12. A 15-minute "meet and mingle" time gets underway at 7 p.m., with the workshop beginning promptly at 7:15 p.m.

An RSVP is preferred, but last minute attendees are welcome. To RSVP or for more information, contact Julie Ellenhorn at 452-5372 or see <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>.

Watch for 'Out of Service' fire hydrants

Maybe you've seen an orange bag that says "OUT OF SERVICE" wrapped around a fire hydrant in your neighborhood. That hydrant is one of 6,000 fire hydrants operated, maintained and annually inspected by the City. Some hydrants are new and some are nearly 70 years old, but all must stand idle, enduring the elements of the Northwest weather, waiting for that one critical moment when they are called upon to perform.



Neighborhoods can help the City ensure that fire hydrants are ready for action by doing two important things:

- If you see a bagged fire hydrant, it means that hydrant has been identified as needing repair. Removing the bag means the hydrant could be missed when crews return to do the work. If you witness anyone other than the Fire Department or City Utilities crews remove or tamper with a bagged hydrant please call the City at 425-452-7840 any time of the day.
- Keep landscaping or other vegetation trimmed back within a three foot circle around a hydrant. When City crews find vegetation growing too close to a hydrant, they leave a door tag asking the homeowner to trim vegetation. If the homeowner doesn't take care of the problem within two weeks, City crews will trim all vegetation back to meet the three-foot requirement.

Many people have concerns when they see a hydrant that is bagged near their home. The City of Bellevue installs fire hydrants as close to every 150' as possible so that there is redundancy in the system, and fire crews have an alternate hydrant to use. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Utilities at 425-452-7840.

What to do when weather creates neighborhood problems

Everyone has seen how winter weather can wreak havoc in neighborhoods. There's one number to call, **452-7840**, for winter woes such as flooded roadways, clogged catch basins, trees down in rights-of-way, potholes, erosion, damaged street signs or other types of storm damage to public property.



Surrey Downs residents – they've got the helping hands

Residents of the Surrey Downs neighborhood showed what can be accomplished in a few days time with willing hearts and hands and a couple of good ideas. The end of 2008 found neighbors joining in to feed hungry families and fix up homes for residents who have difficulty doing their own chores.

Two local couples, the Easterbrooks and the Applestones, came up with the idea of a neighborhood food drive to “piggyback” on the City’s campaign to feed needy families in the holiday season. The initial effort, yielding 1,040 pounds of food for the hungry, inspired the Surrey Downs board to go a step further, challenging other Bellevue neighborhoods to a food drive competition.

Meanwhile, some Surrey Downs residents mobilized a campaign to help neighbors with home repair and maintenance. The above photos illustrate “before” and “after” a clearing of weeds and berry vines. The overall result: a well-fed city, a more beautiful neighborhood, and a big boost to community spirit and pride.

Comments invited on potential jail sites

Six sites – including one in Bellevue – are being evaluated as potential locations for a regional jail to accommodate an estimated 640 misdemeanor offenders over the next 20 years. The municipal jail would serve the needs of the cities of Bellevue, Seattle, Redmond, Kirkland and Shoreline.

Public comments on site selection, construction and operation of the jail will be accepted during a series of six environmental “scoping” meetings. The potential jail site in Bellevue is at 555 116th Ave. NE. The Bellevue meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, Meydenbauer Center rooms 404 and 405. Written comments can be submitted via e-mail to MunicipalJailSEPA@Seattle.gov. For more information, contact Andy Ishizaki, 206-233-2027.

Damage assistance available

Property owners who suffered damage or loss due to recent winter weather may be eligible for assistance through the King County Office of Emergency Management. A hotline for reporting damages, 800-523-5044, will be available through Jan. 9. Losses must be well documented and private insurers must be contacted first. For more information, see www.kingcounty.gov/safety/prepare.aspx.

January 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.)

1/1 New Year’s Day – All city offices closed

1/5 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Mobility and infrastructure finance plan, recommendations on 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs), Bel-Red Subarea Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Recognition by Master Builders' Association of Development Services Department

Director, Association of Government Accountants presentation of Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments Award for 2007 Annual Performance Report, 2009 Guidelines for Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects funding programs, report on snow and ice event, Consent Calendar, adoption of 2008 Bellevue Botanical Garden Master Plan update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/6 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Courtesy hearings regarding a glossary CPA for new Camp and Conference Center designation, CPAs related to the Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Plan update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

1/6 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/7 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red project adoption process briefing http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

1/8 The Great Community Workshop Series—A Roadmap for Creating & Maintaining Vibrant Neighborhoods (7:00, 1E-112) The fourth of six monthly community workshops sponsored by the City of Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Team. Topic: Got Conflict? Make it Work For You <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/great-community-workshops.htm>

1/8 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) December snow storm & response report, Solid Waste Collection Contract Performance Survey and Compliance Audit presentation, Bel-Red Project update, outreach for Environmental Services Commission activities http://www.bellevuewa.gov/envIRON_serv_comm.htm

1/8 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Traffic Standards Code Amendment, Bel-Red/Overlake Transportation Study (BROTS) project update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/8 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

1/8 Public Meeting on Trend Imports Application (6:00, 1E-110) Conditional Use to convert gas station into an auto sales facility at 14014 Bel-Red Rd.

1/12 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Sound Transit Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/13 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, 1E-112) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

1/14 Youth Link Board (6:00, 1E-121) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/youth_link_board.htm

1/15 Regional Jail Environmental Scoping Meeting (6:00, Meydenbauer Center) See related article above

1/19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – All city offices closed

1/20 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red Subarea Plan (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, adoption of 2008 CPAs http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/21 Neighborhood Enhancement Program Workshop For Crossroads (7:00, Crossroads Community Center, 16000 NE 10th St.) Opportunity to review and comment on projects proposed for Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) funding by residents <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/crossroads.htm>

1/22 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Transportation Management Program (TMP) code update, Impact Fees & Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) Recommendations, 108th/Great Streets implementation update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

1/22 Human Services Commission (6:30, 1E-120) Agenda to be determined http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

1/26 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, Sound Transit Draft Environmental Impact Statement (see related article) http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

1/28 Planning Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Factoria office land use code amendment public hearing, Shoreline Master Program study session, Office and Limited Business (OLB) retail auto sales land use code amendment public hearing http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

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.