



# Wilburton Neighborhood Streetscape Enhancements

## 124th Avenue Corridor Improvements South of NE 8th Street

### Frequently Asked Questions

- General
- Corridor traffic and transportation
- Community input

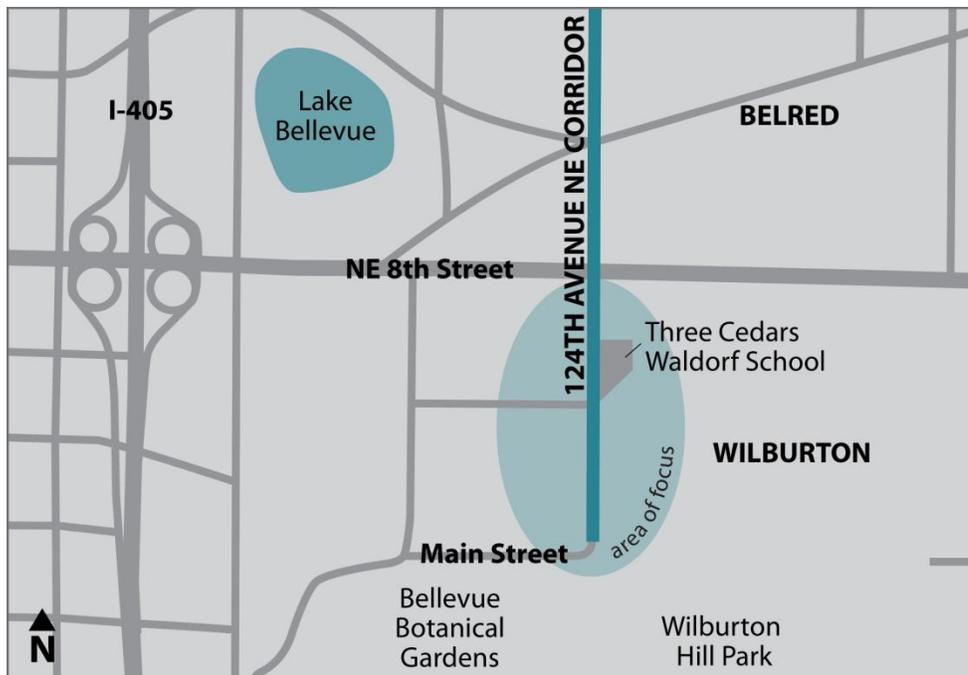
#### General

**1. Why are you doing this project?**

This project is intended to address future potential traffic changes along 124th Avenue NE associated with the Bel-Red Plan and vision. This will be achieved by implementing streetscape changes that should enhance the look and feel of the roadway through the Wilburton neighborhood. With future development and growth expected in the area, the City is working proactively with local residents to inform early actions that can be implemented along 124th Avenue NE to address potential traffic impacts.

**2. What is the general area of focus for this project?**

This project is focused along 124th Avenue NE where it runs through the Wilburton neighborhood, between NE 8th Street and Main Street.





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### **3. How could streetscape enhancements help reduce traffic impacts on 124th Avenue NE south of NE 8th Street?**

Streetscape enhancements include gateway features, planted medians, crosswalks, pavement markings, pedestrian lighting, and landscaping that in combination provides a feeling to motorists that they are driving through a residential neighborhood. These traffic calming features have the potential to reduce vehicle speeds, enhance pedestrian safety, and provide aesthetic improvements that accentuate the identity of the Wilburton neighborhood.

### **4. Will the streetscape enhancements affect emergency response?**

No. None of the streetscape enhancements considered for the project will affect emergency response. The City of Bellevue has consulted with emergency response service providers to ensure that the enhancements being considered would not impact response time.

### **5. When would the final streetscape enhancements be implemented along 124th Avenue NE south of NE 8th Street?**

We expect to begin implementing the selected streetscape enhancements in spring/summer 2014.

### **6. What will this project not address?**

The project will not repair or improve the roadway surface or pavement along 124th Avenue NE. The project will also not improve any damaged sound walls near the corridor. The project will not include developing or installing a Wilburton Neighborhood sign. A separate process is underway to review options for installing a neighborhood sign at NE 8th Street.

## **Corridor Traffic and Transportation**

### **7. What are the current traffic volumes on 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE south of NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and what will future traffic volumes be after the expected growth and development in the Wilburton and Bel-Red areas?**

The project team collected data about current traffic in Wilburton during the afternoon peak travel hours, and estimated future (2035) traffic volumes based on adopted growth projections. This information was shared with the Neighborhood Streetscape Committee for consideration as they evaluated recommendations. A map showing this traffic data was shared at the first community open house for the project, and can be found in the project website library ("[Public open house materials, June 2013.](#)")

### **8. What types of transportation projects are expected around the 124th Avenue NE corridor?**

As shown in the attached [planned projects map](#), a number of arterial street improvements are envisioned to be implemented as growth and development occurs within the Bel-Red area. These changes are likely to be implemented as development occurs and improve broader



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access, circulation, and connectivity to/from the regional highway system and downtown areas. All of the arterial street improvements include non-motorized facilities, and improved access and circulation to planned Light Rail stations.

### **9. What does it mean that 124th Avenue NE is designated as a collector arterial?**

124th Avenue NE south of NE 8th Street is designated a collector arterial. A collector moves traffic to and from local neighborhood streets to higher functioning arterials. Collectors are typically smaller in scale and have fewer travel lanes. 124th Avenue NE provides access to the Wilburton community, as well as City attractions such as the Botanical Gardens and Wilburton Hill Community Park.

### **10. What will this project do to enhance pedestrian and bicycle use of the corridor?**

The Neighborhood Streetscape Committee has repeatedly emphasized that enhancing pedestrian safety is a priority for this project. Features being considered that would improve pedestrian safety include enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian lighting, and other traffic calming measures that reduce vehicle speeds. This project will not add bike lanes to 124th Avenue NE south of NE 8th Street, but the corridor will continue to accommodate bicycles.

## **Community Input**

### **11. What is the Neighborhood Streetscape Committee? Who is on the Committee?**

The Neighborhood Streetscape Committee is a group of volunteers from the Wilburton neighborhood who have been working with the City's project team to identify potential streetscape enhancements along 124th Avenue NE from Main Street to NE 8th Street. The goal of the Committee is to identify a recommended set of enhancements for the City to implement. The Committee represents diverse community perspectives, interests, and locations. Committee members include:

*Anita Leising*  
*Bob Herschkowitz*  
*Bob Shay*  
*Carolyn Harris*  
*Dan Renn*  
*Darryl Nance*  
*David Cagle*

*Harvey Kriloff*  
*Jay Hamlin*  
*Jo Scott*  
*Peter Maxim*  
*Sandi Van Kleeck-Claggett*  
*Susan Myer*  
*Zee Straight-Weiss*

### **12. What progress has the Committee made?**

After considering public feedback to date, the Neighborhood Streetscape Committee reviewed several streetscape enhancement options. Working with the City of Bellevue project team, they have identified a preferred suite of enhancements that take into account the various users of this section of 124th Avenue NE.



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Please note that one Committee member does not fully support the recommended suite of streetscape enhancements, and instead prefers that improvements be phased over time with neighborhood engagement at each phase based on emerging data.

### 13. How has the public been engaged in this process?

The City of Bellevue is taking steps to better understand how the 124th Avenue NE corridor is used today, will be used in the future, and can be enhanced to protect the Wilburton neighborhood in response to anticipated growth. To do so, the City has:

- Held a public open house on June 20 to collect feedback (29 attendees; 35 comments)
- Analyzed existing and anticipated traffic in the area
- Convened a Neighborhood Streetscape Committee of Wilburton residents to serve as community liaisons and help identify preferred streetscape enhancements
- Held a public open house on December 9 at Three Cedars Waldorf School (556 124th Avenue NE, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.) to share the preferred streetscape enhancements and get feedback from the community (38 attendees; 16 comments)
- Created a website with background information on the project and provided an online comment form
- Delivered a newsletter to Wilburton residents in December to provide a project update for Wilburton community members not able to attend the open house
- Community members can also use an **on-line comment form** to provide feedback on recommended streetscape enhancements:  
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/10958.htm>

The Committee has helped ensure that project recommendations reflect community feedback. For example, because of public input, the Committee requested that some on-street parking be maintained for parents who drive their children to and from bus stops on 124th Avenue NE. Committee members have also engaged their neighbors by sharing project information through several forums. For example, Committee members:

- Provided project area maps for discussion and input at the annual Wilburton picnic on August 25, 2013
- Provided project concept maps for discussion at Wilburton Community Association drop-ins (September 14 and 28)
- Set up an on-line discussion forum at Wilburton NextDoor, where they prepared a project survey, open from late September to early November, to solicit feedback



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- Distributed a neighborhood flier to Wilburton residents providing information about the project and advertising the December open house