

City of Bellevue Light Rail Study: B7-Revised Alternative



ARUP

What is the purpose of tonight's B7-Revised Open House? The purpose of tonight's open house is for you to learn about the City's B7-Revised alternative and to let us know what you think about this alternative and what we need to consider as we move forward with the analysis of B7-Revised.

What is the study? The City of Bellevue is conducting a study to determine if further development of Sound Transit's B7 alternative will improve performance, reduce costs, and reduce impacts of the East Link Route in South Bellevue. This alternative, referred to as B7-Revised, is a variation of the B7 alternative studied in Sound Transit's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) for the East Link project. The study consists of conceptual engineering, environmental screening, ridership analysis, and cost estimating, to provide an objective "apples to apples" comparison to the Sound Transit B7 alternative.

What does the study include? B7-Revised includes a new transit station and park-and-ride near the Bellevue Way/I-90 Interchange. The route then parallels I-90 to cross the Mercer Slough, and runs adjacent to I-405 within a segment of the former BNSF right-of-way. It also includes a new transition from at-grade at the Red Lion site to a downtown tunnel portal near NE 2nd St and 112th Ave NE. The study will analyze these modifications to the Sound Transit B7 alternative to determine potential impacts and benefits to surrounding neighborhoods, traffic, ridership, the Mercer Slough, and construction costs.

Bellevue City Council wants to make sure that East Link, the largest and most expensive transportation project in Bellevue's history, best serves the needs of Bellevue's businesses, commuters, residents, and visitors.



Why is the study being conducted?

As part of its ongoing involvement with Sound Transit's East Link Project, the Bellevue City Council has studied the alternatives for light rail for south Bellevue, from I-90 to downtown. City Council preference for this segment is the B7 alternative. Sound Transit has identified B2M as its preferred alternative for South Bellevue. B2M utilizes the existing South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and travels along Bellevue Way and 112th Ave SE.

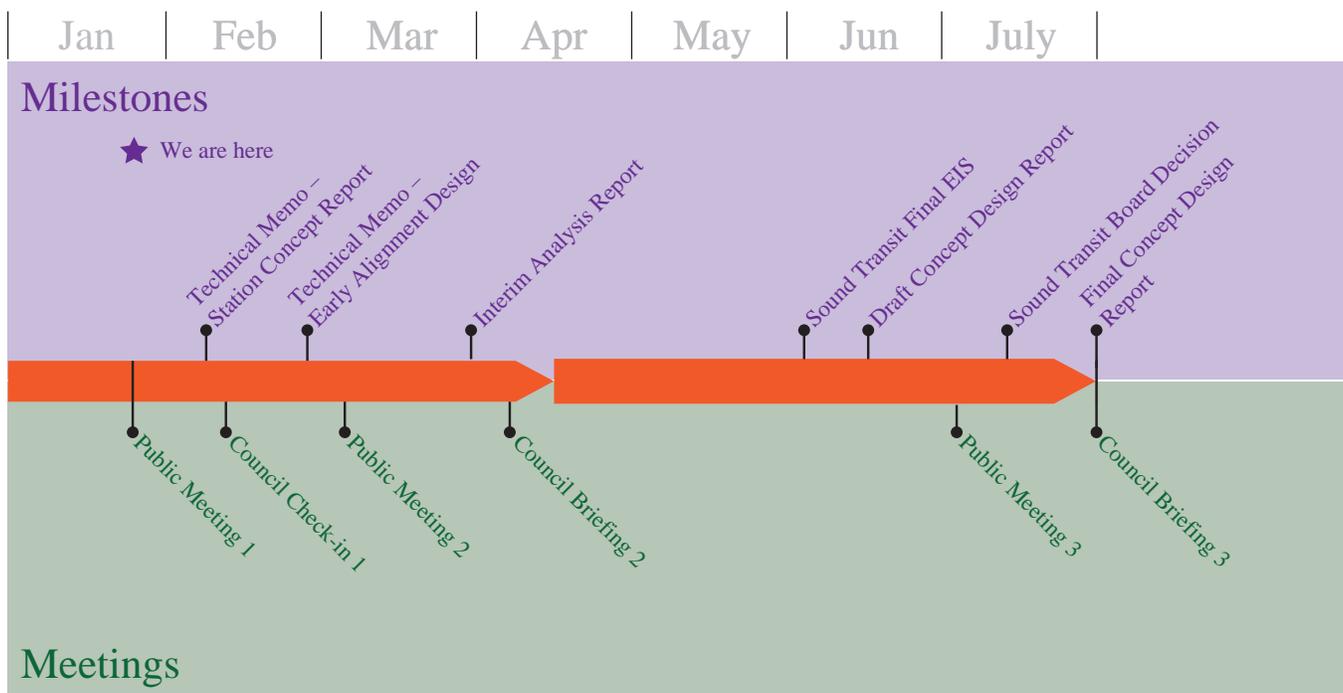
The City Council is concerned about the potential impacts of B2M and has requested additional analysis of the B7 alternative to determine if it compares favorably with B2M. City Council directed city staff to carry out additional work on B7-Revised. The City recently contracted with Arup, an engineering firm experienced in this type of work, to perform the analysis of the B7-Revised alternative. In addition, City Council has requested that Sound Transit delay the schedule for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) until the B7-Revised analysis is completed.

What is the project schedule?

The study begins with a public open house to introduce the B7-Revised alternative, where there will be an opportunity to learn about the process of the study over the next six months and hear your comments or concerns. The project team will then refine the location and sizing for the South Bellevue Station and the B7-Revised alternative.

Additional work will include:

- Analysis to determine how the conceptual design performs, and if it can reduce costs and environmental impacts
- A second public meeting to share and get feedback on the conceptual design of the optimized B7-Revised alternative
- An interim report that summarizes the analysis and indicates if the B7-Revised alternative merits further consideration
- Additional design and analysis (if the Council decides that the early work on the B7-Revised alternative is encouraging)
- A third public meeting to share the results of these efforts and to get feedback on the results and next steps



Need more information?

Please visit the website:

www.bellevuewa.gov/b7-revised-light-rail-route.htm

or contact Maher Welaye, project manager at 425-452-4879 or Mwelaye@bellevuewa.gov

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