



SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION

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Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue

www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic

Pilot Project to Discourage Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue: South Bellevue East Link Construction

Question and Comments

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Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue

- Response to East Link light rail construction along 112th Ave SE and Bellevue Way
- Turn restrictions will discourage evening commuter traffic leaving downtown from using residential streets
- Restrictions will be piloted for 3 months, starting around the end of August
- All drivers must abide by the turn restrictions
- City to monitor traffic volume while pilot is underway

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Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue due to East Link Construction

To begin around the start of the school year

August 2017

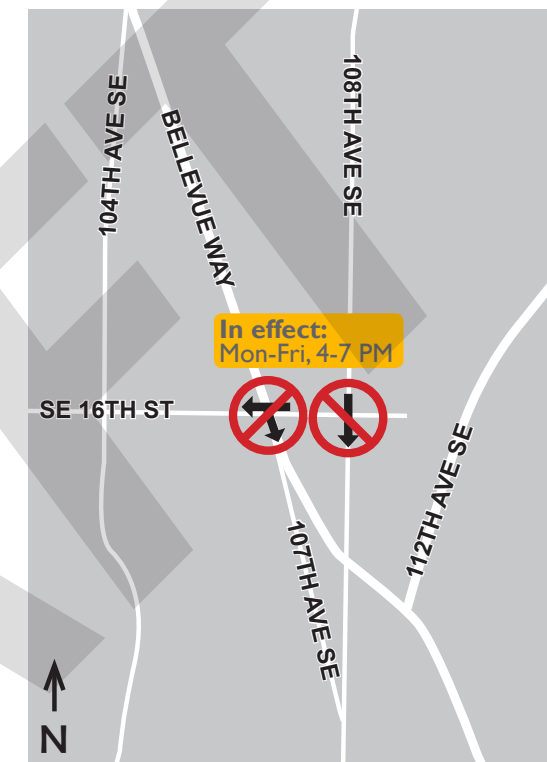
Pilot project overview

As East Link light rail construction increases on 112th Ave SE and Bellevue Way, a three-month pilot project to discourage commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets south of downtown Bellevue to access Bellevue Way takes effect around the start of the new school year. Weekday, (Monday-Friday) evening (4-7 p.m.) turn restrictions will be placed at SE 16th St and 108th Ave SE and at SE 16th St and Bellevue Way. The pilot utilizes signs and flashing beacons to call attention to the locations where turns are restricted.

The no-through restriction on 108th Ave SE will prohibit through travel (southbound) at SE 16th St.; if motorists travel this stretch between 4-7 p.m., they will have to turn right (west) onto SE 16th St. The turn restriction on SE 16th St at Bellevue Way will prohibit through travel (westbound) on SE 16th St and left turns (southbound) travel to Bellevue Way.

Why now?

East Link construction on 112th Ave SE recently reduced travel from four lanes to two. This configuration is similar to work the City of Bellevue did in 2015 which caused traffic to divert to neighborhood streets. This pilot restriction will help to discourage that diversion from occurring when traffic is heaviest: during the evening commute.



Restrictions do not apply to transit or people biking

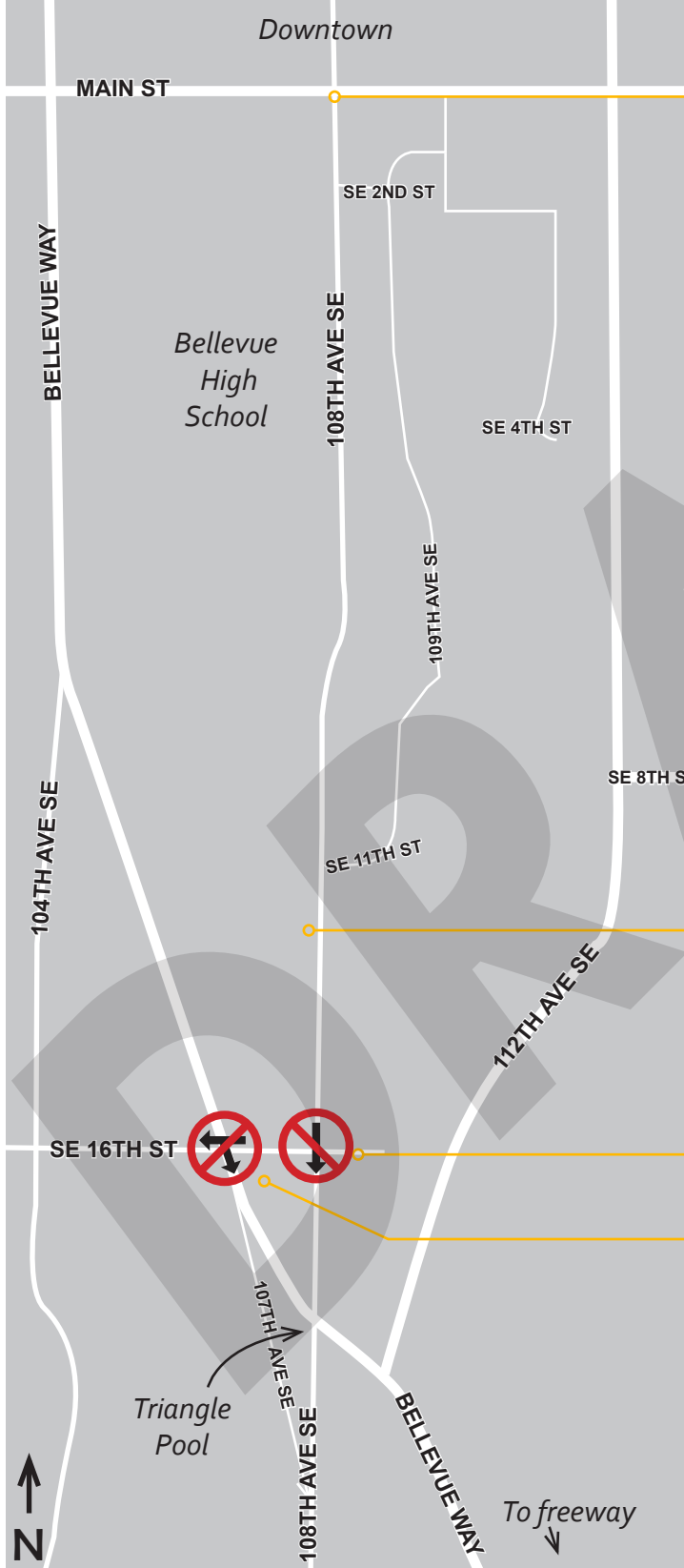
Pilot Project Benefits

- Discourage commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets
- Turn restrictions are enforceable
- Navigation apps (e.g. Waze, Google Maps) will reflect change and not route through neighborhood
- Allow for opportunity to collect data, gather community feedback, and evaluate effectiveness

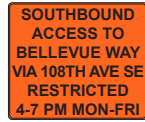
Your feedback about the pilot will help us understand its effectiveness. To submit comments while the pilot is in effect, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic.

Restricting commuter traffic in the evening

Turn restrictions in effect: Monday-Friday, 4-7 PM



Sign and flashing beacon will alert motorists of upcoming turn restrictions at SE 16th St.



Advanced warning of turn restrictions through use of signs at Main St and 108th Ave SE. Sign will read: Southbound access to Bellevue Way via 108th Ave SE restricted 4-7 PM, Mon-Fri.



Sign and flashing beacon will alert southbound motorists of the no-through restriction (southbound) on 108th Ave SE. Traffic is effectively forced to turn right. Transit vehicles and people biking are exempt from the restriction. The beacon will flash for three hours a day, Monday-Friday.



Sign and flashing beacon will alert westbound SE 16th St motorists that traveling west on SE 16th St, traffic is restricted from continuing straight (west) on SE 16th St or making a left (south) onto Bellevue Way. Traffic must turn right onto Bellevue Way. Transit vehicles and people biking are exempt from the restriction. The beacon will flash for three hours a day, Monday-Friday.



This is an inconvenience. Why is this happening?

The community has been concerned about commuter traffic associated with East Link construction. Addressing commuter traffic comes with many tradeoffs, sometimes with impacts to residents. This pilot project will run for three months, upon which it will be evaluated for effectiveness to ensure that commuter traffic hasn't increased and to gauge community sentiment. 108th Ave SE between Main St and Bellevue Way is an attractive route for commuters to use to get to the freeway. Approximately 600 vehicles between 4-7 p.m. make a left onto southbound Bellevue Way and from 108th Ave SE. **To submit comments while the pilot is in effect, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic.**

Must all motorists abide by the restrictions?

Yes. All motorists must abide by the restrictions. Similar to the existing no through restriction at 108th Ave and Main St, transit vehicles and people biking are exempt from the restrictions,

Are the turn restrictions enforceable?

Yes. Police will enforce the turn restrictions. If you are found to violate the restrictions, the infraction is \$136.

I have kids at Enatai Elementary or Bellevue High school. Will this impact them getting home?

Generally, no. Enatai dismisses at 2:25 p.m. and Bellevue High dismisses at 3:30 p.m. If after school activities are planned, you may need to reconsider how you access Enatai from the north and how you leave Bellevue High School.

When will the turn restrictions begin?

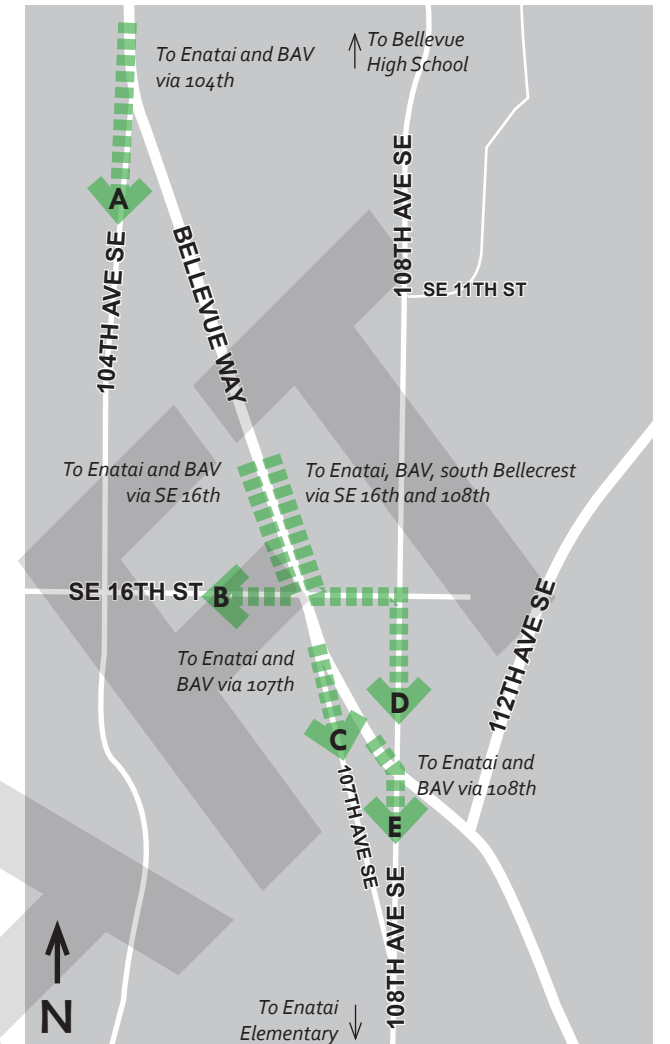
The pilot turn restrictions will be implemented around the start of the school year and will last for three months (end of November). At that time, the pilot will be evaluated to determine if it was effective in discouraging commuter traffic. If the pilot continues beyond three months, it will nonetheless remain in place only during East Link construction.

How do I access my home in Bellecrest and Surrey Downs?

For the majority of residents that live north of Bellevue Way, this pilot program will not change your ability to access your home when traveling from downtown Bellevue as there are no new restrictions north of SE 16th St or off of Bellevue Way. For those households at the south end of Bellecrest south of SE 16th St, you can travel south on Bellevue Way to eastbound SE 16th St to southbound 108th Ave SE (D, on the map to the right). Alternatively, you can travel to the Bellevue Way and 108th Ave SE intersection and turn onto northbound 108th Ave SE.

Project background

In spring 2016, the city began working with affected neighborhoods in helping to identify traffic mitigation tools and locations to lessen the potential traffic impacts due to East Link construction. Eleven volunteers from Bellecrest, Enatai and Surrey Downs and Beaux Arts Village came together to form a broad and geographically balanced committee. The Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC) has worked to recommend mitigation tools that best mitigate neighborhood traffic impacts resulting from East Link construction which is now occurring on Bellevue Way (began in June 2017) and 112th Ave SE (began in July 2017). More information about the NTMC can be found at bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic.



How do I get south to Bellevue Way between 4-7 PM? (see map above)

You will have to find an alternative route, likely traveling north on 108th Ave SE to Main St to find an alternative route to the freeway (e.g. downtown access to I-405 or traveling south on 112th Ave SE or Bellevue Way).

How do I access my home in Enatai and Beaux Arts Village? (see map above)

Likely how you normally did before the restriction. Off Bellevue Way, you can use 104th Ave SE (A), SE 16th St (B), 107th Ave SE (C), SE 16th St to 108th Ave SE (D), or 108th Ave SE (E).