



Inside: Public comment opportunities

**Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane:
112th Avenue SE – South Bellevue Park & Ride
*Status of CIP Candidate Project***

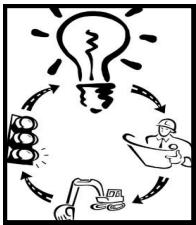


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Department of Transportation
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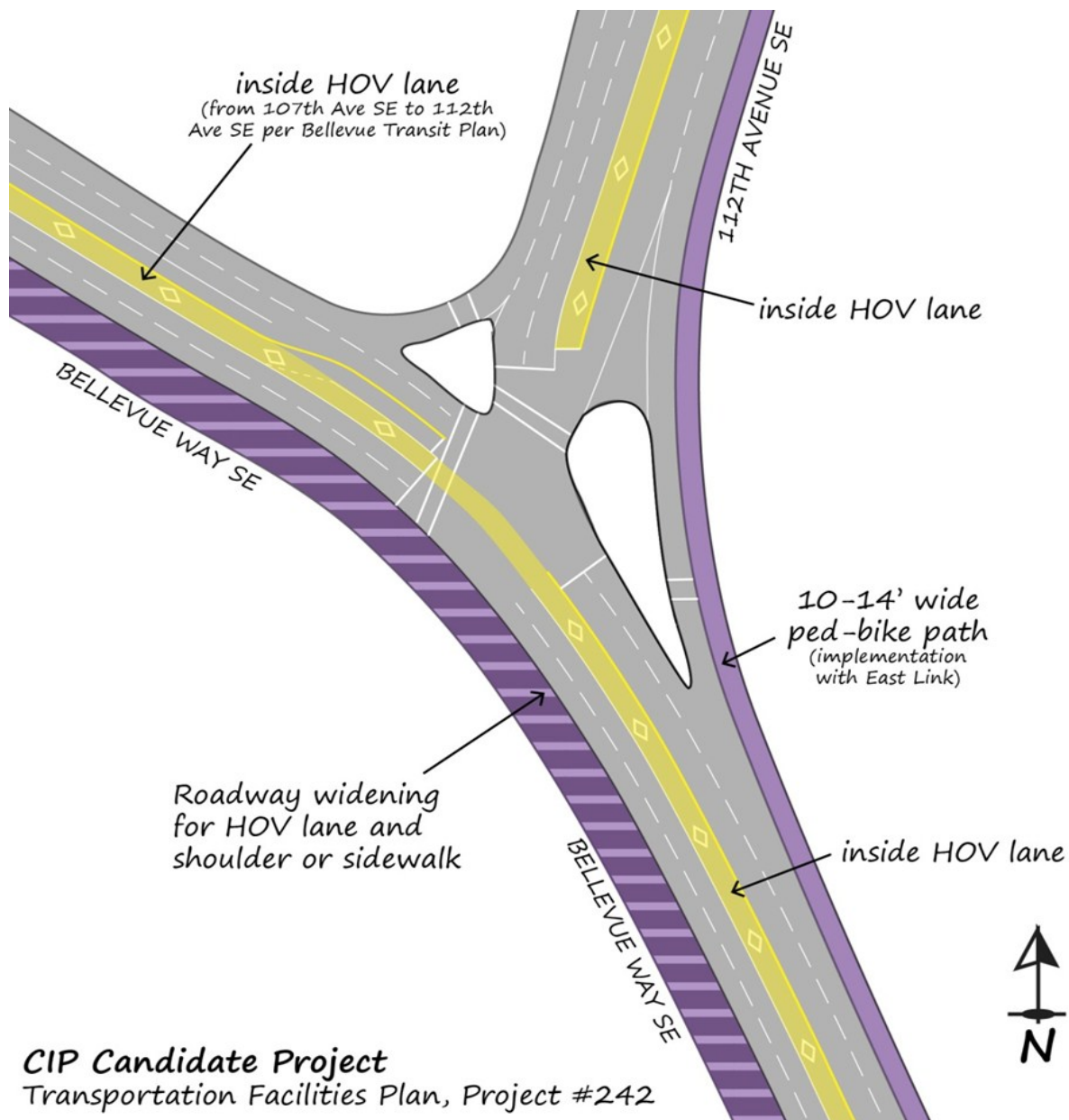
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Here's What You Need To Know

Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane: 112th Avenue SE – South Bellevue Park & Ride Status of CIP Candidate Project

What is the Southbound HOV Lane project? If funded, the city would widen Bellevue Way SE by adding a southbound inside high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane and an outside shoulder or sidewalk to increase capacity for traffic leaving downtown Bellevue and to improve transit speed and reliability. The roadway would be widened to the west by approximately 20 feet into the hillside.



CIP Candidate Project
Transportation Facilities Plan, Project #242

There are actually three separate HOV segments (see map).

- **City of Bellevue HOV Segment:** The Bellevue segment is from the Bellevue Way SE/112th Avenue SE “Y” to the South Bellevue Park & Ride main entrance. If funded in the city’s seven-year CIP Plan, this segment would be constructed by the City of Bellevue.

A full description of this candidate project is in the 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) as project TFP-242. The full TFP can be found at:

www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm

The TFP is an intermediate-range 12-year plan of high-priority projects recommended by the Transportation Commission and approved by the City Council. The TFP project list is financially constrained; costs of projects in the plan must fit revenues projected for the 12- year plan period.

- **Sound Transit HOV Segment:** The Sound Transit segment extends from the South Bellevue Park & Ride main entrance to the I-90 on-ramps. This segment will be constructed by Sound Transit in conjunction with the East Link light rail project in order to better accommodate the traffic associated with the expanded park & ride and the light rail station at the South Bellevue Park & Ride. This decision was made in 2013 (*See City Council decision-making process below*) and ensures the added lane will be in place to serve the park & ride and to facilitate efficient coordination with light rail construction.

- **The State Department of Transportation HOV Segment:** The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is also working on the nearby I-90 Two-Way Transit and HOV Project, which will improve traffic flow on I-90 and prepare the roadway for the East Link light rail extension. This project is currently under construction and will continue through mid-2015. For more information about this project, please refer to WSDOT’s project website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I90/TwoWayTransit.



Figure 1 Three separate HOV lane segments

What was City Council’s Decision-Making Process? In 2013, the City Council evaluated the Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV lane to determine whether to tie the north segment to Sound Transit East Link construction. (The added HOV lane could have been bundled with the East Link “Cost Savings” option for this segment that would have run East Link on the surface of the roadway or with the “MOU” alignment that was ultimately selected, which puts East Link in a trench for much of this segment). The City Council chose not to connect the north segment HOV lane to the East Link construction project. However, the City Council did choose to include the project in the 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) for future analysis and funding consideration. The Bellevue Way SE HOV lane is also identified in the update to the Bellevue Transit Master Plan, which is now under consideration by the City Council. For more information, see www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-transit-plan.htm

What is the current status? The city’s Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane project is a candidate for funding in the current 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan Update process. This project will be among other transportation projects to be prioritized and potentially partially or fully funded for design and construction. The TFP project description (project TFP-242) also includes a paved 10-14’ wide pedestrian/bicycle path on the east side of 112th Avenue SE and Bellevue Way from SE 8th Street to 113th Avenue SE (the I-90 Trail). It is anticipated this facility will be implemented in conjunction with the East Link light rail line.

The current 2013-2019 CIP does not include funding to design or construct Bellevue’s segment of the Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV lane; however, it may be funded in the 2015-2021 CIP

What is the Capital Investment Program Plan?

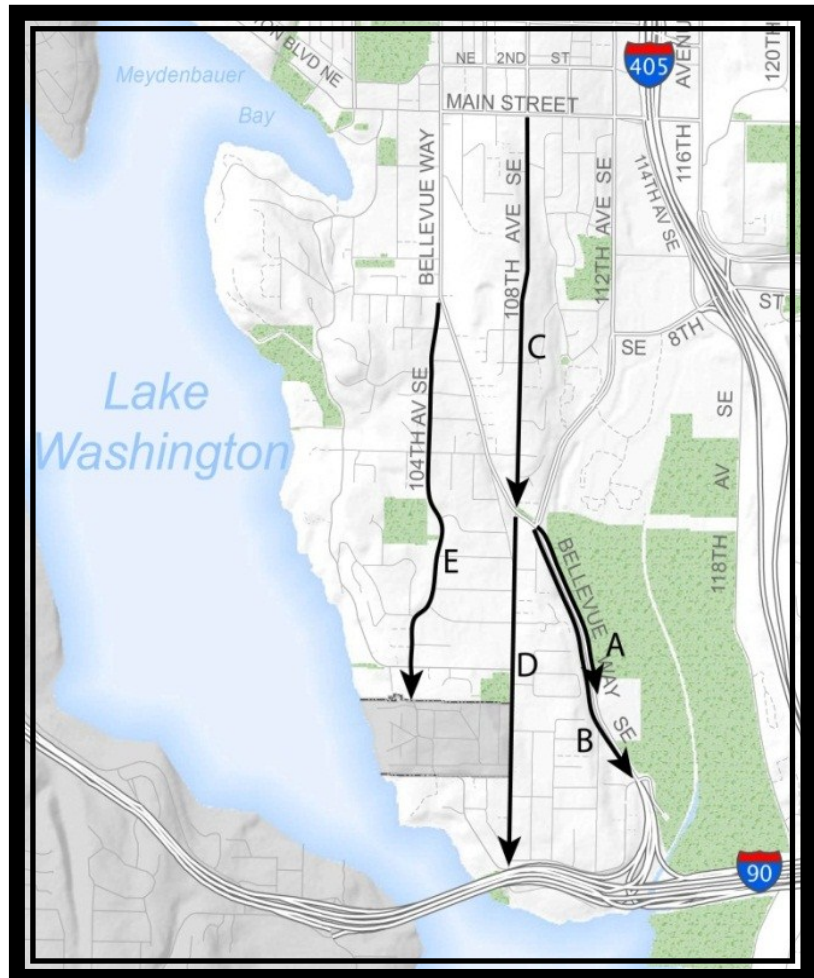
The Transportation CIP reflects funding to implement the city’s highest priority transportation needs for a seven-year period. The CIP is updated and adopted by the City Council every two years through the biennial budget update process. Transportation projects funded in the CIP are drawn from a list of high priority projects, as identified in the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP).

What are the benefits of the Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane? City traffic models project increased traffic volumes and peak-period delay on Bellevue Way SE in the future. Modeling results also show that adding an HOV lane would reduce a potential increase in cut-through traffic volumes in the Enatai neighborhood in the future.

What are the Transportation & Neighborhood Impacts of the Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane?

Transportation impacts of the Bellevue Way SB HOV lane were identified in conjunction with City Council's decisions in 2013 regarding whether to tie the north segment to the East Link construction (the Council chose not to do this) and whether to include it in the 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP); the Council chose to include it in the TFP. The analyses looked at different horizon years (2030 for the first decision and 2024 for the TFP) and varied in what they looked at and in their methodology (so cannot be compared to one another directly). Since these decision points, the Bellevue Transit Plan update process has identified HOV lane benefits to transit. The 2013 analyses indicate that the north segment HOV lane would:

- A. Reduce PM peak travel time** (generally 4 – 6 p.m.) from the Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE “Y” to the park & ride by 2.2-2.5 minutes for HOV traffic and transit* and by 1.4 minutes for general purpose traffic in 2030 (reductions of 64% and 41%, respectively).
- B. Add 500-600 vehicles** in the corridor in the PM peak hour in 2024 (and also increase volumes on Bellevue Way SE and on 112th Avenue SE north of the “Y” in 2024).
- C. Increase PM peak hour traffic volumes** on 108th Avenue SE in Bellecrest by 79 vehicles in 2024.
- D. Decrease PM peak hour traffic volumes** on 108th Avenue SE in Enatai by 77 vehicles in 2024 and by 260 vehicles in 2030.
- E. Decrease PM peak hour traffic volumes** on 104th Avenue SE in Enatai by 110 vehicles in 2030.



For more details and discussions about the decisions the City Council made, please refer to the council meeting materials from April 8, 15 and 22, 2013 (in conjunction with East Link) and on

July 16 and 22 and August 5, 2013 (in conjunction with the 2013-2024 TFP). This information can be found at: www.bellevuewa.gov/council-agendas-2013.htm

**Analysis completed for the Bellevue Transit Master Plan forecasts that in 2030 bus transit will carry 37% of people traveling in the PM peak periods on Bellevue Way SE between the “Y” and the park & ride. (See Transit Capital Vision Report, at www.bellevuewa.gov/transit-plan-documents.htm).*

What are the Aesthetic & Natural Environment Impacts of the Bellevue Way SE HOV

Lane? Impacts of the proposed HOV lane were evaluated in the ST East Link Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Addendum:

www.soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/East-Link-Extension/East-Link-Extension-document-archive/East-Link-Final-EIS-document-collection and the 2013-2024 TFP EIS:

www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/2013-24_TFP_FEIS.pdf

Evaluation identified the following potential impacts:

- **Noise:** Separate analyses from Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue show high noise levels under existing conditions. City analysis shows little change with added HOV lane.
- **Land Use/Aesthetics:** Widening the roadway would remove a portion of the hillside and trees on the west side. Existing houses/residential parcels, landscaping/native growth, and area aesthetics would be impacted.
- **Natural Environment:** Project area includes steep slopes, wildlife habitat, adjacent wetlands, and shoreline. The city’s critical areas code would address mitigation for natural environment impacts.

The City Council will review potential benefits and impacts of this project if/when this project moves forward.

Where can I voice my opinion on the Bellevue HOV project? Opportunities for public participation and comment during the CIP Budget process are listed below:

Date	Budget Sessions	Public Input Opportunities
July 21 7	Second CIP Public Hearing	Comment on projects and/or funding priorities
Late July	City Council Budget Workshop	Comment on projects and/or funding priorities
Sept/Oct	Preliminary CIP list presented to City Council and the public.	Review preliminary CIP list and funding recommendations and provide your comments.
Nov. 17	Third CIP Public Hearing	See proposed final CIP list and provide final comments.
Oct-Dec	Preliminary Budget Deliberations	Comment opportunity
Various	Boards and Commissions	Comment opportunity

City Council will adopt the 2015-2021 CIP budget by the end of this year. To stay informed about the budget update, click on the alerts to “Receive notification when this page is updated” from the CIP Budget website: www.bellevuewa.gov/budgets.htm

Are there other public comment opportunities? If you would like the opportunity to share your priorities with City Council, you may do so by the following methods:

- City Council meetings:** The City Council welcomes your attendance and participation in its meetings. The council meets on the first four Mondays (or on Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) of each month at City Hall, 450 – 110th Avenue NE. (During August and December, the City Council meets only on the first one or two Mondays).
- Comments from the public are welcome during the “**Oral Communications**” portion of the agenda and during public hearings. On the 1st and 3rd Monday, public comment is at 8 p.m. and on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, public comment is at 6 p.m.
- Public hearings:** The City Council will hold two more public hearings on the 2015-2016 Budget. A public hearing in July will provide the public the opportunity to express to council what issues

they feel are important. A hearing in November occurs after the council receives the preliminary budget. It will provide the opportunity to address new budget proposals, and comment on significant budget issues.

- **Written communications:** Submit written communication to council@bellevuewa.gov
- **Transportation Commission meetings:** The Transportation Commission makes facility and funding recommendations for roads, bike lanes, transit, and sidewalk projects to the City Council. Transportation Commission meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., City Hall, Conference Room 1E-113, unless otherwise posted. An additional monthly meeting may be needed if the commission's workload warrants, in which case it will be held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Questions & Comments: Thank you for your interest in the status of this project. It has a few years of history and we realize that you may have more questions. Please direct your questions about the Bellevue Way SE Southbound HOV Lane to

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City of Bellevue Transportation Department

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