

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT:

East Link Project Update

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POLICY ISSUES:

The general policy guidance below informs the City's work on this final design- phase of the East Link Project.

Comprehensive Plan Policies:

The Comprehensive Plan contains a body of adopted policy, which emerged from the Light Rail Best Practices work, to frame the City's role in light rail project development, including advancing the City's land use and transportation objectives and minimizing neighborhood and environmental impacts.

MOU with Sound Transit:

The City and Sound Transit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2011 that defines City contributions to a downtown light rail tunnel. The MOU also provides the basis for a Collaborative Design Process (CDP) that was further defined and agreed to in January 2012. The CDP provides the mechanism for the City and Sound Transit to jointly advance the design of the East Link Project through the 60% design phase.

Light Rail Overlay District:

In addition to collaborating with Sound Transit within the framework of the MOU, the City is the permitting agency for East Link within Bellevue. The Council adopted Land Use Code (LUC) Part 20.25M defining development standards and design guidelines, which shape staff's feedback on design issues. The LUC provisions also establish the permitting process for East Link with a Light Rail Permitting Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

This written monthly project update is informational and no specific project direction or decisions are requested.

City Staff will present the monthly East Link Update focused on:

- a detailed project schedule,
- an update on the Surrey Downs Park project, and
- an update to public outreach activities.

In addition, Sound Transit staff will present information on the I-90 corridor transit integration plans.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

East Link Project Updates

I. Project Schedule

At the January Council update staff presented Sound Transit’s East Link Master Schedule showing the rollup of the overall project schedule. Staff will present a more detailed schedule (see Attachment A) specific to how design, estimating and permitting for each of the contract packages lead into project baselining.

Final Design

Final design for the East Link Project is underway and City staff is working closely with Sound Transit on overall design coordination, resolution of agency interpretations of elements included in the design scope of work, construction planning and mitigation.

City staff have completed a technical review of engineering drawings representing approximately 60% design level for all segments of East Link from South Bellevue to the Bel-Red area. The design-build segment at the northernmost end of Bel-Red, through Overlake and into Redmond, is the only segment for which 60% plans have not been prepared.

Permit review and CAC feedback will occur following submittal of permit applications. The permit application for the Bel-Red segment has been received and is just beginning review. It is anticipated additional segments will be submitted for permitting by mid-2014.

Right-of-Way Acquisitions

Sound Transit continues to advance the right-of-way (ROW) acquisition process. The Board authorized purchase of ROW needed for the Bel-Red area and most of the South Bellevue area. The remainder of South Bellevue and Downtown are anticipated to be approved by the Board in February or March. The acquisitions process is proceeding consistent with federal requirements.

In some areas of the City, both agencies have capital projects that impact the same property owners. For example, the City has long planned relocation of the Bellefield pump station. The

relocation of this pump station, and the construction of the segment of East Link along 112th Avenue SE, impact the same property owner. In such circumstances, City and Sound Transit staff are working closely to review property needs and to facilitate a coordinated process for communicating with the property owner and evaluating and describing impacts on those properties.

II. Surrey Downs Park

As Council is aware, Bellevue Parks, in conjunction with the Surrey Downs neighborhood, has advanced work on the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan Update. The Master Plan concept is shown in Attachment B. Parks staff has been working closely with the Surrey Downs community on the overall park plan and programming and the park frontage along 112th. The existing park property is situated approximately ten to fourteen feet higher than the existing 112th roadway. The East Link alignment sits between the roadway and the park property. How the roadway, the light rail and the park interface along this frontage is critical for both East Link and the Surrey Downs park design process. Staff will provide an update on this work to date. The Master Plan concept will be reviewed by the Parks Board and a recommendation on the concept from the Parks Board to the Council is anticipated in April.

III. Public Outreach

The Light Rail Permitting Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was created by the City Council under the terms of the Light Rail Overlay provisions of the Land Use Code. The primary purpose of the CAC is to represent community and neighborhood interests, ensure issues of importance are surfaced early in the permitting process, and to provide a venue for receipt of public comments.

Update on the CAC's WorkAs of this briefing, the CAC has held six meetings and completed the Context Setting phase of its review. A more detailed description of the work program completed to date is found in Attachment C.

For further information regarding the CAC's ongoing work, agendas, meeting materials, presentations, and minutes of the CAC meetings are available for public review at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-permitting-cac-meetings.htm>

Schedule for Upcoming Light Rail CAC Meetings and Ongoing Public Outreach

City and Sound Transit staff are working closely to coordinate Sound Transit's 60% design milestone outreach and CAC public comment collection efforts into a single, streamlined approach. To help facilitate this goal, the CAC and Sound Transit are co-hosting open houses to review station design and other significant project components, including park-and-rides, landscape development, accessory structures, noise walls, tunnel portals and public art, in February and March.

The first of these joint open houses occurred on February 6. Approximately 70 community members attended the open house at Enatai Elementary School to learn about the most recent designs for the South Bellevue Segment of East Link: I-90 to SE 4th St, including the South Bellevue Station. Meeting attendees viewed the Sound Transit East Link animation, listened to a presentation about the designs and how comments from the 30% open house were reflected in those designs, and engaged in conversation with CAC members as well as Sound Transit and City of Bellevue staff.

Residents can attend two more joint open houses in the next few months:

- **February 25:** The East Main segment, from SE 4th Street to Main Street, including East Main Station (Red Lion Hotel, 5PM-7PM)
- **March 25:** The Downtown segment, from Main Street to 120th Avenue NE, including the Bellevue Transit Center Station and Hospital Station (Bellevue City Hall, 5PM-7PM).

This joint undertaking ensures that the public has an opportunity to give comments directly to both the CAC and Sound Transit without duplication. Each open house is noticed as an official CAC meeting, and a minutes taker is present to help capture CAC interactions. In addition to these open houses, public comment is available at the start and end of every regular CAC meeting, and through email and mail submissions.

I-90 Light Rail and Bus Service Integration

As the regional light rail system is being built out, Sound Transit and King County Metro are working together to restructure bus service to complement the new high capacity transit mode. As an example, when Central Link light rail opened to the Airport express bus service from south Seattle and SeaTac was replaced with light rail and local bus routes were modified to serve light rail stations. When light rail reaches Northgate, a similar restructure of north Seattle express bus service is expected.

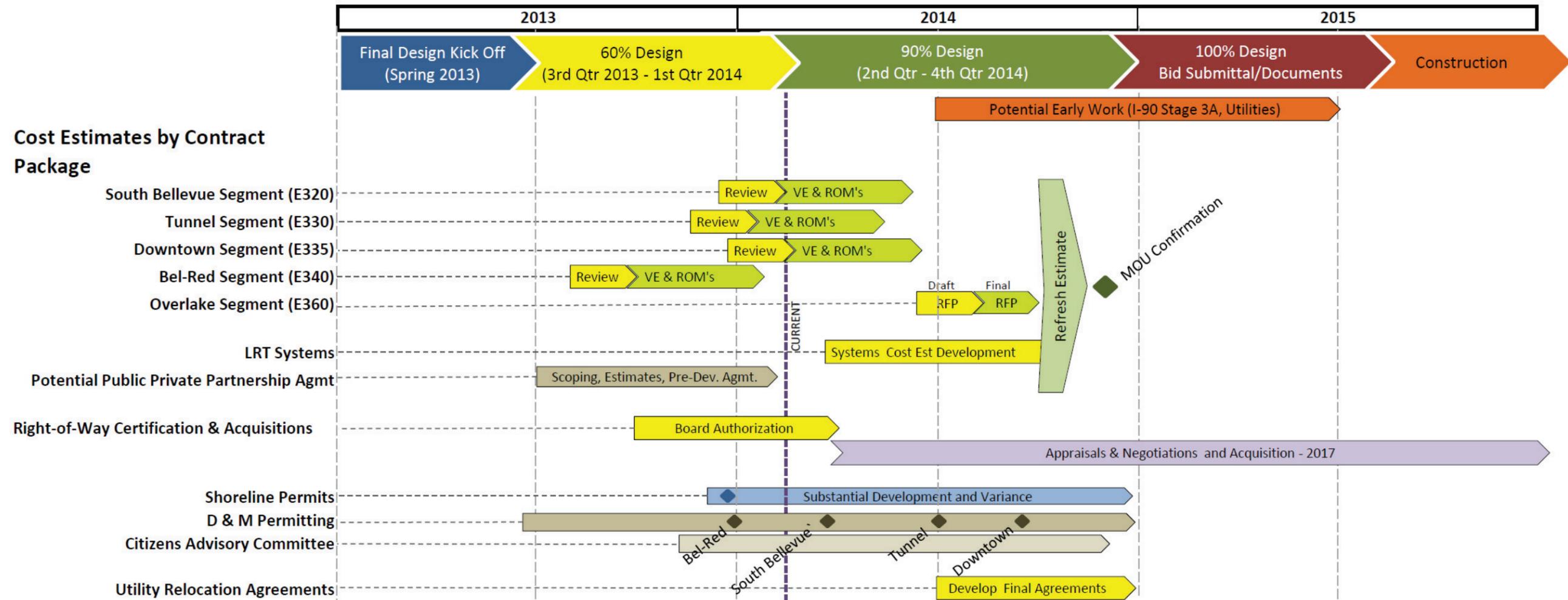
Planning for transit service integration with East Link began during preliminary engineering. The design of the East Link stations in Bellevue includes provisions for bus transfers. For instance, the south Bellevue station design anticipates that some Sound Transit and King County Metro buses which today serve downtown Seattle may be rerouted to south Bellevue and on to downtown Bellevue. Rerouting buses in this manner allows transit riders to reach more destinations by having increased bus access to downtown Bellevue and continued access to Seattle via light rail. Sound Transit and King County Metro are also studying the possibility that many Eastside I-90 corridor buses that serve downtown Seattle may in the future turn around at the Mercer Island station. A technical analysis of this potential bus restructure is underway. Sound Transit and King County Metro will provide an overview of the current concept, the schedule for completing their analysis this spring, and subsequent decision.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. East Link Schedule February 2014
- B. Park Master Plan Concept
- C. East Link Citizens Advisory Committee Work Program Completed To Date

Schedule February 2014

Design, Cost Estimate and Permitting



SURREY DOWNS PARK

Master Plan Update

Contact: Scott Vander Hyden - SVanderHyden@bellevuewa.gov



- PARK PORTAL
- ENTRY GROVE
- PICNIC SHELTER, TYP.
- SPORT COURT
- RESTROOMS
- TOT PLAYGROUND
- PLAYGROUND
- NATURAL PLAY
- PARK PORTAL
- SECONDARY PATH
- BERM PROMONTORY
- WOODLAND MAZE
- OVERLOOK
- CANOPY FOREST
- MAIN LOOP PATH
- PROMONTORY GROVE
- PICNIC TABLE, TYP.
- BENCH, TYP.
- PARK PORTAL

PARK PORTAL

East Link Citizens Advisory Committee
Work Program to Date (2-24-14)

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has held six regular meetings, three special meetings and completed the Context Setting phase of its review. Meetings to-date have covered the following topics:

- **October 24, 2013 (Special Meeting):** Central Link tour to familiarize CAC members with hands-on information regarding an operational light rail system and its associated facilities.
- **November 6, 2013:** Welcome and thank you from Mayor Conrad Lee, and development of operating guidelines including election of Doug Mathews and Marcelle Lynde as co-chairs for the CAC.
- **November 20, 2013:** Introduction to light rail context setting and design including an orientation to the Bellevue Light Rail Best Practices and Comprehensive Plan policies.
- **December 4, 2013 (Special Meeting):** Tour of the proposed alignment approved by the Sound Transit Board and the Bellevue City Council.
- **December 20, 2013:** CAC Feedback on context setting provided to staff for preparation of the CAC Context Setting Advisory Document.
- **January 15, 2014:** Context Setting Advisory Document finalized for distribution to Sound Transit, Arts Commission, Wright Runstad, and for use in development of character profiles during future work undertaken as part of the Station Area planning program. A copy of this first formal work product of the Light Rail Permitting CAC is included for reference purposes as Attachment B.
- **February 5, 2013:** Sound Transit presented the 60% designs for the South Bellevue Segment, I-90 to Southeast Fourth Street including South Bellevue Station, to the CAC. The CAC further discussed the Bel Red Segment, which was presented at the January 15 meeting.
- **February 6, 2013 (Special Meeting):** The CAC and Sound Transit co-hosted an open house for the public to review and comment on the 60% designs for the South Bellevue East Link Segment, I-90 to Southeast Fourth Street including South Bellevue Station.
- **February 19, 2013:** Sound Transit presented the 60% designs for the East Main Segment, Southeast Fourth Street to Main Street including East Main Station, to the CAC. The CAC further discussed the South Bellevue Segment and reviewed related public comment.

For further information regarding the CAC's ongoing work, agendas, meeting materials, presentations, and minutes of the CAC meetings are available for public review at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light-rail-permitting-cac-meetings.htm>