

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: June 11, 2026

TO: Chair Stash and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: **Great Neighborhoods: Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Plan Updates**

DIRECTION REQUESTED

	Action
X	Discussion
X	Information

INTRODUCTION

Community Development staff leading the Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plan updates will review draft policies that relate to transportation and will seek comments from the Transportation Commission to help ensure that the draft policies articulate clear and adequate direction to inform related investments in both neighborhood areas.

Staff will consider and incorporate input from the Transportation Commission as part of the staff recommendation on final draft policies that will be reviewed with the Planning Commission in June. A formal Transportation Commission recommendation and transmittal to the Planning Commission is not necessary.

BACKGROUND

The neighborhood area plans are in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan. A neighborhood area plan articulates a vision consistent with the citywide vision detailed in Volume 1, sets local priorities, and identifies future actions to realize the community's vision at the neighborhood level. The scope centers around strengthening a neighborhood area's unique identity and community gathering places as Bellevue prepares and plans for future growth.

In 2018, Council launched the Great Neighborhoods program that provides a strategic, community-driven process for developing neighborhood area plans. The Great Neighborhoods program provides a structure for developing plans for the sixteen neighborhood areas that

cover the full extent of the city. See [Attachment A](#) for a map depicting the neighborhood area boundaries.

As part of the City's Great Neighborhoods program, Council initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs) on August 4, 2025 to update the Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Plans in 2025-2026. The objective of the Great Neighborhoods program is to adopt plans for each neighborhood area that are relevant to their community's distinctive identity, adaptability, social connectivity, and core needs with a high level of community ownership of the plan.

This study session is part of several Board and Commission meetings intended to inform the Planning Commission recommendation to Council for the Eastgate and Factoria Neighborhood Area Plan CPAs.

PLANNING PROCESS

Neighborhood area planning is consistent with Neighborhoods Element policies in Volume 1 of the Comprehensive Plan, which directs the city to equitably engage local communities to define neighborhood specific values and policies when implementing adopted citywide policies. The neighborhood area planning process allows community members to participate in equitable, informed dialogue about what makes their neighborhood unique; and identify priorities and improvements that should be reflected in future growth. Community engagement is crucial to neighborhood area planning and integrated into each of four phases:

Discover: Engage with the community to understand issues, identify values and priorities, and learn about qualities that make the neighborhood unique. *Timeline: August – December 2025*

Define: Develop and affirm the neighborhood vision, design principles, and policy moves that are building blocks for the draft plan. *Timeline: January – April 2026*

Refine: Review draft plans with the community, boards, and commissions, incorporate feedback, and address any missing elements. *Timeline: May 2026 – August 2026*

Adopt: The final draft plans, including any environmental analysis as required per SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act), are reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission and then reviewed and adopted by City Council in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan. *Timeline: September – December 2026*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Discover (Phase 1) began in August 2025 and went through December 2025. Goals for this phase included setting expectations around the scope and timeline, understanding how the community sees itself, and identifying assets, challenges, and opportunities that are appropriately addressed through the neighborhood area plan. Examples of engagement activities during this phase included a mailed questionnaire to every household in Eastgate and

Factoria, tabling at community events, meetings with business owners through door-to-door visits and a listening session, a workshop with high school students, and walks with the community.

In Eastgate, people noted challenges being able to get around the neighborhoods by modes other than a car, including the lack of sidewalks and lighting on residential streets, steep hills, bus service reductions over the years, and speeding cars. Arterials such as Newport Way SE were cited as difficult to cross due to traffic and lack of midblock crossings. People also pointed out that local destinations such as Newport Way Library, Eastgate Park, Lattawood Park, and Robinswood Park were within walking distance, but felt isolated due to lack of wayfinding signage and safe sidewalks.

In Factoria, people noted that they can walk to neighborhood destinations from their home, but highlighted challenges such as congestion, poor connectivity to high-capacity transit, inadequate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and bus service reductions. People pointed out that local destinations such as Coal Creek Park and areas north of I-90 are within walking distance, but felt isolated due to lack of signage, safe sidewalks, and access points.

Full summaries of community inputs gathered from these activities during Discover (Phase 1) are provided in Eastgate and Factoria engagement reports, included as [Attachments B and C](#), respectively.

Define (Phase 2) began in January this year and went through April 2026. Incorporating community input from Phase 1 (Discover), staff developed a draft vision statement, goals, and policy moves for Eastgate and Factoria. Engagement focused on identifying any missing priorities, understanding what changes people would expect to see if policies were implemented, and identifying urban design improvements people wanted to see to improve neighborhood connectivity and neighborhood gathering spaces. Engagement activities included an interactive community urban design workshop that used a wide range of creative media to collect input, such as mapping, writing, and drawing. Supplementing this workshop, staff adapted workshop materials for various community groups with an emphasis on groups typically less represented in the planning process.

The current phase, **Refine** (Phase 3), is focused on reviewing draft plans with the community to address any missing elements that are needed to support the vision and goals for these neighborhoods. An engagement report summarizing Define (Phase 2) and Refine (Phase 3) activities and input will be published in June.

Neighborhood Area Plan Policies: Current Progress

The city published draft policies for the Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plans on May 4 for public review, with opportunities to provide feedback at an in-person open house and through an online survey. These draft policies build from engagement around identifying key values, priorities, and qualities that community members enjoy about their neighborhood today and want to see in the future. Draft urban design concept maps were also shared, which

visualize opportunities for improving gathering spaces and connections in both neighborhoods, building from what the community identified as opportunities and challenges for accessing and using these spaces today. Boards from the open house can be downloaded on the [Eastgate Engaging Bellevue](#) and [Factoria Engaging Bellevue](#) webpages.

This study session highlights a subset of draft policies relevant to the Transportation Commission. Attachments D and E include a list of all draft policies for the Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plans, respectively.

Neighborhood area policies below are enumerated with an “N” to differentiate them from existing subarea plan policies. Policy numbers will be finalized at a later date.

Draft Policies – Eastgate

Vision: Eastgate is a convenient, safe, and welcoming neighborhood where its diverse residents, businesses, and student population can thrive and build connections with one another. Its tree-lined and well-maintained residential areas are the heart of the neighborhood, and people from all stages of life are seen walking, biking, and taking transit to experience the area’s natural beauty, outdoor recreation, and retail and entertainment offerings. Mixed-use areas on both sides of Interstate 90, as well as Bellevue College, anchor the neighborhood as vibrant hubs for living, working, gathering, learning, and fostering community.

This vision for Eastgate sets the foundation for draft policies on transportation:

Mixed Use Centers and Neighborhood Centers

- S-EG-N14.** Coordinate with agencies and major institutions, including WSDOT, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Sound Transit, and Bellevue College, on land use and transportation planning.

- S-EG-N18.** Coordinate with transit service providers on future high-capacity transit projects to support station siting, alignment, access, and development opportunities.

Mobility and Access

- S-EG-N30.** Coordinate with WSDOT on projects along and near Interstate 90 to relieve congestion and minimize traffic impacts during construction.

- S-EG-N31.** Implement traffic calming on local streets to address traffic speed and volumes, using Vision Zero and Complete Streets design principles.

- S-EG-N32.** Support future phases to complete the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail through Eastgate between 150th Avenue SE and Lakemont Boulevard SE.

- S-EG-N33.** Provide safe and abundant access to the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail.

- S-EG-N34.** Work to obtain active transportation connections within larger blocks and development sites.
- S-EG-N35.** Design and implement wayfinding within the neighborhood with directions to transit and active transportation facilities.
- S-EG-N36.** Support the expansion and enhancement of the active transportation network on local streets, with an emphasis on safety, completeness, and connectivity.
- S-EG-N37.** Improve the opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross arterials at signalized intersections and at designated mid-block locations, consistent with the Mobility Implementation Plan.
- S-EG-N38.** Improve bicycle network facilities, including facilities connecting to frequent transit, Neighborhood Centers, and Mixed Use Centers, consistent with the Mobility Implementation Plan.
- S-EG-N39.** Support the enhancement and accessibility of local bus facilities and service to destinations that serve the neighborhood area.
- S-EG-N40.** Coordinate with transit providers to establish frequent transit connections to regional transit facilities, including the Eastgate Park-and-Ride and the South Bellevue light rail station.

Draft Policies – Factoria

Vision: Factoria is a locally rooted, globally connected neighborhood and major employment center that welcomes people from around the world to live, work, shop, and learn. Centered around its vibrant commercial core, Factoria is anchored by a strong network of local businesses and diverse retail offerings, with affordable housing and nature-oriented gathering spaces that bring people of all backgrounds together. A walkable, pedestrian oriented design, complemented by strong access to transit and regional transportation networks, supports Factoria as a connected and thriving community.

This vision for Factoria sets the foundation for draft policies on transportation:

Mixed Use Centers

- S-F-N12.** Improve pedestrian safety through consolidated vehicular access, shared parking, and internal circulation enhancements in larger developments.

S-F-N13. Coordinate with transit service providers on future high-capacity transit projects to support station siting, alignment, access, and development opportunities.

Mobility and Access

S-F-N20. Expand and enhance the pedestrian network, emphasizing safety and connectivity, especially on Factoria Boulevard.

S-F-N21. Develop active transportation connections to high-capacity transit stops.

S-F-N22. Support the expansion and enhancement of the active transportation network on local streets, with an emphasis on safety, completeness, and connectivity.

S-F-N23. Enhance pedestrian crossing opportunities at arterial intersections and mid-block locations consistent with the Mobility Implementation Plan.

S-F-N24. Coordinate with high trip generating locations to improve safety and access at driveways at peak hours.

S-F-N25. Coordinate with WSDOT on projects along and near Interstates 90 and 405 to relieve congestion and minimize traffic impacts during construction.

S-F-N26. Implement traffic calming on neighborhood streets to address traffic speed and volumes, using Vision Zero and Complete Streets design principles.

S-F-N27. Provide multilingual signage and wayfinding with direction to neighborhood destinations, transit, and active transportation facilities, highlighting the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail.

S-F-N28. Coordinate with transit providers to establish frequent transit connections to regional transit facilities, including the Eastgate Park-and-Ride and the South Bellevue light rail station.

S-F-N29. Support the enhancement and accessibility of local bus facilities and service to destinations that serve the neighborhood area.

DISCUSSION

At the June 11 study session, staff request input and guidance from the Transportation Commission on the following:

- *Do draft Eastgate and Factoria policies provide adequate direction to inform the development of transportation investments to support the neighborhood area's vision?*

A formal recommendation is not needed from this discussion. Input from the Transportation Commission will be incorporated into final draft policies prepared for Planning Commission consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Community review of draft policies is occurring throughout the months of May and June as part of Refine (Phase 3). Staff will consider and incorporate community input as well as input from the Transportation Commission into the final draft neighborhood area plans for Eastgate and Factoria that will be reviewed with the Planning Commission starting in June.

In Adopt (Phase 4), the Planning Commission is anticipated to transmit a recommendation to Council on final draft policies. Council is anticipated to review and take action on both the Eastgate and Factoria neighborhood area plans in the fall.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Neighborhood Areas Map (Map NH-1 in the Comprehensive Plan)
- B. Eastgate Engagement Report Phase 1 (Discover)
- C. Factoria Engagement Report Phase 1 (Discover)
- D. Eastgate Draft Neighborhood Area Plan Policies
- E. Factoria Draft Neighborhood Area Plan Policies