

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code to reduce the speed limit on 130th Avenue NE between NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and NE 24th Street from 30 mph to 25 mph; and establishing an effective date.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468
Chris Long, Assistant Director, 452-6013
Jeremy Chin, Traffic Engineering Manager, 452-4179
Transportation Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

Adoption of this Ordinance will reduce the speed limit on 130th Avenue NE between NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and NE 24th Street from 30 mph to 25 mph. Staff's recommendation to reduce the speed limit is an outcome of the recent completion of the 130th Ave NE Corridor project which features pedestrian and bike infrastructure enhancements to further support the BelRed area vision.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6871

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In 2009, in anticipation of East Link light rail, the City Council adopted a new subarea plan and land use code for the BelRed area. The plan anticipated the transformation of the former industrial area into a series of compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented neighborhoods organized around new East Link light rail stations. The 130th Ave NE Corridor project was derived from these plans and code updates to provide multi-modal improvements along 130th Ave NE in the BelRed area. This complete streets project provides, among many infrastructure improvements, bicycle facilities on both sides of the street, on-street parking, pedestrian mid-block crossings and wide sidewalks. This high priority transportation investment improves access, circulation and mobility options for passenger cars, transit, freight, pedestrians and bicycles to and between the new BelRed transit-oriented-development nodes and the larger City and region. The project was completed in early 2025.

Recommending a Lower Speed Limit

Staff recommend reducing the speed limit on 130th Avenue NE between NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and NE 24th Street from 30 mph to 25 mph. This recommendation is an outcome of the recent completion of the 130th Ave NE Corridor project which was engineered and designed to support lower vehicle speed with narrowed travel lanes.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**Policy Impact**

The City Council Vision, which guides Bellevue's policy and budget, supports this work by identifying

a “safe and efficient transportation system” as one of six strategic target areas. This target area reinforces the City’s commitment to “eliminate fatal and serious injury collisions through the application of the Safe System Approach” (Objective 3.2, Bellevue City Council Vision).

In 2020, the Bellevue City Council adopted the Safe System Approach to achieve Bellevue’s Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injury crashes on city streets by 2030. Safe Speeds is one pillar of the Safe System Approach, since speeding increases both the likelihood and severity of crashes. Evaluating and setting appropriate speed limits is recognized as an important aspect of speed management on Bellevue streets and aligns with the City’s Safe System Approach to Vision Zero.

Furthermore, this work aligns with Comprehensive Plan policies, particularly those that direct the City to “strive to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries on Bellevue streets by 2030” (TR- 58) and to “assess arterial speed limits and address concerns related to safety through appropriate speed limits, countermeasures and other techniques” (TR-56).

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing this speed limit change.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code to reduce the speed limit on 130th Avenue NE between NE Bellevue-Redmond Road and NE 24th Street from 30 mph to 25 mph; and establishing an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Proposed redline of Bellevue City Code Chapter 11.32
Proposed Ordinance No. 6871

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A