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DATE: June 7, 2021

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468  
*Transportation Department*

SUBJECT: Award Recognition for Spring Boulevard Zones 1 and 2 (116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE)

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It is a pleasure to share the news that a major City of Bellevue transportation project in the BelRed area has been recognized with three industry awards for overall quality and engineering excellence.

The project is the first two segments of NE Spring Boulevard, a new multimodal corridor. The half-mile long section includes five vehicle lanes, a multipurpose path, five signalized intersections, two bridges – over the Eastrail regional trail and the East Link light rail line – landscaping, lighting, and other improvements.

Due to its unique design characteristics, successful project management, and excellent construction and inspection work, the Spring Boulevard Zones 1 and 2 Projects have been recognized by a variety of industry organizations:

- Washington Chapter of the American Public Works Association 2021 Project of the Year Award (\$25-\$75 million category)
- Seattle Chapter of American Society of Civil Engineers 2021 Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement award
- Washington Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies 2021 Engineering Excellence award

As you know, the BelRed subarea is in the process of transforming from an underutilized light industrial area into a state-of-the-art, mixed-use, and transit-oriented neighborhood. Spring Boulevard is the primary gateway and transportation backbone for BelRed. Once the remaining segments are completed, from 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to NE 20<sup>th</sup> Street, it will connect Downtown/Wilburton, through BelRed, to the Crossroads area.

### **About the project**

The new Spring Boulevard roadway design is focused on a complete streets concept – streets that are planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient, and comfortable travel for users of all ages and abilities, regardless of mode of travel. A new multipurpose pathway, cycle tracks, parking and drop off zones, bioretention stormwater treatment, and robust landscaping create a truly unique urban corridor.

The project teams overcame significant challenges to deliver the projects on time and on budget:

- As a former industrial area, contaminated soil was encountered at several locations; special handling was required to minimize environmental impacts.
- Simultaneous construction of commercial and residential buildings in the Spring District, plus a separate City transportation project on 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, required careful coordination to ensure that every project stayed on schedule.
- Construction continued despite significant impacts from COVID-19, thanks to the diligence of City staff and contractors who adapted to changing health and safety protocols.

Public involvement also was a key component during planning, design, and construction. It began with in-person forums, including a Coffee and Conversations gathering, and continued via social media throughout the pandemic. Residents, businesses, other government agencies and interest groups stayed involved throughout the project.

Finally, thanks to staff from multiple City departments for their input and direction, to project manager Steve Costa and senior inspector Todd Hopkins, for keeping the project on track, and to Councilmembers who expedited the Spring Boulevard Zone 1 so the project could be completed ahead of East Link track work. This action saved millions of dollars in construction costs.