

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: February 1, 2024

TO: Chair Stash and Members of the Transportation Commission

FROM: Mike Ingram, Senior Planner, 425-452-4166
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SUBJECT: Eastrail project status update

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

Discussion/Direction

X Information

At the Commission meeting on February 8, city staff will provide an update on the status of the Eastrail, the potential for the Eastrail to support the new vision for the Wilburton area, the next segments of the Eastrail anticipated to open in Bellevue and current work to identify funding to pursue trail development on the remaining unfunded gap in the corridor over I-90.

BACKGROUND

The [Eastrail](#) is a 42-mile trail now under development along the former BNSF Eastside Rail Corridor which runs north-south from Snohomish to Renton, including for seven miles through Bellevue. A segment of fully-improved, paved trail is open in south Bellevue, from Coal Creek to Renton. A segment of interim, gravel-surface trail is open in north Bellevue from the Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility-East to Kirkland. Additional segments of the Eastrail are under development in Bellevue and anticipated to open in the next two years.

The Eastrail segment in Bellevue is being developed by King County Parks and involves ongoing coordination with the city. Development of the King County segments of the Eastrail is guided by the [Eastside Rail Corridor Trail Master Plan](#), adopted by the King County Council in February 2016. The cities of Kirkland, Redmond and Woodinville also own segments of the Eastrail corridor and are in various stages of developing trail improvements.

Overall coordination of the Eastrail is facilitated by the [Eastrail Regional Advisory Council](#) (RAC), which meets quarterly and includes representatives of the Eastrail corridor owners as well as

representatives of Bellevue and Renton. Bellevue is represented on the RAC by Councilmember Stokes.

This year, segments of the Eastrail will open in Wilburton north of the Sound Transit Wilburton Station and between NE 4th Street and NE 8th Street. Also slated to open is the new Eastrail bridge over NE 8th Street. Lastly, rehabilitation of the historic Wilburton rail trestle over Kelsey Creek and SE 8th Street and conversion to trail use will begin.

In parallel with advancing trail development, the city and county have been working on a vision for how the Eastrail corridor can effectively integrate with new development envisioned for the Wilburton area, between SE 5th Street (at the north end of the trestle) and NE 12th Street. The [Eastrail Wilburton Framework Plan](#) identifies opportunities for adjacent new development to engage with the Eastrail corridor so it effectively functions as a route for access to the new buildings and as a linear green space to serve occupants of the new buildings. Updated land use and transportation policies and Land Use Code amendments for the Wilburton area are now under development, informed by this and other planning work.