



DATE: June 1, 2023

TO: Chair Stash and members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Wilburton Vision Implementation Policy Amendments

DIRECTION REQUESTED

- Action
- Discussion/Direction
- Information

*Note on the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update: The City is using the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to review and evaluate the environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and the Wilburton Vision Implementation. **The Transportation Commission meeting is not the proper forum to provide public comments on the Draft EIS.** To be considered in the Final EIS, all public comments must be submitted, by June 12, as follows:*

- *By submitting written online at <https://comment-tracker.esassoc.com/bellevue/index.html> or via email to CompPlan2044EIS@bellevuewa.gov*
- *By mailing written comments to the City of Bellevue Development Services Department, Attn: Reilly Pittman, at City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004.*

In this study session, staff will share draft policy amendments (see Attachment A), that focus on Transportation policies within the Wilburton Transit-Oriented Development (Wilburton TOD).

Staff request that the Transportation Commission review draft amendments to Transportation policies within the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan, discuss, and provide comments to help ensure that the draft policies provide clear and adequate direction to inform the design and development of transportation facilities to support the Wilburton TOD vision. Staff will return at a future study session with a final recommendation that incorporates Transportation Commission comments and any information from the environmental documents.



BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

Staff presented the preliminary vision, goals, and policy guidance to the Transportation Commission on March 9, 2023, and received guidance on developing draft transportation policies considering feedback which included:

- Leveraging opportunities for Eastrail to provide connections to within the Wilburton TOD and to the region
- Considering how the future multimodal network in Wilburton will connect to the overall city network
- Emphasizing the role of the TOD and increased transit access in supporting affordable housing

POLICY ISSUES

The Wilburton Vision Implementation planning initiative will amend the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan and BelRed Subarea Plan, the Comprehensive Plan Map, and the Land Use Code. These amendments will consider and determine how the Wilburton TOD is a key component in implementing the citywide growth strategy for housing and jobs for the next 20 years.

The study session is part of a series with boards and commissions intended to prepare recommendations to the City Council for the Comprehensive Plan amendment (CPA) by the end of 2023, and the Land Use Code amendment (LUCA) and legislative rezone by the end of 2024.

PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR TRANSPORTATION POLICY AMENDMENTS

This study session focuses on draft transportation policies in the Wilburton TOD. These draft policies support the implementation of opportunities identified by a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) in the 2018 Wilburton Commercial Area Study, and alignment with the long-range planning framework established within the Mobility Implementation Plan. Attachment A includes a list of all new policies in strike-draft form that staff recommends to be added, amended, or repealed. Policies to be retained without amendment are also listed. Policy amendments are intended to provide guidance on the following key policy moves:

1) *Local connectivity and smaller blocks (1 modified policy, 2 new policies)*

A system of smaller blocks, lower-speed/volume streets, and improved pedestrian and bicycle connections in the Wilburton TOD are intended to achieve a vibrant, walkable urban neighborhood. Amended policies provide guidance on future circulation to help implement these connectivity elements, while balancing functional needs such as access for parking, and emergency and service vehicles.

Policy Number	Current Policy	Proposed Policy Amendments (New, Deleted, Retained)
S-WI-26	Require new commercial developments to provide internal streets and adjoining lot connections, where appropriate, to reduce arterial street connections and turning movements.	Require new commercial developments to provide internal streets circulation, through-block pedestrian connections , and adjoining lot connections, where appropriate, to break up larger blocks, create greater connectivity,



		and facilitate local access, to reduce arterial street connections and turning movements.
NEW 1		Develop a network of internal circulation within the Wilburton TOD that supports vehicular and non-motorized travel and contributes to neighborhood livability.
NEW 2		Minimize the number of parking garage access points along arterials to reduce conflicts between modes.

2) **Multimodal connections to and through the Wilburton TOD (2 modified policies, 3 new policies)**

Non-motorized facilities in Wilburton provide connections to adjacent neighborhoods, including multipurpose paths over I-405 on Main St and NE 12th St, and sidewalks and bicycle facilities along NE 4th St and 120th Ave NE. There are also planned investments in Eastrail, Grand Connection, and 116th Ave NE that will enhance mobility options and connectivity. Amended policies provide guidance on elements such as wayfinding.

The WSDOT I-405 Master Program will construct an extension of NE 6th Street between the center of I-405 and 116th Avenue NE to be dedicated for HOT/HOV/Transit use only. Note that a major determination of the EIS process will be with regard to the potential extension of NE 6th Street between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE. Policy NEW 4 will reflect the preferred alternative.

Policy Number	Current Policy	Proposed Policy Amendments (New, Deleted, Retained)
S-WI-25	Improve local access, street system connectivity and traffic flow by providing additional east-west transportation connections, including an arterial street connection at NE 4th Street between 116th and 120th Avenues and HOV and non-motorized access at NE 6th Street between Downtown and 120th Avenue NE.	Improve local access, and network connectivity for all travel modes. and traffic flow by providing additional east-west transportation connections, including an arterial street connection at NE 4th Street between 116th and 120th Avenues and HOV and non-motorized access at NE 6th Street between Downtown and 120th Avenue NE.
S-WI-29	Make use of available right of way space to develop north and south bicycle lanes or additional traffic lanes on 116th Avenue NE if use of the auto delivery zone is discontinued.	Use and expand available right of way to develop 116th Ave NE with multimodal improvements and landscaping. to develop north and south bicycle lanes or additional traffic lanes on 116th Ave NE if use of the auto delivery zone is discontinued.
NEW 3		Design wayfinding to help pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users navigate within the Wilburton TOD.



NEW 4		Support the planned extension of NE 6 th St across I-405 (to 116 th Ave NE or 120 th Ave NE). *To be determined through the EIS process
NEW 5		Improve existing crossings over I-405 to provide safer and more comfortable connections for pedestrians and cyclists between Downtown and the Wilburton TOD.

3) **Eastrail as defining trail and park corridor (5 added policies, 1 repealed policy)**

The City is partnering with King County, Sound Transit and Eastrail Partners on a vision for the 1.2-mile Wilburton portion of the Eastrail corridor between SE 5th Street and NE 12th Street, which will act as fundamental infrastructure to support a transit- and trail-oriented district. Policies provide guidance toward establishing Eastrail as a defining trail and park corridor within the Wilburton TOD while considering and balancing desired transportation functions.

Staff reviewed draft Eastrail policies with Planning Commission on May 24, 2023. Subsequent to this meeting, staff have made minor policy modifications, which are highlighted in yellow.

Policy Number	Current Policy	Proposed Policy Amendments (New, Deleted, Retained)
NEW 6		Allow for emergency, service and maintenance vehicular access to Eastrail, while restricting at-grade public street crossings to existing locations. Prohibit new general-purpose vehicular crossings across Eastrail. *TBD pending the preferred alternative
NEW 7		Provide signalized safe and secure at-grade crossings where Eastrail intersects with NE 4 th St, SE 1 st St, and SE 5 th St.
NEW 8		Provide identifiable, safe, and frequent access onto Eastrail from adjacent development, Wilburton Station, Grand Connection, 120 th Ave NE, and 116 th Ave NE.
NEW 9		Collaborate with King County to incorporate Consider design treatments within the Eastrail corridor that improve trail safety for all users. with enhanced treatments where there is greater volume or mixing of trail users.

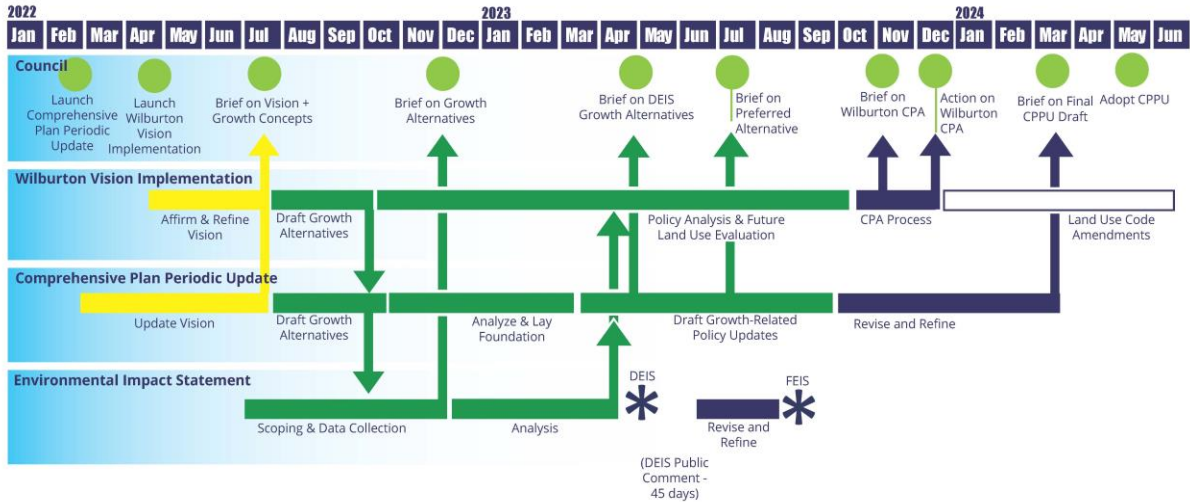


NEW 10		Coordinate with adjacent property owners to secure dedicated pedestrian paths within and/or adjacent to the Eastrail corridor that provide greater local access along the regional trail.
S-WI-31	Recognize the transportation and recreation uses under consideration for the BNSF rail corridor when considering public and private improvements adjacent to the corridor and preserve the opportunity for future multimodal transportation use and access.	Recognize the transportation and recreation uses under consideration for the BNSF rail corridor when considering public and private improvements adjacent to the corridor and preserve the opportunity for future multimodal transportation use and access.

SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS

Staff will return to the Transportation Commission in July 2023 with a final draft of transportation policy amendments and will seek a Transportation Commission recommendation to approve a transmittal to the Planning Commission in September.

A preferred alternative will be selected in Summer 2023, including a determination regarding the extension of NE 6th Street between 116th Avenue NE and 120th Avenue NE.



ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Preliminary Staff Recommendations for Transportation Policy Amendments in the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan