

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC**

Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) to reduce the default speed limit on most local streets from 25 miles per hour (mph) to 20 mph; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468  
Chris Long, Assistant Director—Mobility Operations, 425-6013  
Vanessa Humphreys, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services Manager, 452-6103  
John Murphy, Senior Planner, 452-6967  
*Transportation Department*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****ACTION**

On October 15, 2024, after discussion in Study Session, Council directed staff to finalize an ordinance amending the Speed chapter of the Bellevue City Code (11.32) to reduce the default speed limit on most local streets from 25 miles per hour (mph) to 20 mph.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6809

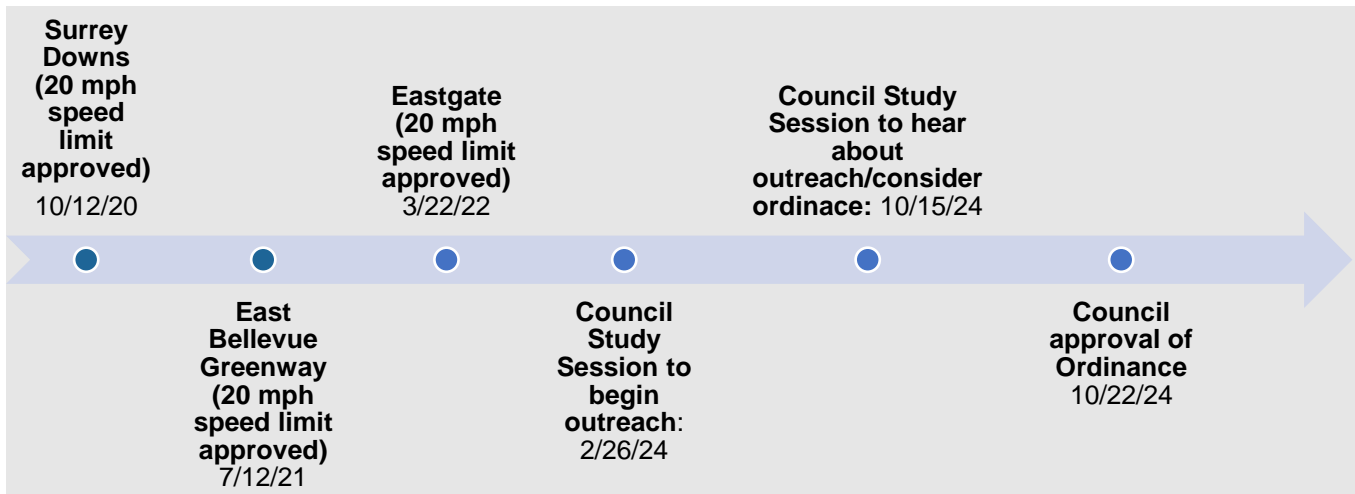
**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The ordinance will amend Chapter 11.32 Speed of Bellevue City Code to set the default speed limit on most local streets from 25 mph to 20 mph. A lower speed limit has been effective in Bellevue to reduce high-end speeding; lower speeds on City streets improve safety outcomes.

Local streets are defined in the City's Comprehensive Plan as "a street designed primarily to provide access to abutting land uses and carry local traffic to collector arterials" and comprise approximately 64% of streets in Bellevue. There are twelve local streets that will remain at their current speed limit of 25 mph and five local streets that will remain at their current speed limit of 30 mph. These streets were identified to remain at their current speed limit due to their street characteristics that were not aligned with a 20mph speed limit.

A strike-draft of the recommended change to City Code is provided as Attachment D.

Council has taken several actions to consider and reduce local street speed limits starting in 2020 when Surrey Downs had the speed limit lowered to 20 mph on local streets; this was the first of three neighborhoods that were piloted to test if a lower local street speed limit was appropriate for Bellevue. Building on the success of these pilots, Council directed staff on February 26, 2024 to conduct outreach on a proposal to lower the speed limit on most local streets. On October 15, 2024 Council heard the results of the outreach and directed staff to bring back an ordinance for approval.



## POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

### Policy Impact

in 2016 Council passed Ordinance No. 6334 adopting three Vision Zero amendments into the City's Comprehensive Plan, including:

- TR-61.2: Develop a programmatic approach to Vision Zero that integrates components of Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Equity and Evaluation.

In 2020 Council approved the Safe System approach. This holistic-based approach to road safety bundles strategies focused on safe people, safe streets, safe speeds and safe vehicles—as well as the supporting elements of leadership, culture, partnerships and data. A lower speed limit helps to deliver on the City's commitment to Vision Zero and is a cornerstone of the safe speeds approach.

### Fiscal Impact

If Council approves the speed limit reduction on local streets, design and implementation will be paid for out of the safety allocation of the Neighborhood Safety and Connectivity portion of the levy approved by voters in 2016 (CIP Plan No. PW-R-199) and through the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program (CIP Plan No. PW-M-7). Sufficient funding for these projects exists in the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP).

## OPTIONS

1. Move to adopt the Ordinance relating to speed limits; amending Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) to reduce the default speed limit on most local streets from 25 miles per hour (mph) to 20 mph; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Map of future speed limits for local streets
- B. CIP Project Description (PW-R-199)
- C. CIP Project Description (PW-M-7)
- D. Proposed amendments to Chapter 11.32 of the Bellevue City Code  
Proposed Ordinance No. 6809

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A