

February 9, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT:

East Link Project Update.

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POLICY ISSUES:

The general policy guidance below informs the City's work on this final design phase of the East Link Project.

Comprehensive Plan Policies:

The Comprehensive Plan contains a body of adopted policy, which emerged from the Light Rail Best Practices work, to frame the City's role in light rail project development, including advancing the City's land use and transportation objectives and minimizing neighborhood and environmental impacts.

MOU with Sound Transit:

The City and Sound Transit entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in November 2011 that defines City contributions to a downtown light rail tunnel. The MOU also provides the basis for a Collaborative Design Process (CDP) that was further defined and agreed to in January 2012. The CDP provides the mechanism for the City and Sound Transit to jointly advance the design of the East Link Project through the 60% design phase.

Light Rail Overlay District:

In addition to collaborating with Sound Transit within the framework of the MOU, the City is the permitting agency for East Link within Bellevue. The Council-adopted Land Use Code (LUC) Part 20.25M defining development standards and design guidelines, which shape staff's feedback on design issues. The LUC provisions also establish the permitting process for East Link utilizing the Light Rail Permitting Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL:

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

Sound Transit staff will present additional information requested as a follow up to the mitigation discussion at the January 26, 2015 Council meeting.

Additionally, Sound Transit will present information on the current station names being considered for the East Link light rail stations.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The East Link project is approaching completion of final design within Bellevue. Many aspects of the project affect the City in both the short term (during construction) and long term (operational impacts). At the January 26 Council meeting, City and Sound Transit staff presented an overview of the City's permitting process, and reviewed what mitigation is being proposed for the project throughout the City. This included a mitigation overlay of the Sound Transit 60% animation tool previously presented to the Council and the public at open houses. As a follow up to that discussion, staff will be providing a more in-depth discussion on:

- Sound Transit's construction operation practices;
- Sound Transit's construction outreach program, including business relations; and,
- the South Bellevue Park and Ride closure and related commuter parking mitigation plans.

At the November 24, 2014 Council presentation there was a very brief discussion regarding station naming. Council also provided early input on station names at the September 23, 2013 Study Session. Sound Transit invited the public to comment on permanent station names based on existing working names and suggestions from the project team, community members and stakeholders. Sound Transit Board Policy states that names must:

- Reflect the nature of the community and environment;
- Be succinct and easy to read;
- Comply with ADA guidelines and be less than 30 characters;
- Avoid commercial reference; and,
- Avoid similar names or words in existing facilities.

The Sound Transit Board will provide final direction in determining permanent station names with project baselining (currently planned for late March 2015). Names under consideration for the stations in Bellevue include:

South Bellevue:

- South Bellevue
- Enatai
- Mercer Slough
- Mercer Slough Nature Park

East Main:

- Surrey Downs
- East Main
- 112th and Main

- 112th Avenue Station

Bellevue Transit Center:

- Downtown Bellevue
- Bellevue Civic
- Bellevue Central

Hospital:

- Lake Bellevue
- Wilburton/Midlakes
- Sturtevant Creek
- Bellevue Medical

120th :

- Kelsey Creek
- 120th Street
- Spring District

130th:

- Bel-Red
- 130th
- Goff Creek

Sound Transit has encouraged formal recommendations from the cities East Link passes through, and will seek a recommendation from Bellevue. The intent at the February 9, 2015 meeting is to introduce the discussion, and direct City staff to draft a formal response to be sent to Sound Transit by the end of February.