

East Link Connections Bellevue City Council

November 22, 2021



Agenda

1. Program goals, scope, timeline
2. Link light rail on the Eastside
3. Engagement and proposed changes
4. Capital improvements for bus rail integration

East Link Connections Goals

Improve

- Improve mobility for priority populations, as defined by Metro's Mobility Framework

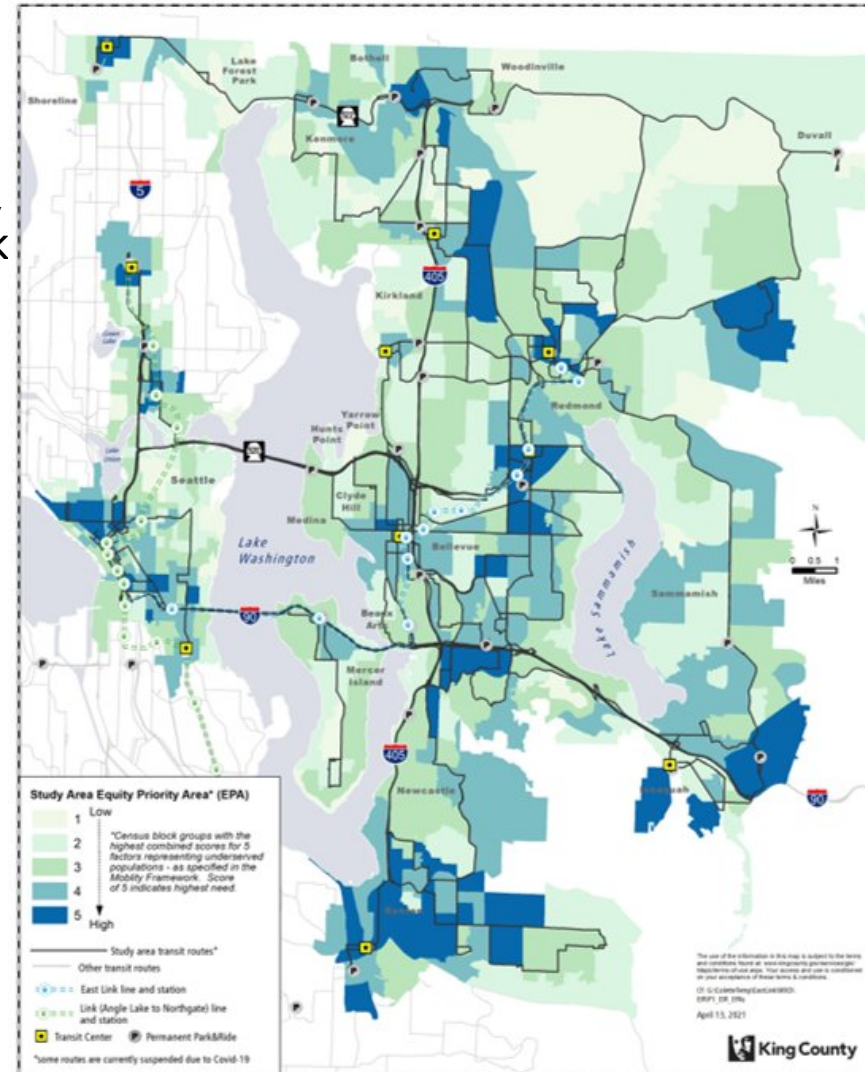
Inform, engage, & empower

- Equitably inform, engage, and empower current and potential customers

Deliver

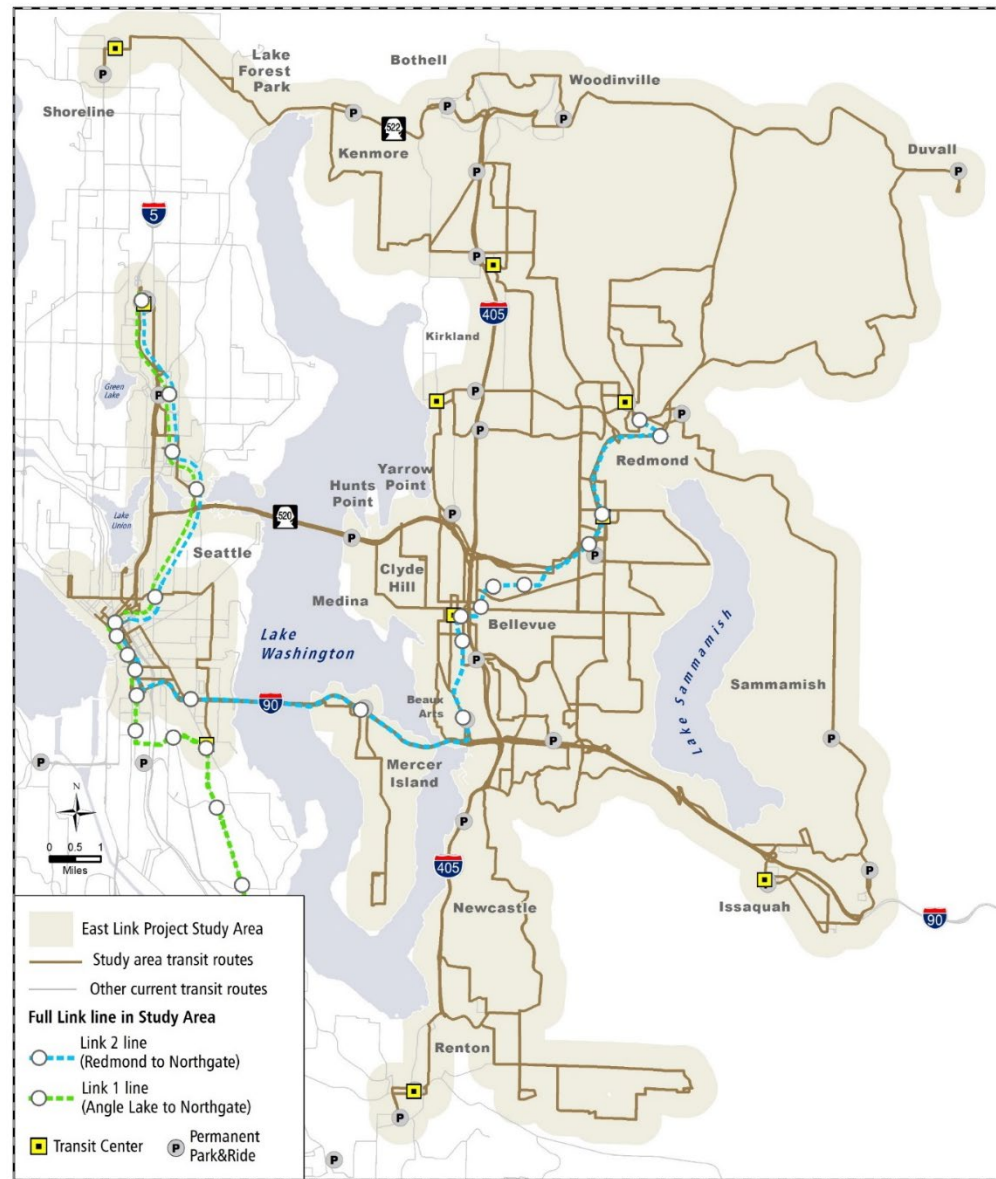
- Deliver integrated service that responds to Link expansion
- Minimize duplication of bus service with Link
- Improve connections to Link
- Be consistent with Metro Connects, and current and future mobility needs

East Link Connections
Phase 1- Equity Impact Review: Study Area Transit Routes and Equity Priority Areas



East Link Connections Project Area Includes

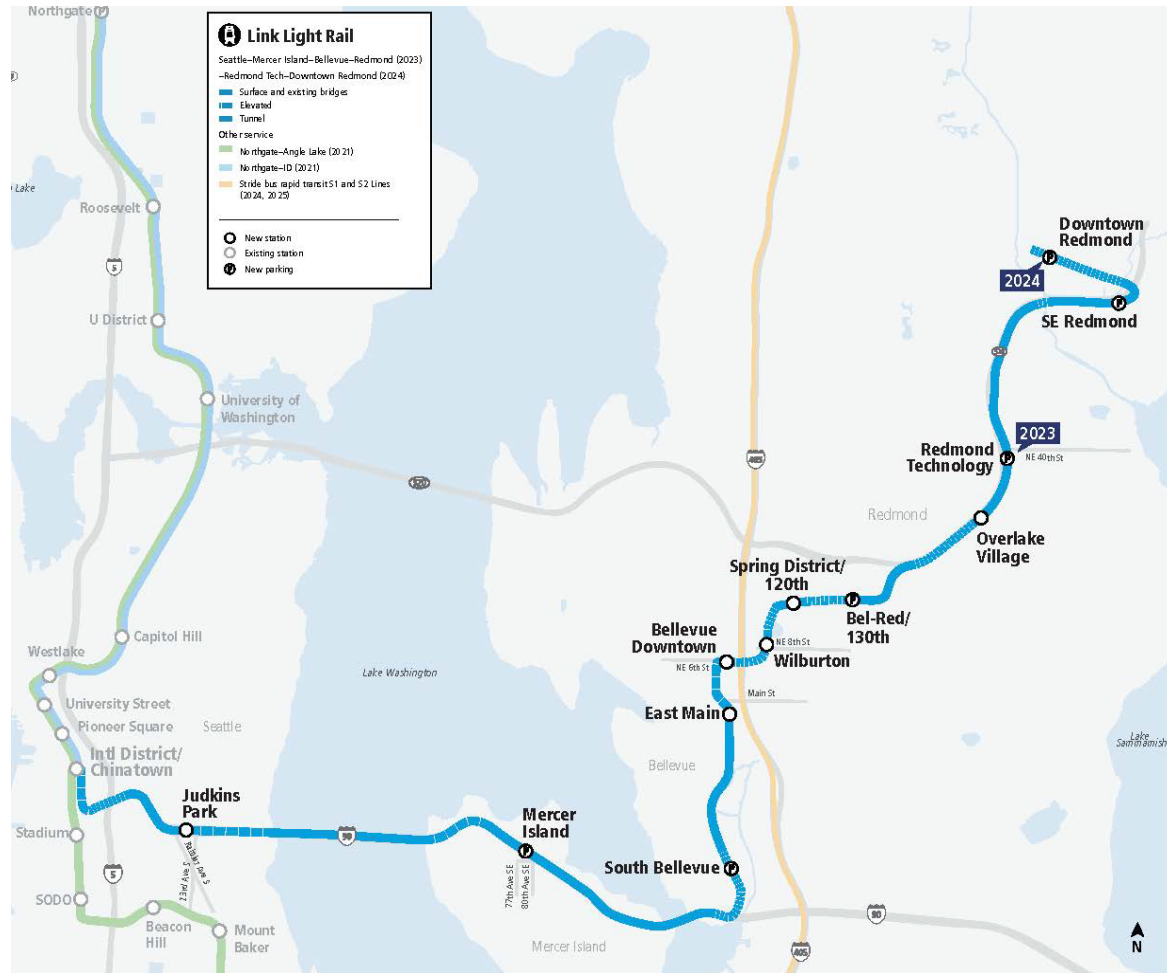
- Bellevue
- Bothell
- Clyde Hill
- Duvall
- Issaquah
- Kenmore
- Kirkland
- Lake Forest Park
- Medina
- Mercer Island
- Newcastle
- Redmond
- Renton
- Sammamish
- Seattle
- Shoreline
- Woodinville
- Yarrow Point



CP: G:\ColetaTemp\EastLink\MXD\CB0\CB0StudyAreaandRoutes August 30, 2021

Link 2 Line

- Opens: 2023 & 2024
- Length: 17.4 miles; 12 stations
- Service: Every 8 minutes during peak hours
- Projected travel times:
 - 18 min Downtown Redmond to Bellevue
 - 23 min Seattle to Bellevue
 - 50 min South Bellevue to Sea-Tac Airport



Phase 2 Engagement Highlights

Conducted **9/13/2021 - 10/25/2021**

- 131,430 mailings (55,000 Bellevue)
- Virtual briefing sessions (350 participants)
 - 4 public meetings
 - 8 with community groups
- Digital and ethnic media ads
- Outreach tool kit
- 60 Bus stop signs
- Formal partnerships with 4 community-based organizations



Survey

- Online Open House platform and survey in 8 languages
- 1832 respondents to online survey
 - English – 97%
 - Chinese – 1%
 - Korean – 1%
 - Vietnamese – .05%
 - Spanish – .05%

Mobility Board Priorities: Bellevue, Redmond, Issaquah

Routes: 271, 249, 270, 240, 202, 203, 241, 221, 223, 222, 226, 245, 250, B Line, 246, 554, 550, 556

Top prioritized needs:

- Make transfers easier by being frequent, safe and accessible to all travelers, with early and late trips that can serve East Link transfers
- More transfer opportunities so that riders can travel to many different local and regional destinations
- Routes that offer speed and reliability, with more direct paths where possible

Benefits

Increased frequency:
249, 226, 241, 223, 554

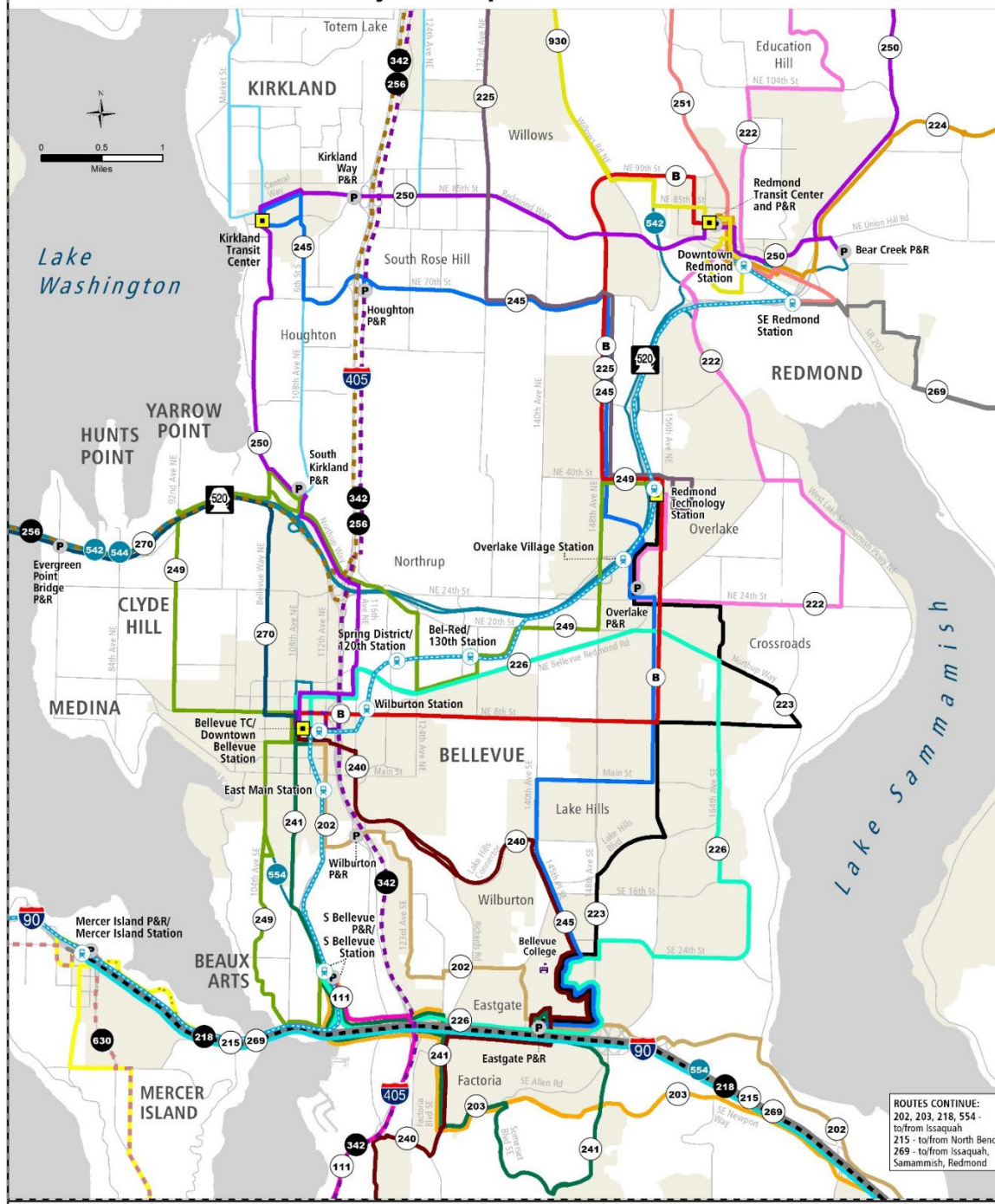
Service more of the day:
222, 223, 249, 203

More direct path:
B Line, 245, 226

Remains frequent:
270, 250, 245, B Line

Replaced:
271, 221, 246, 550, 556

East Link Connections Project: Proposed Network in the Central Subarea



King County
METRO



Proposed route changes

Route	Proposed Change
270, 240, 554	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 270 replaces 271 UW to downtown via Bellevue Way NE• 240 replaces 271 downtown to Eastgate• 554 replaces 271 Eastgate to Issaquah• Revised 249 replaces 271 west of downtown connecting to 270 and other routes at Yarrow and Evergreen stops
222, 223	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replaces 221 connecting at Overlake 222 north to Redmond, and 223 south to Eastgate• 222 replaces portion of 249 west of Overlake
249, 202, 241	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 246 is replaced by 249 in the north, 202 in Woodridge, and 241 in Somerset
ST 554	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-oriented Issaquah to South Bellevue and downtown

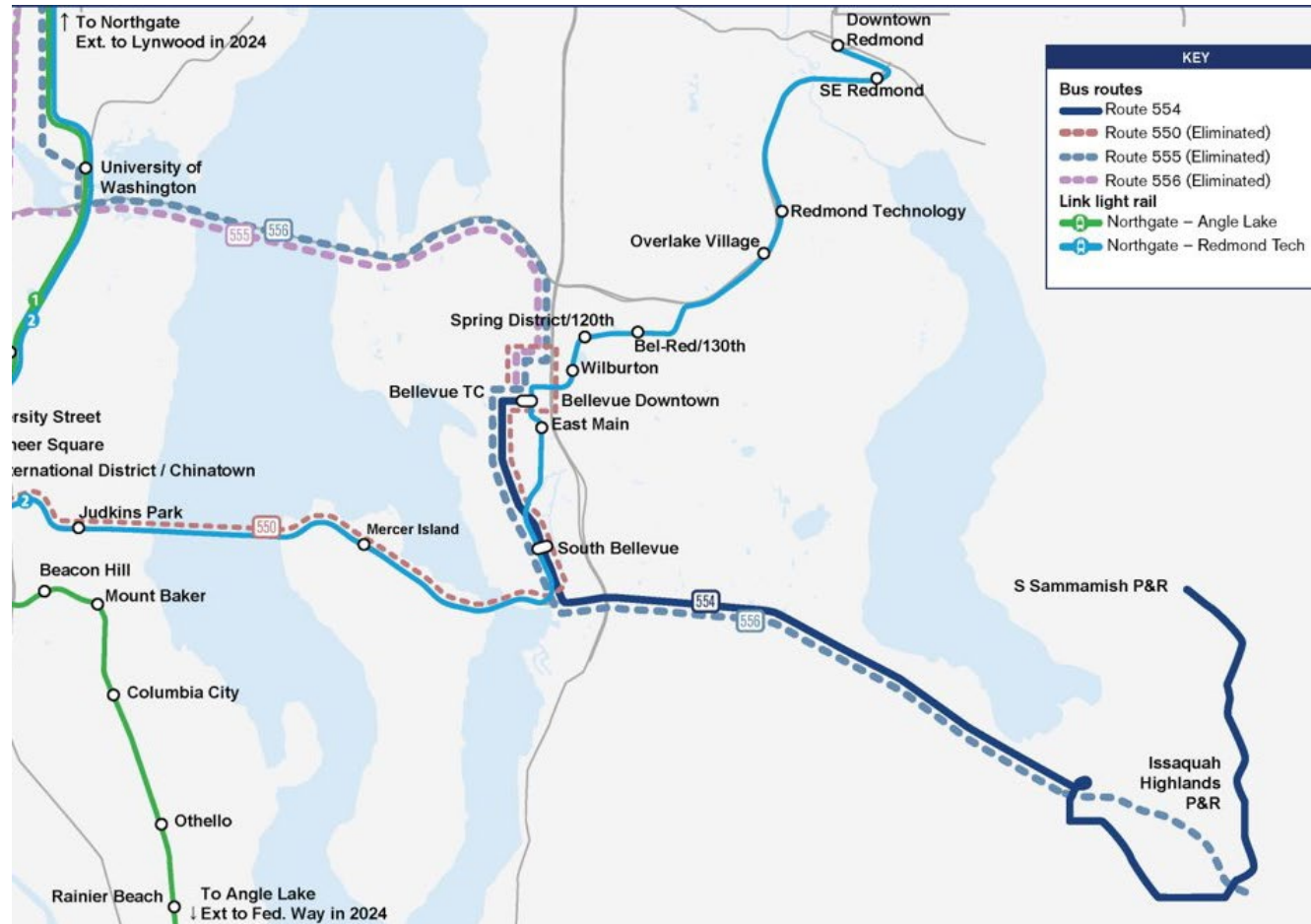
Route 270

- Support for Bellevue Way NE path and freeway station access
- All-day, frequent route Bellevue to UW important



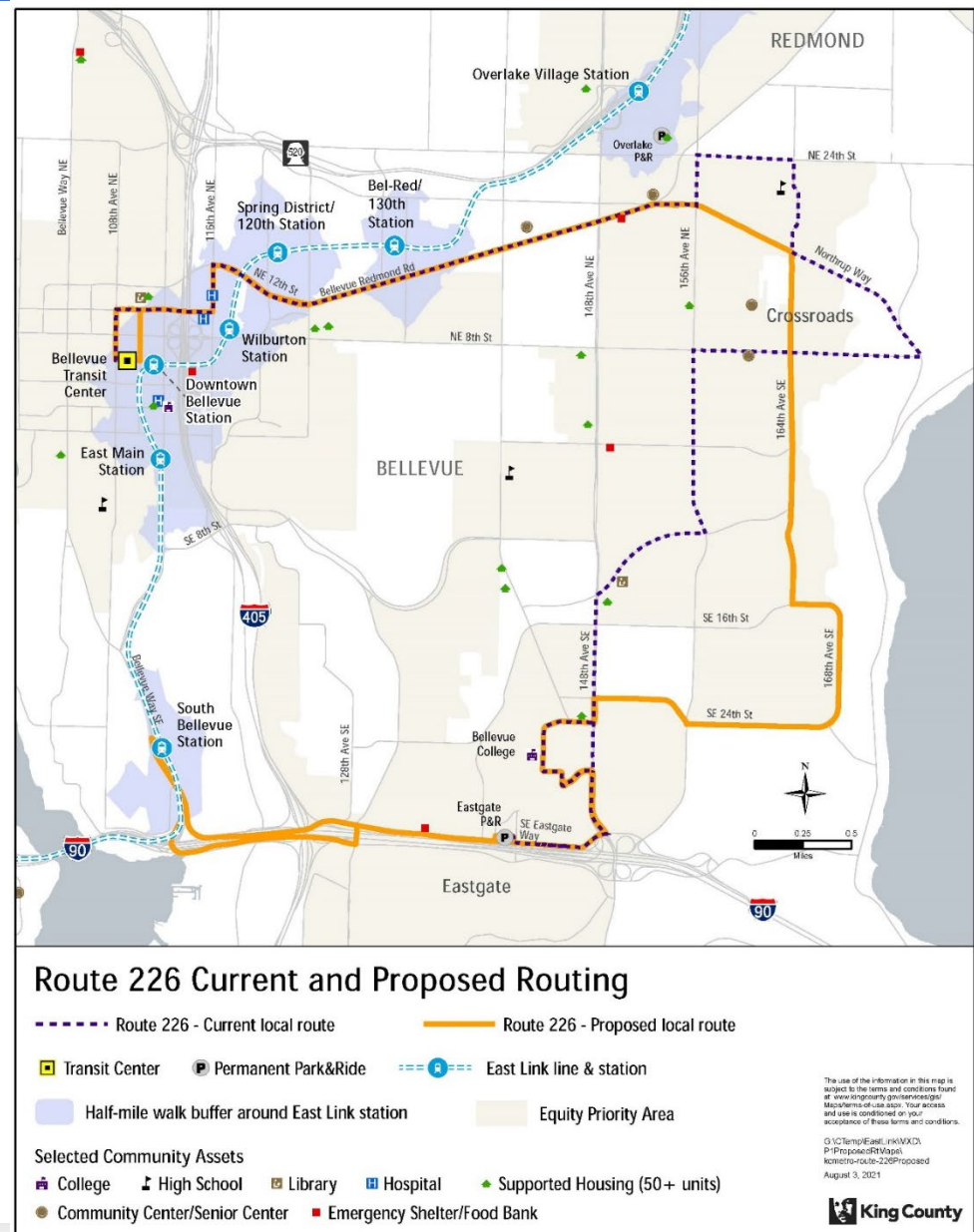
Route 554

- Simpler in east Bellevue, more speed and reliability
- Connections to Link, more destinations
- Direct connection Link to Bellevue College



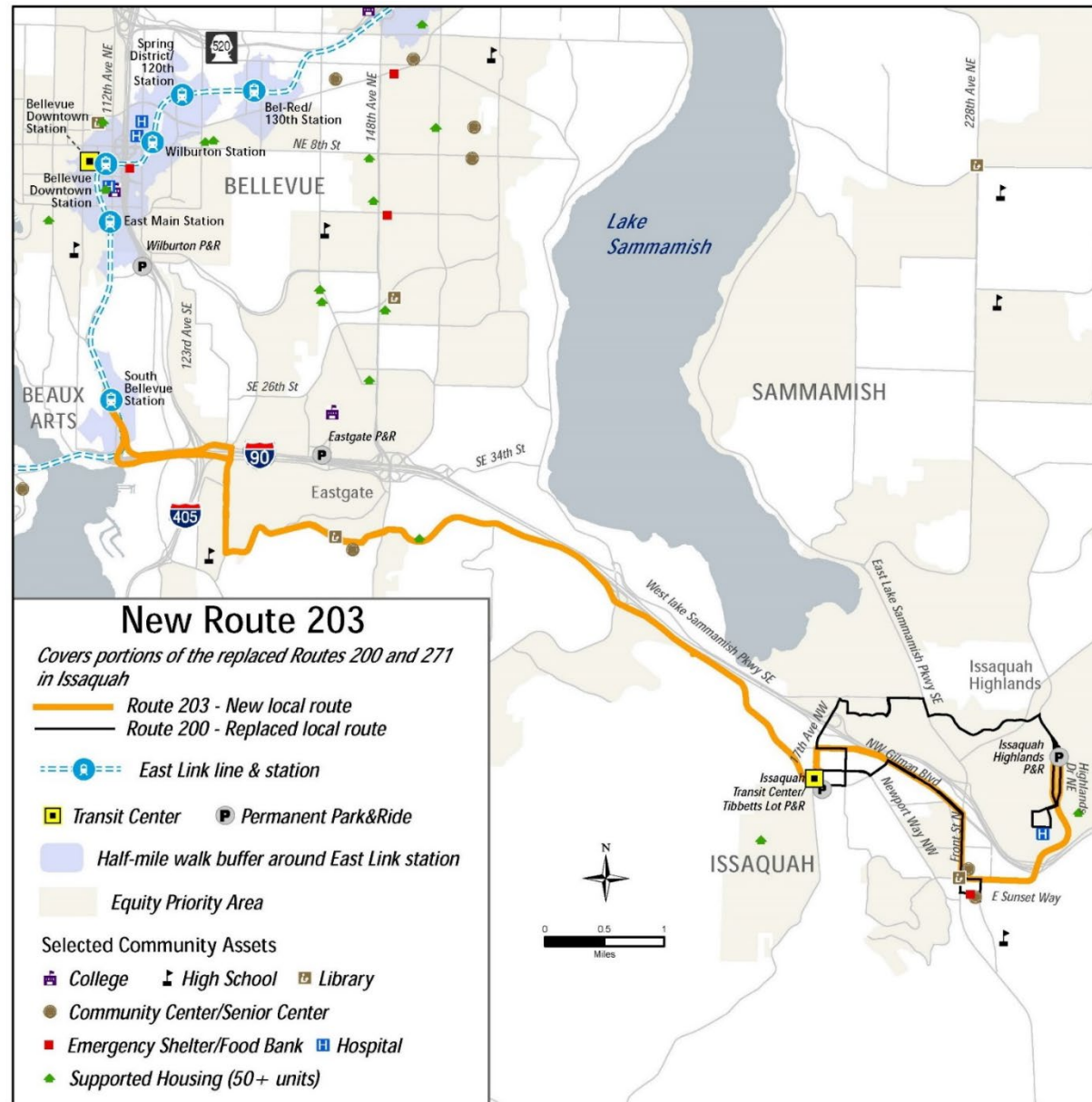
Route 226

- Simpler in east Bellevue, more speed and reliability
- Connections to Link, more destinations
- Direct connection Link to Bellevue College



Route 203

- Support for new connection from Issaquah to Factoria
- Areas of Issaquah and Bellevue south of I-90 have a connection to Link, and transfers to other locations



Station-area capital improvements

- **Program Goal**

- Improve the safety, convenience, and visibility at bus stops that are primary Link transfer points

- **Program Scope**

- New, relocated, or upgraded bus stops at Link stations
- Shelters, benches, lighting, route maps
- Real-time information signs w/new e-ink screens

- **Program status**

- Locations and scope of projects mostly defined
- Some changes anticipated based on bus restructure process

Engagement Timeline & Next Steps

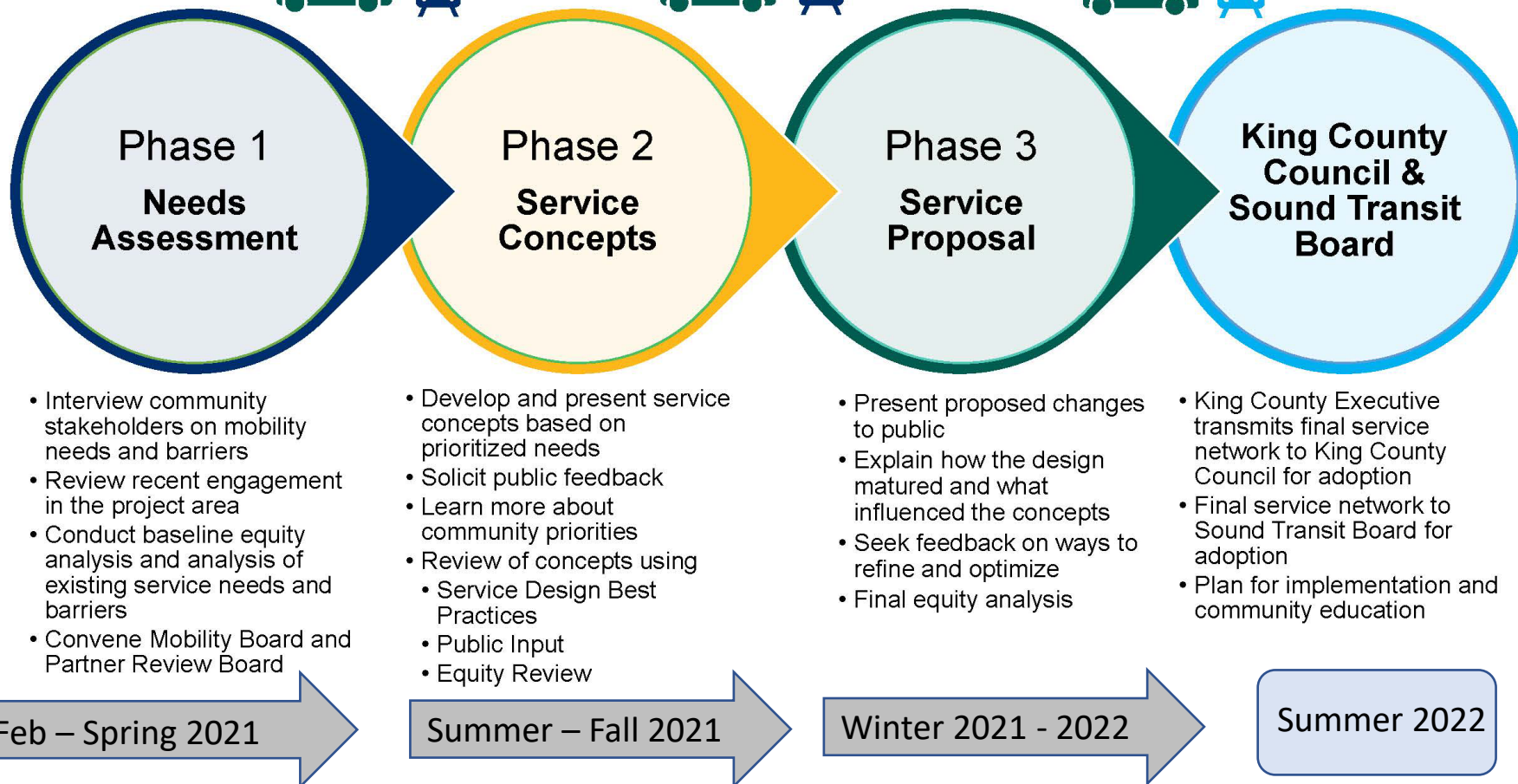
Mobility Board
Prioritizes Needs



Mobility Board Reviews
Recommendations



Mobility Board Reviews
Final Proposal



Thank You!



For more information on East Link Connections Project:
haveasay@kingcounty.gov or call (206) 263-1939

To learn more and see route level maps visit
www.elc.participate.online