

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

DATE: January 5, 2023

TO: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

FROM: Curt Warber, Eastrail Program Manager, King County Parks
Mike Ingram, Senior Planner, Bellevue Transportation
Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

SUBJECT: Eastrail Project Update and Wayfinding Session
Discussion and feedback requested – no Board action required

The Eastrail Corridor comprises 42 miles of a former BNSF rail line from Renton to Snohomish County, including seven miles in Bellevue. The Bellevue portion of the corridor includes current and future regional trail as well as a portion of the Sound Transit East Link light rail. Currently, King County has opened the Eastrail from Bellevue's southern boundary to Coal Creek Parkway and from 120th Avenue NE (at the Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance facility in BelRed) to Bellevue's northern boundary. Additional segments will be coming online in the next several years. King County partners with Bellevue, Sound Transit, private entities, and others to complete the trail and create additional connections into the corridor.

The Eastrail Corridor (formerly referred to as the Eastside Rail Corridor) is referenced in the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan with multiple policies in both the Transportation and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Elements, including:

TR-119: Promote and support the design, development and use of the Eastside Rail Corridor as a regional multimodal facility.

PA-13: Collaborate with King County, Sound Transit and neighboring jurisdictions in the planning and development of the regional Eastside Rail Corridor trail system.

Within the 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan, the Eastrail Corridor is one of seven greenways that that city is actively working to develop and enhance, with noted interest in expanding local connectivity to the corridor. The Eastrail is a central cog in the open space and recreation planning ongoing through the Wilburton Vision Implementation process, now underway. The Eastrail is also the east terminus of the future Grand Connection.

Additionally, Eastrail is identified as one of twenty-two [City Council Priorities](#), as follows:

Work with King County and Sound Transit to ensure that Eastrail from Renton to the Wilburton Trestle is completed; complete the section of the trail from Kirkland to the Light Rail Maintenance Facility East; complete the interim connection through the Spring District; and begin to establish community connection points to Eastrail.

The Board will be updated on Eastrail progress with two distinct agenda items at this meeting.

First, a presentation will give an overview of the status of Eastrail in Bellevue and beyond. The presentation will note estimated timelines for trail completion. There are several capital projects to enhance local access that will be discussed. These include a planned connection from the Eastrail to Northup Way, a connection from Eastrail to Spring Blvd, a connection from Eastrail to the Woodridge neighborhood and a connection to 118th Avenue SE, near the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

Second, an interactive session will focus on an ongoing wayfinding study along the Eastrail. Enhanced wayfinding has consistently been identified as a priority during Eastrail outreach. King County is currently leading a project to develop wayfinding standards for the Eastrail that can be implemented throughout the corridor to provide a consistent, predictable, and user-friendly system. As part of that project, we're asking trail users to help us evaluate options for mapping and sign design. During this part of the meeting Parks Board members will participate in the questionnaire and have an opportunity to comment on the proposed wayfinding options.