## Citywide Local Street Speed Limit Reduction

### **Project introduction**

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### **Direction**

Seek direction to commence outreach on citywide local street speed limit reduction project and return later this year with consideration to approve draft ordinance to lower local street speed limits

## Agenda

- 1. Background and need
- 2. Project scope
- 3. Outreach approach
- 4. Direction

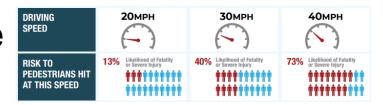


### Project background

 Lower speed limit on most local streets from 25 mph to 20 mph



- Speeding: #1 concern
- Safe speeds are cornerstone of city's Vision Zero effort



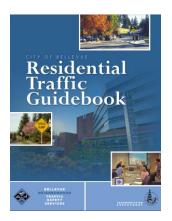
- Lower speeds = safer
- Culture shift: safety starts on your street



### Speed management in Bellevue

- Streets in Bellevue are classified as either arterial or local
- Speed management technique:
  - Arterials: recently completed Speed Management Plan (SMP)—focuses on 30+ mph streets
  - Local: traffic calming program





## Local street speed management

- Long-standing program (1985)
- Speeding = #1 concern
- Resident-driven program
- Multifaceted approach is key
- Revise/add to toolkit regularly

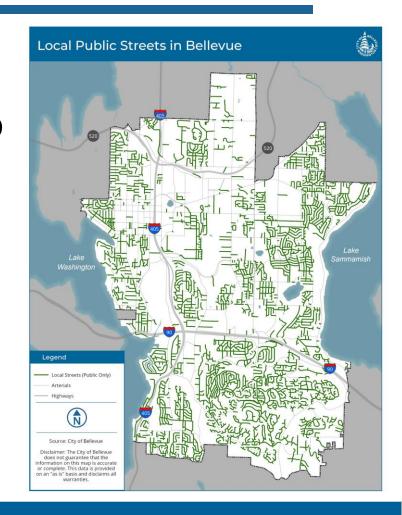






### What is proposed

- Lower speed limit on most local streets from 25 mph to 20 mph
  - 64% of streets in Bellevue
- A few local streets will remain at 25 mph
- Builds on three 20 mph speed limit projects in city



### Scope of project

- ~365 existing 25 mph signs
  - Bring posts up to standard
- ~162 "25 MPH" pavement marking legends
- Strategic installation of new signs to reinforce speed limit
- Evaluation
- Funding: Transportation Levy
- Estimate: ~\$500,000





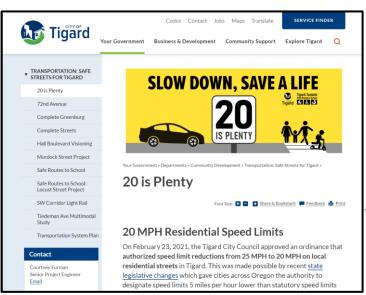
### **Administrative framework**

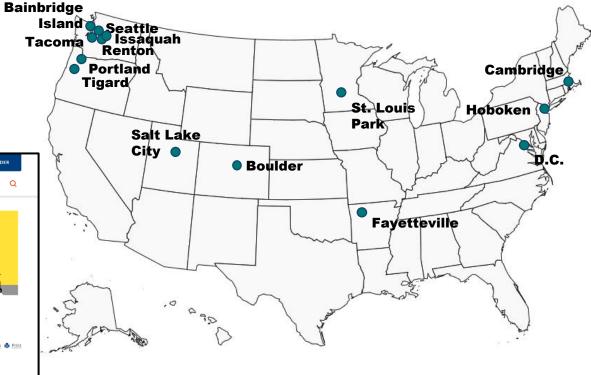
- RCW allows for 20 mph without engineering study
- BCC 11.32 Speed
- Speed Limit Setting Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)



### 20 mph—emerging safety practice

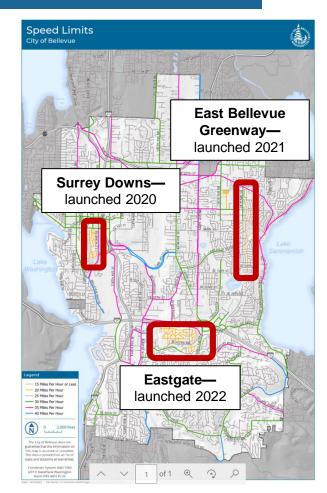
Portland: citywide 20 mph = 33.6% reduction in high-end speeding (30+ mph)





## What we learned with (3) 20 mph speed limit projects

- High-end speeding is down
- East Bellevue: most popular intervention along Greenway
- Eastgate:
  - 59% of respondents think safety was enhanced
  - 30+ mph decreased 24%; <20 mph increased 34%
- "25 MPH" pavement marking legends: 85% favorability



### **Enforcement and traffic calming**

- Coordination with Police on change
- Traffic Service Request best way to connect residents with enforcement
- Continued commitment to build traffic calming on local streets





### Draft project timeline

### **February**

2024: Study session 1. Direction to proceed to outreach

#### **April 2025:**

Consent.
Award
construction
contract

June: Study session 2: Approval of ordinance; commence design

#### **August 2025:**

Complete implementation

Continuous outreach and engagement throughout all phases of the project.

### Outreach is critical to project

- Change will be of interest to all residents
- Draft outreach plan developed; ready to launch
- Goals of outreach: inform, educate and understand the community's questions



# Proactive, informed, saturated outreach and engagement

- Translated project website
- Stories: It's Your City, Neighborhood News, Choose Your Way Bellevue
- Recorded webinars
- Community association briefings
- Table at farmer's market
- "Comment box" on website; post FAQs as they come in

- Interactive map
- Network on Aging engagement
- Bellevue Essentials alumni (Coffee and Conversation)
- Social media
- More

Upon receiving direction, plan to launch outreach immediately and come back with what we heard in June

### Continued outreach throughout

- News release
- Ribbon cutting
- Yard signs; child art contest
- Insert into *It's Your City*
- Information at gathering spaces
- Targeted YouTube ads
- Outside agency coordination
- Presence at community events
- Fliers at events





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