



Grand Connection Program

Crossing and Public Space Management

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Community Development

03/18/2024



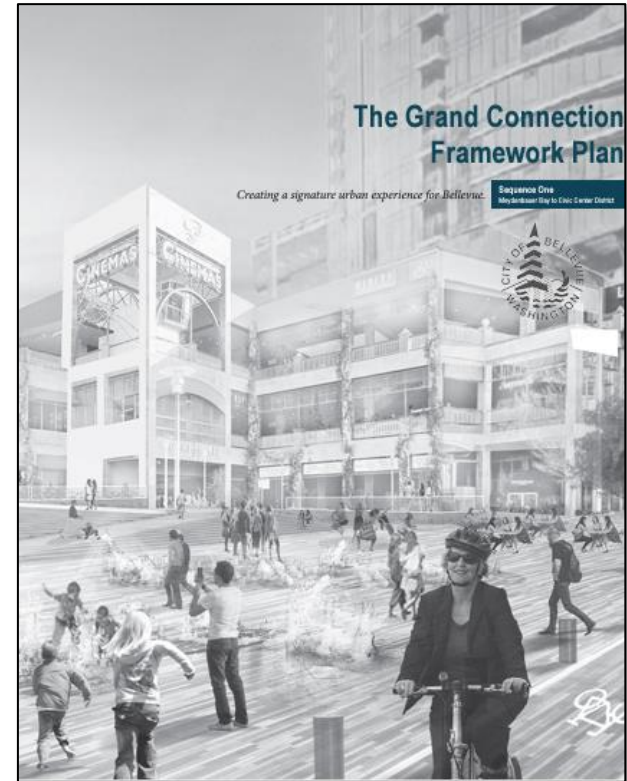
Information Only

- Tonight's presentation is a report on ongoing planning and programming.
- No direction is requested.



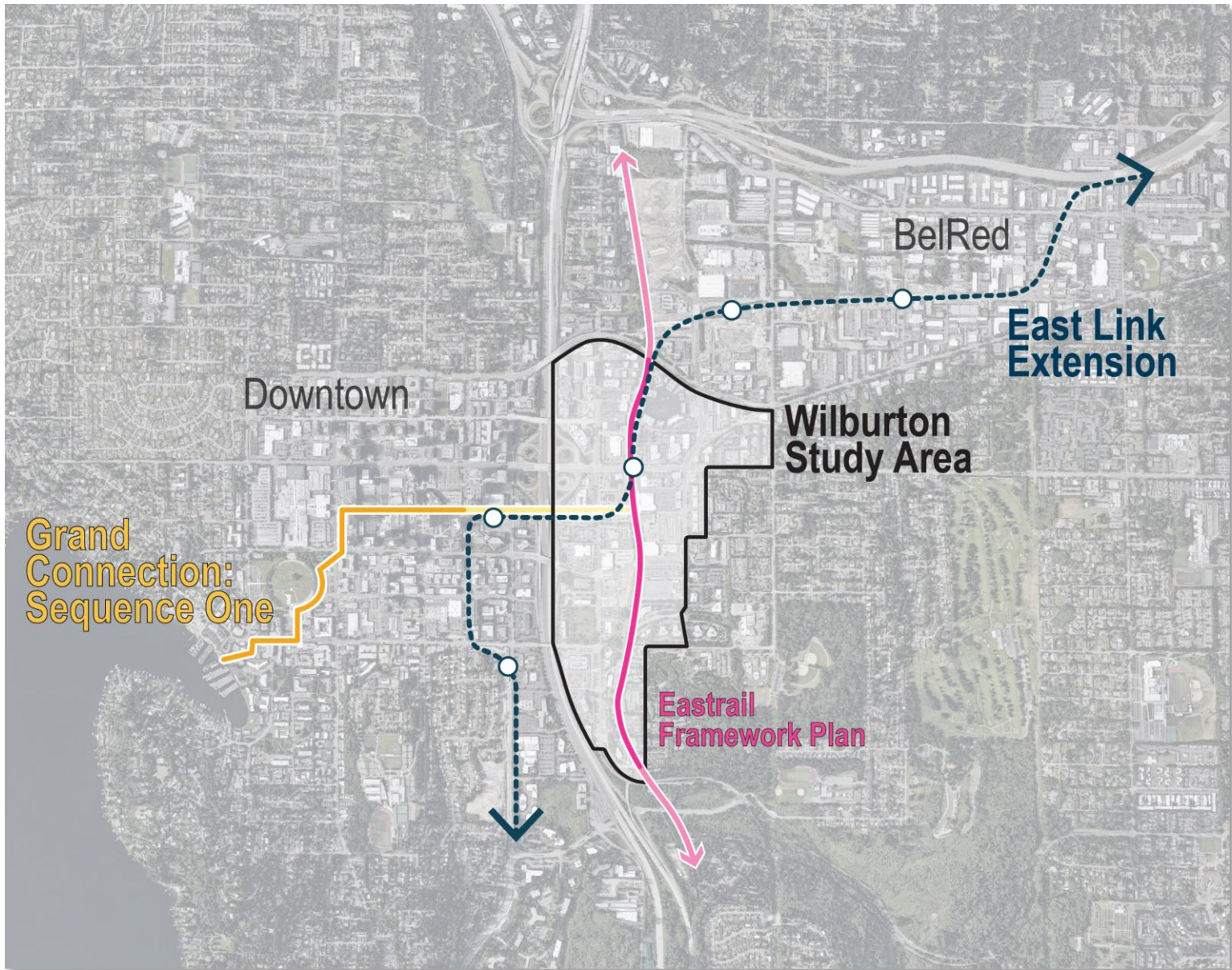
Agenda

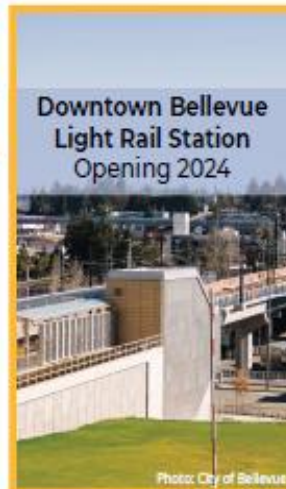
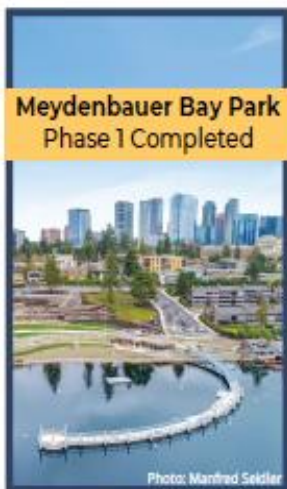
1. **Overview** of Grand Connection program
2. Update on **Grand Connection Crossing** project
3. **Public space management** and activation



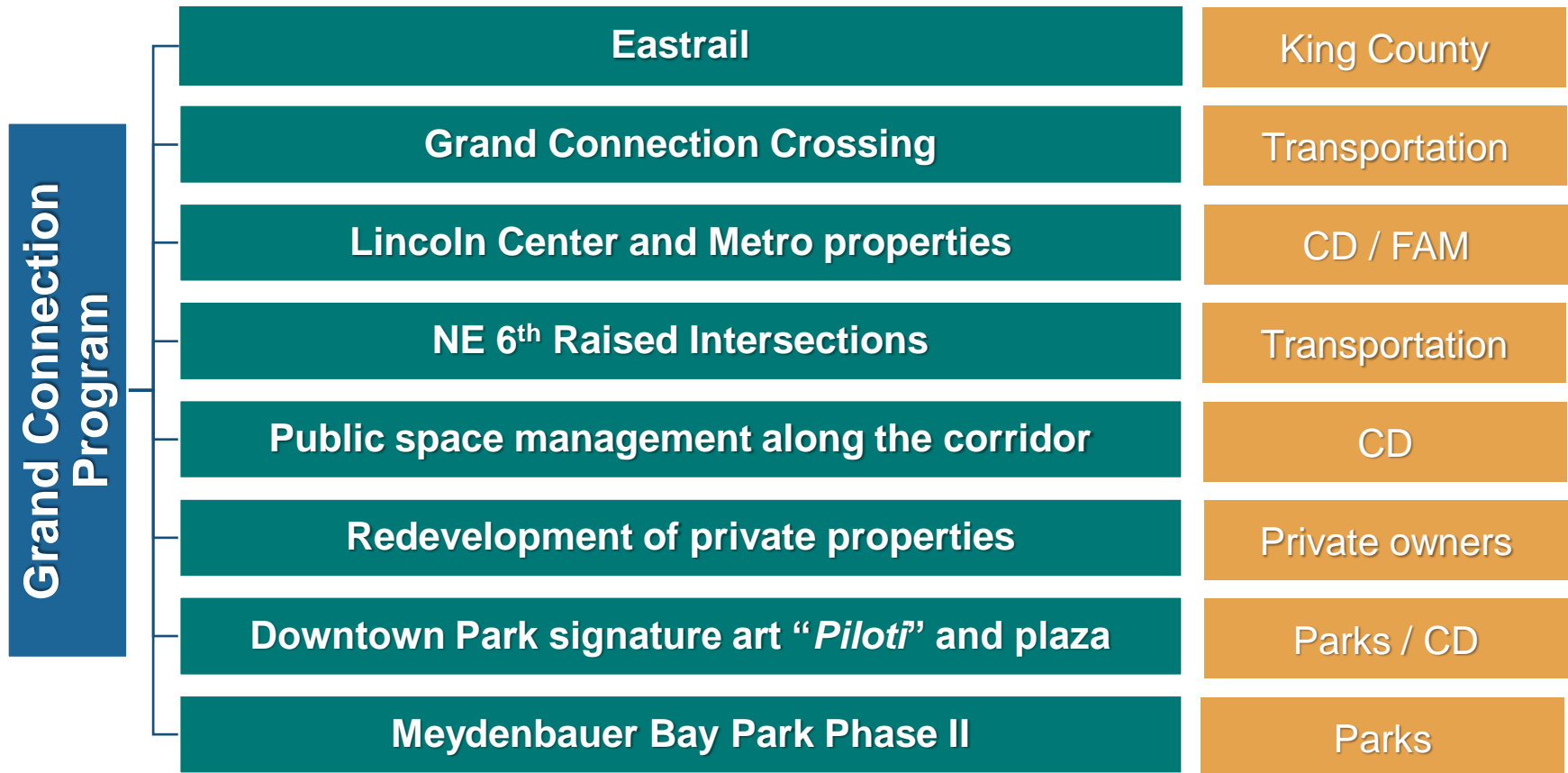
Grand Connection







Comprised of *many* projects





Grand Connection Crossing



Grand Connection Crossing

- 30% design in progress
- Funded 50-50 by Amazon and the City of Bellevue.
- Ambitious schedule; complete 30% design by end of 2024.
- Friends building a network of stakeholders and project supporters.



Project Schedule

Staff and consultant work

**Design
Charette**
(December)

**Alternative
Analysis**
(March)

**Type, Size,
Location
Study**
(June)

**30% Design
Complete**
(Dec. 2024)

**Online Open
House**
(March)

**In-Person
Open House**
(May 2*)

**Online Open
House** (Aug-
Sept)

Public engagement



Looking Forward

- Upcoming engagement:
 - **April 27:** 2 Line grand opening
 - **May 2:** in-person open house (tentative)
- Completion of final design anticipated to require \$25M - \$35M in funding.
- Final design will require ~18-21 months after 30% is complete.





Public Space Management



Why focus on public space?



**Economic
development**



**Social equity and
belonging**



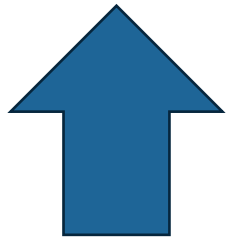
Clean and safe



**Physical and
emotional health**

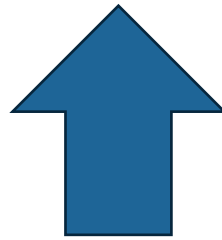


Significant public demand



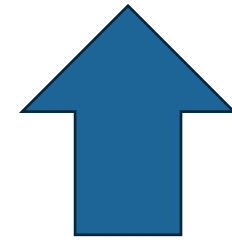
Increasing demand for public programming

- 30 special events permits issued in **2019**
- 42 applications *to date* in **2024**



Increasing downtown employee base

- **Tens of thousands** of additional employees on the way.

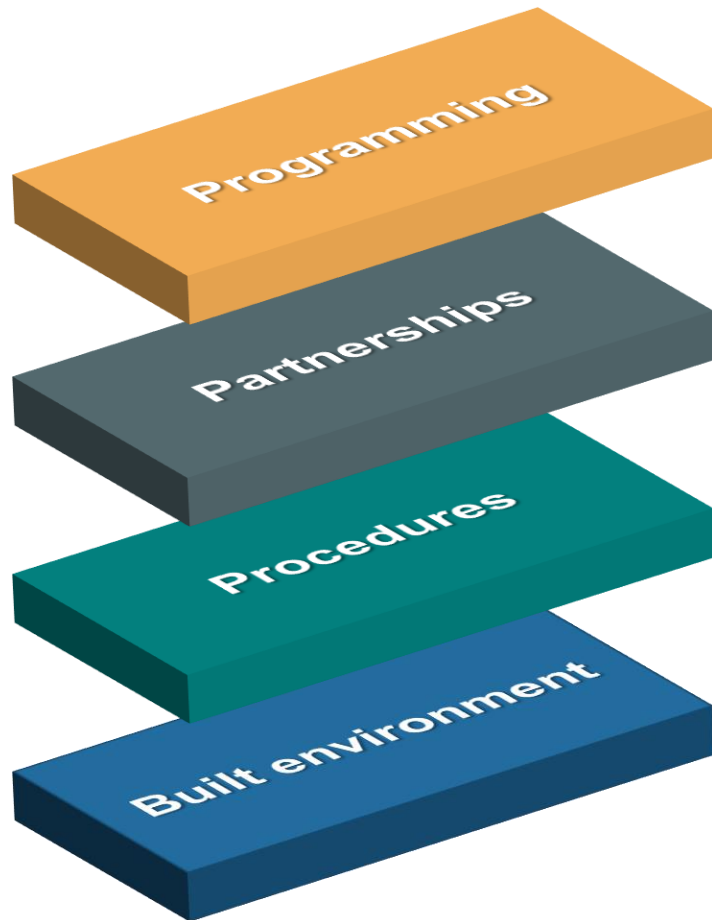


Increasing downtown population

- Resident population is up **more than 56%** since 2014.



Active management is critical



Programming: Tables and chairs, lawn games, movie series, farmers' markets, flag raisings, live music, food trucks, etc.

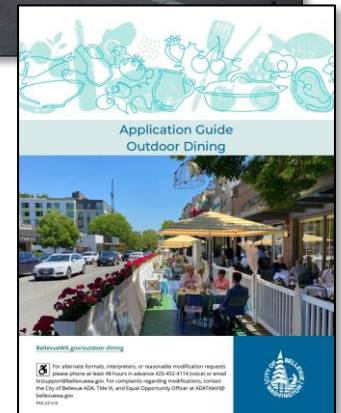
Partnerships: With property owners and organizations like downtown associations for *management* of public space.

Procedures: For use and governance of public space. Includes ownership structure, permit requirements, etc.

Built environment: Streets, roads, infrastructure, zoning and land use, private and public development projects

Some actions to date...

- **Partnership** with Bellevue Downtown Association.
- Promotion of **outdoor dining**.
- **Pilot street closures** for special events—Old Bellevue Wine Walk.
- **Application guides** for uses like outdoor dining and holiday lights.
- **Analyzing process** for special events and other programs



Work to come...

- Continue to review best practices and user experience
- Deploy new activation partnership with BDA
- Explore additional resources to support the work





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