

## **CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

### **SUBJECT**

East Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility and East Link Updates.

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

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### **POLICY CONSIDERATION**

*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 an Amended and Restated Umbrella Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2015 that defines City contributions to a downtown light rail tunnel and includes terms for both agencies regarding the Operation and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF); project coordination; 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE parcels; permitting, project certainty and mitigation; and, conveyance of property between the agencies.

#### **Implementation Agreement with Sound Transit**

The City and Sound Transit entered into an Implementation Agreement related to the Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility in July of 2016 that establishes the process of moving forward with the OMSF given Sound Transit's change to utilize a Design-Build procurement process. The agreement outlines: future development vision outcomes for potential Phase 1 transit oriented development (TOD); design-build process procurement provisions; project Baseline A and a reopened Baseline B after further work is completed by project proposers; and collaborative working process for the TOD offering.

### Light Rail Overlay District

In addition to collaborating with Sound Transit within the framework of the 2015 MOU, the City is the permitting agency for East Link within Bellevue. The Council-adopted Land Use Code (LUC) Part 20.25M defines development standards and design guidelines that 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**

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| <u>      </u> | Action      |
| <u>  X  </u>  | Discussion  |
| <u>  X  </u>  | Information |

City staff will provide an update on East Link construction, a status and schedule of the Link Operations and Maintenance Facility East (OMF East), and discuss a few elements related to the 2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including the project coordination, Schedule 74 Agreements with PSE, Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee, and the public relations plan.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

#### OMF East Status and Update

Sound Transit has selected three proposers to advance through the design-build procurement for the OMF East. Each of the firms will prepare their proposal to design and construct the maintenance facility, prepare design concepts for transit oriented development on available surplus property, and identify project delivery strategies that provide both on a relatively aggressive timeline. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was provided to each of the three firms on August 29, 2016. Firms moving forward (with noted partnership/other team members) are:

- Hansel-Phelps (Stantec, KPFF, Granite, Stacy and Witbeck, VIA, Waterleaf, Elcon)
- The Walsh Group (STV, Herzog, Trinity Real Estate, Baylis Architects, Aldridge Electric)
- Kiewit Infrastructure West (Parsons, MEC, Heartland)

Staff will provide an update on the project schedule and what to expect moving forward.

#### East Link Update

Construction has been underway on the Downtown Tunnel for several months, and it is anticipated the contract will be awarded in October for construction to begin early next year on the South Bellevue Segment. City staff will provide a general update, and what to expect in the months ahead. In July Sound Transit awarded Kiewit-Hoffman a design-build contract for the SR 520 segment with construction expected to begin in spring/summer of 2017.

#### Project Coordination Update

City staff will provide a general update on the coordinated projects including construction updates on Spring Boulevard Zone 1, 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

#### Schedule 74

As part of the E320 Contract – South Bellevue Segment, PSE will relocate the existing overhead powerlines underground into a joint utility trench along Bellevue Way from just south of the Park & Ride north to the intersection of Bellevue Way and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. Schedule 74 is the vehicle to underground existing overhead lines where the City splits the cost with PSE; PSE responsible for 60% of the costs and the City responsible for 40% of the costs. Per the 2015 MOU Section 21.4,

Sound Transit will reimburse the City for actual costs incurred for the relocation and undergrounding. Costs associated with this work element were identified in the 2015 MOU as a credit value. PSE is finalizing cost estimates and the agreement. It is anticipated this will come forward for Council approval in late September or early October 2016.

In an effort to coordinate Council items, staff will also be bringing forward a Schedule 74 Agreement for the 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE project. This agreement undergrounds the powerlines on 124<sup>th</sup> Ave NE from just north of NE Spring Blvd to just north of NE Ichigo Way.

#### Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation

The 2015 MOU identifies the City's current Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services (NTSS) model process to develop a mitigation plan and tools that will best mitigate potential neighborhood traffic impacts resulting from East Link construction. Staff have been working with a broad and geographically balanced group of eleven stakeholders from the Bellecrest, Enatai and Surrey Downs neighborhoods, as well as Beaux Arts Village, to address potential neighborhood traffic impacts as a result of construction on Bellevue Way SE and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE along the E320 East Link segment. Sound Transit has attended a meeting and provided project information to the Committee.

The Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC) and staff met four times to share background on known areas of traffic conditions, existing constraints, gather and understand information on areas of concern as they relate to East Link construction, discuss and review potential traffic mitigation measures, and develop a draft plan. The draft mitigation plan identifies measures supported by the NTMC that can be implemented upon the start of major construction activities. Outreach to the greater neighborhoods regarding the draft plan will occur through mailers, on-line survey, and various neighborhood meetings and summer picnics through early October.

Staff will provide an overview of the draft plan along with a detailed outreach schedule.

Staff will also discuss potential early implementation strategies of residential permit parking zones (RPZ's) due to concern about spillover parking into neighborhood areas as a result of the South Bellevue Park and Ride closure. Staff are seeking to utilize the existing process for residential permit parking zone (RPZ) implementation with one exception: seeking Council approval for the RPZ *first* so the area is overlaid with the parking ordinance at the time of Park and Ride closure, which is expected in the fall (possibly November). This will help to reduce the time to implement an RPZ—should it meet the City's requirements and community support thresholds—and improve responsiveness to the already expressed concerns of spillover parking. If this approach is acceptable to Council, staff will return in mid-October with an ordinance to adopt RPZ's in this vicinity.

#### Public Relations Plan

The 2015 MOU identified the City as the lead on a public relations campaign. This campaign compliments Sound Transit's ongoing community outreach program. The purpose of this campaign was to address not only upcoming East Link construction, but also coordinate communication related to East Link with construction of the City's roadway infrastructure projects and development projects near the East Link alignment throughout the City. It was initially thought the City would hire a public relations firm to assist with a stand-alone effort. However, in light of the robust communication efforts of the Bellevue Downtown Association, Bellevue Chamber, Meydenbauer Center, the City's Office of Economic Development, along with the Transportation Department, a better approach would be to coordinate with these existing resources and better utilize funding resources for actual technology applications (real time traffic), radio, digital and/or print

advertising, mailings, inserts and more creative elements like transportation options, shopper incentives, or other services.

The draft “Access Bellevue” Plan goal is to guide the City’s internal and external communications in coordination with community partners so that the needs of residents, businesses, visitors and commuters are met during the construction of East Link and construction occurring along the light rail alignment. In simple terms, the Plan’s strategies will achieve what information (Key Messages) needs to be shared with who (Target Audience) and how (Strategies) during East Link construction and construction occurring near the alignment.

Staff will provide an outline of the public relations plan, a draft schedule, and a preliminary cost estimate for the remainder of 2016.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A) Schedule 74 – Bellevue Way

B) Schedule 74 – 124th Avenue NE