

Grand Connection Plan Amendment
December 10, 2018

*Staff Proposal Based on November 26, 2018
Bellevue City Council Study Session*

Comprehensive Plan Amendments for Grand Connection

URBAN DESIGN AND THE ARTS ELEMENT

Arts and Culture

Policy UD-NEW. Support and encourage the development of the Grand Connection as a cultural corridor by designing and creating spaces for performance, installation, and temporary based art and cultural installations.

Design Quality – Downtown, Commercial and Mixed-Use Developments

Policy UD-NEW. Employ design guidelines that promote a consistent aesthetic quality and urban experience for those who use the Grand Connection.

Public Space – Street Corridors

Policy UD-NEW. Encourage the development of the Grand Connection vision to create a unique, defining, and signature experience for people walking, riding a bicycle or using other compatible mobility options, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other alternative modes of transportation, recognizing that the pedestrian experience and pedestrian safety take precedence over other modes.

DOWNTOWN SUBAREA PLAN

Signature Streets

The functional aspect of Downtown Bellevue's streets can be refined around a set of signature themes. Figure S-DT.1 shows three types of signature streets. Bellevue Way, Main Street in Old Bellevue, and the NE 6th Street portion of the Grand Connection are identified as Shopping Streets. The others are 106th Avenue NE as Entertainment Avenue, and 108th Avenue NE as Downtown's Commerce Avenue. These streets help tie Downtown together with complementary uses and design elements. All these streets will continue to support multiple uses and modes of travel, with evolving functions and identities.

Policy S-DT-45. Continue to develop and implement the Grand Connection vision as a major unifying feature for Downtown Bellevue through public and private-sector investments.

Policy S-DT-45.1. Implement design components and wayfinding along the Grand Connection to create an accessible and intuitive multimodal connection for ~~multimodal~~ users of all abilities.

Gateways and Wayfinding

Policy S-DT NEW. Aggressively pursue the Grand Connection vision for a multimodal crossing of I-405 between Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area.

Eastside Center District

The Eastside Center District is comprised of three smaller districts: Bellevue Square, City Center, and the Civic/Convention District. The Eastside Center is within walking distance to all of Downtown's key features. The key to the Eastside Center District is tying it together from east to west along the NE 6th Street portion of the Grand Connection, and having it become the symbolic and functional heart of the Eastside Region.

Policy S-DT-79. Provide incentives to develop the intersection of 106th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street as a central location for public gatherings, and to increase the role of Compass Plaza as an important node along the Grand Connection.

Policy S-DT-81. Develop the Grand Connection as a unifying feature for Downtown Bellevue by siting buildings and encouraging uses that activate the corridor, and by incorporating design components that ensure accessibility.

Old Bellevue

Policy S-DT-87. Provide a graceful ~~multimodal pedestrian~~ connection through the unifying design features of the Grand Connection ~~between from~~ Downtown Park, ~~through~~ Old Bellevue ~~and to~~ Meydenbauer Bay Park.

City Center South

Policy S-DT-NEW. Consider studying a complementary route to the Grand Connection along Main Street to establish better multimodal connections between Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area, as well as community resources, and amenities.

Grand Connection

The Grand Connection is a high priority route for multimodal transportation including people walking, riding a bicycle or using other compatible mobility options. The focus on various modes will vary along the route, with the pedestrian experience and pedestrian safety being of primary importance. Incremental improvements through private developments and public investments will upgrade the Grand Connection to provide exceptional pedestrian access to transit stations and multimodal connections across I-405.

Policy S-DT-144.2. Apply the Grand Connection designation between Meydenbauer Bay Park and the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail to improve multimodal access to parks, public spaces, transit stations, businesses, and residential uses.

Policy S-DT New. Periodically review the performance and use of the Grand Connection based on the stage of implementation and a set of established measures of success.

Through-Block Connections

Policy S-DT-161. Provide safe and convenient pedestrian linkages to adjacent neighborhoods to the north, south and west of Downtown, as well as to the east across I-405, ~~on arterial routes and~~ on the Grand Connection.

WILBURTON / NE 8TH SUBAREA PLAN

- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Encourage and explore opportunities to create a multimodal crossing over I-405 between NE 6th and NE 4th Streets for people walking, riding a bicycle or using other compatible mobility options as part of the Grand Connection vision.
- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Encourage the creation of a significant interface between the Grand Connection and the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail to create seamless connectivity for people walking, riding a bicycle or using other compatible mobility options.
- Policy S-WI-NEW.** The Grand Connection should serve as a catalyst for the future vision of the Wilburton Commercial Area.
- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Consider the unique role that the city-owned property Lincoln Center could contribute to fulfilling the vision of the Grand Connection as a potential landing location, civic use, or public space.
- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Consider how the I-405 crossing element of the Grand Connection can assist in creating a unified urban design vision and character for the area bounded by NE 6th Street, NE 4th Street, and the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail, with the Civic Center District of Downtown.
- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Employ design guidelines that promote a consistent aesthetic quality and urban experience between Downtown and the Wilburton Commercial Area.

Natural Determinants

- Policy S-WI-NEW.** Pursue opportunities to enhance the natural systems of Sturtevant Creek between NE 8th Street and NE 4th Street as part of the Grand Connection.