

April 24, 2017

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Seek Council's approval of staff-recommended preferred option, and direction to proceed with preparing the environmental documentation and developing 30 percent design plans for the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane – 112th Avenue SE "Y" to I-90 project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-184).

STAFF CONTACTS

David Berg, Department Director, 452-6468

Ron Kessack, Deputy Director, 452-4631

Mike Mattar, Capital Projects Manager, 452-4318

Marina Arakelyan, Senior Project Manager, 452-4632

Transportation Department

POLICY ISSUES

Tonight's discussion supports the implementation of the Council-adopted plans, including Capital Investment Program (CIP), Bellevue Transit Master Plan and Sub-Area Transportation priorities within the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan:

- TR-25: Incorporate transit/high occupancy vehicle facility improvements in accordance with the Transit Master Plan and corridor studies.
- TR-50: Expand arterial capacity in consideration of the multimodal expectations and livability factors for the corridor and neighborhood.
- TR-59: Ensure that City roadway improvements do not create a bypass for regional traffic that would adversely affect residential neighborhoods.

Bellevue Transit Master Plan (2014):

- L2: Construct a southbound HOV lane on Bellevue Way SE between South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and Y intersection with 112th Avenue.
- L4: Construct a southbound median HOV lane on 112th Avenue SE from Bellevue Way SE to slightly beyond end of the intersection queue.

Southwest Bellevue Subarea Plan:

- S-SW-19: Provide for the aesthetic development of Bellevue Way SE and 112th Avenue SE, and feeling of a continuous boulevard and gateway for Bellevue.
- S-SW-33: Discourage through traffic in residential neighborhood and provide for vehicles and pedestrian safety at intersections.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION

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DIRECTION

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INFORMATION ONLY

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Staff will present a recommended preferred option, and will seek Council's direction to proceed with preparing the environmental documentation and developing 30 percent design for the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane – 112th Avenue SE "Y" to I-90 Project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-184).

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

During the early 2000's, the City considered the expansion of Bellevue Way through the Downtown Implementation Plan Update and the Transit Plan Update. During 2010 and 2011, conceptual design efforts were undertaken to lay out the addition of a southbound HOV lane in order to determine feasibility and potential right-of-way requirements. Outreach efforts were conducted to seek input from residents along the corridor and the broader Enatai neighborhood.

During 2009-2011, the City commissioned consultants to develop conceptual designs for the addition of a southbound HOV lane on Bellevue Way SE between the "Y" and the South Bellevue Park and Ride Lot. It assumed that Bellevue Way SE would not physically change the East Link project because light rail would be built and operated entirely east of the street. Given this assumption, all expansion was assumed to be to the west of the street. The conceptual designs generated by these efforts varied according to differing lane and shoulder widths and therefore differing overall street widths.

The concept was revisited in 2012 during the Cost Saving Options effort conducted collaboratively between the City and Sound Transit.

During the 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program budget deliberations, Council authorized staff to proceed with developing the design and environmental documentation needed to construct an inside southbound HOV lane from the Bellevue Way SE/112th Avenue SE "Y" intersection to the South Bellevue Park and Ride where the new HOV lane would connect to the southbound HOV lane that will be constructed by Sound Transit to mitigate the East Link project.

The design of this project is being conducted in two phases. The first phase consisted of conducting design option analysis, in collaboration with the local community and other project stakeholders. Based on Council's direction, staff will prepare the environmental documentation and develop preliminary 30 percent engineering design. This includes developing a refined construction and right of way acquisition cost estimate for the preferred option. The second phase will develop options for phasing and full implementation of the project. Staff will seek Council's approval of a recommended preferred implementation option, and direction to complete final design of the approved phasing option.

Staff Recommendation

There are two components to the staff recommendation:

- 1) For the roadway section, staff recommends the "narrow" section as the preferred option. The narrow section consists of a 12-foot center HOV lane, two 11-foot through lanes, and a 5-foot planter at the base of a retaining wall. Staff selected the narrow section over the wide section because of lesser impacts to private property and critical areas without compromising traffic operations.
- 2) For project length, staff recommends Option 4, which extends the HOV lane from the South Bellevue Park and Ride north through the "Y" intersection only on 112th Avenue SE. Option 4 provides the largest travel time savings to HOV and transit users of the corridor, when compared with the other options, which meets the original objective of the project.

On January 9 Staff provided an update to Council on the design options being considered, and informed Council that staff will seek input on the design options from the community, project stakeholders, and the Transportation Commission.

On January 19 the City hosted a second community open house to solicit input on the design options considered for the Bellevue Way HOV Project. The City received 40 completed surveys. For roadway section width, 61 percent preferred the wider roadway design option; 70 percent of respondents supported Option 4 for project length, which extends the improvements beyond the “Y” on 112th Avenue SE only; and, 56 percent preferred that construction be done all at once instead of in phases.

During the January 19 open house, the community also provided input on a variety of wall treatments and the gateway experiences that could be included along the corridor. Additional comments reflected concerns with noise, noise mitigation, and the noise impacts of the project that may potentially outweigh the benefits.

Staff presented this project to the Transportation Commission on February 9, March 9, and April 13. The Transportation Commission concurred with preparing the environmental documentation and developing 30 percent design for Option 4, narrow section, with a recommendation to include the section of HOV lane on Bellevue Way north of the “Y” to 108th Avenue SE.

Based on input received, staff is recommending proceeding with preparing the environmental documentation and developing 30 percent design for Option 4, including an HOV section on Bellevue Way north of the “Y” to 108th Avenue SE. After the completion of the 30 percent design, staff will develop options for possible construction phasing and for full implementation of the project. Staff will return to Council to seek approval of a preferred implementation option, and direction to complete final design of the Council’s approved phasing option, if applicable.

Past Council actions

On January 9, 2017, Council was provided an update on design option analysis for the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane-112th Avenue SE “Y” to I-90.

On December 5, 2016, Council approved Ordinance No. 6333 adopting the 2017-2023 CIP Plan, which continues to fund the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-184) with a total project budget of \$4.4 million.

On December 14, 2015, Council approved Resolution No. 9039 authorizing the execution of a Professional Service Agreement with KPFF Consulting Engineers to develop initial design to construct an inside high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane on southbound Bellevue Way SE between the “Y” intersection of 112th Ave SE and Bellevue way on the north end and the main entrance to the South Bellevue Park and Ride on the south end (CIP Plan No. PW-R-184).

On December 1, 2014, Council approved Ordinance No. 6209 adopting the 2015-2016 Budget and 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. As part of the revised CIP Plan, the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane – 112th Avenue SE ‘Y’ to I-90 project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-184) was funded with a budget of \$4.4 million. This funding was established for developing the design and the environmental documentation for the Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane – 112th Avenue SE ‘Y’ to I-90.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Staff is recommending proceeding with the environmental documentation and developing 30 percent design for Option 4, including an HOV section on Bellevue Way, north of the “Y” to 108th Avenue SE, with the narrow section for the Bellevue Way SE HOV Lane – 112th Avenue SE ‘Y’ to I-90.

RECOMMENDATION

Alternative 1

ATTACHMENTS

- A. CIP Project Description (PW-R-184)
- B. Vicinity Map

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A