



SOUTH BELLEVUE EAST LINK CONSTRUCTION

City of Bellevue
Transportation Department
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue

www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic

Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic: South Bellevue East Link Construction

Question and Comments

Marie Jensen

East Link Outreach Lead
City of Bellevue
Transportation Department
mjensen@bellevuewa.gov
(425) 452-2064
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

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Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue

- Response to East Link light rail construction along 112th Ave SE and Bellevue Way
- Turn restrictions will discourage evening commuter traffic leaving downtown from using residential streets
- Restrictions will be piloted for 3 months, starting around the end of August
- All drivers must abide by the turn restrictions
- City to monitor traffic volume while pilot is underway

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Pilot Project to Discourage Evening Commuter Traffic in South Bellevue due to East Link Construction

To begin around the start of the school year

August 2017

Pilot project overview

As East Link light rail construction progresses on 112th Ave SE and Bellevue Way, a three-month pilot project to discourage commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets south of downtown Bellevue to access Bellevue Way takes effect around the start of the new school year (August 31). Weekday (Monday-Friday), evening (4-7 p.m.) turn restrictions will be placed at SE 16th St and 108th Ave SE and at SE 16th St and Bellevue Way. The pilot utilizes signs and flashing beacons to call attention to the locations where turns are restricted.

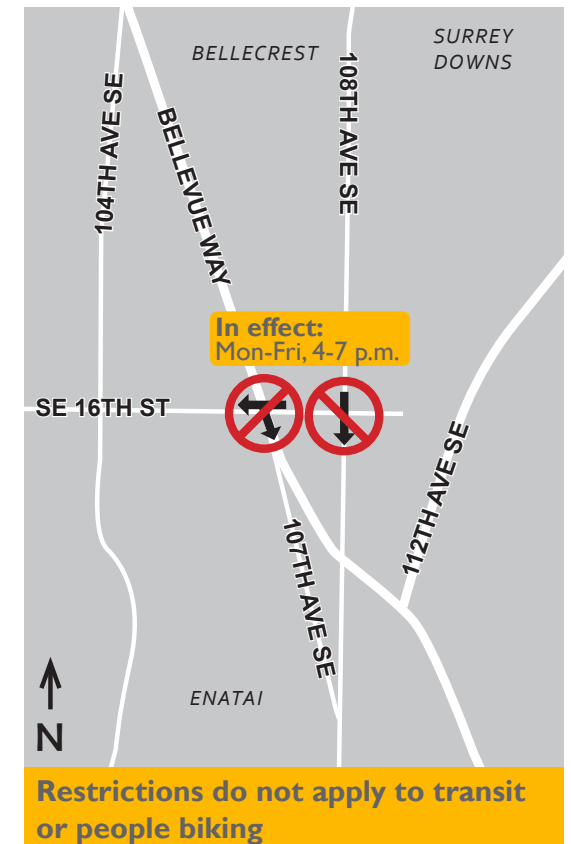
Restrictions

Motorists traveling southbound on 108th Ave SE will be restricted at SE 16th St and not allowed to continue to Bellevue Way. At this intersection, motorists will be required to make a right turn (westbound) onto SE 16th St. Once motorists are at Bellevue Way, they are required to make another right turn (no access westbound or southbound). These restrictions are in effect Monday through Friday from 4-7 p.m. and do not apply to transit or people biking.

Why now?

East Link construction on 112th Ave SE recently reduced travel from four lanes to two. This configuration is similar to work the City of Bellevue conducted in 2015 which caused traffic to divert to neighborhood streets. This pilot restriction will help to discourage that diversion from occurring when traffic is heaviest: during the evening commute.

Your feedback about the pilot will help us understand its effectiveness. To submit comments while the pilot is in effect, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic

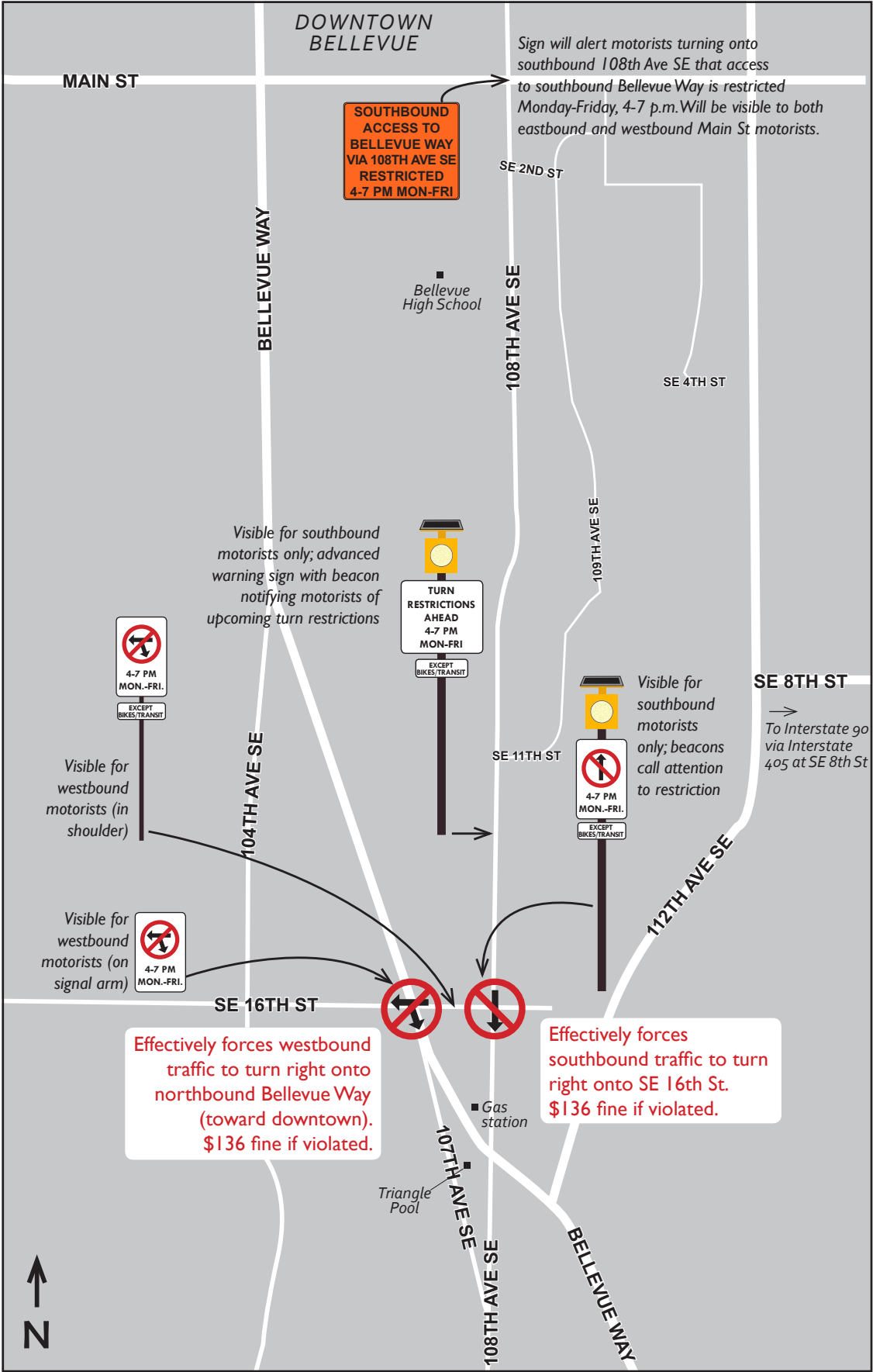


Pilot Project Benefits

- Discourage commuter traffic from using neighborhood streets
- Turn restrictions are enforceable
- Navigation apps (e.g. Waze, Google Maps) will reflect change and not route drivers through the neighborhood from Monday-Friday, 4-7 p.m.
- Allow for opportunity to collect data, gather community feedback, and evaluate effectiveness

Restricting commuter traffic in the evening

This map shows where the restrictions will be placed at 108th Ave SE/SE 16th St and Bellevue Way/SE 16th St. The restrictions will be implemented around the start of the school year.



QUESTIONS

Why is this happening?

The community has been concerned about commuter traffic associated with East Link construction. Addressing commuter traffic comes with many tradeoffs, sometimes with impacts to residents. This pilot project will run for three months so traffic volumes can be monitored. After three months, the pilot will be evaluated for effectiveness to ensure that commuter traffic hasn't increased and to gauge community sentiment. 108th Ave SE between Main St and Bellevue Way is an attractive route for commuters to use to get to the freeway. Approximately 600 vehicles between 4-7 p.m. make a left onto southbound Bellevue Way from 108th Ave SE. To submit comments while the pilot is in effect, please visit www.bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic.

Must all motorists abide by the restrictions?

Yes. All motorists must abide by the restrictions. Similar to the existing no-through restriction at 108th Ave and Main St, transit vehicles and people biking are exempt from the restrictions.

Are the turn restrictions enforceable?

Yes. Police will enforce the turn restrictions. If you are found to violate the restrictions, the infraction is \$136.

I have kids at Enatai Elementary or Bellevue High school. Will this impact them getting home?

Generally, no. Enatai dismisses at 2:25 p.m. and Bellevue High dismisses at 3:30 p.m. If after school activities are planned, you may need to reconsider your route of travel.

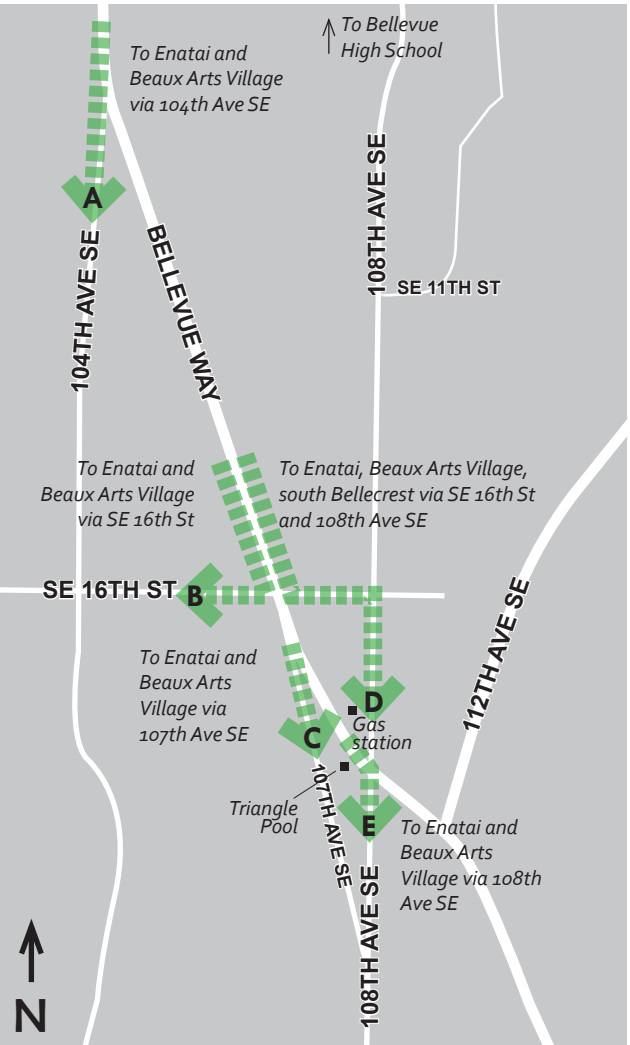
When will the turn restrictions begin?

The pilot turn restrictions will be implemented around the start of the school year (August 31) and will last for three months (end of November). At that time, the pilot will be evaluated to determine if it was effective in discouraging commuter traffic. If the pilot continues beyond three months, it will nonetheless remain in place only during East Link construction.

How do I access my home in Bellecrest and Surrey Downs?

For the majority of residents that live north of Bellevue Way, this pilot program will not change your ability to access your home when traveling from downtown Bellevue as there are no new restrictions north of SE 16th St or off of Bellevue Way. For those households at the south end of Bellecrest south of SE 16th St, you can travel south on Bellevue Way to eastbound SE 16th St to southbound 108th Ave SE (D, on the map to the right). Alternatively, you can travel to the Bellevue Way and 108th Ave SE intersection and turn left (northbound) onto 108th Ave SE.

Getting to Enatai, south Bellecrest, Beaux Arts Village



There will remain many ways to access points south of the restrictions if you are coming from downtown. Consider one of the green routes shown above.

How do I get south to Bellevue Way between 4-7 PM? (see map above)

If you live in Bellecrest or Surrey Downs, consider traveling north on 108th Ave SE to Main St to find an alternative route to the freeway (e.g. downtown access to I-405) or traveling south on 112th Ave SE or Bellevue Way).

How do I access Enatai and Beaux Arts Village? (see map above)

Likely how you normally did before the restriction. Off Bellevue Way, you can use 104th Ave SE (A), SE 16th St (B), 107th Ave SE (C), SE 16th St to 108th Ave SE (D), or 108th Ave SE (E).

In spring 2016, the city began working with affected neighborhoods in helping to identify traffic mitigation tools and locations to lessen the potential traffic impacts due to East Link construction. Eleven volunteers from Bellecrest, Enatai and Surrey Downs and Beaux Arts Village came together to form a broad and geographically balanced committee. The Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee (NTMC) has worked to recommend mitigation tools that best mitigate neighborhood traffic impacts resulting from East Link construction which is now occurring on Bellevue Way (began in June 2017) and 112th Ave SE (began in July 2017). More information about the NTMC can be found at: bellevuewa.gov/ELtraffic