

# An overview of commuter traffic in neighborhoods: a traffic calming approach

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**April 2, 2018**



# Agenda

- Bellevue's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
- New challenge: commuter traffic
- Addressing commuter traffic
- Moving forward

***Purpose of tonight's presentation is for information only; no action or direction is sought***



# Bellevue's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

- Began in 1985
- Collaborative relationship with community
- Solutions focused within the neighborhood
- Levy provides additional resources





# Bellevue's Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program



# New challenge: commuter traffic

- Motorists don't have an origin or destination in the neighborhood
- Comprehensive plan policy to reduce volume of cut-through traffic
- Tools that previously discouraged commuter traffic not as effective



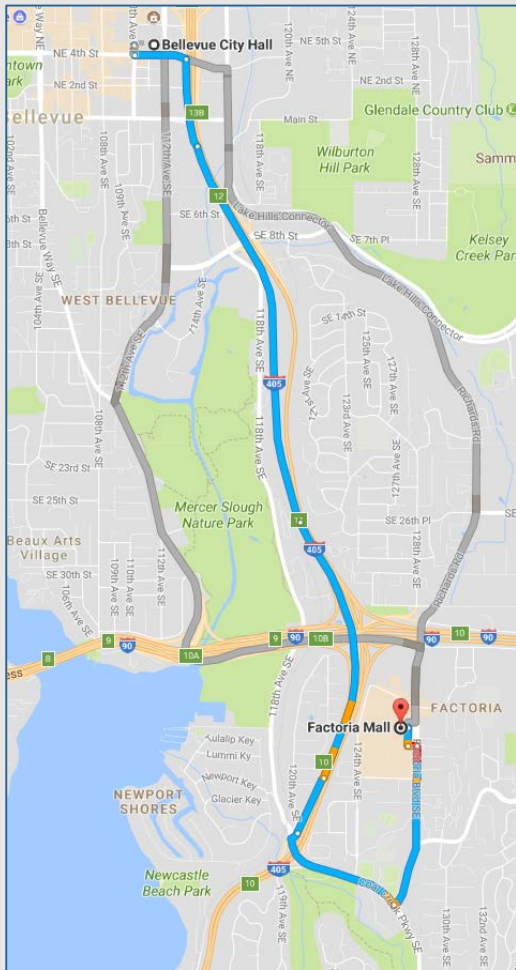


# Why is commuter traffic increasing?

- Region is attractive—jobs, housing
- Roadway capacity – changing traffic patterns
- Navigation apps

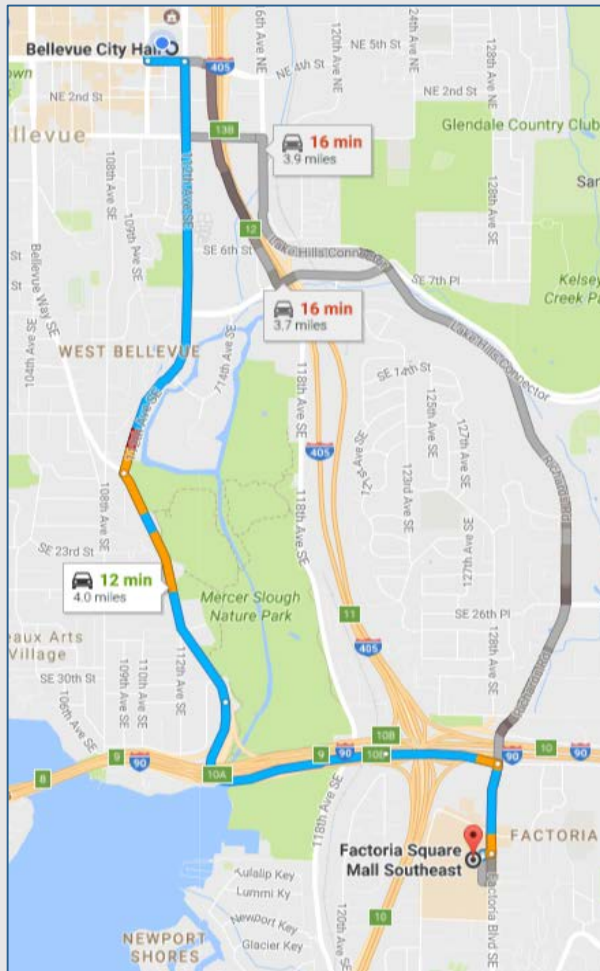


## Effect of navigation apps



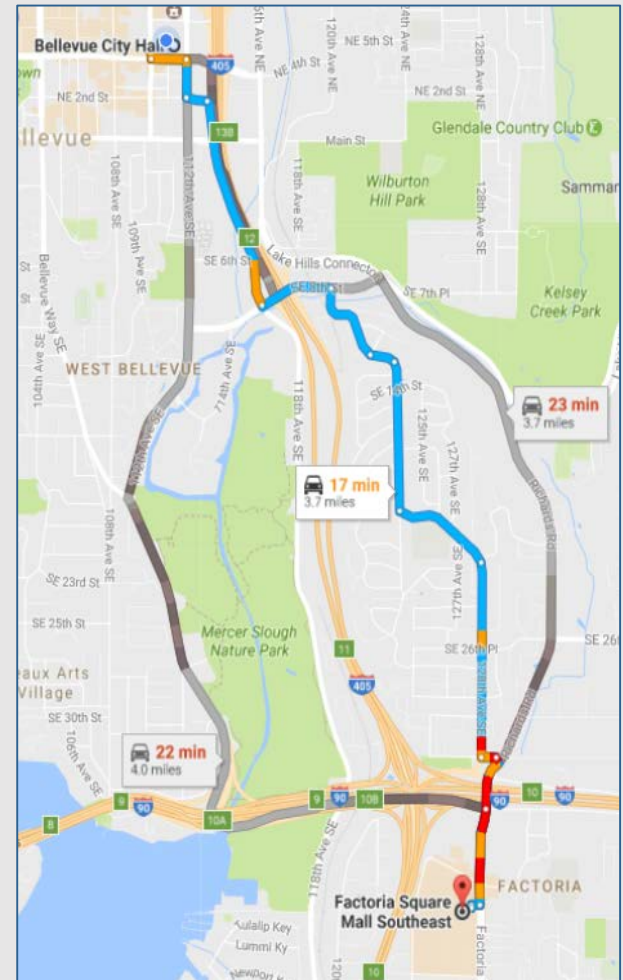
12  $\mu\text{m}$

## Freeway route



3  $\mu\text{m}$

## Arterial route



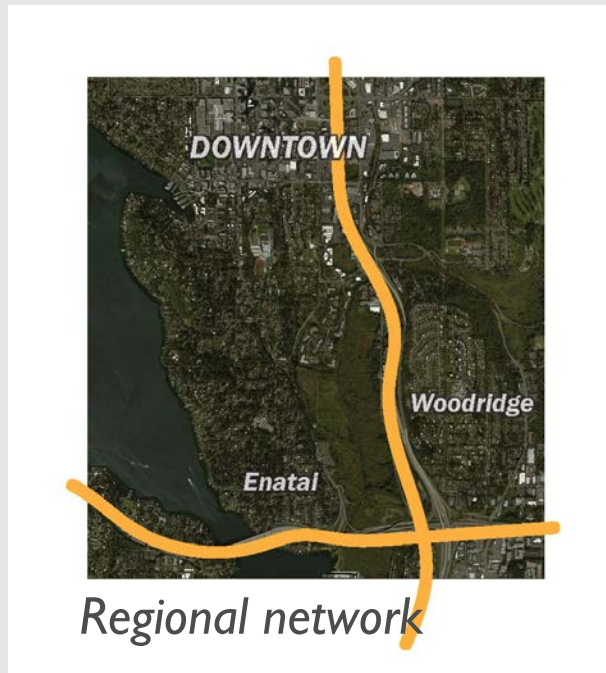
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## Local route



## An overview of commuter traffic in neighborhoods: a traffic calming approach

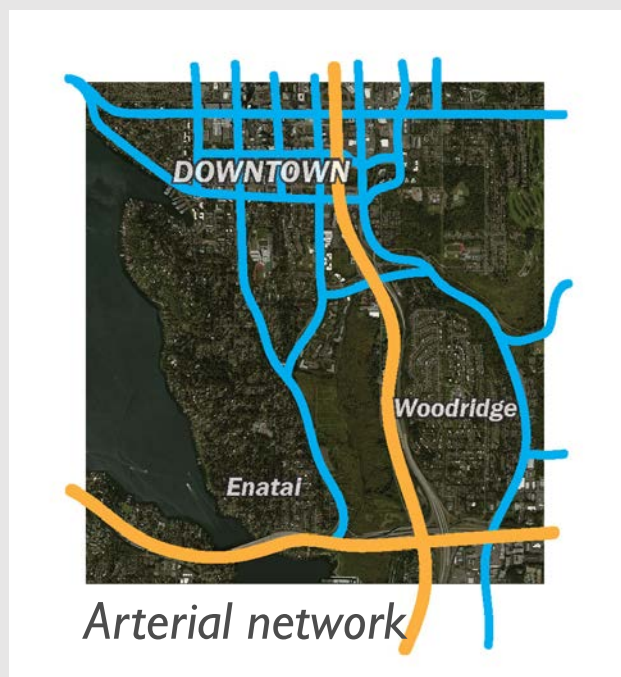
# Addressing commuter traffic: regionally



- Legislative advocacy for regional system improvements
- Transit improvements and coordination
- East Link
- Transportation Demand Management

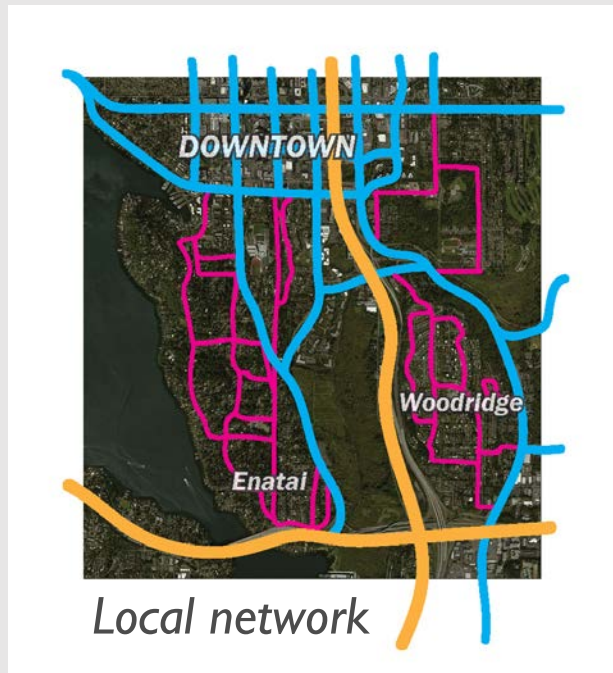


# Addressing commuter traffic: arterials



- SCATS (adaptive traffic signals)
- Mobility options
- Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program (Levy-funded)
- Targeted roadway expansion

# Addressing commuter traffic: local streets



- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program

# Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program—a collaborative relationship with the community

- Traffic is a complex issue
- Traffic Committees
  - first-hand perspective
  - develop unique solutions
  - build support
  - mutual understanding
- Serve as conduit to rest of community
  - Traffic calming comes with tradeoffs





# The neighborhood traffic commuter toolkit

- Safety addressed first, then commuter traffic
- Listening, education, and enforcement supplement traffic calming

**TRAFFIC SAFETY TOOLKIT**

Manage Traffic Volume  
Reduce Excessive Vehicle Speeds  
Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety  
Enhance Neighborhood Identity  
Educate the Community  
Manage Neighborhood Parking  
Heighten School Zone Awareness

Page	Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement	Manage Traffic Volume	Reduce Excessive Vehicle Speeds	Improve Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Enhance Neighborhood Identity	Educate the Community	Manage Neighborhood Parking	Heighten School Zone Awareness
13	Neighborhood Traffic Safety Newsletters		•	•		•		
14	Pedbee Education Program			•		•		•
14	Portable Radar Dolly		•			•		
15	Radar Trailer		•			•		
15	Sign and Pledge Program		•			•		
16	School Pool			•		•		•
19	Chicanes/Slow Points	•	•					
21	Curb Extensions		•	•			•	
23	Full Closure	•						
25	Lane Striping		•	•			•	
27	Medians		•	•				
29	Neighborhood Entrances		•		•			
31	Partial Closure	•						
33	Raised Crosswalk		•	•				•
35	"Residential Area" Signs				•			
37	School Zone Flashing Beacons		•	•				•
39	Speed Cushions		•					
41	Speed Dots		•					
43	Speed Humps		•					
45	Speed Limit Pavement Markings		•					
47	Speed Mounds		•					
49	Split Speed Humps		•					
51	Stationary Radar Sign		•					
53	Traffic Circles		•					
53	Turn Restrictions	•						
55	General Parking Restrictions						•	
56	Good Neighbor Parking Program					•	•	
57	Residential Parking Zone (RPZ)						•	





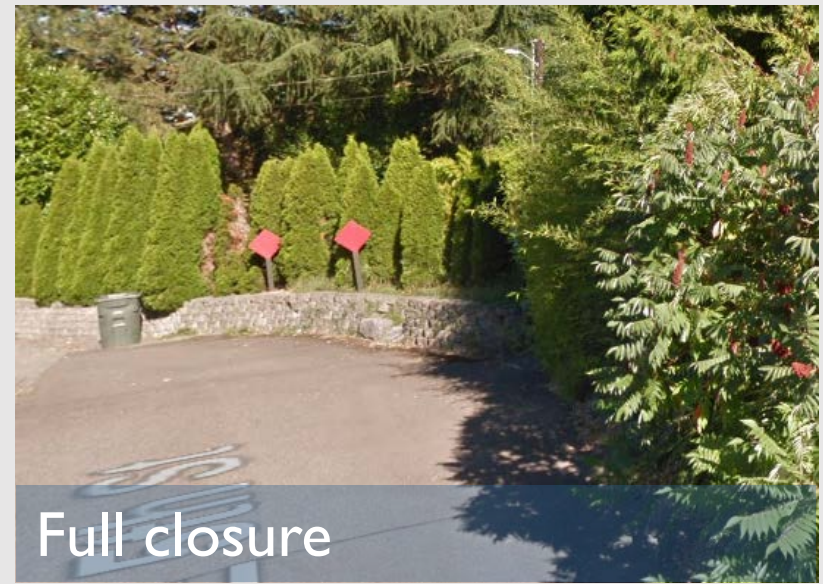
One lane zone



Turn restriction



Partial closure



Full closure



# Turn restrictions

- Can be time-based
- Regulatory
- Community education key
- Roll out as pilot
- Enforcement important
- Navigation apps reflect restrictions
- **Applies to all drivers**



## I 08th and SE I 6th St Case Study:

*Following turn restriction,  
750 vehicle reduction on  
southbound I 08th during  
evening commute*





# Enforcement

- Critical to reinforce restriction
- Strains officer resources
- Prioritized against all calls
- Officers note violators often live in neighborhood



# Residential exemptions

- Provides tags or placards for exemption
- Logistically challenging
- Legal implications



*Photo source: Chris Pedota/NorthJersey.com*

# Summary

- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program continues to be effective
- Commuter traffic a new challenge
  - Complex issues
  - Tradeoffs
- Community engagement key for success
- Continue to move forward



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# Summary

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