



Bellevue Planning Commission

January 22, 2020

PLANNING COMMISSION STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Grand Connection Sequence One Guidelines and Standards Update

STAFF CONTACT

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POLICY ISSUES

Staff are involved in updating the existing *Pedestrian Corridor and Major Public Open Space Guidelines* to reflect the elements of the *Grand Connection Framework Plan* vision and the project's role as a Council Priority. These new guidelines and standards, referred to as the *Grand Connection Sequence One Guidelines and Standards* will support the vision's role in improving livability, access, and placemaking along the route from the intersection of 100th Avenue NE and Main Street to the Transit Center (NE 6th Street and 110th Avenue NE).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



The intent of this study session is to identify the broader vision of the Grand Connection and identify both how the scope and schedule of the *Grand Connection Sequence One Guidelines and Standards* will act as one mechanism to support its implementation. This session is for informational-purposes only. With Council direction, the Planning Commission will participate in the formation of draft Grand Connection guidelines and standards.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

- In December 2015, the Bellevue City Council approved the work plan for the Grand Connection planning initiative, and identified it as a Council Priority. The visioning for the Grand Connection began in April 2016 to develop high-level strategies regarding aesthetic enhancements such as paving, weather protection, intersections, art and culture, and vegetation; as well as concepts to key public space locations and mobility.
 - The Grand Connection scope of work was separated into two sequences; the first addressing changes and improvements to existing infrastructure between the intersection of 100th Avenue NE and Main Street, and the Civic Center District. The second sequence addressed the crossing of Interstate 405 and its interface with Downtown, the future vision of the Wilburton Commercial Area, and the Eastside Rail Corridor.

- In December 2017, Council adopted the *Grand Connection Framework Plan: Sequence One* which established the high-level vision for the corridor between Meydenbauer Bay and the Civic Center District. In 2018, Council adopted the *Grand Connection Framework Plan: Sequence Two*, which established the high-level vision for the corridor between I-405 and Eastrail.
- Upon adoption, Council initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Land Use Code amendments, and the development of design guidelines.
 - On April 4, 2018, staff provided the Commission an overview of the Grand Connection vision and highlighted the work associated with the Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Land Use Code updates, and design guidelines. On May 9, staff reviewed with the Commission draft policy language and changes to graphics and maps proposed for the Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan specific to the Grand Connection were accepted on December 10, 2018 (Ordinance 6449)
 - Between 2016 and 2018 the City of Bellevue launched a series of pedestrian corridor transportation improvements projects aimed at crosswalk enhancements along the existing pedestrian corridor route as part of the Downtown Transportation Plan implementation (adopted 2013).
 - In 2019, staff, in collaboration with the Bellevue Downtown Association, led the Grand Connection Activation Pilot to identify near-term activation strategies—leading to the temporary installation of lanterns and seating along the route.
 - In 2019, staff launched the development of the Grand Connection Sequence One Guidelines and Standards as one strategy for implementing elements from the Grand Connection Framework Plan. Additionally, staff are working with developers in the review of current applications/projects along the route.
- The overall implementation work is to be completed as part of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) No. CD-44.

With Council direction, future study sessions with the Planning Commission will be scheduled to seek input and direction before a formal public hearing is identified on the draft guidelines and standards (tentatively scheduled for the fall 2020). Council adoption could ultimately occur later in 2020.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft map of Sequence One route