



DATE: November 16, 2020

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Ron Kessack, Assistant Director, 452-4631
Department of Transportation

SUBJECT: Award for Best City Project, Washington State Department of Transportation, for 120th Avenue NE Stage 3 (NE 12th to NE 16th Streets)

This briefing is an update to Council on the Best City Project award for 120th Avenue NE, Stage 3 from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). A virtual presentation of the award plaque is scheduled for December 1 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. between WSDOT and City of Bellevue staff, and will include a representative from the Federal Highway Administration.

WSDOT's award honors the project's inclusion of safety enhancements, practical solutions, multi-modal integration, innovation, effective project administration, community engagement, public satisfaction and acceptance, as well as timeliness in project completion.

Overall, 120th Avenue NE is part of the City's original Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative adopted by Council in 2009 that is being realized today, providing connections to ongoing redevelopment in Bellevue's core business areas, Downtown and the Bel-Red/Spring District, as well as diversifying access to SR 520. 120th Avenue NE is a crucial arterial for the City and regional commute, transit, transportation network, connecting from the north to Northup Way/SR 520 and continuing into Kirkland and to the south providing strategic connections to I-405 and downtown Bellevue via NE 12th and NE 8th Streets. As a previously constricted, meandering two-lane road with no shoulders, no turn lanes, and no non-motorized space to walk, bicycle and progress safely without a vehicle, the addition of safety features and capacity on 120th Avenue has been very welcome.

The WSDOT award for Best City Project acknowledges the hard work taken to complete planning, design, right-of-way, and construction of 120th Avenue Stage 3 that spanned from NE 12th to NE 16th Streets. Specifically, the project:

- widened the roadway to five lanes (four through-lanes with a center turn lane),
- extended and connected new sidewalks and bicycle lanes that access regional and local trail systems,
- built a bridge over the East Link light rail line,
- provided roadway vertical realignment, stormwater, and utilities, and

- added access to development of core business areas for the Spring District, including Spring District/120th Avenue NE Light Rail Station, Spring District Transit Oriented Development (TOD), Facebook Office Campus, Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) Campus, Future Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility East TOD, King County Metro East Base, and thousands of new jobs and residential units, as well as space for commercial, residential, and retail tenants including hotels, a brewpub and restaurant space, and other diverse shops.

The 120th Avenue NE Stage 3 project was completed on time and under budget with the help of close collaboration between City departments such as Transportation, Community Development, Utilities, Parks and Community Services, and Development Services; regional agencies such as Sound Transit and WSDOT; and private developers to ensure that the City's new infrastructure improvements in the Wilburton and the BelRed areas were very well integrated with other regional projects and new private developments.

Funds expended on this project included approximately \$8.6 million from Sound Transit, \$4.4 million from a Federal Highway Administration grant, \$3.8 million from a State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant, and \$3.5 million from the City of Bellevue.