

May 11 Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee Meeting Summary of Meeting (#1)

5-7 pm, 1E-112, City Hall

Staff Present:

- Marie Jensen, East Link Outreach, Transportation Department
- John Murphy, Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services (NTSS), Transportation Department
- Police Lt. Dave Sanabria
- Fire Capt. Dean Harm

Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee Members Present

Beaux Arts Village	Bellecrest	Enatai	Surrey Downs
Tom Stowe	Mike Koehn	Kevin Paulich	Kerri Patterson
Eugenia Yen	Tricia Thomason	Rebecca Sears	Ed Nugent
Cynthia Hudson	Liz Hale	Katherine Christopherson	

Summary of Agenda Items

Welcome and introductions (Marie J.)

- All received a packet of materials
- All participated in a quick ice breaker as a way to introduce themselves

Committee roles & responsibilities and estimated timeline (Marie J)

- Committee function and structure was explained: based on the City’s NTSS program, work collectively, not a governing body like an elected council or appointed commission, or citizen advisory panels that have been used for East Link, no chair/vice-chair; no motions or voting
- Committee mission defined: identify proposed neighborhood traffic mitigation when East Link construction on Bellevue Way SE (BWSE) and 112th begins
- Public comment: members encouraged to forward ideas they receive to staff so that it can be included in next packet or encourage neighbors to contact staff directly.
- Ground Rules: in addition to the NTMC “Representation, Role & Responsibility” handout, members were comfortable with implied ground rules of raising hands for questions, respecting opinions of others, silence cell phones.



Summary of April 27 meeting (John M)

- Group reviewed the summary materials from the 4/27 kick-off meeting
- John highlighted the attendee-identified areas of concerns from 4/27 meeting that are in addition to previously identified concerns presented at said meeting
 - Cut-through traffic along 109th Ave SE in Surrey Downs
 - Pedestrian safety by Bellevue High School
 - 108th/Main – drivers not obeying the “No Through” traffic sign
 - Speeding on 104th Ave SE, SE 25th St in Enatai
 - Difficult to enter Bellecrest and Enatai; traffic at 112th and Bellevue Way SE
 - Mitigation Tools:
 - Overview from John Murphy
 - Many mitigation tools will impact both commuters and residents
 - There are seven tools identified in the MOU that are a starting point to address traffic concerns
 - Local access only signs, partial closure, full closure, speed humps, one lane zone/chicane, radar signs, and access restrictions
 - Additional tools may be considered
 - There are many tradeoffs associated with each tool; ultimately, a tool may be seen as a great solution for some but may impact others. The committee will need to find consensus to make sure all residents of Enatai, Bellecrest, Surrey Downs, and Beaux Arts Village can live with them.
 - A key element of the committee’s work is to understand and accept the tradeoffs associated with each tool
 - The committee started to discuss specific treatments at specific locations that would address concerns (e.g. closing off the 113th Ave SE and Bellevue Way SE intersection, turn restrictions at 108th Ave SE and Bellevue Way SE, full closure of 108th near Bellevue High School, turn restrictions on SE 16th, and other ideas). Staff noted that these are all worth further exploring at subsequent meetings when the committee will develop the conceptual plan.
 - Overview from Capt. Harm, Fire Department (FD)
 - 9 stations with EMTs
 - Fire Station 1 located in South Bellevue (Bellevue Way and SE 8th St)



- Paramedic Units from Overlake and Eastlake take longer to respond to South Bellevue area
- One speed hump is known to cause a 1 to 9 second delay; multiple humps on a street cause longer delays
- FD prefers “split speed hump” vs. regular speed hump
 - Split speed humps are sometimes not preferred due to drivers driving down the middle of the road to find the gap; this can create an unintended safety issue
- Gated communities: Opticom (older system) or “Click it” (newer system) are ways Fire Dept can open a gate
- If FD is responding to a call, emergency vehicles will take over oncoming lanes of traffic to reach location
- FD concerned about traffic city-wide and due to East Link construction
- To reach Enatai Beach Park, FD would use 108th Ave SE as most direct route
- SE 4th St will be closed as part of East Link alignment
- Overview from Lt. Sanabria, Police Department (PD)
 - Most moving violation tickets issued are issued to neighborhood residents, not to commuters (non-residents)
 - Most common violations: speeding (#1) and inattentive driving
 - Enforcement is never the “end all” solution; they need to be coupled with other options such as engineering and education
 - Bellevue Way SE is not always safe to pull someone over; causes back up
 - Photo enforcement: State law; only applies to speeding in elementary school zones (Stevens, Sunset, and Lake Hills have cameras) and “Right on Red” violations. Cannot be applied to intersections that have access restrictions (e.g. 108th Ave and Main St)
 - South Bellevue neighborhoods and downtown are in the Police Department’s “West Sector”; 3 traffic officers assigned
 - Contact Capt. Kleiner to request a presentation at Neighborhood Association meetings
 - Having a police officer at 108th/Main St would not be efficient use of PD resources
 - Full road closure of 108th would not be reasonable; impacts all drivers, including residents who live in neighborhood



- “Local Access Only signs” are intended to communicate to driver that street is for residents only to access their homes; PD can’t make stop based on “Local Access Only” but would typically be a second offense cited
- Discussion
 - Stop sign is not listed as a mitigation tool because too many of them are ignored by drivers if they are installed in places where they aren’t warranted.

Related Issues: Construction impacts touching on Bellevue Way SE & 112th Ave SE (John M)

- Bellevue Way SE HOV project: Currently this project is in design and is not funded for construction. Should it be funded, construction would occur after East Link construction. East Link staff and BWSE project staff share information about their respective projects. An open house on the Bellevue Way HOV project is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 from 5-7 pm in the Concourse (1st floor) of Bellevue City Hall (*note: it was originally communicated at the meeting that this open house would be held on June 7. This is incorrect; the open house is June 15*)
- South Bellevue Park & Ride Closure: The South Bellevue Park & Ride will be a major construction staging area for work along the South Bellevue East Link segment. Sound Transit has not advertised its bid (at the time of the NTMC meeting) but the closure is expected to start this fall (possibly November 2016) and will last 5 years. The lot will be used for staging construction equipment. Parking lot is over capacity. Most commuters take the 550 bus to/from Seattle. Sound Transit is establishing alternate commuter parking lots throughout Bellevue and the region (as many drivers are not originating from only Bellevue). In response to concerns the City is hearing now about “hide & ride” in the neighborhood areas along the 550 route—including SE 28th Pl—the City is prepared to implement residential permit parking zones (RPZs) should it meet minimum requirements and residents support their installation.
- *Next Meeting:*
 - Staff to send an online calendar tool (Doodle poll) to find best available date to meet in mid-June

Issues/Questions

- How will impacts from East Link construction will be known?
 - Based on knowledge of the roadway network and lessons learned from Utilities work on 112th Ave SE, staff and the NTMC are aware of potential “hotspots.” That said, NTMC would like to assess recommendations after construction is underway. NTMC will likely meet after the start of construction.



- Who are the decision makers at the City who will determine feasibility of NTMC's recommendations?
 - The City's East Link Steering Committee is comprised of manager-level personnel from the Transportation, Planning & Community Development, Development Services, and other departments. The **Director of the Department of Transportation Committee** will consider NTMC's proposed mitigation. Implementation will be based on a demonstrated need, a concept that will continue to be explored and defined.
- What does "maintenance of traffic" mean?
 - To retain the existing capacity on a roadway when it is most needed (e.g. during peak commute times)
- Can the PD issue a violation of a driver not obeying a contractor's flagger?
 - Yes.

The following questions will be discussed at the next meeting:

- What provisions are in Sound Transit's contractor package for (police) enforcement?
- What incentives are there to encourage commuters to stay away from BWSE?
- How does the City monitor current traffic? What data is available? Counts/2 years, adaptive signal system?
- What are the current capacities?
- How are traffic counts decided?
- How can we work with tech firms to not route through neighborhood?
- Can traffic be modeled at neighborhood level?

Issues outside City's authority

- WSDOT tolling on 520 and I-405

This summary will be posted on the South Bellevue Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation Committee webpage: <http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/12292.htm>

