

PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL PRIORITY PROJECT LIST

Project Sponsor: WSDOT (Submitted by Bellevue)

Project Name: SR 520/124th Avenue NE Half Interchange

Project Location: SR 520 and 124th Avenue NE

What type of project is it: Corridors Serving Centers

Plan Consistency:

- Transportation 2040 project number: 4528
- Is the project consistent with the Transportation 2040: Yes

Project Description

This project completes the Bel-Red Connectivity Corridor – Part 1 (see narrative) to provide a connection between Downtown Bellevue (a regional growth center)/I-405 and SR 520, which serves the Seattle and Redmond/Overlake centers. The project would construct a half interchange to allow access to and from the east (the current interchange only provides access to and from the west).

Project Outcomes/Benefits

BENEFIT TO CENTERS

- The project, in combination with other improvements, connects Downtown Bellevue/I-405 to centers served by SR 520, including Seattle and Redmond/Overlake. Projections for growth in the Bellevue Downtown over the next ten years anticipate 28,000 new jobs - many in the high tech industry - and 9,000 new residents.
- The project also provides direct access to Bellevue's emerging Bel-Red area and two planned transit-oriented-development nodes. Through recent planning, zoning, and environmental actions taken by the city, the Bel-Red Corridor is poised for growth. Over the next 15 years, the low-rise light industrial uses are expected to transition to include four million square feet of new mid-rise office space and 5,000 new residential units. This growth is not sprawl, but rather mixed-use infill with most of the office tenants expected to be high tech companies seeking the synergy of being between the technology centers in Downtown Bellevue and Overlake. (Bellevue hosts nearly 20 percent of high tech jobs in King County.)
- The project supports a major catalyst development, to be known as the Spring District, which will convert nearly 40 acres of a former distribution facility. The planned development will support more than 10,000 new jobs and more than 1,000 new residents in a transit-oriented node incorporating an East Link light rail station.

SYSTEM CONTINUITY

- The project allows the NE 10th Street overpass to better serve both sides of I-405. Trips would utilize the new ramps at 124th Avenue NE to get to eastbound SR 520 instead of using southbound 116th Avenue NE and the NE 10th Street ramps to access eastbound SR 520 – thereby improving access to the overpass at NE 10th and allowing more capacity to serve the growing hospital district.

LONG TERM BENEFIT/SUSTAINABILITY

- New access to/from the east reduces volumes on SR 520 by several hundred trips (as much as 900 trips in one segment) in the PM peak hour west of 124th. This shift translates to significant state system benefit by removing cars (and their green house gas emissions) at the heavily congested SR 520 and I-405 interchange.

MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- The project would reduce PM peak volumes at the SR 520/I-405 interchange by several hundred trips due to the availability of the new eastbound access to SR 520 at 124th Avenue NE. In addition, the regional traffic model shows that the new ramps at 124th Avenue NE would also reduce westbound SR 520 to southbound I-405 volumes by more than 200 trips in the PM peak hour.
- While the project supports long term growth for Downtown Bellevue and the Bel-Red Corridor, it also ensures the vitality of the existing freight-based businesses in Bel-Red. 124th Avenue NE is a T-2 truck route and serves more than 1100 trucks each day. This freight route will benefit from full east and west access to/from SR 520.

Project Status & Timeline

The new half interchange is part of the broader SR 520 planning effort being conducted by WSDOT. If funding were to become available, the City and WSDOT would work cooperatively to complete the project, most likely using a Design/Build contract.

Phase	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	End
Design								
Environmental								
ROW								
Construction								2019