



Traffic Analysis Report 2021-008

112 Avenue SE south of Bellevue Way SE



January 2022

Introduction

The City of Bellevue has received concerns from Enatai residents living along 112th Ave SE about increases in vehicle traffic and speeds as a result of access changes in/out of the neighborhood at 113th Ave SE. The concerns were focused on increased vehicle traffic and speeds on 112th Ave SE and associated impacts to people walking. This report summarizes the concerns, the city’s analysis and recommendations.

Changes to Traffic

As part of East Link construction and associated changes to operations along Bellevue Way, the entrance into the Enatai neighborhood at 113th Ave SE became right-in, right-out. In other words, left turns from 113th Ave SE to northbound Bellevue Way and from northbound Bellevue Way to 113th Ave SE were prohibited. This change was a necessary safety change due to the operations of Bellevue Way. As a result of the change, a new U-turn opportunity was opened in May 2021 between 112th Ave SE and 113th Ave SE (see MAP for reference).

Traffic Studies

Traffic studies measuring vehicle speeds and volumes were conducted in early May and August 2021 to compare how traffic volumes on 112th and 113th Ave SE—the only two points of access to the neighborhood in South Enatai—may have changed as a result of access changes. The 2021 studies were compared against a similar study conducted in 2016.

The May study was conducted after the left turn elimination on northbound Bellevue Way at SE 30th/113th Ave SE was implemented and before the U-turn from northbound Bellevue Way to southbound Bellevue at the south access of the South Bellevue Park and Ride was open. The August study was conducted after the U-turn was implemented to provide several months of adjustment to the access changes.



Summary of Findings

Road Characteristics

112th Ave SE is a residential street and is one of two entrances into the southern portion of the Enatai neighborhood; 113th Ave SE, a collector arterial, is the other entrance. The speed limit is 25 mph on both streets. There is sidewalk on the west side of 112th Ave SE from Bellevue Way to SE 30th St and also from just south of SE 31st St to SE 34th St.

Speed Study

When measuring vehicle speed, we use a metric called the 85th percentile speed. This speed represents the speed at which 85% of all vehicles recorded are traveling at or below during our speed study. Speeds along 112th Ave SE have remained essentially static since the November 2016 baseline study.

	Northbound 85th Percentile	Southbound 85th Percentile
Nov 2016	30.7 mph	30.3 mph
May 2021	31.7 mph	30.9 mph
Aug 2021	30.0 mph	30.5 mph

A request was made to the city to see if the speed limit could be lowered on the street. While we aren't currently reviewing 112th Ave SE for a lower speed limit, the city is interested in looking at speed limits on local streets as part of our Vision Zero program. Vision Zero is the city's commitment to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by 2030. In the 2021 Vision Zero Action Plan, there is an action to "Develop a neighborhood slow zone program to reduce speed limits citywide to 20 mph." This work is currently in the early stages of planning to advance this work.

Traffic Volumes

Since the U-turn was made available in May, daily traffic volumes are down 17% on 112th Ave SE. That said, as a result of the access changes at 113th Ave SE, 112th Ave SE is now carrying a higher share of traffic volumes when compared to a similar study conducted in November 2016.

	112th Ave SE		113th Ave SE		Both Streets
	Volume	Share of Neighborhood Traffic*	Volume	Share of Neighborhood Traffic*	Volume
Nov 2016 Volume	1059	32%	2212	68%	3271
May 2021 Volume	1640	56%	1299	44%	2939
Aug 2021 Volume	1359	43%	1828	57%	3187

*Share of neighborhood traffic represents the share of that street's volume compared to the total volume measured on both 112th Ave SE and 113th Ave SE. These two streets represent the only two ways to get in/out of the Enatai neighborhood in the south end.

Since 2016, traffic volumes have ticked up slightly on 112th Ave SE, likely the result of access changes at 113th Ave SE. Fortunately, since the ability to make U-turns on Bellevue Way became operational in May, 113th Ave SE is again carrying the majority of vehicle traffic in and out of the neighborhood. Despite the increase in traffic entering the neighborhood on 112th Ave SE, total volumes in and out of the neighborhood have remained relatively static suggesting that the increase in traffic on 112th Ave SE is not the result of cut-through traffic but rather of neighborhood residents adjusting their travel patterns.

Collision History

A three-year collision study was conducted on 112th Ave SE from Bellevue Way to SE 34th St.

FINDINGS: There were no collisions reported along 112th Ave SE from Bellevue Way to SE 34th St during the study period.

Summary of Recommendations

Radar Sign



The City of Bellevue has a stationary radar sign program in which proposed locations are ranked based on roadway characteristics including speeds, traffic volumes, reported collisions, existing traffic calming measures, and walkability. These characteristics are analyzed to help determine the ranking of requested locations amongst other candidate locations. Projects are selected based on the ranking of the location and available resources for new projects every two years. We have added your requested location to our stationary radar sign candidate location list, and it will be analyzed during our next review period.

Additionally, a stationary radar sign is planned to be installed on 113th Ave SE south of Bellevue Way in 2022 to address vehicle speeds.

Radar Dolly

As a resident, you can borrow a portable radar unit dolly (BellevueWA.gov/radardolly). This unit helps motorists become more aware of their speeds and has been effective in decreasing vehicle speeds in many areas of Bellevue.



Sidewalk

The missing segment of sidewalk on the west side of 112th Ave SE from SE 30th St to SE 31st St is on the city's Neighborhood Sidewalk Program (BellevueWA.gov/sidewalk-program) list of candidate projects. Candidate project locations are assessed using a prioritization framework that considers elements such as the speed limit, collisions, volume of traffic and proximity to activity centers (e.g. shopping, schools and libraries). As you might imagine, we have an immense number of candidate locations across the city with only limited budget to build them all.

Yard Signs

To raise awareness of traffic safety in neighborhoods, the city offers colorful neighborhood yard signs with traffic safety messages for people using our streets. Many in the neighborhood have already borrowed our colorful traffic safety yard signs. These signs come in four available messages:

- Drive Like You Live Here
- Eyes On the Road
- Slow Down, Kids Live Here
- Slow Down, Set the Pace



Upon receiving your request, Transportation Department staff will coordinate with you to deliver the signs and assist with the installation. You can request them here: BellevueWA.gov/yardsigns

Physical Traffic Calming

Several residents requested the placement of speed humps or other traffic calming to help slow the speed of motorists. While speed humps are not appropriate on 112th Ave SE due to the steepness of the roadway, this location been added to the city's list of candidate traffic calming projects for future funding consideration for other measures that could reduce vehicle speeds.

Future Street Lighting Project

While not focused on 112th Ave SE, the city will be enhancing street lighting on the stairs that connect SE 28th Place to 112th Ave SE. This project will add street and stair lights between 108th Ave SE and the South Bellevue Light Rail Station. This project will require further evaluation by city staff to determine exact locations with available right-of-way, available electrical infrastructure, and feasibility. This project will consist of installation of up to two (2) new LED streetlights on existing PSE utility poles and one (1) new LED streetlight on a new PSE utility pole. The project

will also include installation of up to five (5) new pedestrian-scale poles and LED light on the stairs between SE 28th Pl and 112th Ave SE. This project is funded out of the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP). The program empowers residents to propose and select modest, city-funded capital projects to enhance their neighborhoods.

Enforcement



The Transportation Department works closely with the Bellevue Police Department to enforce speed limits and other traffic laws in neighborhoods. Using key traffic data provided by Transportation staff, officers focus their scheduled patrols on the times and places where speeding most often occurs. Typically, targeted enforcement occurs during a one-week timeframe. Enforcement is also available by request. To request enforcement, go to BellevueWA.gov/tsr or call 425-577-5656.

Vision Zero More Information



Find out more about these recommendations in our Residential Traffic Guidebook or by visiting the Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services website.

GUIDEBOOK:
BellevueWA.gov/ResidentialTrafficGuideBook

WEBSITE:
BellevueWA.gov/ntss

Bellevue’s Vision Zero initiative reflects the city’s commitment to reduce traffic deaths and serious injury collisions on city streets to zero by the year 2030. In 2015, the city council passed a resolution providing a framework to achieve this goal. It states “the life, safety and health of residents, employees and visitors to Bellevue is the city council’s highest priority.”

By participating in one of the recommendations, previous page, you are helping the City of Bellevue in our efforts to make our streets safer for everyone.

Contact Information



Neighborhood Traffic Safety Services
 Transportation Department | City of Bellevue
 425-452-6457 | bellevuentss@bellevuewa.gov
BellevueWA.gov/ntss

For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-6967 (voice) or email jmurphy@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice). If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

Information

정보
情報

सूचना
資料

425-452-6800

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Thông Tin

Información
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