

City of Bellevue
Link Light Rail Track Access Requirements

Updated: January 16, 2024

The following are important updates that will take effect on November 1, 2023 related to working within proximity of the Link Light Rail guideway, particularly the at-grade crossings in the BelRed area. Not only are your safety and compliance with regulations of utmost importance, but you will not be able to proceed with work (whether permitted/started prior to November 1 or not) without following the procedures outlined below.

Beginning as early as November 1, 2023, King County will begin operating the light rail system for Sound Transit and running trains between downtown Bellevue and Redmond (without customers until Spring 2024). Therefore, all individuals engaged in activities within 10 feet of the rails (unless separated by a permanent physical barrier, such as a wall, fence, or concrete barrier) or overhead catenary system (OCS) must obtain proper certification AND a permit from King County. The certification and permit are mandatory for anyone actively engaged in work tasks within this zone, encompassing tasks such as digging, paving, aerial line work, striping, the setup of temporary traffic control, etc.

At this time, to facilitate this certification process, King County is offering free training sessions every Thursday morning, consisting of an overview of safety protocols, a safety video, and test, which must be passed for certification. Detailed information and registration can be found by visiting this link: [FlexiQuiz - LINK RIGHT-OF-WAY SAFETY TRAINING](#). Absent this certification, personnel will not be able to work in proximity to the light rail system, regardless of any permissions previously granted by the City of Bellevue via a Right of Way Use Permit.

Additionally, contractors operating in these areas will need a Track Access Permit from King County, which can be obtained through this link: [Track Access Permitting | Rail Operations \(kcmetrorailldivision.com\)](#). This is the process through which the county is made of aware of your planned activity, allowing them to coordinate the work and any associated temporary traffic control with their operations, including any notifications to drivers and/or providing safety personnel to facilitate the work.

Please be aware that inquiries related to training, track access permits, or any other matters concerning light rail operations and procedures should be directed to King County, as they oversee the operation of the light rail on behalf of Sound Transit. We at the City of Bellevue are unable to answer any questions related to these topics. Again, it is essential to understand that failure to comply with the procedures and certification requirements outlined by King County may result in nullification of permits issued by the City of Bellevue for work and/or temporary traffic control near the Link Light Rail guideway.

Reach out to King County using the Track Access Permitting link above if you need further clarification or have any questions regarding these requirements. Your cooperation is vital as we emphasize safety and the successful execution of projects near the light rail system.