



# City of Bellevue

## Bellevue Grand Connection:

## I-405 Crossing – Downtown to Eastrail

### Open House Engagement Summary Report

May 2, 2024

5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

*Bellevue Botanical Garden – 12001 Main St, Bellevue, WA 98005*

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## Project overview

Bellevue’s Grand Connection program is 1.5 miles of interconnected public and spaces focused for people walking and rolling. The program begins at Meydenbauer Bay Park and continues east through downtown Bellevue across I-405 to Eastrail. The corridor will expand opportunities for those who live, work and play in Bellevue to walk, bike, roll, relax, gather, eat and shop. The signature element of the Grand Connection is the crossing over I-405—the Grand Connection Crossing, which will link downtown Bellevue to Eastrail and the Wilburton neighborhood for people traveling without a car.

The Grand Connection Crossing will start at the City Hall Plaza and end at Eastrail, ultimately tying downtown Bellevue into a 175-mile regional trail network that connects more than half a million Eastside residents.

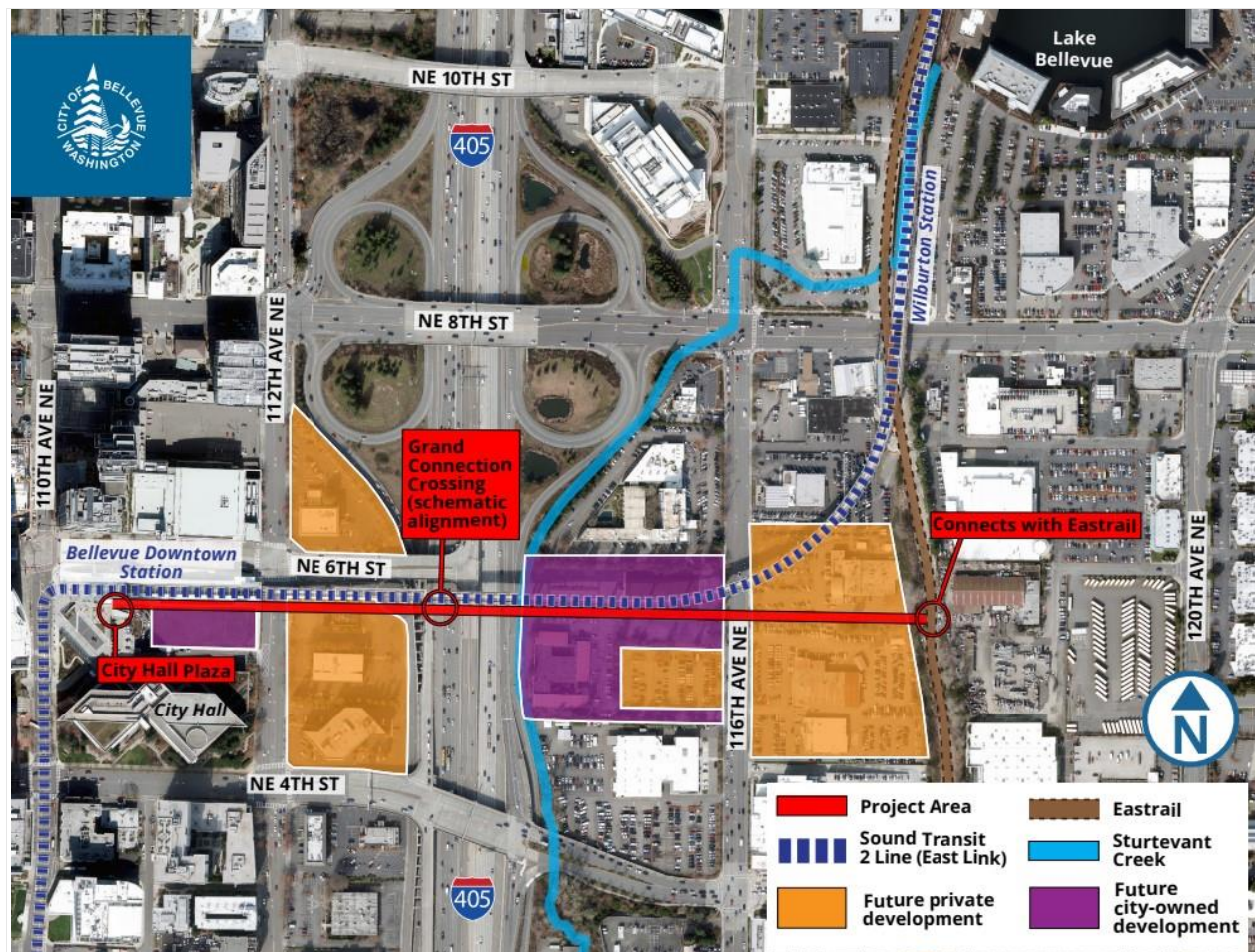


Figure 1: Grand Connection Crossing project limits.

The Grand Connection Crossing will support the transformation of the [Wilburton study](#)



[area](#) (located at the east end of the crossing) into Bellevue’s next urban mixed-use community, where improved amenities, opportunities for healthy living and economic vitality will serve the needs of a diverse and growing population. The city is aligning the updates to zoning and land use policies for the Wilburton study area with planning work for the Grand Connection Crossing.



*Figure 2: Representatives of the [Wilburton Vision Implementation project](#) and [Eastrail Multi-use Corridor project](#) staffed a resource table at the open house as projects intersect with the Grand Connection Crossing project.*

This crossing will also be compatible with a future lid park over I-405, which is a long-range vision included in the city’s [Grand Connection Framework Plan](#). When complete, the crossing will enable people of all ages and abilities to access events, jobs, businesses and recreational opportunities safely and conveniently beyond the downtown core as well as create a vibrant landmark with activated outdoor spaces that celebrate and serve the community.



## Open house overview

The City of Bellevue held an open house on May 2, 2024, at the Bellevue Botanical Garden from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The city invited the public to participate through email invitations, notices on project webpages, a blurb in the May edition of Neighborhood News newsletter, social media invitation posts and in-person outreach. Attendees had the opportunity to pre-register for the event using the Eventbrite website or drop by without pre-registering.

About 136 people attended the open house, including people strolling through the Bellevue Botanical Garden and those who preregistered for the event (62 people).



*Figure 3: Attendees visiting displays and chatting with team members.*

The purpose of the open house was to continue to build community awareness of and interest and engagement in the Grand Connection program and the crossing, as well as expand the diversity of people who participate in the community engagement. Project staff engaged open house participants by sharing general information about the Grand Connection program and provided a deeper dive into the Grand Connection Crossing project, including: the project schedule, alignment alternatives for the crossing and initial feedback received by the community from the February online open house. Project staff also communicated future opportunities for public input.

Project staff greeted attendees at a welcome table and shared a project overview flyer before introducing an interactive, Mad Libs-style activity to gather community input. Project display boards were set up around the room and a 3D architectural model and roll plots featured the project alignment alternatives. A flyover video clip played on a loop throughout the open house to help people envision the location for the crossing. Community members could provide their comments directly to project staff, by writing on the roll plot and by filling out the Mad Libs-style form. Project partners, including Wilburton Vision Implementation, Eastrail Multi-Use Corridor and the Friends of the Grand

Connection teams shared information about their projects and initiatives with open house attendees.

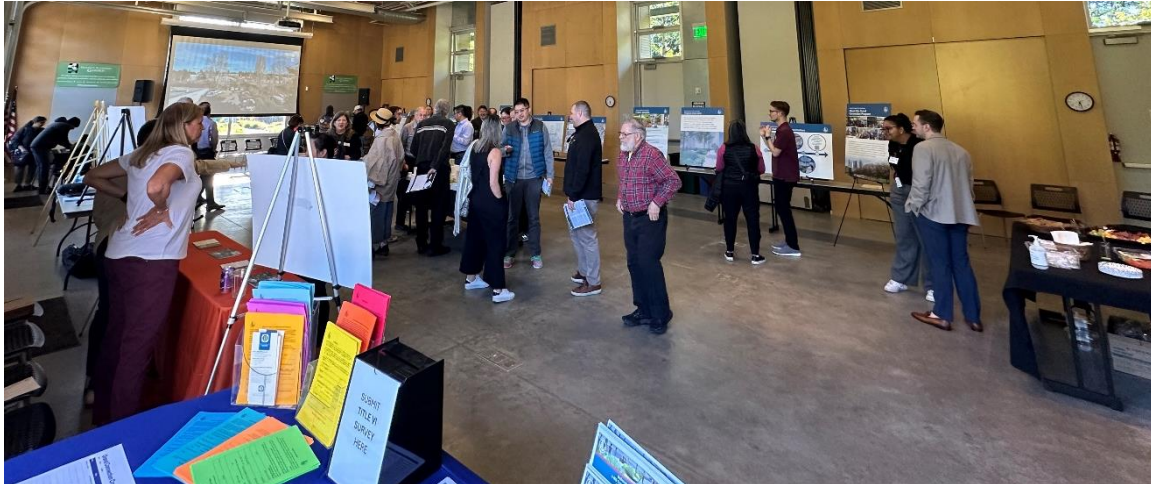


Figure 4: Room layout of the open house. Display boards and the roll plot map can be found in Appendix A: Displays – Boards, Roll Plot, Mini Display.

## Comments and feedback

Comments and feedback were welcomed at the open house and many of the community members chose to directly share them with project staff throughout the evening. Other ways community members could share their thoughts with project staff were in writing on the roll plot and by filling out the Mad Libs-style form.

### Roll Plot

In this activity, attendees viewed an overview map of the Grand Connection Crossing, divided into five points:

1. **Gateway (City Hall Plaza):** West entry to the crossing at City Hall Plaza. Features could include landscape, art/cultural elements, seating, play, vending, welcome kiosk, signage and wayfinding, overhead weather protection and special events.
2. **West Node:** Provide access points between the crossing structure and 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast below.
3. **I-405 Crossing:** The Grand Connection Crossing section between the west and east nodes over I-405. May include viewpoints, overhead weather protection, separated circulation for people walking and rolling, seating, signature landscape features and details/geometry designed to abate highway noise.
4. **East Node:** Provide access points between the crossing structure and 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast below.

- Gateway (Eastrail connection):** East entry to the crossing at Eastrail. Features could include landscape, art/cultural elements, seating, play, vending, welcome kiosk, signage and wayfinding, overhead weather protection and special events.

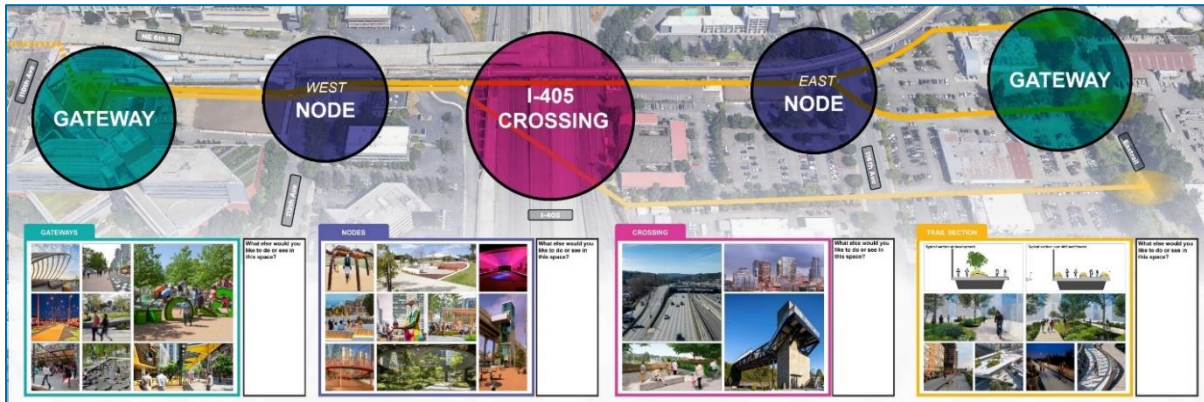


Figure 5: Roll plot display that community members were encouraged to leave their comments on. For a high-resolution roll plot image, see Appendix A: Displays – Boards, Roll Plot, Mini Display.







Each point included example images of features and amenities that could be included in that section. After viewing these, participants answered the question, “What else would you like to do or see in this space?”



Figure 6: Community member leaving a comment on the roll plot.



Participants shared common themes throughout all sections:

<p><b>Resting area</b> – reclining seats, chairs, benches and tiered seating</p> 		<p><b>Amenities</b> – restrooms, water fountains, water bottle fillers and ramps for accessibility</p>	 <p><b>Physical displays</b> – Canopy for the rain, artwork and signage and an attractive-looking sound barrier</p>
<p><b>Area for performances and community events</b> – live music, cultural performances, dances and an open-air market</p> 	<p><b>Bike-friendly amenities</b> – repair station, parking, rentable bike station and ramps</p>		 <p><b>Greenery</b> – trees to provide shade, landscaping and a ground cover for sound barrier</p>

Taken together, the comments suggest that community members want a crossing that is accessible and usable for all people and that it offers a safe and enjoyable experience while crossing over the highway. See [Appendix B: Roll Plot Comments](#) for all comments related to specific sections.

### Mad Lib-style interactive activity

The project team designed a Mad Libs-style activity to encourage community members to envision a trip on the Grand Connection and share how they plan to use it. See [Appendix C: Interactive Activities](#) for completed responses.

The main themes from this activity:

- Popular verbs for people using the bridge:



- Nouns used to describe the Bellevue area:



- Overall, positive responses – positive adjectives were used to describe how people are feeling when on the bridge, or to describe the city.





Figure 7: Attendees working on their Mad Lib - inspired activity.

Attendees who completed the activity used words that suggested they intended to use the Grand Connection for recreation and community gathering as much as commuting. The main uses represented in the completed activity forms were exercise, commuter and leisure user:

### Uses for the Grand Connection Crossing

■ Leisure ■ Exercise ■ Commuting

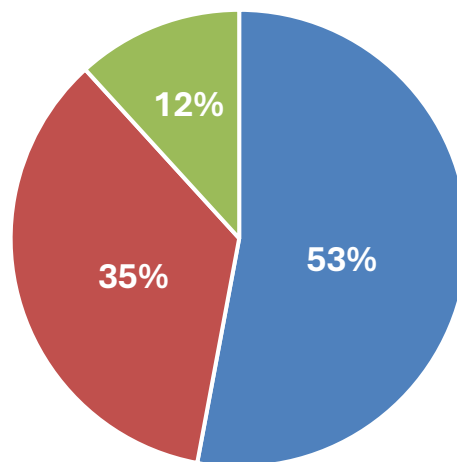


Figure 8: Breakout of how community members planned to use the crossing in answers submitted through the Mad Lib-inspired form.

Attendees tended to use positive words to describe how they felt after their Grand Connection experience. To describe Bellevue, they used words that evoked ideas such as soul, culture and community.

### Verbal comments and feedback

Throughout the evening attendees engaged in conversation with team members. The team answered questions and shared information about the project. Overall, many open house participants expressed enthusiasm for the crossing and encouraged the city to build the crossing as quickly as possible.

The main feedback and questions team members directly received were related to:

- Cost concerns
- Long project timeline
- Integration of the crossing with a future lid park



Figure 9: Community members chatting with Grand Connection Crossing team members.

### Who did we meet?

Of the 136 attendees 44 people signed up to receive project updates during sign-in at the welcome table. Attendees had the option to share if they live, work and/or play in Bellevue and of the 44 people who signed in, 40% live, 29% work and 31% play in Bellevue.



### I \_\_\_\_ in Bellevue

■ Live ■ Work ■ Play

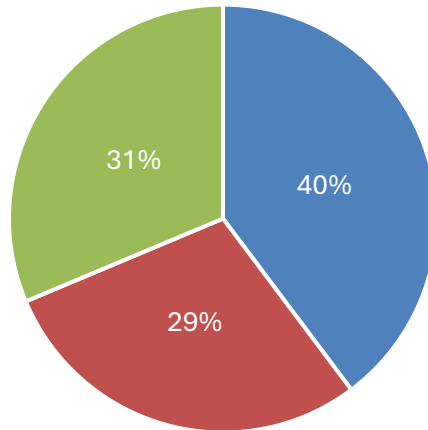


Figure 10: Breakout of how attendees who signed in define their relationship with Bellevue.

### Children’s activity

Open house participants included families with children. The team provided a drawing station to engage children so parents could participate in the open house. Children drew pictures of what they thought the Grand Connection Crossing would look like. See Appendix C for drawings.



Figure 11: Drawing a child made of the crossing.



## Notification strategy

### Print and digital outreach

The City of Bellevue invited community participation in the open house by including information in the monthly e-newsletters *Neighborhood News*. The project team also emailed an open house invitation to 5,294 people subscribed to city project mailing lists.

The City of Bellevue posted event invitations on social media, including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor and X, formerly known as Twitter. The Nextdoor and X posts were translated from English into eight other languages: Chinese (simplified and traditional), Japanese, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Hindi. See [Appendix D: Notification Outreach](#) for all social media posts.

The city posted the open house invitation on city websites, including the Economic Development Department Grand Connection program [webpage](#), and the Transportation Department’s Grand Connection Crossing project [webpage](#). The city also posted on [BellevueGrandConnection.com](#), a website dedicated to the Grand Connection program. In addition to the city-managed webpages, the Friends of the Grand Connection published the open house registration link to their website [friendsofgrandconnection.org](#).

### In-Person outreach

On April 27, 2024, the team tabled at Sound Transit’s 2 Line Opening Ceremony, speaking to over 850 community members and sharing 300 invitations to the open house. See [Appendix D: Notification Outreach](#) for the tabling event summary.





*Figure 12: Project team members sharing project information and invitations to the open house at the Sound Transit 2-Line opening event.*

### Community-based organization outreach

The week leading up to the event, the project team sent an informational email with project information and an open house invitation to the following community-based organizations identified as priority partners:

- Complete Streets Bellevue
- Bellevue Youth Link
- Wilburton Community Association
- Centro Cultural Mexicano
- 4Tomorrow
- Eastside for All
- Hopelink
- Indian American Community Services
- Neighborhood Associations
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Downtown Bellevue Residents Association

### Next steps

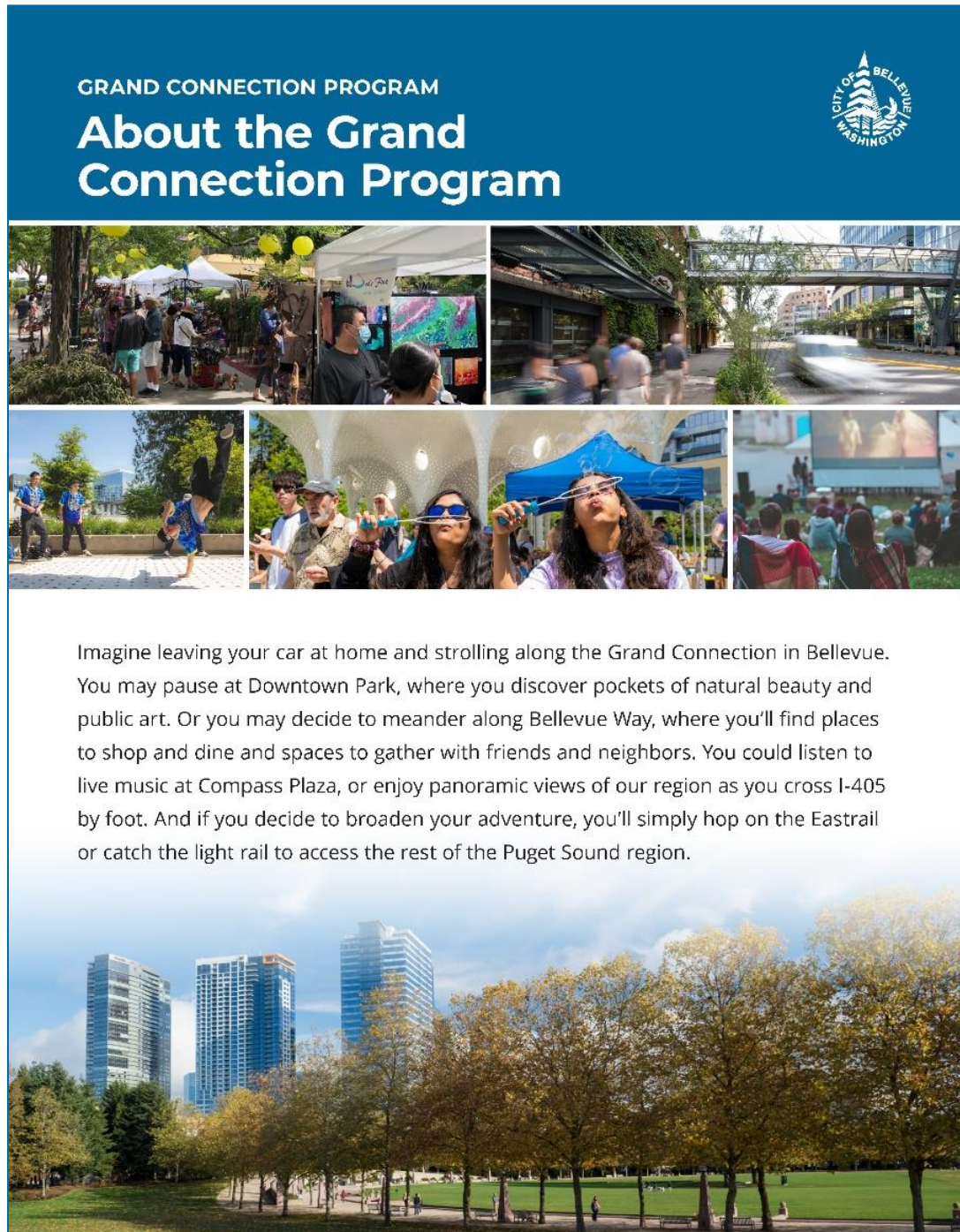
The Grand Connection Crossing team will review and consider what community members shared at the open house as the team identifies the preferred alternative and the project advances to 30% design. The City of Bellevue will continue to update the community on project milestones and provide opportunities for the public to share their input with the project team. The next open house is currently scheduled for Fall 2024.



## Appendix A: Displays – Boards, Roll Plot, Mini Display

The images below are the display boards that were positioned throughout the venue. Team members were stationed at each one to explain and answer any attendee questions.

### Display boards:



The display board features a blue header with the text "GRAND CONNECTION PROGRAM" and "About the Grand Connection Program" in white. The City of Bellevue logo is in the top right corner. Below the header is a collage of six images: a street scene with people, a modern building, a person performing a stunt, people using a VR headset, a person using a VR headset, and a group of people. Below the collage is a paragraph of text and a large image of a park with modern buildings in the background.

GRAND CONNECTION PROGRAM

## About the Grand Connection Program

Imagine leaving your car at home and strolling along the Grand Connection in Bellevue. You may pause at Downtown Park, where you discover pockets of natural beauty and public art. Or you may decide to meander along Bellevue Way, where you'll find places to shop and dine and spaces to gather with friends and neighbors. You could listen to live music at Compass Plaza, or enjoy panoramic views of our region as you cross I-405 by foot. And if you decide to broaden your adventure, you'll simply hop on the Eastrail or catch the light rail to access the rest of the Puget Sound region.



GRAND CONNECTION PROGRAM

# From Vision to Implementation





GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING

## Project Overview



The next element of the Grand Connection program is the Grand Connection Crossing over I-405. The crossing will bring 1.5 miles of new public space to gather, eat, shop and play. It will provide a safe, enjoyable route for people to walk, bike or roll to/from downtown Bellevue, the light rail, Eastrail and beyond.







## GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING Project Benefits



**Provide safe, convenient and comfortable path across I-405 for people walking and rolling**



**Connect downtown Bellevue with 175-mile regional trail network that serves half a million Eastside residents**



**Support future development in downtown Bellevue and transformation of Wilburton into a thriving community, creating space where everyone feels welcome and safe**



**Provide more ways for people to get around Bellevue without a car**



**Offer opportunities for active and healthy transportation**



**Create a destination we can all be proud of, where residents and visitors alike can enjoy Bellevue's culture, natural beauty and vibrant community.**



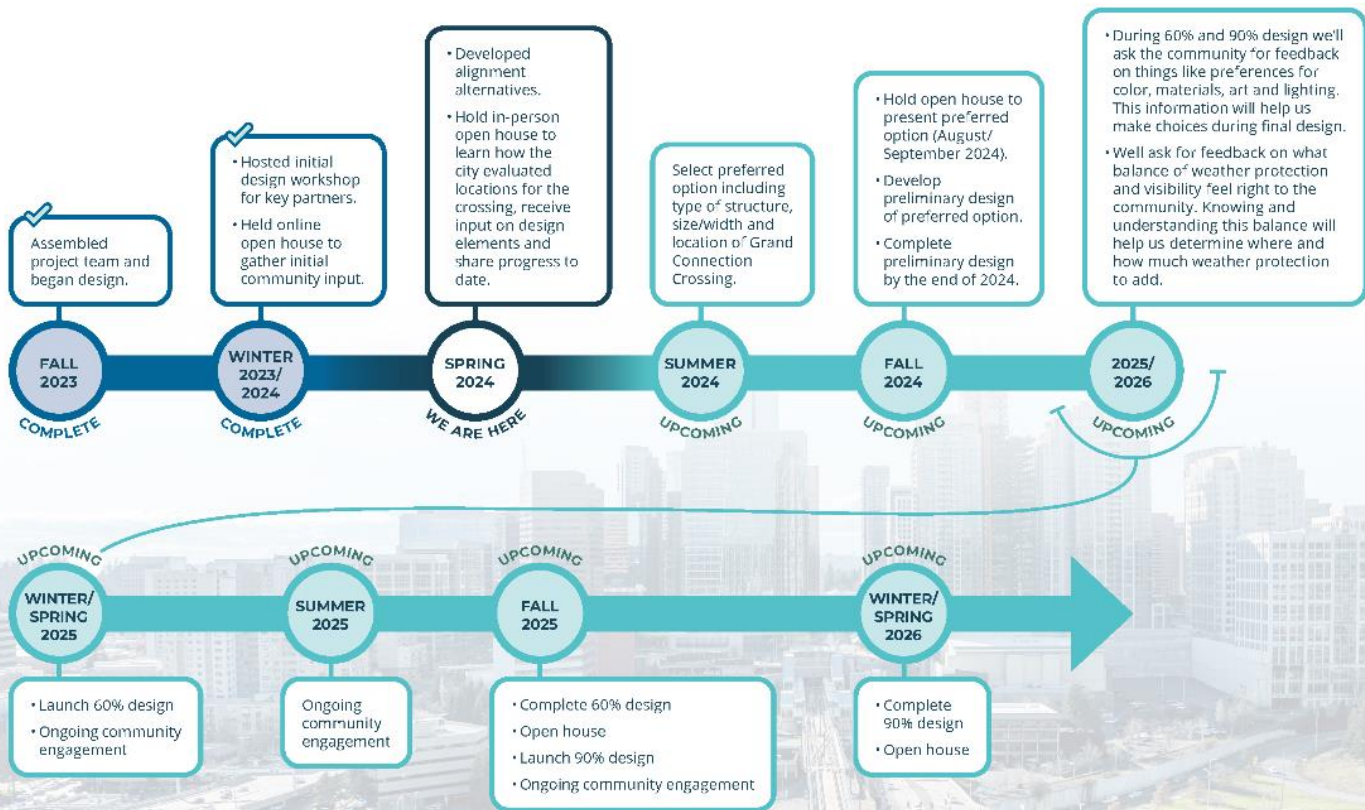
# GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING Project Area Map

This map references plans for both public and private redevelopment. There are multiple opportunities for integration with future development to create new public spaces along the half-mile bridge.





# GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING Project Timeline





GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING

# What We've Heard So Far



Here's a summary of what community members and key partners have told us so far:



This crossing should be safe and enjoyable for people who walk and roll



It should connect downtown Bellevue to the Eastrail regional trail

Landscaping should be a key feature because access to green spaces and nature are important



It should be welcoming and accessible to all



The crossing should provide easy connections to current and future dining and retail



High-speed uses—such as bicycles—should be separated from lower-speed uses—such as people who walk and who use wheelchairs

Lighting should enhance public safety



Bellevue Grand Connection:  
I-405 Crossing - Downtown to  
Eastrail Design Charette Summary

For detailed summaries, see:

Bellevue Grand Connection:  
I-405 Crossing - Downtown to  
Eastrail Online Open House Summary





GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING

# What's Next for Community Engagement?



Here's what we want to learn from you this year:

**Where do you want to go from this crossing?**

This will help us determine where to place connections from the crossing to nearby commercial areas.

**What elements bring value to the crossing?**

**What features will help everyone feel safe and welcome using the crossing?**

Your answers will help us decide on things like the width of the crossing at different points and what kind of structure best accommodates elements such as landscaping or distinctive architectural features.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 2024



## GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING

# Alignments considered and eliminated

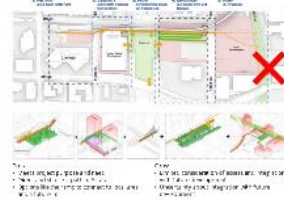
The purpose of the Grand Connection Crossing project is to create a safe, high comfort, transformative connector and crossing of I-405 for people walking, biking and rolling; expand the regional trail network with a connection point to the future Eastrail and enhance access to the regional light rail system and connect between downtown Bellevue and Wilburton.

**The project is needed to provide:**

- 1. Safety** for active transportation users
- 2. Multimodal connectivity** and access in downtown Bellevue
- 3. Community connection** as envisioned in local land use plans

The city evaluated alignment alternatives in two phases and narrowed down to four alignment alternatives. This board shows all 10 of the alignments that were considered initially and indicates which ones were dropped or carried forward.

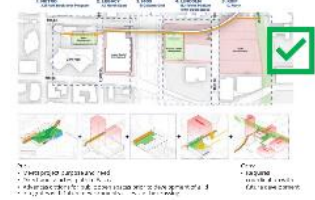
**ALIGNMENT ALT 1 | 2022 CONCEPT STUDY**



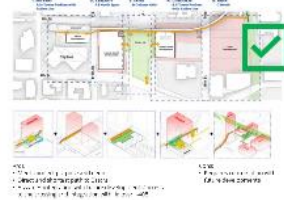
**ALIGNMENT ALT 2 | SIMPLE SPANS**



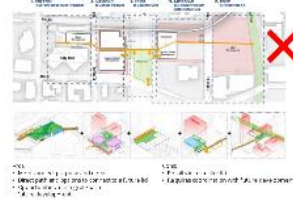
**ALIGNMENT ALT 3 | PUBLIC OPEN SPACES**



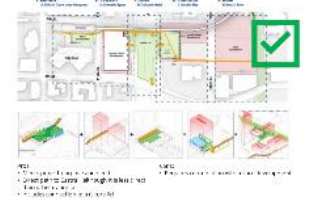
**ALIGNMENT ALT 4 | PUBLIC ACTIVE EDGES**



**ALIGNMENT ALT 5 | DOWN THE MIDDLE**



**ALIGNMENT ALT 6 | THE DIP**



**ALIGNMENT ALT 7 | SOUTH SIDE**



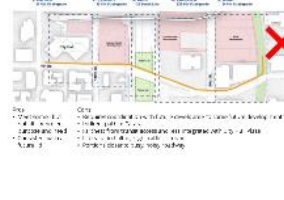
**ALIGNMENT ALT 8 | 6th ST**



**ALIGNMENT ALT 9 | 4th ST SPANS**



**ALIGNMENT ALT 10 | 4th ST AT GRADE**



- Options moving forward for further design**
- Options not moving forward for further design**  
 Design options that did not accommodate and integrate with future development or did not meet the project objectives were dropped from consideration.



GRAND CONNECTION CROSSING

# Alignments considered in Type, Size and Location (TS&L) study

These alignment alternatives (2/3/4 & 6) meet project purpose and are flexible enough to accommodate future development, and a future lid park. Alternatives 2, 3, and 4 are generally similar, but with different strategies for connecting to Eastrail and future development. The next step is for the city to evaluate these alternatives for structure type, constructability and cost.



**Alternative 2 - Simple Spans**

The simplest option for the Crossing is one where the alignment is kept as far north as possible. Adjacent developments would be able to happen without extensive coordination and could be integrated even after the crossing is complete.



**Alternative 3 - Public Open Spaces**

This is the same as Alignment 2 but offers more options for integration and collaboration with future developments. This option illustrates how a similar area and character could be achieved on public building direct access to the crossing in advance of a lid construction.



**Alternative 4 - Public Active Edges**

This is similar to Alignment 3 with building programs developed on and above the podium level. This alignment alternative assumes that the City develops up to the level where private and public developments can connect to the crossing.



**Alternative 6 - The Dip**

This alignment drops the Crossing through the south side of the Lincoln Center parcel, allowing for the largest bridge structure over I-405.



**Blank roll plot:**

**GATEWAYS**

What else would you like to do or see in this space?

**NODES**

What else would you like to do or see in this space?

**CROSSING**

What else would you like to do or see in this space?

**TRAIL SECTION**

What else would you like to do or see in this space?





Roll plot with comments:

### GATEWAYS

**What else would you like to do or see in this space?**

- Outdoor dances
- Playground + kid-friendly display
- Young-type seating (reclining)
- bike parking + rentable bike station
- Farm trucks
- Water fountains
- More vendors available
- More outdoor events in the summer (live music)
- Platform for live music
- Night market
- open air market
- water garden

### NODES

**What else would you like to do or see in this space?**

- Trees (green) PLEASE
- Chairs (resting area)
- Stage for cultural performances
- water display
- Farmers Market
- food stands
- community garden plots
- self-cleaning restrooms

### CROSSING

**What else would you like to do or see in this space?**

- telescopes
- Make the bridge a signature structure that says "Welcome to Bellevue" maybe cable along bridge?
- Something on the bridge near Culture Living

### TRAIL SECTION

**What else would you like to do or see in this space?**

- Ascendable Ramps (Stairs, etc)
- Water feature
- Public art
- Access to 120th for bicyclists
- Make the bridge a signature structure that says "Welcome to Bellevue" maybe cable along bridge?
- Something on the bridge near Culture Living



**Mini Model:**



**Drone Footage:**





## Appendix B: Roll Plot Comments

The following table provides the feedback and comments left on the roll plot by participants. See Appendix A: Displays – Boards, Roll Plot, Mini Display for Roll Plot design.

Section	Comments
Gateway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor dances</li> <li>• Grocers</li> <li>• Bike repair station</li> <li>• Bike parking and rentable bike station</li> <li>• Playground/interactive display</li> <li>• Businesses                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kid-friendly businesses (ice cream)</li> <li>○ Food trucks</li> <li>○ More vendors available</li> </ul> </li> <li>• More outdoor events in the summer (free or not)</li> <li>• Platforms for live music</li> <li>• Night market/open-air market</li> <li>• Beer garden</li> <li>• Lounge-type seating (reclining)</li> <li>• Water fountains</li> <li>• Rain canopy</li> </ul>
East and west nodes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees (green)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Please</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chairs (resting area)</li> <li>• Stage for cultural performances                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With tiered seating</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Water dispenser</li> <li>• Drinking fountain, water bottle filler</li> <li>• Pet drinking fountain</li> <li>• Drink coffee</li> <li>• Farmer's market and mobile food stands</li> <li>• Community garden plots</li> <li>• Self-cleaning restrooms</li> <li>• Restrooms</li> <li>• Rain canopy to enjoy the area around the year</li> </ul>
I-405 Crossing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photograph/drawing</li> <li>• If possible, do more ramps (which everyone can use) and less</li> </ul>



	<p>stairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ramps = good for strollers, wheelchairs, bikes and mobility challenged folks.</li> <li>○ Stairs = only good for folks who are able.</li> <li>○ Folks who are able CAN also use ramps, but reverse is not true.</li> <li>○ Make as wide as possible</li> <li>● Telescopes</li> <li>● Make a piece of artwork cross I-405. Not just a bridge!</li> <li>● Noise canceling for more peaceful experience</li> <li>● Make the bridge a signature structure that says “Welcome to Bellevue”             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maybe cable stay bridge? Something similar to ped bridges over Bellevue way or Northeast Eighth Street</li> </ul> </li> <li>● View of Mt. Rainier</li> <li>● Rain canopy</li> </ul>
Trail section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Accessible ramps (strollers, ADA)</li> <li>● Kayak/tubing river course over I-405</li> <li>● Giant waterfall “white noise”</li> <li>● Rain cover (weather protection)</li> <li>● Bathroom access at strategic spots</li> <li>● No bathrooms on trail segments, save those for I-405 crossing/lid park</li> <li>● Access to 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northeast for Wilburton residents             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Minimize big concrete sound wall if possible. More open spaces/views would be nice</li> <li>● Make throw barriers attractive. E.g. by growing ivy or other plants</li> <li>● Dance</li> <li>● Trees and landscaping → areas with shading</li> <li>● Trees</li> <li>● Rain canopy for sitting under</li> <li>● Make the barriers attractive e.g. by growing Ivy or other plants</li> </ul>



Grand Connection Crossing  
 May 2, 2024 Open House  
 Engagement Summary Report



**A(n) juant Along the Grand Connection!**

Fill in the blank spaces where words are left out. Choose words fitting the word prompt.

One rainy afternoon in Bellevue, they went for a juant along the Grand Connection. They bumped into A Dizzle and decided to juant together. As they started their journey from the Eastrail regional trail, the Grand Connection stretched out before them like a(n) col. papa.

They crossed over a(n) leasant bridge that spanned I-405. They felt safe and welcome on this crossing, thanks to the fluctuating. As they stretched along, they enjoyed the views. They paused at a viewpoint. From this vantage point, they could see Mt. Rainier and the skyline of Bellevue in the distance.

Continuing their journey on the other side of the Grand Connection Crossing, they noticed people rolling sludging and staying, and realized they could do that too! They imagined themselves using the Grand Connection for staying or staying in the future. Next, they encountered a(n) staying that caught their eye. They paused to staying it, feeling happy by its staying.

When they reached Meydenbauer Bay Park, they couldn't help but feel a sense of leise at being surrounded by sand. The Grand Connection truly lived up to its name, connecting them to the heart and spirit of Bellevue.

**A(n) hop Along the Grand Connection!**

Fill in the blank spaces where words are left out. Choose words fitting the word prompt.

One cloudy afternoon in Bellevue, Ira went for a hop along the Grand Connection. They bumped into and and decided to hop together. As they started their journey from the Eastrail regional trail, the Grand Connection stretched out before them like a(n) stake.

They crossed over a(n) apoke bridge that spanned I-405. They felt safe and welcome on this crossing, thanks to the staying. As they hopped along, they enjoyed the staying. They paused at a viewpoint. From this vantage point, they could see Mt. Rainier and the skyline of Bellevue in the distance.

Continuing their journey on the other side of the Grand Connection Crossing, they noticed people cooking and lauding, and realized they could do that too! They imagined themselves using the Grand Connection for staying or staying in the future. Next, they encountered a(n) staying that caught their eye. They paused to staying it, feeling happy by its staying.

When they reached Meydenbauer Bay Park, they couldn't help but feel a sense of calm at being surrounded by staying. The Grand Connection truly lived up to its name, connecting them to the heart and culture of Bellevue.

**A(n) adventure Along the Grand Connection!**

Fill in the blank spaces where words are left out. Choose words fitting the word prompt.

One staying afternoon in Bellevue, laurie went for an adventure along the Grand Connection. They bumped into staying and decided to adventure together. As they started their journey from the Eastrail regional trail, the Grand Connection stretched out before them like a(n) staying.

They crossed over a(n) staying bridge that spanned I-405. They felt safe and welcome on this crossing, thanks to the staying. As they adventured along, they enjoyed the staying. They paused at a viewpoint. From this vantage point, they could see Mt. Rainier and the skyline of Bellevue in the distance.

Continuing their journey on the other side of the Grand Connection Crossing, they noticed people staying and staying, and realized they could do that too! They imagined themselves using the Grand Connection for staying or staying in the future. Next, they encountered a(n) staying that caught their eye. They paused to staying it, feeling staying by its staying.

When they reached Meydenbauer Bay Park, they couldn't help but feel a sense of pride at being surrounded by staying. The Grand Connection truly lived up to its name, connecting them to the heart and staying of Bellevue.

**A(n) staying Along the Grand Connection!**

Fill in the blank spaces where words are left out. Choose words fitting the word prompt.

One staying afternoon in Bellevue, staying went for a staying along the Grand Connection. They bumped into staying and decided to staying together. As they started their journey from the Eastrail regional trail, the Grand Connection stretched out before them like a(n) staying.

They crossed over a(n) staying bridge that spanned I-405. They felt safe and welcome on this crossing, thanks to the staying. As they staying along, they enjoyed the staying. They paused at a viewpoint. From this vantage point, they could see Mt. Rainier and the skyline of Bellevue in the distance.

Continuing their journey on the other side of the Grand Connection Crossing, they noticed people staying and staying, and realized they could do that too! They imagined themselves using the Grand Connection for staying or staying in the future. Next, they encountered a(n) staying that caught their eye. They paused to staying it, feeling staying by its staying.

When they reached Meydenbauer Bay Park, they couldn't help but feel a sense of staying at being surrounded by staying. The Grand Connection truly lived up to its name, connecting them to the heart and staying of Bellevue.

**A(n) staying Along the Grand Connection!**

Fill in the blank spaces where words are left out. Choose words fitting the word prompt.

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**Children's Activity**

Children accompanied their parents to the open house and could choose to draw what they thought the Grand Connection Crossing would look like.



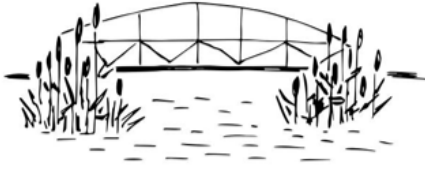
**Drawing instructions**

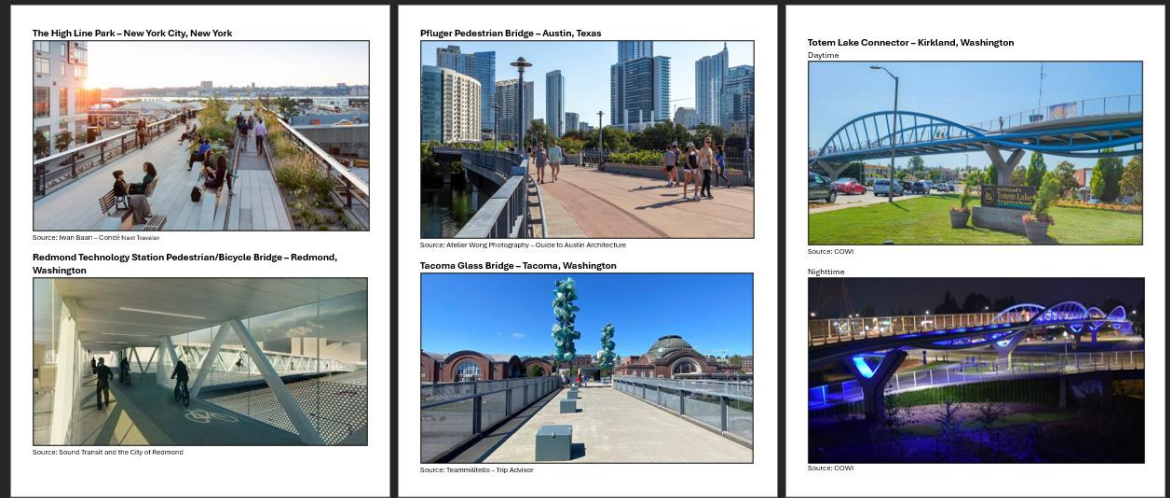


### Draw your bridge!

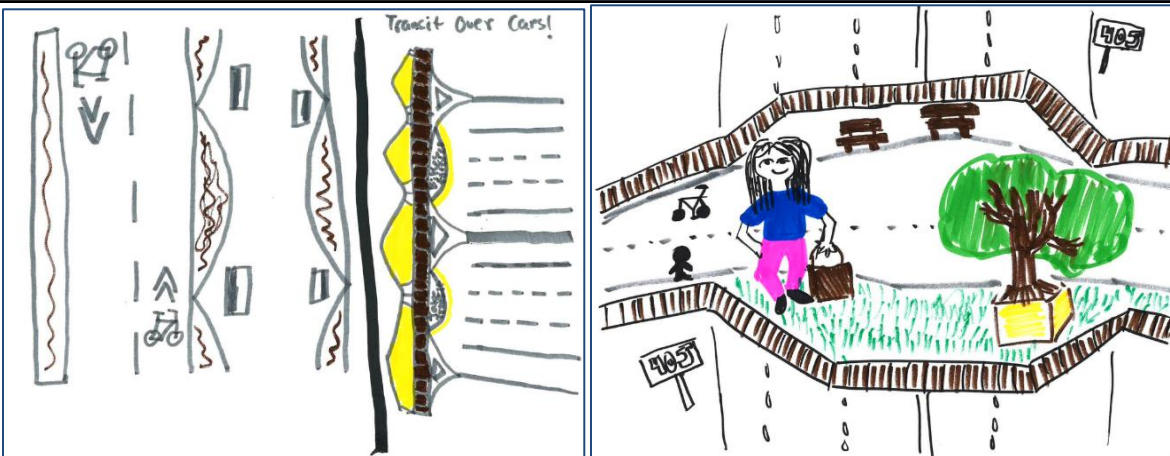
Draw what the Grand Connection Crossing should look like and how you will use the bridge!

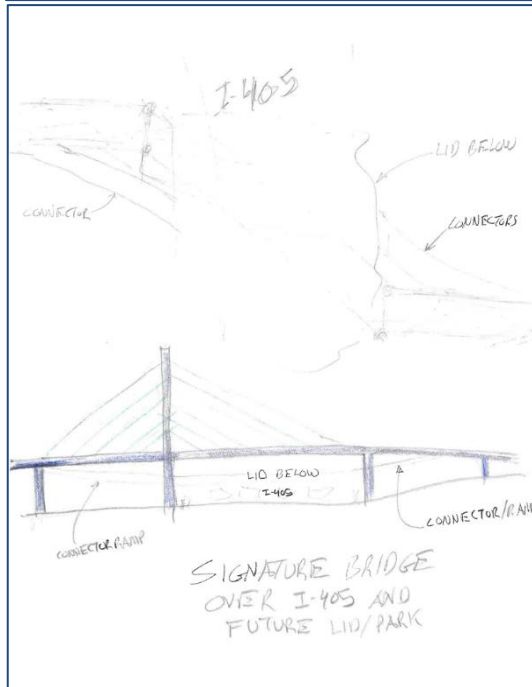
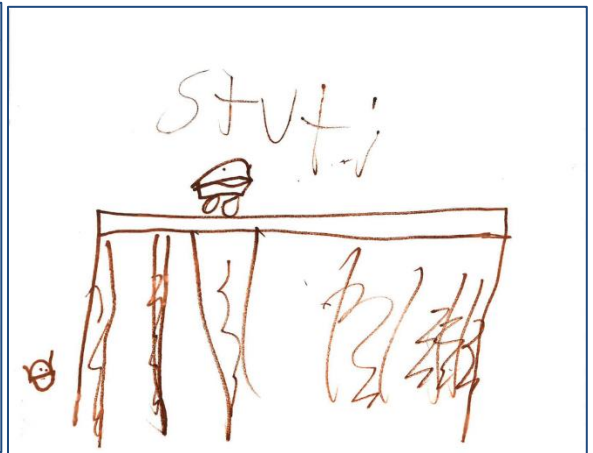
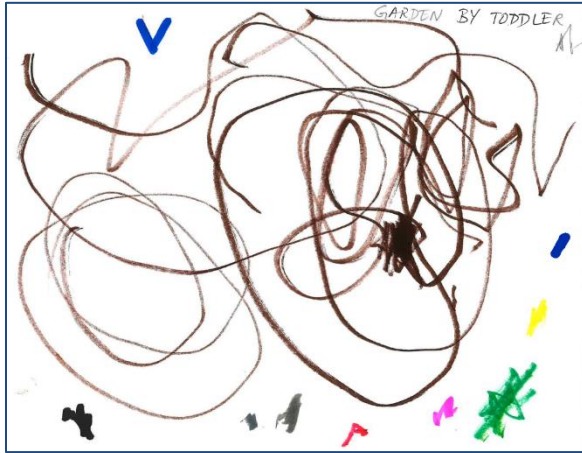
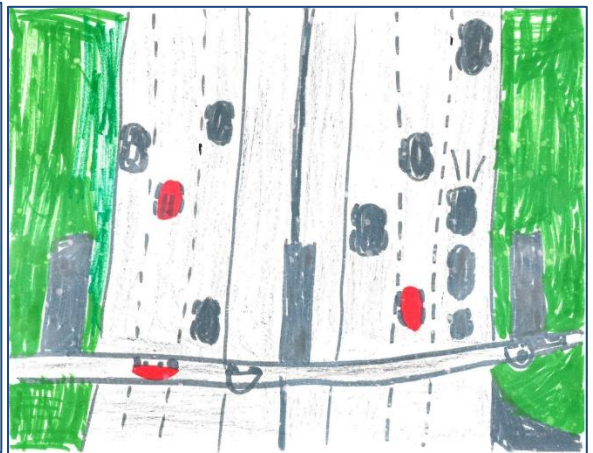
Check out the photos of other bridges to inspire your drawing. After you finish, add it to the collection!





**Drawings made by Attendees**









## Appendix D: Notification Outreach

### Newsletter Outreach

#### Newsletters

#### City of Bellevue - Neighborhood News Monthly Newsletter

#### Neighborhood Enhancement Program updates

**Northeast Bellevue.** NEP kicked off in early April with a budget of \$366,000 for your area! Now is the time to submit your project ideas for how you'd like this money spent.

It's easy to share your ideas. Simply return the Postage Paid Project Idea Card each Northeast Bellevue household received in the mail or submit your ideas using the online submission form found at [BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep). All project ideas must be postmarked or submitted online by May 7.

**West Lake Sammamish.** City staff have finished the scoping phase of the numerous project ideas that were submitted for your neighborhood earlier this year.

Please plan to join city staff and your neighbors at a public open house on June 13, 6:30-8 p.m. to preview the projects that will be included on your NEP ballot and are eligible for potential funding from the \$219,000 budget allocation. A brief overview of the project scoping process and NEP voting process will be provided.

Look for printed invitations and meeting details to arrive in West Lake Sammamish area mailboxes in early June. Let us know that you plan to attend by emailing [NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov).

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program is a city-funded program that allows residents to propose and select modest, capital projects to enhance their neighborhoods. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP neighborhood areas over the course of seven years, serving two areas each year. The \$7 million program allocation is distributed among each of the NEP neighborhood areas, according to the number of households in each area.

Please contact Theresa Cuthill at [tcuthill@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:tcuthill@BellevueWA.gov) with questions. Detailed program information can be found at [BellevueWA.gov/nep](http://BellevueWA.gov/nep)



#### Save the date for the Grand Connection Crossing Open House!

Thursday, May 2, 5-8 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Gardens – Aaron Education Center, 12001 Main Street, Bellevue

Join us for light refreshments and a first look at the design options for the Grand Connection Crossing. Stop by to learn how the city will evaluate locations for the crossing and share what features you would like to experience while using the bridge.

#### About the project

The Grand Connection Crossing will provide a safe and convenient alternative to vehicle travel, and will improve access from downtown to Wilburton, local trails and regional transportation options.

The crossing is a key component of the Grand Connection program, which will create inviting spaces between Meydenbauer Bay and Eastrail where people who live, work or play in Bellevue can come together to gather, shop and dine.

#### Old Bellevue Spring Wine Walk is scheduled for May 9!

Join us in Old Bellevue for the annual Spring Wine Walk on Thursday, May 9, 4-8 p.m.

Sip delicious vintages from 18 wineries that have partnered with merchants to provide excellent wines in our unique location in the heart of Old Bellevue.

To participate, register at [bit.ly/OBWW](http://bit.ly/OBWW)

General tickets: \$40 (5:30-8 p.m.)





Social Media Posts

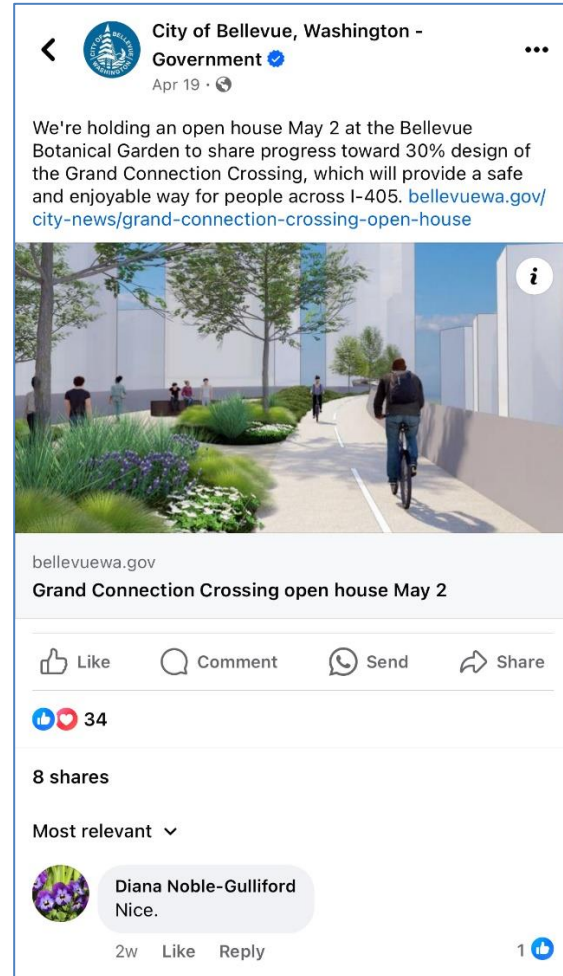
Social Media Post

**Bellevue Transportation Department: X**  
 (formally known as Twitter)



**City of Bellevue, Washington - Government;**  
 Facebook

Number of comments: one





**City of Bellevue, Washington - Government; Instagram**

Number of comments: one

cityofbellevuewa

63 likes

cityofbellevuewa We're holding an open house May 2, 5-8 p.m., at the Bellevue Botanical Garden to share progress toward 30% design of the Grand Connection Crossing, which will provide a safe and enjoyable way for people across I-405.

View 1 comment

April 19

paunchy\_elephant 2w · ❤️ by author

❤️ ❤️ ❤️ 🥰 🥰 🥰 🥰

Reply

1

**City of Bellevue, Washington – Government; Nextdoor**

**Reminder: The Grand Connection Crossing project team is hosting an in-person open house tomorrow from 5-8 p.m!**  
 Public Information Officer Laura Milstead from City of Bellevue · 1 May

Stop by the Bellevue Botanical Gardens to view the design and location options for the signature over I-405. RSVP: <http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-...>

提醒: Grand Connection Crossing 项目团队将于明天下午 5 点至 8 点举办现场开放日! 欢迎来到 Bellevue 植物园, 欣赏 405 号州际公路上人行天桥的设计和位置选择。敬请赐教: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

提醒: Grand Connection Crossing (盛大连接十字路口) 專案團隊將於明天下午 5 點至 8 點舉辦現場開放日! 前往 Bellevue 植物園, 查看 405 號州際公路行人天橋的設計和位置選擇。在此回覆: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

अनुस्मारक: ग्रेड कनेक्शन क्रॉसिंग प्रोजेक्ट की टीम कल शाम 5-8 बजे तक व्यक्तिगत आधार पर आपन हाउस का आयोजन कर रही है। I-405 पर पैदल यात्री पुल के लिए डिज़ाइन और स्थान के विकल्पों को देखने के लिए Bellevue बॉटनिकल गार्डन में रुकें। प्रतिसाद यहाँ दें: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

リマインダー: 明日の午後5時～8時、Grand Connection Crossingプロジェクトチーム主催のオープンハウスを対面式で開催します!是非、Bellevue植物園にお寄りいただき、I-405号線にかけられた歩道橋のデザインと場所をご確認ください。お返事は、こちら: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

알림: 그랜드 커넥션 크로싱 프로젝트 팀이 내일 오후 5-8시 사이에 대면 오픈 하우스를 주최합니다! Bellevue 식물원을 방문하여 I-405 고속도로 위에 설치되는 보도교의 설계와 위치 옵션을 살펴보세요. 다음 링크에서 응답하십시오: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

Напоминание: Команда проекта Большого связывающего перехода проводит завтра день открытых дверей с 17:00 до 20:00! Загляните в Ботанический сад Bellevue, чтобы просмотреть варианты дизайна и местоположения пешеходного моста через I-405. Откликнуться здесь: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

Recordatorio: ¡El equipo del proyecto Gran cruce de conexión (Grand Connection Crossing) organiza una jornada presencial de puertas abiertas mañana de 5 a 8 de la tarde! Pase por el Jardín Botánico de Bellevue para ver el diseño y las opciones de ubicación para el puente peatonal sobre la I-405. Favor de responder aquí: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

Nhắc nhở: Nhóm dự án Grand Connection Crossing (Lối Qua Đường Kết Nối Lớn) sẽ tổ chức buổi họp công khai trực tiếp vào ngày mai từ 5:00 chiều - 8:00 tối! Dừng lại ở Vườn Bách Thảo Bellevue để xem các phương án thiết kế và vị trí cho cây cầu dành cho người đi bộ bắc qua I-405. Vui lòng phản hồi tại đây: [bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house](http://bit.ly/grand-connection-crossing-open-house)

Grand Connection Crossing - Open House  
 The community is invited to learn about the des...  
 EVENTWRITE.COM

1 May · Subscribers of City of Bellevue in General

THANK | 1 REPLY



In-person outreach

<b>April 27, 2024: East Link Opening Ceremony Tabling Event – Grand Connection Crossing</b>	
<p><b>Audience:</b>                      People who live, work and play in Bellevue; users of the Sound Transit 2 Line</p>	<p><b>Date and time:</b>                      Saturday, April 27, 2024                      8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Location:</b> Bellevue City Hall Plaza                      450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>	<p><b>Number of engagements:</b> ~ 850 people</p>
<p><b>Attendance:</b>                      Jun Suk An (COB)                      Anthony Gill (COB)                      Jesse Canedo (COB)                      Jacob Melaragno (COB)                      Aditi Mukherji (COB)                      Brooke Brod (COB)                      Eldon Luo (COB)                      Conny Garcia Gaitan (PRR)                      Emma Browning (PRR)                      Sabrina Lopez (PRR)                      Kate Shannon (PRR)                      Lorelei Williams (WSP)                      Jeanne Acutanza (WSP)</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b>                      Engage and communicate with community members about the Grand Connection project, specifically the Grand Connection Crossing. Inform and invite people to the Open House on Thursday, May 2.</p>
<p><b>Display materials:</b>                      LMN project model, drawing activity, Vision to Implementation poster board, May 2 open house invitation poster board, project alignment flyover video (displayed by the Friends of the Grand Connection).</p>	<p><b>Handouts:</b>                      A project overview/FAQ flyer, an invitation to the Open House, additional ORCA cards supplied by the Friends of the Grand Connection.</p>
<p><b>Summary</b>                      Sound Transit hosted the East Link Light Rail Opening Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Attendees joined to celebrate this expansion and were encouraged to visit resource tables set up along each station. The Grand Connection Crossing project was invited to table at this event. The Bellevue Grand Connection project staffed a booth in the City Hall Plaza to inform people about this project and invite them to the open house. The project team handed out flyers, jotted questions down, led kids through the drawing activity and presented the project model. The project team interacted and spoke with over 850 community members who attended the opening event. These attendees included people of all ages, children under the age of 18 and council members.</p>	
<p><b>Notes</b></p>	



15 people were identified with limited English proficiency, all were Spanish speaking. Negative comments were minimal and focused primarily on the project timeline being too long and the unknown funding.

**Questions/Comments from Community Members:**

- What are the pros and cons of each alignment?
- Is the project funded?
- When will it be complete?