

East Link light rail:

Hospital Station Public Meeting Summary



Open House Overview

On Tuesday, July 13, 2010, Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue hosted a public meeting to present information and gather community input on the four design options for the East Link light rail Hospital Station in Bellevue. The meeting was held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Bellevue City Hall. A total of 32 community members signed in.

Format

The meeting provided community members an opportunity to compare and analyze the location and features of the four East Link Hospital Station design options, share preferences for the location of the Hospital Station, and talk one-on-one with project staff.

At 5:00 p.m. Sound Transit staff presented each of the station location options and the results of the evaluation summary, as published in the Evaluation of the Hospital Station Options technical memorandum. The evaluation measured each of the options in regard to cost, spacing (proximity to the 120th Avenue Station), station visibility, displacements and construction impacts. Following the presentation, staff answered questions from the audience.

Information boards were on display in the concourse throughout the meeting where technical staff was available to help review the Hospital Station options and take public comment using flip charts.



East Link Light Rail

You're invited!

Learn more about the East Link Hospital Station location options

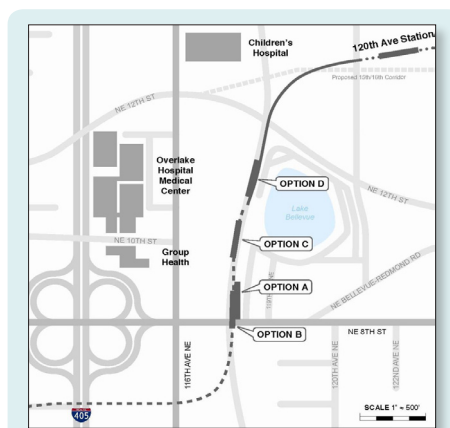
At the direction of the Sound Transit Board, Sound Transit is evaluating options for the location of the Hospital Station in Bellevue along the BNSF rail corridor. A draft Technical Memorandum has been published to present the results of the evaluation. Read the Segment C - Evaluation of Hospital Station Options that was presented to the Board on Thursday, June 24 online at www.soundtransit.org/eastlink.

At the meeting you can:

- Review the technical analysis
- Learn more about the Hospital Station location options
- Share your feedback with project staff.

Can't attend the meeting? Sign up for e-mail updates at www.soundtransit.org/subscribe.

To request accommodations for persons with disabilities, call 1-800-201-4900 / TTY Relay: 711 or e-mail accessibility@soundtransit.org.



East Link Hospital Station Location Meeting

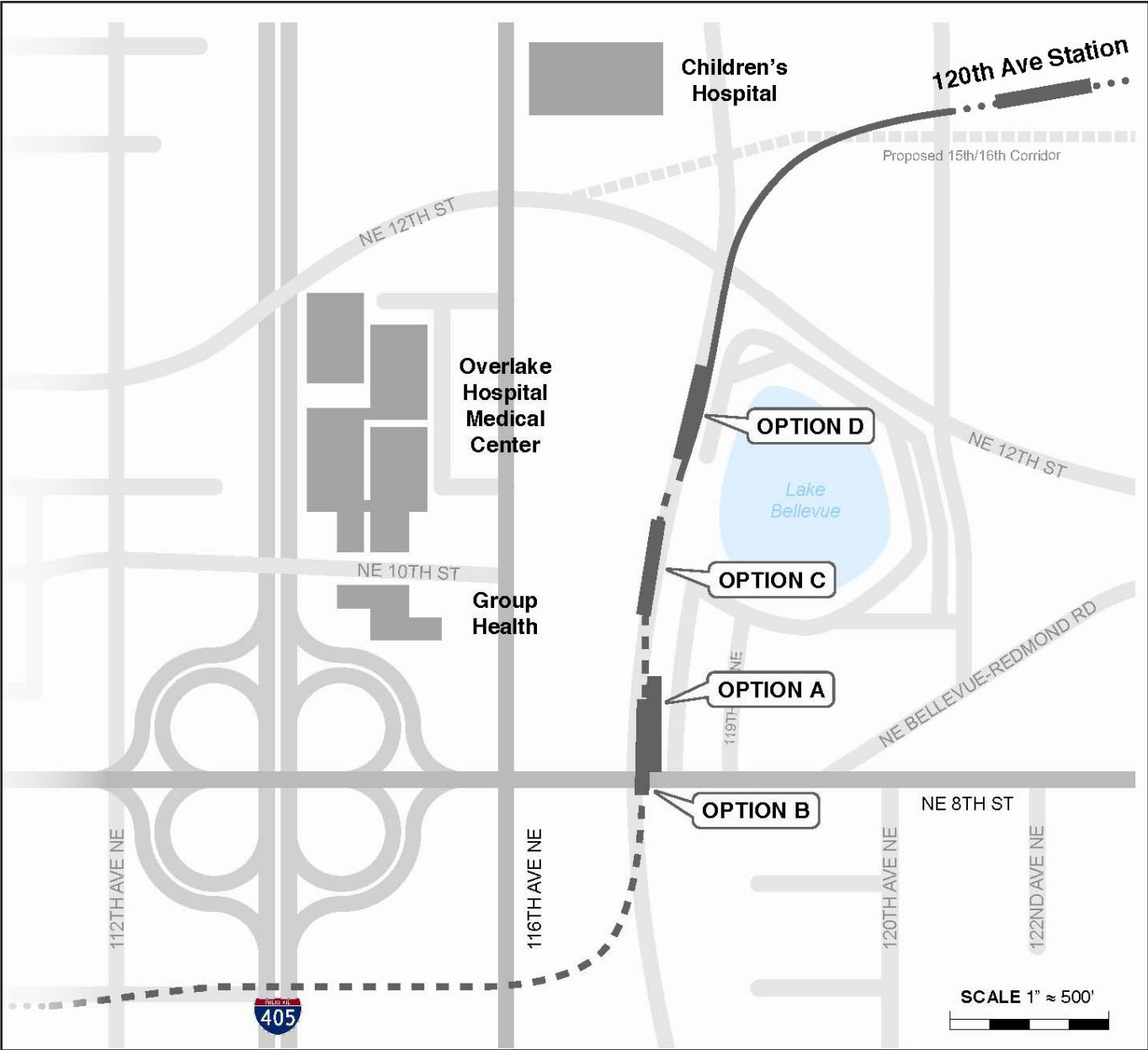
Tuesday, July 13, 2010 • 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

(Presentation begins at 5 p.m.)

Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave NE

Please visit www.soundtransit.org/eastlink, or contact Community Outreach at 206-398-5438 or eastlink@soundtransit.org for more information.

Hospital Station Vicinity Map



Public Comments

Participants provided comment during the presentation, as well as written comments using comment forms and flip charts. The public also submitted comments via e-mail and mail.

The following highlight the type of comments provided by topic:

Hospital Station Option A Comments

- Some support for Option A
- Enhance Option A by constructing a dedicated pedestrian crossing over NE 8th Street
- Station is located in a convenient location to access NE 8th Street and the hospitals
- Support for the kiss-and-ride layout
- Support for strong bicycle and pedestrian connections to the station

Hospital Station Option B Comments

- Support for Option B
- Belief that Option B would require less mitigation, while resulting in the highest visibility and best ridership
- Like station access on both sides of street
- Good pedestrian access from both sides of NE 8th Street with convenient access to stores and hospital
- Support for kiss-and-ride layout
- One commenter felt there was a need to improve access at this site, since the access on the south side of NE 8th Street is approximately 100 feet south of the street
- Support for strong bicycle and pedestrian connections to the station

Hospital Station Option C Comments

- Little support for Option C
- Station is located too close to Lake Bellevue Village and 9 Lake Bellevue
- Limited/no weather protection to walk to hospital
- Concerns about impacts to Lake Bellevue and limited walkability to station
- Seems less functional than Options A and B
- Too far from NE 8th Street
- Concerns about business livelihood due to loss of parking

- Poor pedestrian access
- Concerns regarding low visibility and increased risk of crime
- Concern about noise impacts and construction impacts on land/soils

Hospital Station Option D Comments

- Least support for Option D for the same reasons as listed above for Option C
- Noise is a concern to Lake Bellevue Village Condominiums
- Concerns about impacts to Lake Bellevue
- Limited walkability/access to station
- Seems less functional than Options A and B
- Station is too close to 120th Avenue Station and too far north to be useful
- Consider impact in flood zone
- Concerns regarding low visibility and increased risk of crime
- Concern about vibration impacts on peat soils

General Comments

- Many residents of the Lake Bellevue Village Condominiums submitted a letter at the meeting with the following key comments regarding the Hospital Station:
 - Opposition to Options C and D due to noise impacts and elevation of proposed station, as well as concerns that the station is at ground level in a flood zone
 - Preference for a variation of Sound Transit's former preferred alternative (C4A) to include crossing I-405 via the new 12th Street bridge and includes the "Ashwood" Hospital Station
 - Out of the possible options presented, preference for Option B due to pedestrian access and visibility, followed by Option A.
- Address loss of parking at 9 Lake Bellevue business condominiums
- Area around Lake Bellevue (Midlakes) is a significant "micro-neighborhood" with walkability that should be preserved
- Concern about impacts to Sturtevant Creek and wildlife, as well as flooding if stream becomes clogged
- Evaluate wetlands, noise, vibration and wildlife impacts in Environmental Impact Statement
- Name station "Midlakes Station" to represent the area it serves
- Pipe Sturtevant Creek in order to eliminate the need to maintain the creek and control the level of Lake Bellevue
- Continue light rail along 112th Avenue NE to NE 10th Street and provide a short connector from the Bellevue Transit Center to a station at 112th Avenue NE and NE 6th Street
- Station design should accommodate future passenger heavy rail transfers for commuter rail and Amtrak service

- Locate the station to the south so it has an opportunity to serve new development in Wilburton and Bel-Red
- Incorporate the regional trail on the BNSF corridor by providing grade separation at NE 8th Street
- Address concerns relating to homeless population north of Lake Bellevue
- Recommendations from the Bellevue Network on Aging to address access and accessibility for older adults and those with limited mobility by:
 - Locating station close to NE 10th Street
 - Locating additional stations in proximity to medical facilities along 116th Avenue and 112th Avenue
 - Siting stations at-grade and avoiding elevated platforms
 - Promoting ease of connections from other mass transit options

Next Steps

The Sound Transit Board is expected to use both public input and the technical memorandum findings to identify the preferred Hospital Station design option at its meeting on July 22, 2010.

Sound Transit will release a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in the fall of 2010, which will evaluate new alternatives developed since publication of the Draft EIS in late 2008. The Supplemental Draft EIS will include the preferred Hospital Station design option.

Sound Transit will release the Final EIS in 2011. The Final EIS evaluates the preferred alternative and all alternatives considered in the Draft and Supplemental EIS, responds to Draft and Supplemental EIS comments and describes proposed mitigation commitments. The Sound Transit Board will make a decision on the project to be built in 2011. Construction will begin in 2013/2014, with service beginning in 2020/2021.

