

Good evening. My name is Craig Spiegle, I am the President of the Lochleven Community Association. Lochleven is Bellevue was established in 1907 as the first Bellevue neighborhood and runs from Lake Washington on the south to NE 8th Street on the North, and from 100th Ave NE on the east to 92nd Ave NE. Lochleven includes over 500 households and over 1,200 residents.

I am speaking today to request the Commission to engage with Sound Transit, Metro and the East Link Connections Mobility Board regarding Light rail planed changes to routes which support North West Bellevue. The proposed route changes risk having a significant impact to the travel time to the University District and Downtown while in effect eliminating transit access for others. The changes create access and mobility issues requiring walking over a mile to reach the transit station. In other cases, riders will have to transfer 2 or 3 times to get to the UW or downtown.

Further the changes risk creating cascading traffic and parking issues. For example, today 92nd Ave NE and NE 8th has in effect become a "park and ride". Sound Transit has proposed eliminating the 271 and rerouted as it as a new route 270. 270 is proposed to travel from the transit station down 8th to Bellevue Way to 520. These residents who currently access from NE 8th will have to find alternative parking and drive to transit stations, creating more traffic. Others will find they need to drive to the S Bellevue Park and Ride.

The impact risks significantly disenfranchising older populations and creating inequities impacting persons without vehicles disproportionately. One potential solution is for the City to encourage Metro to fund local loop bus routes to loop around West Bellevue to the transit station. A possible loop route could include running from Northtown on Bellevue Way down to 8th to 100th to Main Street and up to 110th to the downtown Bellevue transit station. Another route could run up and down NE 8th towards Vuecrest and Medina to the downtown Bellevue transit station. Not only would this fill the gap to light rail, make it easier for commuters to move to light rail, but it would also help reduce traffic congestion in downtown and improve walkability and access to residents.

This is just one idea to help mitigate the risks and improve transportation access within downtown and NW Bellevue neighborhoods. While light rail is over a year away, proposals are being formalized as we speak and are slated on being voted on in early 2022.

We look forward to working together to optimize the changes to enhance mobility access, reduce traffic congestions, promote inclusiveness and sustainability of our community. Thank you.