



136th Ave NE Water Inlet Station Project and NE 8th St Transmission Main Project

Frequently Asked Questions

Summer 2020

What is the project?

Bellevue Utilities is building a new water inlet station and large water transmission main to become another access point to get water from the Seattle Public Utilities regional supply line (the Tolt Eastside Supply Line or “TESSL”). The project will expand the supply and reliability of Bellevue’s water system for domestic use and fire protection.

What is being built?

Construction will include the water inlet station at 136th Ave NE, the water transmission main in NE 8th St between 126th Ave NE and 140th Ave NE, the connection to the TESSL at the intersection of NE 8th St and 140th Ave NE, a water main replacement on 136th Ave NE, and an extension of an existing landscape median on NE 8th St between 128th Ave NE and 129th Ave NE.

What is a water inlet station?

A water inlet station is a large below-ground concrete vault with pipes, valves and meters. The work area will be on the east side of the dead-end at 136th Ave NE near the entrance of NE 8th St.

What will be visible above ground?

The largest permanent above-ground item will be a retaining wall approximately 7-feet high at its tallest point. The inlet station site will also include the following features:

- Plants that will grow over the face of the retaining wall to reduce visual impacts.
- An electrical utility meter and transformer.
- Two 24-inch diameter pipes for ventilation of the vault.
- Access hatch doors to get inside the vault.
- A light pole with a down-casting light over the inlet station site. The light will typically be lit only when the station is occupied.

Will there be noise from the inlet station when it is operational?

You may hear noise from the inlet station if you are near it. It is an underground vault, but noises from water passing through the valves and humming from within may be audible. The noises will decrease dramatically as you get further away from the station.

Will there be maintenance performed?

Maintenance staff will be on site regularly at first to perform start-up operations. Afterwards, staff may make weekly visits to the station. Visits would typically be from half an hour to an hour. The meters will be tested twice a year, and you may see a van or box truck on site during these visits. Once every five years, staff will need to inspect and clean the valves, which may take a couple of days.

What is the water transmission main?

The water transmission main is a 20 to 24-inch diameter ductile iron pipe that will be installed in NE 8th St between 126th Ave NE and 140th Ave NE. It will be connected to the TESSL, then carry water through the new inlet station and then be connected into the City's existing pipe system at 126th Ave NE.

How will the connection to the TESSL be made?

The water inlet station and water transmission main will connect to the TESSL at the intersection of 140th Ave NE and NE 8th St. It will consist of a concrete vault with valves and piping at the connection point.

What will the water main replacement involve?

The water main replacement will be on 136th Ave NE from NE 8th St north to the dead end. It will consist of an 8-inch diameter ductile iron pipe, new water services and meters, and a new fire hydrant. The existing 6-inch main will be safely abandoned in place.

What will consist of the landscape median improvements?

The landscape median between 128th Ave NE and 129th Ave NE will be extended about 27 feet to the east. This will include extending the concrete curb and restoring and planting additional trees and shrubs.

What is the construction schedule?

Construction has begun in June 2020 and is anticipated to last for approximately one year. Normal work hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

What can the public expect?

- **Noise and vibrations.** Crews will install a shoring wall by auguring (drilling) holes and then placing steel columns into the ground to hold back soil during the excavation for the inlet station installation, followed by concrete forming and pouring, and other related work. This work will involve trucks and machinery, could be noisy at times, and vibrations may be felt. All work will be conducted within the permitted limits for noise and vibrations.
- **Temporary access bypass road on 136th Ave NE:** To build the water inlet station, the entrance of 136th Avenue NE will be blocked and used for the work area. A temporary access/bypass road will be created around the work site on 136th and will allow property owners to the north to access to their driveways at all times.
- **Trucks, excavators, and other machinery will regularly occupy work areas to complete work. The active work zone on NE 8th St will move as pipe is installed.**
 - Lane closures can be expected while crews install the transmission main pipe on NE 8th St.
 - Flaggers will direct two-way traffic around work areas and lane closures during work hours. During non-work hours, traffic control measures will remain in place.
 - Portable changeable message signs will be placed on each end of NE 8th St, and on 140th Ave NE, to provide advanced warning of the construction work ahead.
 - Equipment will be staged and stored within the current active work zone.
- **Traffic impacts at the intersection of 140th Ave NE and NE 8th St:** Work in this intersection will connect the new transmission main pipe to the TESSL and will install a new meter vault west of the intersection. This work

may last up to a month or so and may create traffic backups as some lanes will be closed to complete work. Flaggers will direct traffic and pedestrians around the work area. One crosswalk will be closed to complete the work in the intersection. It is possible some of this work may be completed overnight to alleviate traffic impacts during the day (yet to be determined).

Will the area be restored once the project is complete?

When construction is complete, work areas on 136th Ave NE and NE 8th St will be restored to previous conditions. NE 8th St will have asphalt pavement grind and overlay work done in 2021 on half of the roadway from 126th Ave NE to 140th Ave NE. 136th Ave NE will have an asphalt pavement overlay from NE 8th St to the dead end to the north. Most of the vegetation that will be removed is blackberry bushes, but two trees will be removed near NE 8th St where the vault will be installed. Two new trees and several shrubs and vines will be planted along the perimeter of the retaining wall.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions or concerns, please contact:

Jay Hummel, PE / Project Manager: JHummel@bellevuewa.gov, 425.452.4160
Engineering and Design Construction, 425.452.6977 (24 hours)

What is the best way to receive updates on construction?

Bellevue Utilities will post construction updates on our website to keep neighbors and the community up to date about construction work at www.bellevuewa.gov/136thInletStation