



East Link Construction: SE 4th Street Permanent Closure at 112th Avenue SE

The SE 4th Street entrance from 112th Avenue SE closed on June 5, 2017 due to East Link construction.

How will residents and visitors access the neighborhood?

Upon the closure of SE 4th Street, access to Surrey Downs from 112th Ave SE for people driving, biking, and walking will be restricted. Access to the neighborhood will be at 110th Avenue SE and Main Street, 108th Avenue SE and SE 2nd Street, and 108th Avenue SE and SE 11th Street.

Upon completion of East Link construction, access for people walking and biking will be provided at the future park located at Main Street and 112th Avenue SE.

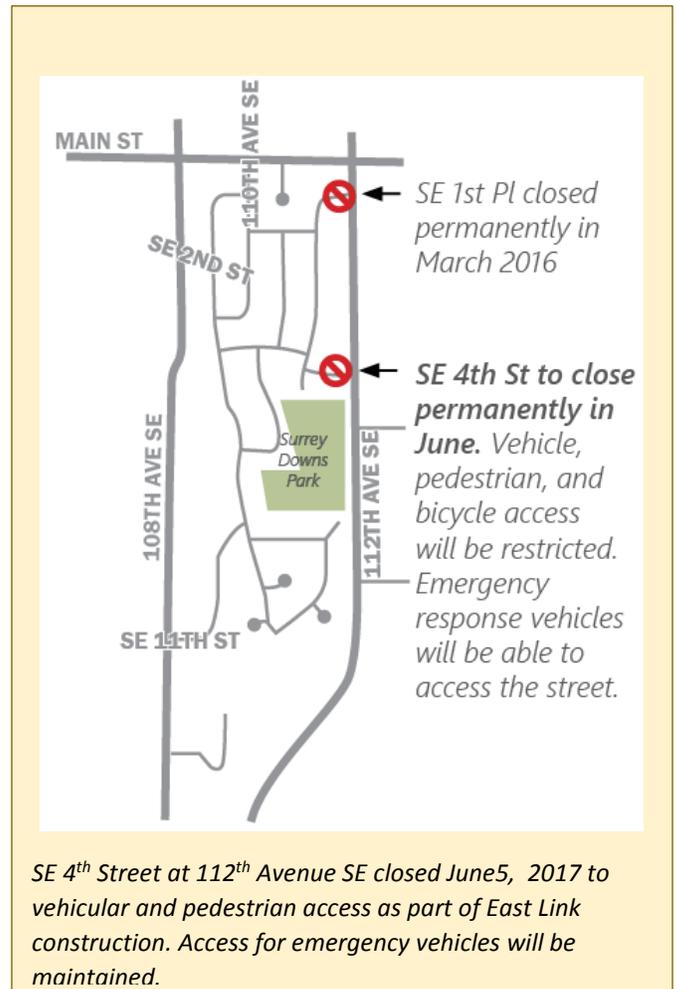
How will there be emergency access for Police and Fire vehicles?

During construction, traffic barricades will be placed across SE 4th Street that can be moved by emergency or construction crews to allow access. There will be no access allowed for other vehicular traffic or pedestrians.

When construction (of the South Bellevue segment) is complete, emergency access will be allowed through a system that detects an approaching vehicle and activates the gate to open. The emergency gate system is fence-like and will slide to open up. This detection system is similar to what the City uses at signalized intersections where approaching emergency vehicles are given priority to go through the intersection. There will be no access allowed for other vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

How will emergency vehicles access Surrey Downs?

The Surrey Downs neighborhood is served by Fire Station 7 at 11900 SE 8th Street and Fire Station 1 at 766 Bellevue Way SE. Emergency units from Fire Station 7 would enter Surrey Downs through the emergency gate at SE 4th Street. Emergency units from Fire Station 1 would enter Surrey Downs from 108th Avenue SE.



It would add additional time for Fire Station 7 to respond if the emergency gate were not installed and all emergency access was required to enter the neighborhood from 110th Avenue SE or 108th Avenue SE.

What are the features of the SE 4th Street emergency gate?

There are two gates; one on each side of the tracks. The design of the west gate will be integrated with the permanent sound wall to be installed along west of the track parallel to 112th Avenue SE from SE 8th Street to SE 1st Place (which permanently closed in March 2016). The design of the east gate (112th Avenue SE side) will be similar to the picket fence separating the tracks from the street. Landscaping will be provided on the west side of the wall at the entrance to the redeveloped Surrey Downs Park.

Background

In late 2011, the Sound Transit Board of Directors and the Bellevue City Council established a framework to develop the East Link extension and to share the additional cost of the downtown tunnel. As part of the collaborative design process, a study of potential cost savings ideas was conducted. One of the cost savings ideas considered a reconfiguration of 112th Avenue SE that elevates the roadway over the at-grade light rail alignment at SE 15th Street. It was determined that this option would save an estimated \$9 to \$16 million.

In relation to SE 4th Street, the road-over-rail alignment on 112th Avenue SE considered three options. :

1. keeping SE 4th Street open to 112th Avenue SE (right in/right out),
2. keeping SE 4th Street open to Surrey Downs neighborhood; and
3. closing SE 4th Street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic, allowing emergency access only.

Option 3 was chosen following a public feedback and cost savings process. Closing SE 4th Street avoids the need for audible warning systems at the crossing and was identified to save \$2 to \$4 million.

How was it decided to permanently close SE 4th Street at 112th Avenue SE?

Public input was solicited on the cost savings options for the 112th Avenue SE alignment. This included coordination with the Surrey Downs Neighborhood to determine preferred access to the neighborhood via SE 4th Street. To meet safety requirements for light rail options, crossing gates with bells and an audible train signal would be required should access remain open to the public at SE 4th Street. Resident feedback was not in support of noise-generating devices at the light rail crossing. So rather than completely close off the entrance, the City and Sound Transit incorporated an emergency gate in order to provide access to police, fire and other emergency vehicles. This decision was based on input from residents as well as from the City Police and Fire Departments. Input from the Fire Department included potential response times within Surrey Downs with the gate in place versus completely closing the entry.

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