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## 5.6 Public Services and Utilities

*Public services and utilities are an important consideration during the planning and construction of transportation projects because they affect the quality of human life. They allow people to live in a safer environment and enjoy a higher standard of living. If these services were to be interrupted, discontinued, or altered, such unanticipated inconveniences or emergencies could affect work schedules and other daily activities.*

### **How did we identify and evaluate public services and utilities for the Renton to Bellevue Project?**

WSDOT evaluated possible service disruptions and access considerations, as well as changes in travel times associated with construction and future operation of the Renton to Bellevue Project. We used this information to determine whether the project would affect response times of emergency vehicles, travel for school buses, and people accessing other public services, such as medical clinics.

We conducted a review of existing utility locations and compared them against the proposed project footprint. We noted potential conflicts and described them by type and quantity. Using this data, we determined where potential utility service disruptions and access problems may occur.

### **What public services and utilities are located in the project area?**

Public services and utilities within the Renton to Bellevue project area are provided by a mix of local, regional, public, and private entities. Locations of public services are presented in Exhibit 5.6-1 and listed below.

**Police** – The cities of Renton and Bellevue, along with the King County Sheriff’s Office and the Washington State Patrol, provide police protection to residents in this area.

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services** – The Renton Fire Department, the City of Bellevue Fire Department, and King County Fire District #25 provide fire protection within the project area.



**Renton Fire Department, Station, No. 11**

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*Please refer to the Renton to Bellevue Project Public Services and Utilities Discipline Report in Appendix Q (on CD) for a complete discussion of the public services and utilities analysis.*

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**Exhibit 5.6-1: Public services**



**School Districts** – Renton School District #403 and Bellevue School District #405 provide educational services in the Renton to Bellevue study area.

**Transit Services** – Both King County Metro (Metro) and Sound Transit provide service in the Renton to Bellevue Project area. Metro serves Eastside communities and provides local and express service between major urban centers. In addition, Metro provides demand-response, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), paratransit, vanpool, and ride-matching services. Sound Transit provides high-capacity transit regional service via a series of express routes throughout the Renton to Bellevue study area and the greater Puget Sound region.

The number of buses operating in the corridor will continue to expand as described in King County and Sound Transit Development Plans. By 2030, Metro and Sound Transit will operate a total of 49 buses in the morning peak hour north of 112th Avenue SE. They will increase the number of buses north of NE Park Drive to 39 buses. The evening peak-period transit service is assumed to be the reverse of the morning peak period.

The addition of the in-line BRT station and HOV direct access on- and off-ramps at N 8th Street will allow buses to enter and leave the HOV lanes and will improve transit reliability. Riders using the park-and-ride lots will be served with minimal route deviation and delay.

**Healthcare Services** – Two regional medical centers provide Level III trauma services within the Renton to Bellevue project area. They include Valley Medical Center in Renton and Overlake Hospital in Bellevue. They represent two of only three facilities of this kind in King County. In addition, several public and private non-profit health centers and clinics serve these communities.

**Utilities** – Major water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, electric power, gas, fuel, and telecommunications utilities currently serve the project area. These utilities are transmitted by both above- and below-ground lines.

**Will any public services be displaced?**

WSDOT will acquire approximately 3,300 square feet of land at the Kennydale Elementary School in order to relocate a noise wall. The school district is in the process of reconfiguring the school grounds and rebuilding the school.

WSDOT has been coordinating with the School District's architect to ensure that Renton to Bellevue Project improvements will not conflict with new design plans for the school. The architect has determined that the property acquisition will not affect the school reconfiguration.

***Will the project cause any utility disruptions?***

The Renton to Bellevue Project will have temporary and minor effects on utilities; however, any probable utility conflicts will be resolved, typically by relocating the utility prior to construction. Many utilities in the project right of way operate under an agreement with WSDOT that allows for their relocation at the expense of the utility provider.

***Will construction activities affect public services in the area?***

How construction activities will affect neighbors and commuters is always a major concern for WSDOT. However, effects on services are expected to be minor during construction of the Renton to Bellevue Project. Travelers through the area can expect minor delays; transit, school buses, and emergency response vehicles may experience temporary route detours during some construction phases.

WSDOT's proposed construction will include improvements to eight interchanges. Construction, which is expected to last up to five years, is currently phased in a way that allows most access points and crossings (as well as three lanes in each direction) to be open during the entire construction process. However, temporary detours or lane closures through the construction zones are expected.

Most schools in the project area will not be affected, but some school bus routes may be altered or delayed. Overall, these effects are expected to be minor because the majority of the bus routes use arterial streets.

During construction, people trying to access public health and social service facilities in the project area may experience minor delays. Access to the Group Health Medical Center in Renton, within two blocks of the project, will be maintained during construction.

Once the project is built, the increased capacity on I-405 will provide an overall benefit to public services by improving



***School bus exiting I-405***



***Public works crew checking signal phasing***

access to service locations and reducing response times for emergency vehicles. The project will also improve travel times for emergency vehicles during the peak periods when compared with the No Build Alternative.

***What measures are proposed to avoid or minimize effects to public services and utilities during construction?***

WSDOT will coordinate several efforts with local public services prior to and during construction of the project.

- WSDOT will prepare and implement a transportation management plan;
- WSDOT will post signs to show detour routes if periods of closures are needed;
- WSDOT will coordinate with school districts before construction;
- WSDOT will coordinate with all emergency services prior to, or during construction; and
- WSDOT will coordinate with utility providers to identify conflicts and resolve them prior to or during construction.