

Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project



Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project [SE 8th St. to I-90]

The Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project adds one new northbound lane between I-90 and SE 8th Street and one new southbound lane between Main Street and I-90. We will be extending the southbound right-side HOV drop lane back to the SE 8th interchange. This project eliminates a chokepoint just north of the I-90/I-405 junction in the area of the Wilburton Tunnel. Because of multiple on and off ramps in the area that cause weaving traffic movements, this stretch is known as the “Wilburton Weave.” The Wilburton Tunnel reconstruction takes the tunnel to its ultimate I-405 Master Plan configuration. Construction on the Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project begins in early 2007 and the improved roadway opens to traffic in 2009.

What are the Nickel Projects?

In spring 2003, the Washington State Legislature approved a Nickel Funding Package providing more than \$4 billion over 10 years for a variety of highway improvement projects throughout the state. Three of the “Nickel Projects,” totaling \$485 million, are on I-405. These three projects are the first step toward achieving the I-405 Master Plan as detailed in the 2002 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and, in addition to Bellevue, will improve I-405 in Kirkland and Renton/Tukwila.

Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project Benefits

This funded project provides benefits to improve access, mobility and safety within this section of I-405. The Bellevue Nickel Improvement Project relieves one of the worst congestion chokepoints along the I-405 corridor. Specifically, the project:

- Improves safety by reducing congestion related accidents.
- Increases travel speeds during peak commuter hours.
- Minimizes environmental impacts through collaborative efforts between environmental and design teams.
- Implements context sensitive solutions (CSS) design principles to improve aesthetics and safety on the I-405 corridor.
- Provides an economic benefit to cost ratio of 3:1.
- Facilitates freight movement throughout the corridor.

Project Timeline

- Preliminary engineering along with environmental documentation began in 2003.
- Construction scheduled to begin in 2007.
- Improved roadway scheduled to open to traffic in 2009.

Bellevue
I-90 to Downtown Bellevue

\$185 M

Regular Construction Updates

For construction updates about these and other I-405 projects, join WSDOT's email update list by sending an email to lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov with "subscribe i-405" in the body of the message. Also visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i405 for more information about I-405 projects.

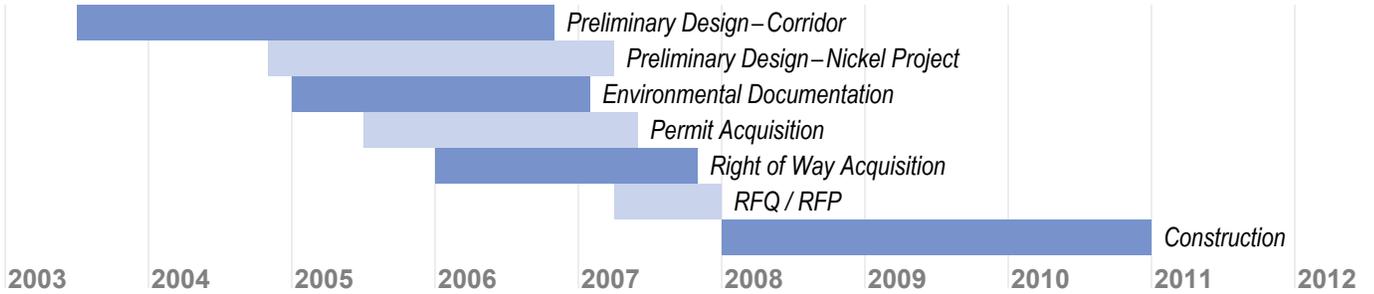


Corridor Program

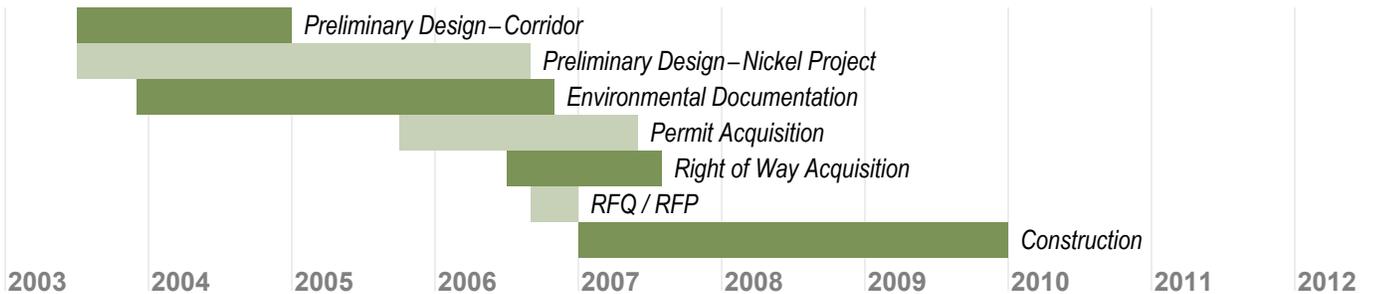
Congestion Relief & Bus Rapid Transit Projects

I-405 Project Schedule

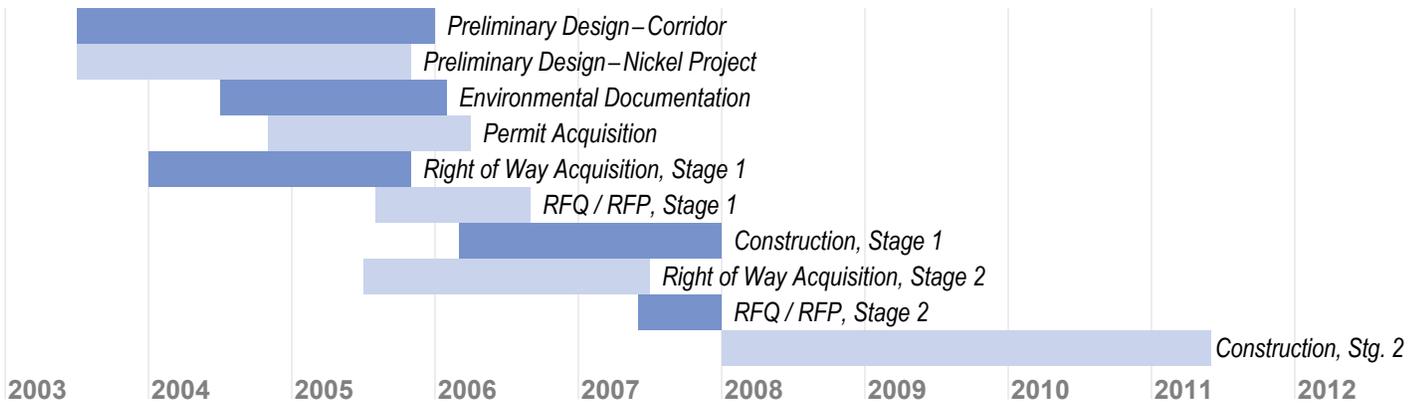
I-405 West Valley Highway to Maple Valley Highway (Renton/Tukwila)



I-405 SE 8th Street to I-90 (South Bellevue)



I-405 SR 520 to SR 522 (Kirkland)



I-405 SR 169 to I-90 (Renton to Bellevue)

