

Extended work hours:

The extended work hours permit issued for South Bellevue does indeed include the ability for the contractor to work around the clock for up to 39 months. However, please keep in mind this permit covers only work that crosses the I-90 ramps south of the South Bellevue Station. This is work that will include construction over an active freeway, which cannot be accomplished during the daytime and in order to perform this work requires closure of the ramps. This is not continual 24 hour work across 39 months. Rather, there will be intermittent closures, with the timing of specific dates to be controlled by WSDOT. As the exact timing of the work has not been determined, the permit was issued to cover a spectrum of work across slightly longer than a 3 year period.

The South Bellevue extended work hours permit also includes permission to perform work up to 10 p.m. weekdays and 9 p.m. weekends north of the existing park and ride and future station to the Wye on 112th for up to 34 months. This is to allow work to be completed within Bellevue Way SE in a more expeditious manner, allowing this portion of work to be completed sooner. This work coincides with proposed 18 weekend closures, and reversible lane configuration of Bellevue Way SE.

There is an additional extended work hours permit issued for about a year (January 2018 to January 2019) in order to deliver and install large concrete girders at the South Bellevue Station. The transport of these girders is not allowed by WSDOT during the daytime hours so must be completed during the very early morning or late at night. Since this work involves oversize loads along an active freeway, the timing of the work is controlled by WSDOT. This permit is also not for continual 24 hour work duration of the permit, but will be intermittent.

Throughout the course of East Link construction, it is likely contractors will have additional discrete requests in other areas throughout the city. Each request is weighed against proximity to neighborhoods, impacts to the overall transportation system and construction means and methods.

Permitting requirements and control of work:

Even with the issuance of the extended work hours, the City is notified when this work will occur, monitors the work, and has the ability to modify or change the permitted work hours.

The extended work hours permit also includes a variety of mitigation requirements, and specifically notes that work from midnight to 5 a.m. may require additional mitigation such that construction noise levels do not exceed an increase of 6 dBA (measured at the property line nearest the construction). Existing ambient night time noise levels along Bellevue Way SE vary between 50 dBA and 62 dBA. The permit identified 20 properties within the East Channel work area and 23 properties within the South Bellevue work area to the Wye as possible locations that may require offers for temporary sound insulation packages prior to commencement of work. Aside from industry standards and best practices for night-time construction mitigation techniques (such as requiring the use of mufflers, enclosing noise generating equipment, sound dampening devices, and a 24 hour construction hotline), the permit also calls for:

- Public outreach 30-days prior to the start of heavy civil construction (which was the public meeting you reference)

- Public noticing 14 days prior to 24 hour work, to properties with 1000 feet of the South Bellevue Station and guideway
- City review and approval of a Noise and Vibration Control Plan
- Additional mitigation of offers for sound insulation packages for properties predicted to receive expanded exempt hour construction noise greater than +6dBA above pre-construction (ambient) noise levels
- Monitoring and documentation to ensure compliance requirements

City staff are dedicated to holding the contractor and Sound Transit responsible in adhering to the permitting requirements.