



Bellingham Station Visioning Study



Visioning Study Overview

Whatcom Transportation Authority's (WTA) downtown Bellingham Station is currently operating at full capacity. WTA must expand Bellingham Station to allow for increased transit service and to accommodate zero-emission bus charging infrastructure. Given the need for expansion, WTA sought to engage the community and explore additional ways Bellingham Station could enhance and benefit the surrounding neighborhood. This community engagement, called the Bellingham Station Visioning Study, resulted in **key findings**, a **unified vision statement**, and a **high-level design concept**.

Visioning Study Findings

During a series of interviews and workshops, several themes emerged. Stakeholders expressed a desire for a community-centered, mixed-use hub with welcoming pedestrian and bicycle facilities. There was strong interest in Bellingham Station serving as both a destination and a gateway, for residents, businesses, and visitors. The future Bellingham Station was envisioned as an efficient transit hub at the center of a vibrant Transit Oriented Development project. It would include community open space, community services, and housing, and would enhance both transit operations as well as the surrounding businesses.

Unified Vision Statement

“Our vision for Bellingham Station is to provide a safe, reliable, and efficient transit hub that supports multimodal transportation. The station will be complemented by robust community and mixed-use spaces that energize and strengthen local businesses, residents, and visitors. The Bellingham Station and surrounding area will help shape the character of downtown and connect people to opportunities and each other by providing a community destination that supports a diverse, vibrant, and friendly neighborhood.”

Project Timeline

2022/2023

**Bellingham Station
Visioning Study**
(Completed May 2023)

2023/2024

Feasibility Study

2025/2026

Project Design

2026/2027

Construction



Design Elements

As depicted in the conceptual rendering, the future Bellingham Station is envisioned to incorporate the following elements:

- First floor primarily dedicated to bus operations with an open-air feel and cantilevered canopy along Railroad Avenue to improve protection from the elements while maintaining an open and inviting area for passengers.
- In line with existing Downtown height trends, a building structure up to 6 stories with varying heights throughout and setbacks on the upper floors to provide relief in the building structure.
- Building design that evokes “Pacific Northwest” in the application and use of materials including brick, wood, metal, and glass and design queues such as exposed joinery and shed-style roofs.
- Re-envisioned Railroad Avenue to include a cycle track or shared-use path and a bicycle parking structure.

Supportive Uses



**BICYCLE
AMENITIES**



HOUSING



**COMMUNITY &
OPEN SPACE**



**NON-MOTORIZED
FACILITIES**



PARKING

Goals

The vision for Bellingham Station and the surrounding neighborhood aims to support these goals.

- **Provide** sufficient space to accommodate increased transit service and expanded facilities for employees.
- **Prioritize uses** that serve the neighborhood, support community needs and promote downtown as a destination.
- **Prioritize** pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit modes.
- **Create** a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and accessible place by incorporating attractive open space, active uses on the ground floor, and pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.

For more information:

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