AGENCY: Bellevue
PROJECT: Eastrail to NE Spring Boulevard Trail Link

Question #1: Please provide additional details regarding engagement conducted with one or more of the population groups identified in question 1 of the Equity Criterion. Please elaborate on how the project supports the feedback received.

Answer #1:
This project is strongly supported by stakeholders in the immediate vicinity. City and county staff have met on multiple occasions with representatives of adjacent and nearby property owners, including Seattle Children's Clinic & Surgery Center. Because the immediate project area (BelRed/Spring District) is undergoing redevelopment, a significant slice of the future users are not yet here, but they will arrive soon.

The project scope and design is informed by a comprehensive outreach effort city staff conducted in summer 2021 for the Eastrail Segment from SE 5th Street to NE 12th Street, immediately south of this project location. This included general outreach – a live online session with over 60 people, followed by an online open house and survey that generated 271 responses. Staff then followed up with targeted outreach to youth, the aged, to transit users, and to representatives of diverse communities in Bellevue. The targeted outreach involved engagement with advisory groups the city sponsors to maintain ongoing dialogue with members of the community who may not participate in traditional engagement processes: Youth Link Board, Network on Aging, Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (county-sponsored) and Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network.

Key themes we heard included:
- Concern regarding potential for conflicts between pedestrians and bicyclists
- Consider personal safety
- Ensure space is comfortable for all users
- Facilitate access to the Eastrail

The design of the project is addressing these concerns by providing a wide trail surface (12' wide), ADA-compliant grades, lighting, plantings and (potentially) public art.

The need for an Eastrail connection to Spring Blvd is identified in the King County Eastside Rail Corridor Trail Master Plan. The importance and utility of developing the
Eastrail to Spring Blvd Trail Link as a near-term project is driven by a series of developments, including,

- Completion in 2020 of city projects (NE 12th Street multiuse path, 108th Ave high-comfort bicycle facilities) to complete high-quality bicycle facilities connecting into the Downtown Bellevue.
- Evolving plans and a proposal for a TOD (including offices, market-rate housing, affordable housing) at the south end of the Sound Transit OMFE that no longer include an anticipated connection to the Eastrail (owing to issues of complexity and cost).

These considerations made the Eastrail to Spring Blvd Trail Link a top priority as a means to connect to the Eastrail and make the Eastrail a viable and attractive transportation option for a range of users.