King County Metro Transit (Metro), proposes to implement bus rapid transit (BRT) in a 15.7-mile corridor between the cities of Kirkland and Bellevue and connect Totem Lake Transit Center in the north to the Eastgate neighborhood in the south. The project includes approximately 36 stations and, 13-15 vehicles, transit roadway improvements, and access-to-transit improvements to area sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure. The estimated capital cost of the Project is $89.8 million, with the Capital Investment Grant amount to be determined.

Metro is pursuing the project to provide more frequent, convenient, and higher quality transit service than exists today. Capital Improvements to the corridor will help buses operate with greater speed and reliability by bypassing congestion in the corridor through the implementation of transit priority treatments and transit-preferential right-of-way, speeding up boarding time, and enhancing the customer experience.

Metro expects to select a locally preferred alternative (LPA) and have it adopted into the region’s fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in early 2021, and complete the environmental review process with receipt of a Documented Categorical Exclusion in mid-2021. Metro hopes to receive a Small Starts Grant Agreement in 2023, and start revenue service in 2025.