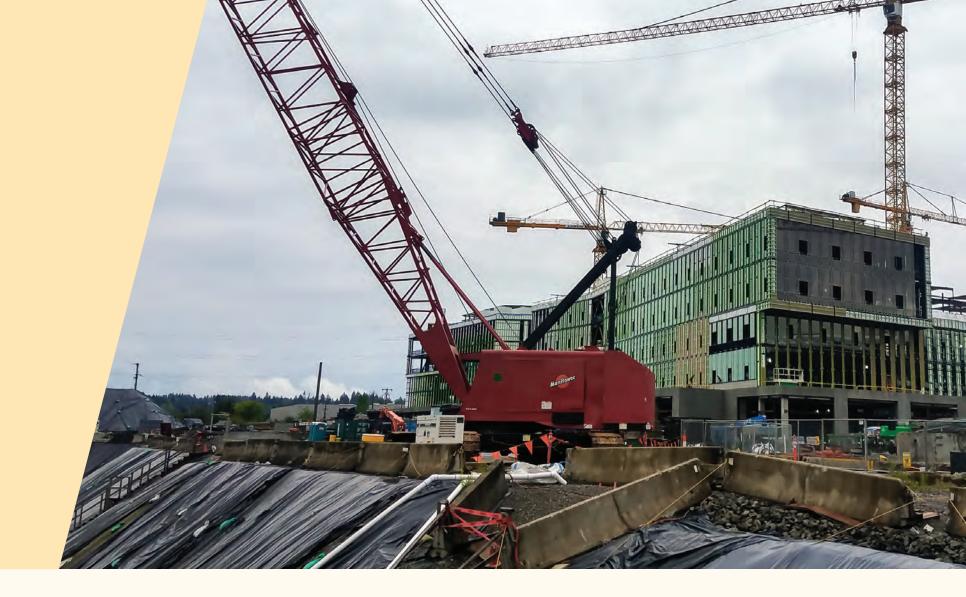# HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
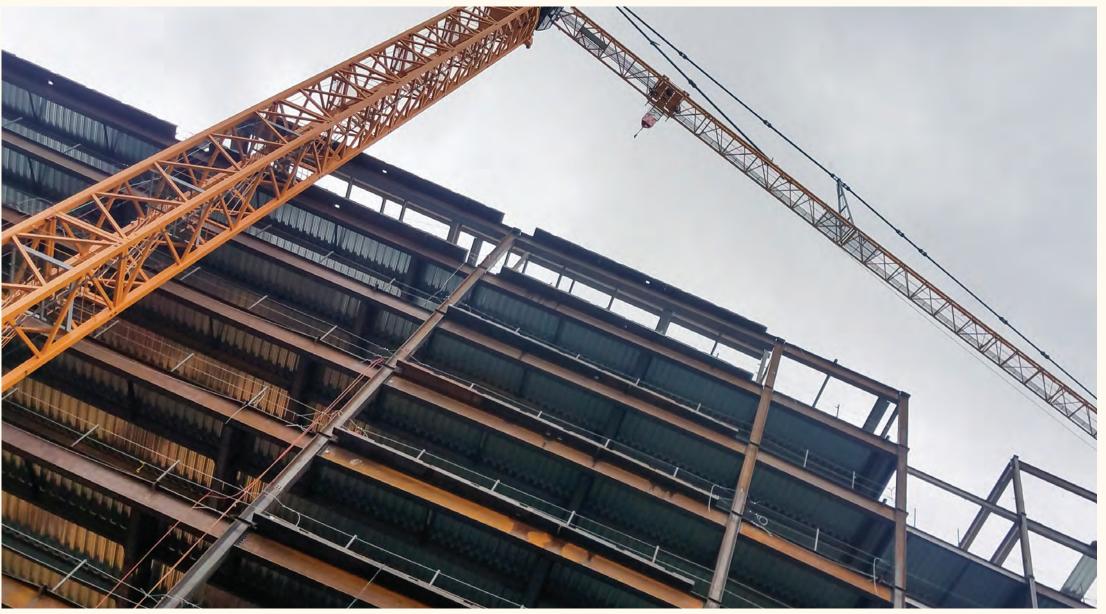## FOR THE BEL–RED NEIGHBORHOOD SUBAREA PLAN

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  Urban Design and Planning, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences
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THE CHALLENGE

Over the past 10 years, the City of Bellevue has been planning and implementing an urban redevelopment project to transform the Bel-Red neighborhood from a largely light industrial area to a flourishing residential and commercial neighborhood in preparation for the East Link light rail expansion due in 2023. The 2030 vision for the Bel-Red neighborhood includes:

- A thriving economy
- Vibrant walkable neighborhoods
- Connected parks and community facilities
- Environmental improvements
- Multimodal transportation system
- A unique cultural environment
- A sustainable community

View of new vertical construction. Lauren Corn

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a tool for planners, developers, and policy makers to understand the direct and indirect health effects, both positive and negative, of a proposed plan or project. As part of the Livable City Year project, the City of Bellevue Planning Commission has asked the University of Washington to conduct a HIA of the Bel-Red Subarea Plan to identify potential health concerns and practical recommendations for City officials to consider to insure the development of a healthy urban environment for the incoming Bel-Red population that will last for generations.

OUR METHODS

The HIA team identified five health areas of focus, each of which will compose a separate chapter in the final HIA. Each chapter is comprised of key subtopics that shape our research and recommendations. The health areas of focus for Bel-Red include:

Mobility and Accessibility	Economic Stability	Health and Human Services	Environmental Health	Community Cohesion and Social Capital
• Walkability • Transportation • Public safety and collisions	• Affordable housing • Gentrification • Job displacement • Food access • Alcohol and marijuana outlets • Advertising exposure	• Emergency medical services • Public safety and policing • Access to health services • Natural disaster planning • Waste management • Telecommunication utilities • Education • Social services	• Utilities • Green space and nature contact • Light pollution • Noise pollution • Air pollution • Soil pollution • Water pollution	• Diversity through equal access • Community centering • Indigenous heritage and culture • Place attachment • Homelessness

For the assessment of each of these areas, students are using data from a variety of sources, including technical and academic literature, government reports, previous HIAs, field visits, and key informant interviews with city stakeholders. Student editors will synthesize the findings of the various chapters to develop the final HIA report.

NEXT STEPS

We are developing our recommendations for the City of Bellevue, and anticipate completing our findings by mid-June.