

Implications of Key Drivers on City Services and Infrastructure

Tonight's discussion will include the impact of key drivers (population, demographics, maturation, and external factors) on City services and infrastructure over the next 20 years. This assessment is not exhaustive and is instead meant to capture many of the risks and issues that the City is expected to face.

This brief paper provides an outline of some of the topics that will be discussed in more depth during the presentation. Potential implications have been divided into two sections. The first, Public Safety and Community Services, focuses primarily on Police, Fire, Parks and Community Services. The second, Infrastructure and the Built Environment, focuses on parks, transportation, and utilities infrastructure.

Public Safety and Community Services

Shifting demographics as well as increased residential and daytime population growth is expected to increase police, fire, and emergency medical calls.

Additional residential and employment population may bring:

- Increases and different mixes of criminal activity;
- Increased traffic congestion which may require different modes of response (by foot, motorcycle, etc);
- Greater police investigative case loads;
- More complex fraud cases.

As our community demographics change and become more diverse:

- Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Response (EMS) will be tasked to meet the needs of a community with differing cultures and languages; the work force of the future may need to be multilingual.
- Additional EMS responses are expected as Bellevue's population ages.

Increasing density and height of buildings in the downtown is expected to create new challenges for Police, Fire, and EMS:

- Responses to calls may take longer due to traffic congestion and the time it takes for fire, EMS, and police personnel to ascend high-rise buildings.

As housing and other buildings become older:

- The number of buildings requiring fire inspections will increase;
- The risk of structure fires increases.

Additional public safety personnel, new and innovative response protocols, and broader dissemination of preventive programs will be necessary to assure the safety of all our residents, workers, and visitors.

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Population growth, changing demographics and urban density are expected to affect the demand for comprehensive planning, neighborhood outreach programs and code compliance enforcement efforts. Light rail extension to Bellevue and the Bel-Red Corridor development are a couple of areas that will require significant investments.

Changing income groups and increased entry level service employment is expected to place pressures on affordable housing and mass transit.

Demand on parks and community services will also change as our population grows and demographics shift. Services will shift as the demographics of the population shifts (youth, senior and special populations).

Parks facilities, developed parks and natural areas will likely experience greater usage, bringing with it demands for increased maintenance and renovation of an already aging park infrastructure. Residential and daytime population growth is expected to increase demands for:

- Recreation services;
- Human Services funding to support changing needs;
- Special events, neighborhood events, and regional events.

Infrastructure and the Built Environment

Changes in residential and employment population, the age of the City's infrastructure, and increasing regulatory requirements are expected to challenge the City's ability to maintain existing infrastructure, increase transportation capacity, and comply with external mandates.

- Increased transportation capacity and mobility options – As more people use the City's streets for driving, walking or bicycling, our roads and intersections will have to keep pace with the transportation needs of a growing population moving in, out, and through the City. Also, to take full advantage of regional investments in the transportation system, the City may want to make complimentary improvements in Bellevue's system.

Urbanized areas require new and different solutions to congestion. Providing mobility options, such as transit solutions including High Capacity Transit, or non-motorized improvements will provide people with choices for travel. In addition, a greater emphasis on technological solutions will be needed to better manage congestion and keep people moving in Bellevue.

- Utilities has 1,660 miles of buried water, sewer and storm pipes that were built primarily in the 1950s and 1960s. These aging pipes and associated

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systems will require accelerated maintenance to prevent major system failures.

- Increased maintenance needs – Increased use of City streets and sidewalks wears out infrastructure at a faster pace. Bellevue may need to accelerate current maintenance schedules and operations to prevent its infrastructure from wearing out prematurely. Revisions to the City's current management and maintenance practices will be needed to reflect environmental stewardship objectives.
- Federal mandates are impacting the City's infrastructure now and for the foreseeable future. Meeting Federal requirements, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act to improve accessibility of the transportation system or the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and its impact on stormwater, will increase the cost of providing existing infrastructure.