

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 9, 2008

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Mike Kattermann, Planning & Community Development  
425/452-2042 [mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mkattermann@bellevuewa.gov)  
Maria Koengeter, Transportation  
425/452-4345 [mkoengeter@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:mkoengeter@bellevuewa.gov)

SUBJECT: Light Rail Best Practices Committee Draft Report

### Purpose:

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Planning Commission with an overview of the draft report issued by the Light Rail Best Practices Committee (Committee) on May 1, 2008. The Planning Commission has been represented on the Committee by Jennifer Robertson (Committee co-chair) and Doug Mathews.

This briefing is provided for informational purposes, no action is required at this time. In July, the Planning Commission will be reviewing the Committee's final report before conducting a public hearing only on the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments and forwarding a recommendation on those amendments to the City Council.

### Background:

The Mayor and City Council formed the Committee in June 2007 and gave it the following charge to complete by June 2008:

- 1. Provide direction to and review of the staff and consultant work on the Best Practices technical study;*
- 2. Engage the public in a dialogue that provides information about how other jurisdictions have implemented light rail and how to apply those lessons to Bellevue;*
- 3. Create a "catalog" of best practices and outcomes from other jurisdictions that the Committee identifies as desirable for light rail implementation in Bellevue; and*
- 4. Based on "lessons learned," develop guiding principles and policy recommendations, including draft Comprehensive Plan amendments, for consideration by the City Council.*

*The information developed by the Committee addresses a range of issues about light rail including planning, design, construction, and operation. The Committee does not draw any conclusions about specific light rail routing*

*or station locations, but we believe our recommendations will ultimately assist the community and the City Council in evaluating and determining Bellevue's light rail routing preference.*

Over the past several months, the Committee has conducted public open houses to solicit input on issues, topics, preliminary findings and potential best practices; sifted through research papers on eight topics; toured the Central Link project and received briefings from Sound Transit; and visited three case study systems in San Diego, San Jose and Portland.

The culmination of that work is presented in the draft report and recommendations included in the Planning Commission packet for the May 14 meeting. The primary focus of the presentation will be on the principal findings and conclusions related to the nine topics included in section III of the draft report and an overview of the draft Comprehensive Plan amendments.

Conclusion:

As noted above, the Commission has been represented on the Committee so no formal review or action is required at this time. However, in July, the Planning Commission will be preparing a recommendation to City Council only on the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendments in the Committee's final report, due to be issued in late June.

If you have individual comments on the draft report, those can be addressed to the Committee via USPS c/o Maria or Mike at city hall, e-mail at [LRBestPractices@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:LRBestPractices@bellevuewa.gov) or the project website at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light\\_rail\\_best\\_practices\\_info.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm).

**There will also be an open house on the draft report on May 15, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this information. Staff will be available to answer questions at the briefing.