MEMORANDUM

TO: **PLANNING COMMISSION**

FR: **FRANZ LOEWENHERZ, SENIOR PLANNER 425-452-4077**

SU: **WALK & ROLL: 2007 PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

DA: **MAY 23, 2007**

On March 12th the Bellevue Council directed staff to move forward with Walk and Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. The 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan project (which will be the second comprehensive update to the original 1993 Plan) will allow Bellevue to build on the successes that followed the implementation of the 1999 Plan. While the 1999 Plan has provided a useful framework for implementing improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle network, the plan is nearly eight years old and in need of an update.

In undertaking the 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan (see attachment), staff intend to:

- Produce an updated blueprint for making walking and bicycling an attractive, safe, and practical transportation and recreation option for the citizens of Bellevue.
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to support continued growth and development and overall neighborhood livability in the City of Bellevue.
- Coordinate with other non-motorized planning efforts underway in the region and within Bellevue.
- Provide a mechanism to inform and involve stakeholders in the community in pedestrian and bicycle planning.

Staff will be at the Planning Commission meeting on May 23rd to provide a brief presentation on progress being made on the following tasks:

1) City-wide on-line survey: The survey was on-line from March 6th to April 10th during which time 919 bicycle surveys and 405 pedestrian surveys were completed. Findings of current pedestrian and bicycling conditions and suggested improvements will be shared with the Commission.

2) Focus group discussions: Northwest Research Group was hired to facilitate the following sessions: (i) female group with frequent riders who rode within the last week; (ii) male group with frequent riders who rode within the last week.; (iii) female group with less frequent riders who last rode more than a week ago.; (iv) male group with less frequent riders who last rode more than week ago.; (v) female pedestrian group; (vi) male pedestrian group. This task involves documenting barriers to walking and cycling in Bellevue for various user groups.

3) Pedestrian and bicycle policy refinements: Staff are reviewing policy language in the Comprehensive Plan related to pedestrian and bicycle facilities to assess their continued applicability and to propose modifications where and if necessary.

Staff will answer questions and seek input from the Commission on the above tasks and proposed next steps. Staff will continue to provide the Planning Commission with regular updates and seek guidance on the Walk & Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan as the project progresses.

Bellevue's Transportation and Planning Commissions, and the City's Park & Community Services Board will be asked for support on: (i) policy issues, guiding principles and the general structure and contents of the Plan; (ii) project prioritization methodology; and (iii) obtaining and analyzing input from community forums and meetings.

The 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan is anticipated complete by the 1st quarter 2008. The Ped/Bike TFP is a functional plan that informs the Transportation Element and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Its update will be coordinated along with parallel policy amendments to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation System and other relevant subsections of the Transportation Element. The annual Comprehensive Plan amendment process serves to coordinate this effort.

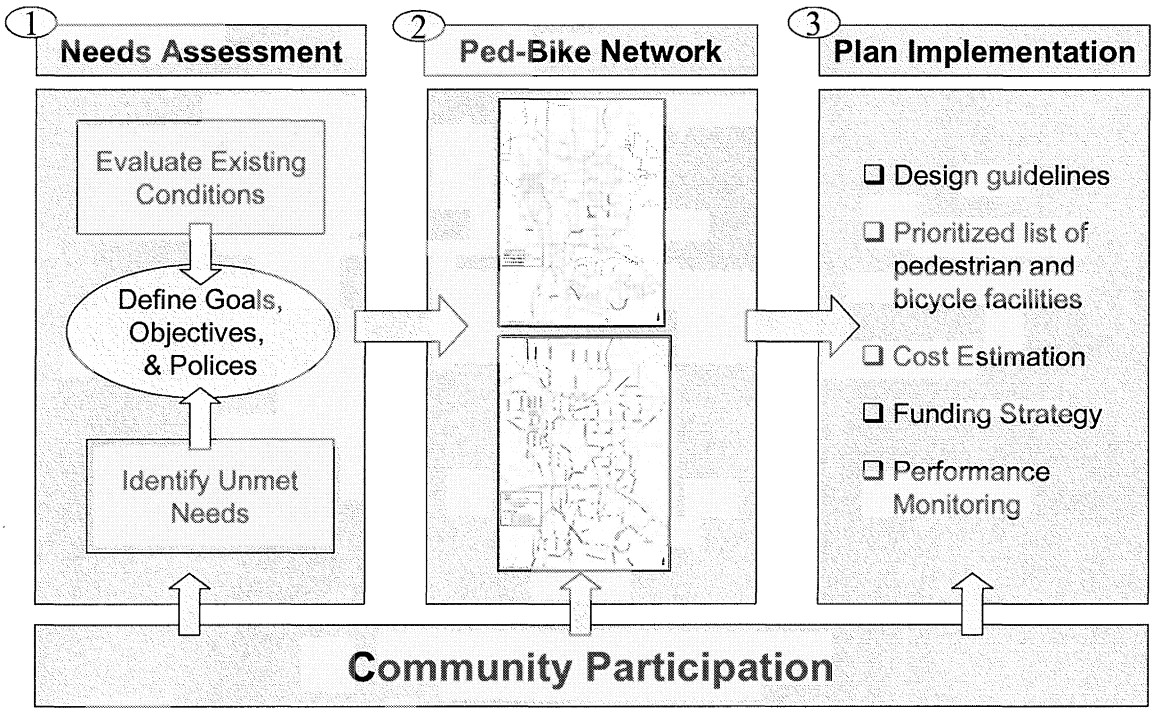
ATTACHMENT
WALK & ROLL: 2007 PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
SCOPE OF WORK

PLAN PURPOSE

Pedestrian and bicycle system demand consistently rates as one of Bellevue's most important quality of life measures. The purpose of the Walk & Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, (which will be the second comprehensive update to the original 1993 Plan) is to:

- Produce a blueprint for making walking and bicycling an attractive, safe, and practical transportation and recreation option for the citizens of Bellevue.
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to support continued growth and development and overall neighborhood livability in the City of Bellevue.
- Coordinate with other non-motorized planning efforts underway in the region and within Bellevue.
- Provide a mechanism to inform and involve stakeholders in the community in pedestrian and bicycle planning.

The Walk & Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan is a three-phased planning initiative. The community participation program will be continuous throughout the entire project.



PHASE I: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The first phase involves assessing the existing pedestrian and bicycle environment and identifying unmet needs. An understanding of the adequacy of existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Bellevue is desirable to establish a baseline from which to measure progress.

Task I.1: Evaluate Existing Conditions

Building on the work conducted in the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, Task 1 will provide a snapshot of citywide pedestrian and bicycle conditions. First, it will describe the existing infrastructure including gaps in the network. Next, there will be consideration of the challenges facing

non-motorized transportation in Bellevue today. This task includes the creation of an on-line questionnaire about pedestrian and bicycling conditions and suggested improvements.

Task I.2: Identify Unmet Needs

While many areas of Bellevue have extensive sidewalk, bicycle, and trail coverage, there are also areas with only partial coverage or lacking sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and trail connections altogether. This task involves conducting intercept interviews and follow-up focus groups with various user groups to document barriers to walking and cycling in Bellevue.

Task I.3: Define Goals, Objectives, and Polices

Bellevue Comprehensive Plan policies related to pedestrian and bicycle facilities will be revisited in this task to assess their continued applicability, to propose modifications where and if necessary, and, in some cases, to provide recommendations for additional initiatives.

PHASE II: PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORK

Working with the public in open houses and other community involvement strategies, the existing pedestrian and bicycle network will be reviewed and missing facilities will be identified to close system gaps. The underlying premise of these tasks is that not all areas of Bellevue have the same level of demand and that the City's available resources for improving pedestrian and bicycle environments should be targeted to areas with supportive land uses.

Task II.1: System Network

This task involves working with the public to identify major pedestrian and bicycle destinations and key connections. Staff will evaluate these pedestrian and bicycle network connections using existing data, field review, GIS analysis, and public input to arrive at a determination of which connections will be most beneficial to the pedestrian and bicycle networks. The Pedestrian and Bicycle System maps prepared in this task will provide a guide for building out a functional non-motorized transportation system in the future.

Task II.2: Project Lists

This task will identify the pedestrian and bicycle projects that will complete the pedestrian and bicycle networks and result in better connections between neighborhoods, schools, parks, places of work and leisure and other important destinations. Bellevue staff will work with the public and the City's Boards and Commissions to determine the suitability of a particular facility for bicycle or pedestrian travel. In completing this task, staff will consider a number of factors such as motor vehicle traffic volume and speeds, lane or sidewalk width, pavement quality, and pedestrian amenities into an index of overall suitability for travel.

PHASE III: PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The planning process will result in a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facilities on city streets and on off-street trails. The plan will include guidelines and maps that can be used by the city and the public to guide the process of implementation. The plan is scheduled to be completed by late December 2007. The final plan will be available for download on the city's website.

Task III.1: Design guidelines:

Development of preferred design guidelines is a component of the plan that will provide design suggestions on such items as bike lane widths, pavement markings, bike rack design and placement. These guidelines will help establish consistency for future additions to the existing pedestrian and bicycle network.

Task III.2: Prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Staff will conduct a technical assessment of the non-motorized projects outlined in Task II.2 and subject them to public review and feedback. The outcome of this task is a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that, when completed, will result in the system network defined in Task II.1.

Task III.3: Cost Estimation

Planning level cost estimates will be prepared for the projects identified in this project. Items such as planning, design, and engineering will be factored into the construction related costs.

Task III.4: Funding Strategy

The purpose of this task is to undertake an analysis of project completion dates given anticipated funding. In completing this task, candidate financing options may be identified and evaluated.

Task III.5: Performance Monitoring

There are several methodological options to evaluate performance: percentage of trips, facility mileage, number of links between bicycle, pedestrian, and transit systems, LOS-based, number of accidents, and surveys. One or several of these options will be selected; it is important that performance monitoring be easily repeatable and provide understandable metrics.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community participation in this plan is crucial and will include on-going opportunities to engage interested stakeholders. Outreach will occur on four levels:

1. Target Existing Stakeholder Groups - Advantage can be taken of the knowledge and experience of existing local and regional individuals and groups, including the Network on Aging, bike commuters/enthusiasts, school-based groups, and bike dealers. Organizing events with groups such as Feet First and the Cascade Bicycle Club will gather more interest and obtain feedback on opportunities and constraints, needs and priority improvements. Neighborhoods will be invited to assist staff in identifying local needs.

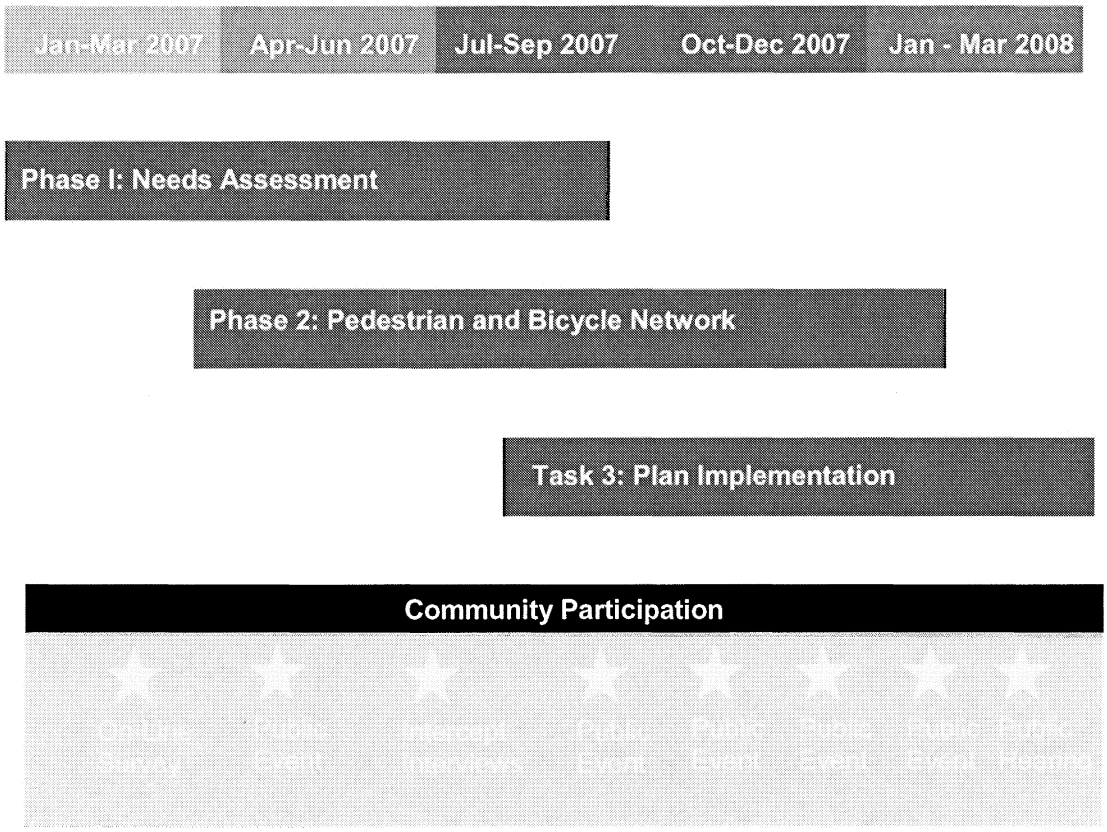
2. Commission/Board Engagement - Bellevue's Transportation and Planning Commissions, and the City's Park & Community Services Board will be asked for support and direction on: (i) policy issues, guiding principles and the general structure and contents of the Plan; (ii) project prioritization methodology; and (iii) obtaining and analyzing input from community forums and meetings.

3. Meetings/open houses - Holding public meetings will allow citizens to inform the planning process, interact with and hold staff accountable for decisions made.

4. Technology-based strategies – A project website will be developed on the City's homepage to dispense information to the community and to receive public input. Other strategies to consider include: web surveys, intercept interviews, and focus groups. The intent is to give interested citizens diverse opportunities to inform the planning process.

City of Bellevue
2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan

Project Timeline



MINUTES

INFORMATION

Planning Commission Schedule

May 16, 2007

Department of Planning and Community Development 450 110th Avenue NE, PO Box 90012 Bellevue, WA 98004 (425) 452-7857

Month	April				May					June			
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
Date	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
2007 CPAs								PH					
Electrical Facilities/Utilities Element (Comprehensive Plan Amendment)		OB				SS					SS	PH	
Wilburton/NE 8th Study (Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code Amendments)		OB											
Crossroads (Land Use Code Amendment)				SS								PH	
Community Retail Design Guidelines/Development Agreement (Land Use Code Amendment)				SS							SS		
Meydenbauer Bay (Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Code Amendments)		SS											
Bel-Red Corridor Study													
Sound Transit East Link		OB										SS	
Ped-Bike Plan								SS					
Neighborhood Livability				SS			SS	SS			SS	SS	

SS: Study Session (No Action – Information) **PH: Public Hearing** (Public Testimony) **SS/DEC: Study Session/Decision** (Action Requested) **NB: New Business** (No Action) **OB: Old Business** (No Action)

R: Retreat **#:** Dinner Meeting **CM:** Community Meeting **LUCA:** Land Use Code Amendment **OH:** Open House *If Needed

Chair: Douglas Mathews Vice-Chair: Jennifer Robertson Staff Contacts: Paul Inghram/Christina Behar

NOTES