



Bellevue Transit Master Plan

DATE: April 11, 2013

TO: Members of the Transportation Commission

CC: Members of the Planning Commission
Members of the Human Services Commission
Members of the Parks and Community Services Board
Members of the Arts Commission

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SUBJECT: Bellevue Transit Master Plan Status Report

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellevue is updating its 2003 Transit Plan with a comprehensive 20-year look ahead to the type of system that will be required to meet Bellevue's transit needs through 2030. The Transit Master Plan (TMP) will develop short- and long-term policies, programs, and projects that help foster a high-quality transit system that is easier, more effective, and more enjoyable for residents, employees, and visitors in Bellevue. The TMP is being overseen by the City's Transportation Commission whose work is guided by Council-approved project principles (see <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/PrinciplesBelTransMstrPlan.pdf>) and input from members of the Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board.

On April 11, staff will provide Transportation Commission members with a status report on the TMP Service Element – the current phase analysis. Please be advised that, per Council direction, members of the Planning Commission, Human Services Commission, Arts, and Parks and Community Services Board are invited to attend all staff briefings on the Transit Master Plan to the Transportation Commission. Any member from a Board and Commission is welcome to attend these Transportation Commission meetings.

BACKGROUND

On June 2, 2003, Council adopted the Bellevue Transit Plan (Resolution No. 6859). The 2003 Plan was a major step forward in articulating what improvements are needed in transit service and capital investments throughout Bellevue and served as an important reference document for collaborations with the City's transit service providers. The service and capital partnerships

resulting from this vision have enhanced transit's role in Bellevue. Consistent with the 2003 Plan, the Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP) process comprises a service, capital, and policy element supported by extensive public outreach and data-driven technical research.

The Service Element, the current phase of analysis, will arrive at market driven strategies based on a detailed review of the existing transit network, an assessment of the attitudes and preferences that drive traveler choices, and an evaluation of future travel markets. Through online surveys, stakeholder interviews, and presentations to interest groups, City staff has heard the priorities of employers, employees, and residents regarding transit service in Bellevue. Key findings from this community engagement effort, along with an extensive assessment of demographic, route performance, and travel demand model data is detailed in the following documents posted on the project webpage:

1. **Network Design Workshop Report** – Summarizes the results of a workshop held on 1/31/13 with Bellevue Board and Commission members and staff from Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Metro, Sound Transit, and other stakeholders. The workshop included a visioning exercise on network design principles that should govern Bellevue's long-term transit vision.
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/NetworkDesignWorkshop.pdf>
2. **Market Driven Strategies Report** – Outlines transit service strategies derived from the Council approved project principles.
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/Market-Driven-Strategies-Report.pdf>
3. **Funding Scenarios Report** – Details a range of financial scenarios (reduced, stable, and growing resources) through 2030 that will inform the TMP route-level recommendations.
<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/Funding-Scenarios-Report.pdf>
4. **Existing and Future Conditions Report** – Evaluates existing and future conditions using demographic, route performance, market research, and travel demand model data.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/TMP_existing_conditions_022013.pdf
5. **2013 Network Profile Report** – Provides a comprehensive summary of public transit services in Bellevue as of December 2012 (an update of the 2012 Network Profile Report).
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/TNP2011-12Update_020513.pdf
6. **Briefing Report** — Details the service and infrastructure improvements completed since the adoption of the 2003 Bellevue Transit Plan and highlights transit usage levels and unmet needs in Bellevue that will be taken into account in the TMP process.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/TransitBriefReport_web10-2012.pdf
7. **Forum Report** — Identifies the major themes expressed by members of the Transportation, Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board at an event held on September 18, 2012.
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/TMP_Forum_Full_Report.pdf

8. **Improvement Survey Report** — Evaluates the opinions of current transit riders, former transit riders, and non-riders in Bellevue regarding service quality and priorities (based on feedback from 4,252 people who took an on-line questionnaire between February and March 2012). http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/TIS_Summary_Report.pdf.
9. **Phase 1 Outreach Report (Technical Appendix)** – Documents the early public outreach efforts that informed the draft project principles and scope of work. The document includes: translations from community comment cards received from Chinese, Spanish, Russian speakers; formal letters received from Bellevue College, Bellevue School District, Hopelink, Seattle Children’s Hospital, and others; and, transcriptions from stakeholder interviews with representatives from Bellevue Downtown Association, Microsoft, etc. http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/061112_TransitPlanTechAppendix.pdf
10. **2012 Network Profile Report** — Assesses the bus network structure in Bellevue; services provided in terms of miles and hours and services consumed (i.e., ridership). http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Transportation/BellTransit_NetworkProfile2012Final.pdf.

NEXT STEPS

By mid-May, the Service Element will be complete and Bellevue staff will initiate work on the following two remaining elements of the TMP project:

- **Capital Element:** The capital element will: (i) stimulate discussion on congestion problems in Bellevue that compromise transit’s efficiency; (ii) evaluate the trade-offs associated with different street design decisions on mode choice, traffic delay, etc; and, (iii) assess roadway, signal system, and other rights-of-way improvements that could be made to support the transit vision outlined in the Service Element.
- **Policy Element:** The policy element will explore different strategies the City could undertake to achieve the maximum benefit from transit. This may include consideration of development guidelines, transportation system management policies, and other actions that help to better fit transit into the Bellevue landscape.

By the end of 2013, the Transportation Commission will be presented with the final TMP report. Upon Transportation Commission approval, this report will be presented to the City Council for adoption. The Council adopted TMP report will inform the region’s service providers of Bellevue’s transit priorities and updates to the Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Code, and potential City-led transit initiatives.