# Bellevue Transit Master Plan

***Arts Commission***
***September 4, 2012***

## Bellevue Transit Master Plan

### Metro Fixed Route Service

### ST Regional Express

## Other Transit Services

### ST Light Rail Service

### ST Commuter Rail Service

### Access Paratransit

### Dial-a-Ride-Transit (DART)

### Commuter Vans

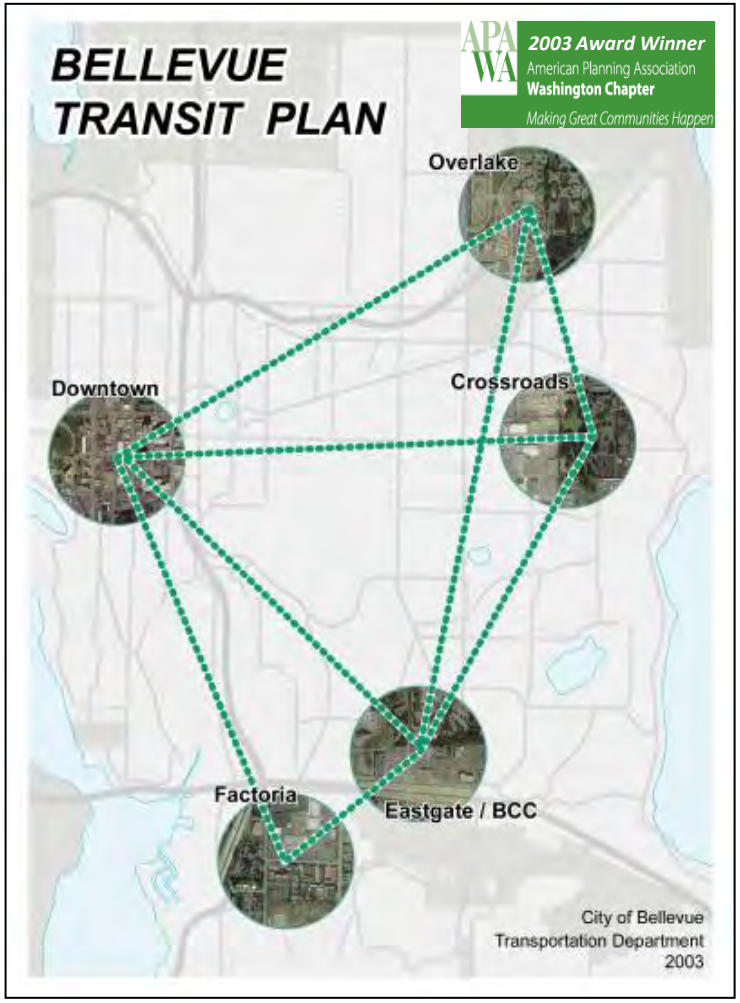
### Taxi Script

1. Project Background
2. Public Involvement
3. Project Principles
4. Scope of Work
5. Next Steps



# Tonight's Agenda

# *Preliminary Outreach to Inform Scope & Principles*




*Resolution No. 6859 (June 2, 2003)*

- **Assessed the adequacy of transit service levels in Bellevue.**
- **Formulated a shared vision with the community, elected officials, and transit partners.**
- **Leveraged service and capital investments in Bellevue.**
- **Enhanced mobility options for the public.**



# 2003 Transit Plan

Eastgate P&R

I-90 Two-Way Transit HOV

Eastgate Direct Access Ramps

Bellevue Transit Center

RapidRide B Line

Access Downtown

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# More Facilities

- **Frequent & all-day transit network, featuring the RapidRide B Line (initiated October 1, 2011).**
- **Frequent service routes operate approximately every 15 minutes or less during most portions of the day.**
- **Other All-Day service routes shown operate approximately every 30 minutes during most portions of the day.**



# Central Eastside Service

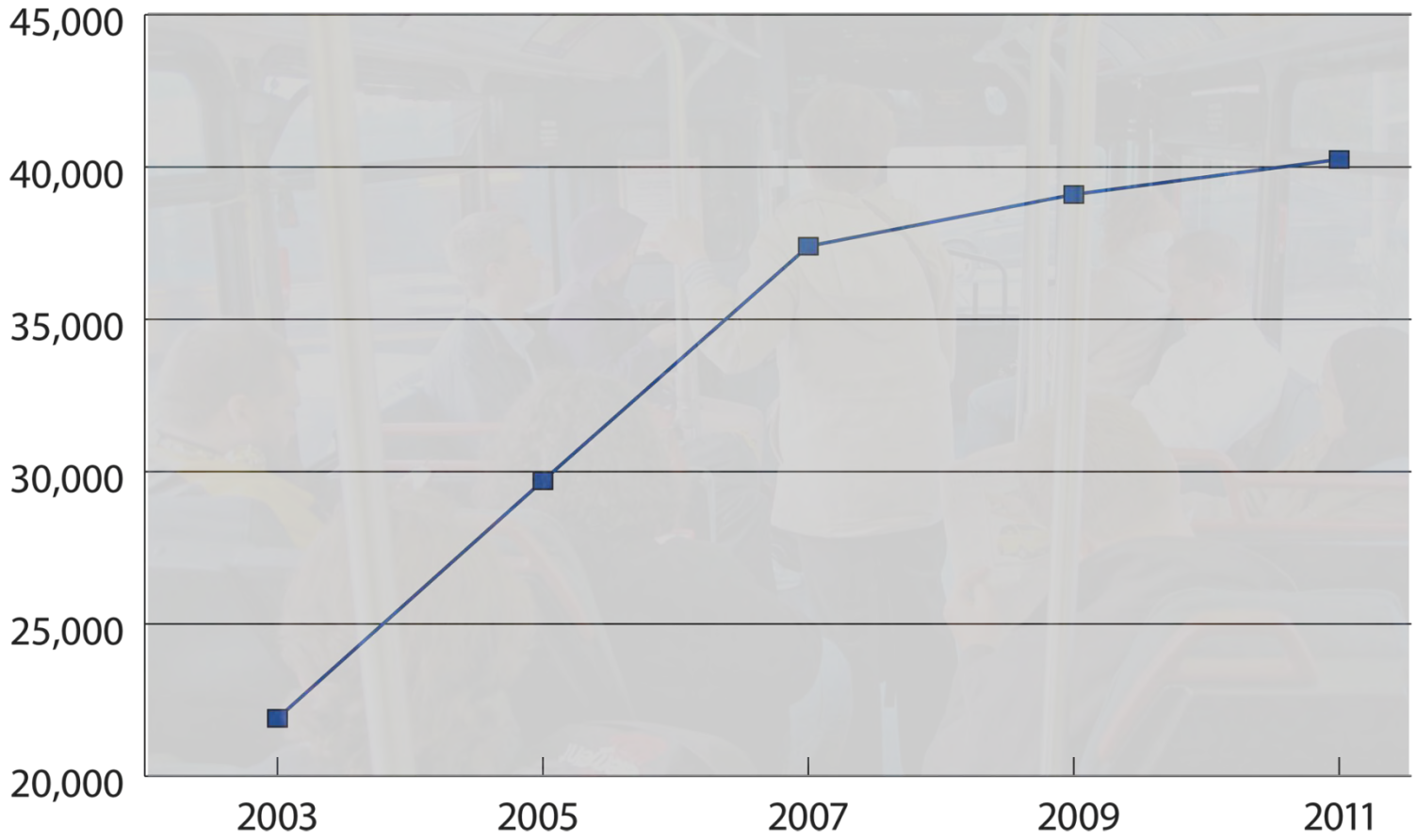
Tolling

Lake Washington Urban Partner Agreement

**In support of SR-520 tolling the region set in motion the Lake Washington Urban Partnership Agreement that added 130 bus trips to routes on SR 520 for a total of 700 every weekday.**

# Average Weekday Transit Ridership (Fall 2003 to Fall 2011)

84 percent increase, from 21,900 (2003) to 40,250 (2011).

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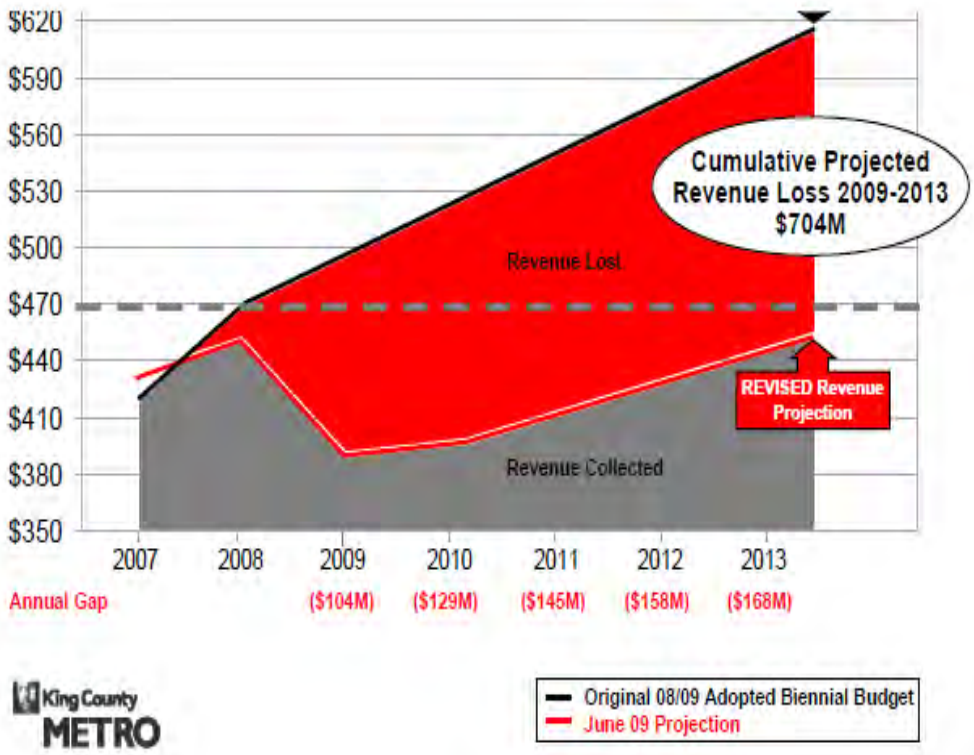
## Citywide Transit Ridership

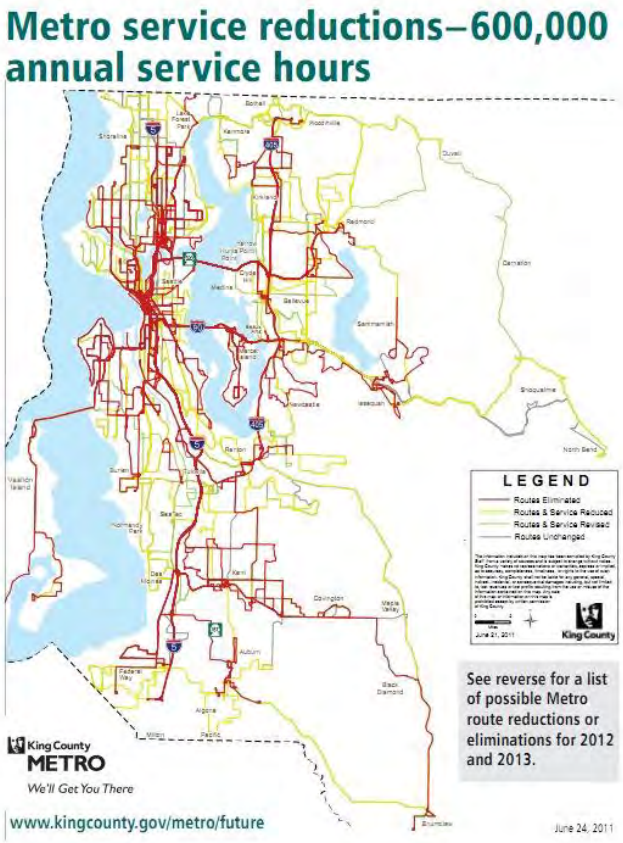
## Average Weekday Transit Ridership (Fall 2003 to Fall 2011)

- Eastgate increased **232 percent**, from 2,197 to 7,303.
- Downtown increased **110 percent**, from 7,346 to 15,408.
- Crossroads increased **80 percent**, from 1,706 to 3,065.
- Factoria increased **23 percent**, from 1,724 to 2,113.

# In 2011 the County Council approved a temporary congestion reduction charge to help fund transit service for two years.




King County Metro – Sales Tax Shortfall

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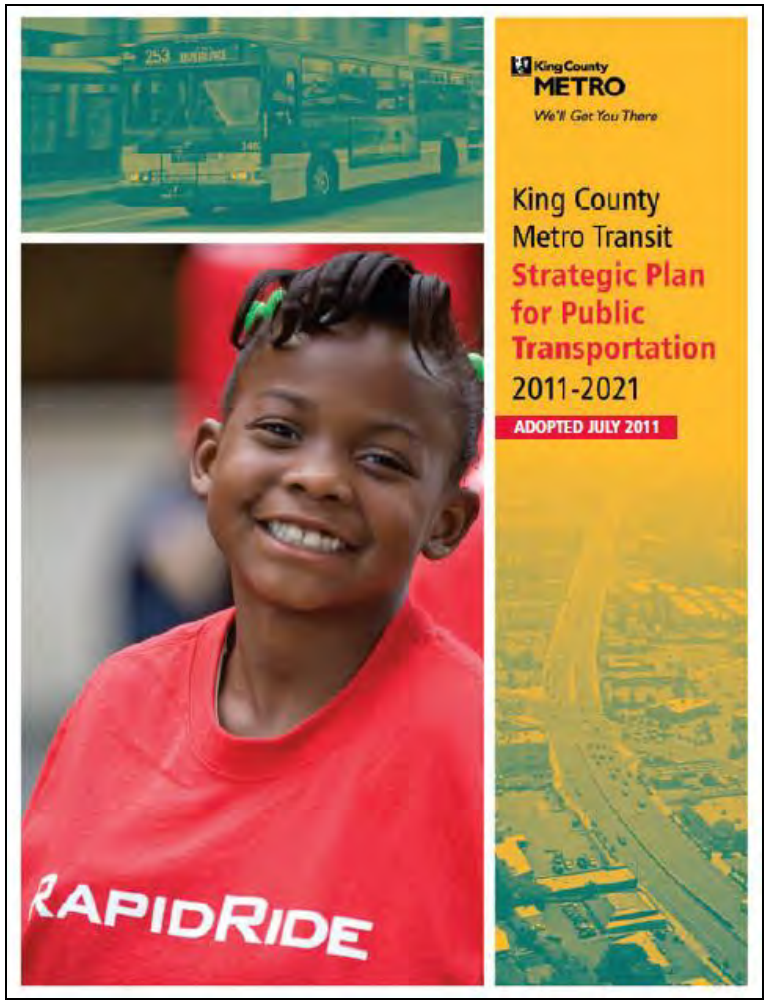
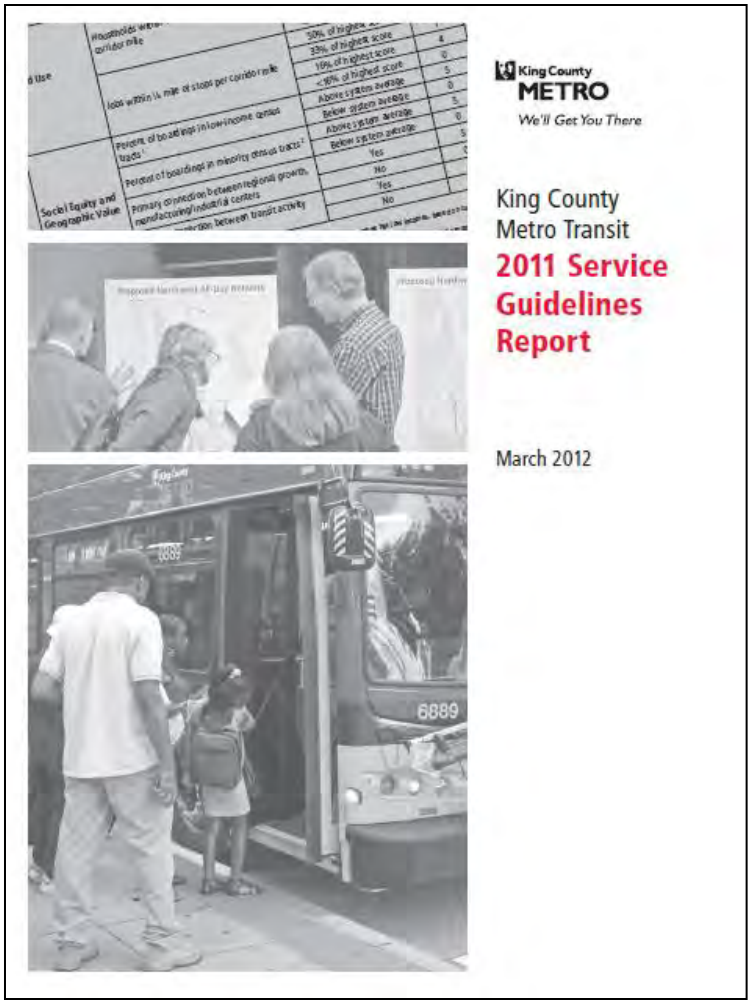
# Financial Uncertainties

# Metro is expected to start reducing/eliminating unproductive services for it to reinvest resources in more productive areas.

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## New Policy Framework

East Link Light Rail

**Project to be built**

Station

**Route Profile**

At-Grade
Elevated
Tunnel
Retained Cut / Fill
Future Downtown Redmond Extension*

* The Board also identified a route for a further extension to Downtown Redmond in the future that was not funded in the Sound Transit 2 ballot measure.

**Central Link Light Rail**

Central Link Alignment and Station
University Link Under Construction
Final Design

(December 2011)

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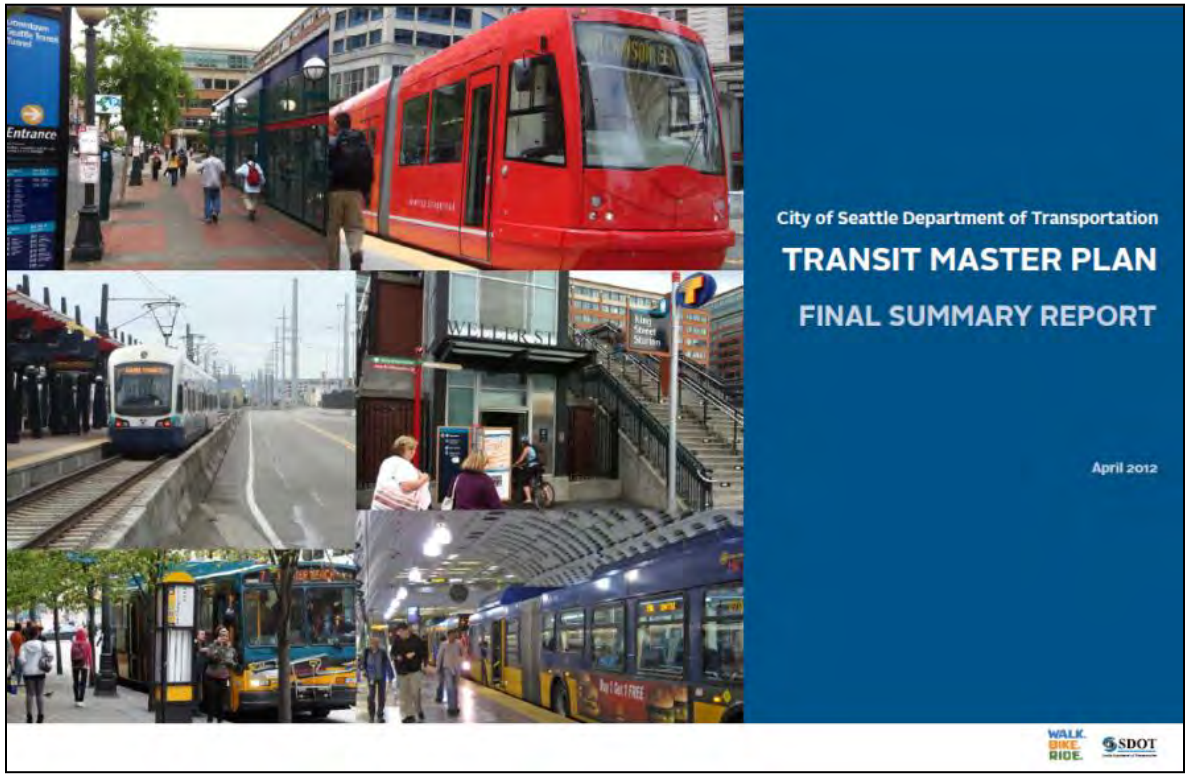
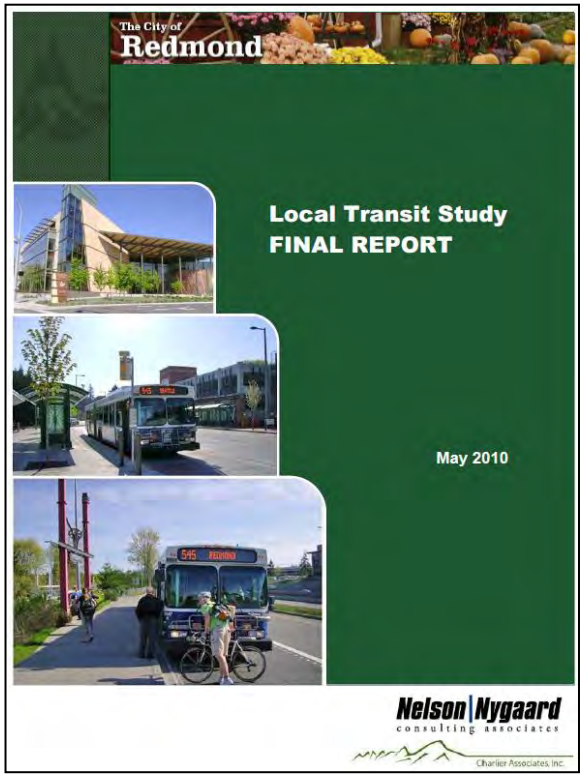
# East Link




*City of Seattle, April 2012*




*City of Redmond, May 2010*

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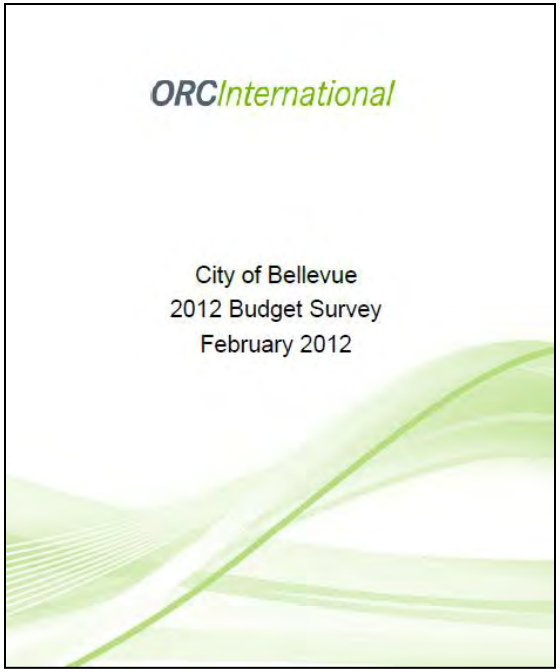
# Other Jurisdictions

**Public support for transit consistently ranks the highest across an array of transportation strategies on how to handle traffic and congestion in Bellevue.**


ORCInternational

City of Bellevue
2012 Budget Survey
February 2012

***83 percent of Bellevue residents agree that the City should "work with regional agencies to improve local and regional public transportation serving Bellevue." Three out of five (61%) residents strongly agree with this strategy.***

***- 2012 Bellevue Budget Survey***



## Bellevue's Residents

The Seattle Times

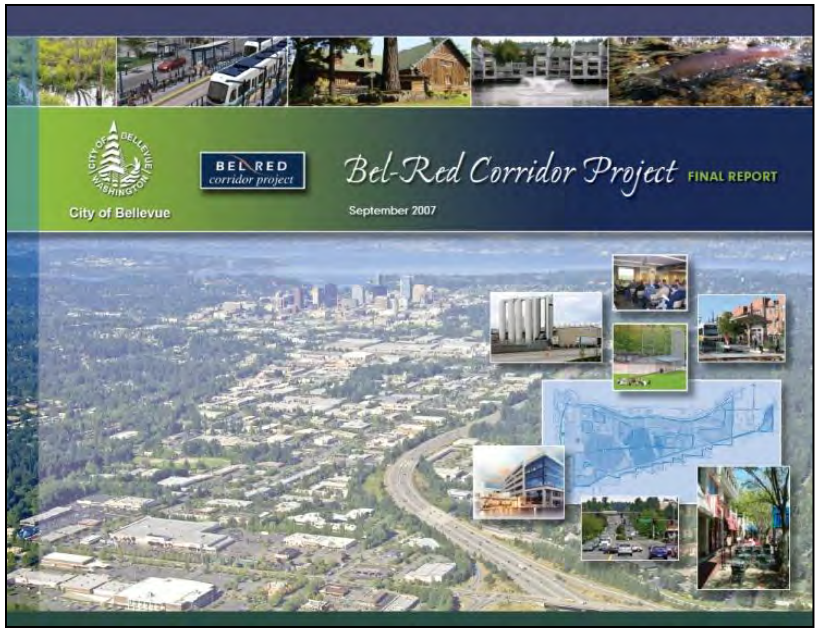
## First Bellevue high-rise in four years breaks ground

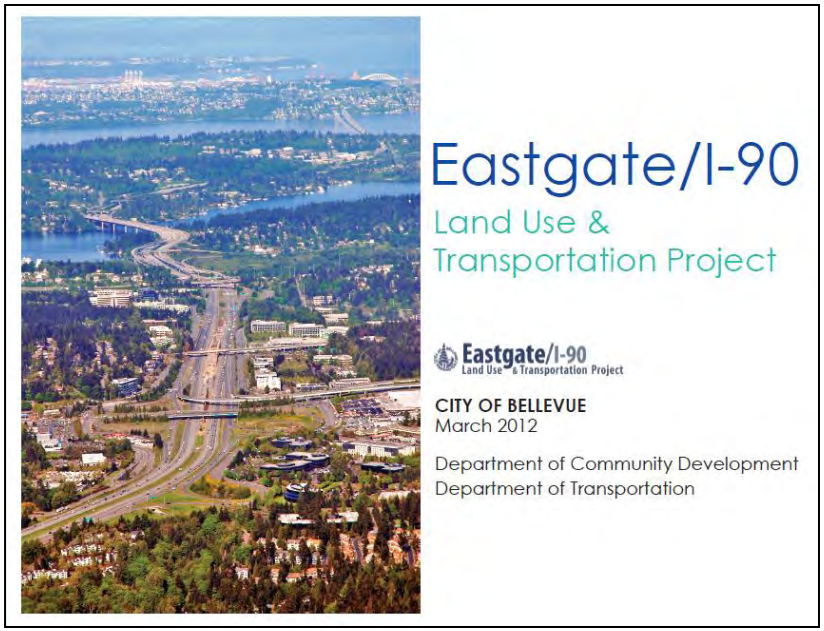
Originally published May 25, 2012

Su Development has broken ground on a 21-story apartment tower in downtown Bellevue, the city's first new high-rise since the real-estate market collapsed.

**Paul Sweeney, a principal with commercial brokerage Broderick Group**, predicted at an industry gathering earlier this month that downtown Bellevue's office vacancy rate would drop from 12.9 to 8.6 percent over the next year.

***Companies are moving to downtown Bellevue from other Eastside locations because they like its amenities, particularly its transit options***, he said.




**Transit reinforces Bellevue's Downtown and the Bel-Red and Eastgate/I-90 corridors as economically vibrant focal points that serve as gateways to the city of Bellevue.**



# Bellevue's Land Use Vision

# *Preliminary Outreach to Inform Scope & Principles*

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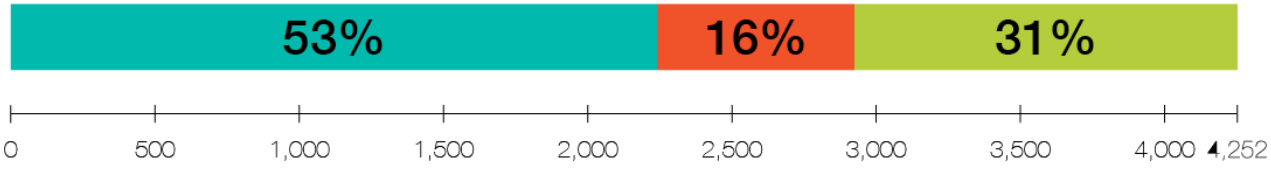
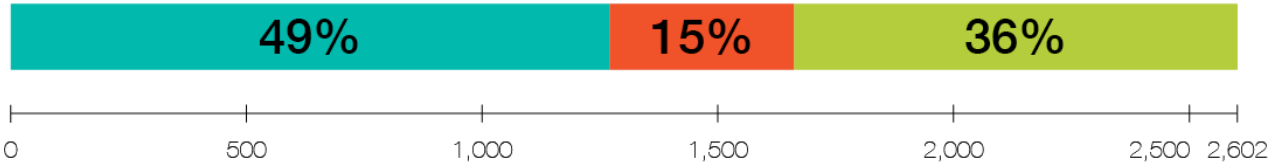
## Project Timeline

## All Respondents




## Bellevue Residents

## Non-Bellevue Residents




- *I use transit services in Bellevue regularly or occasionally.*
- *I formerly used transit in Bellevue but no longer do.*
- *I have never used transit in Bellevue.*

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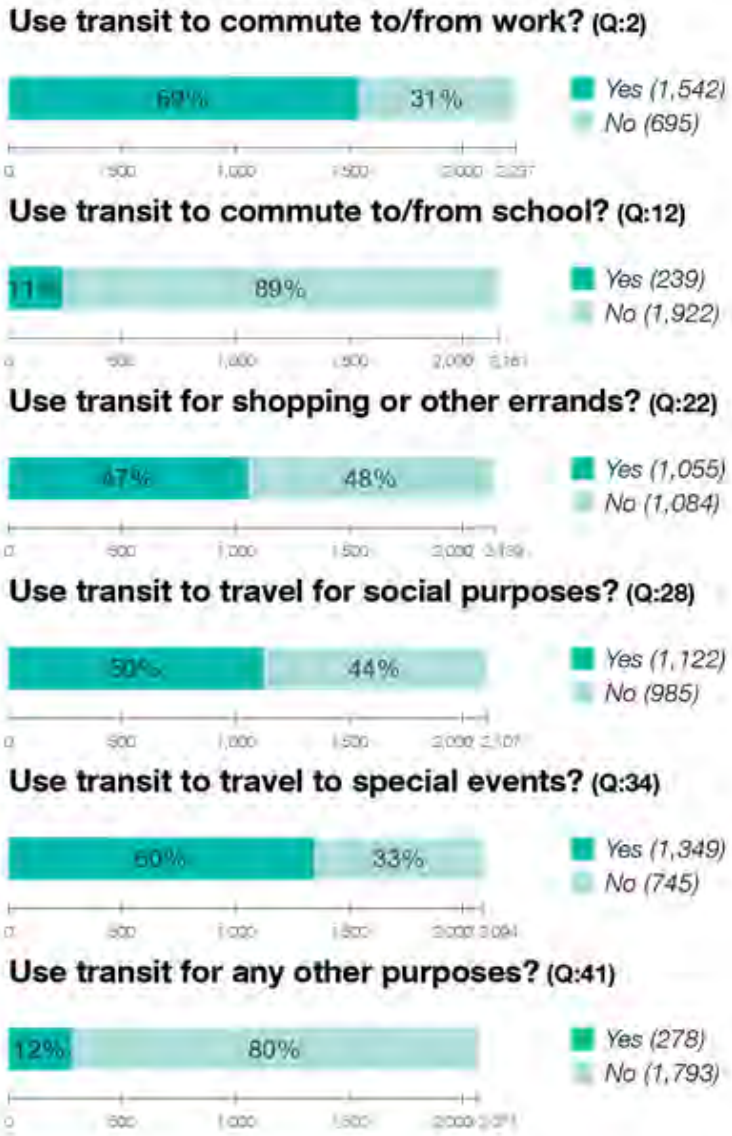
# 2012 Survey (Place of Residence)

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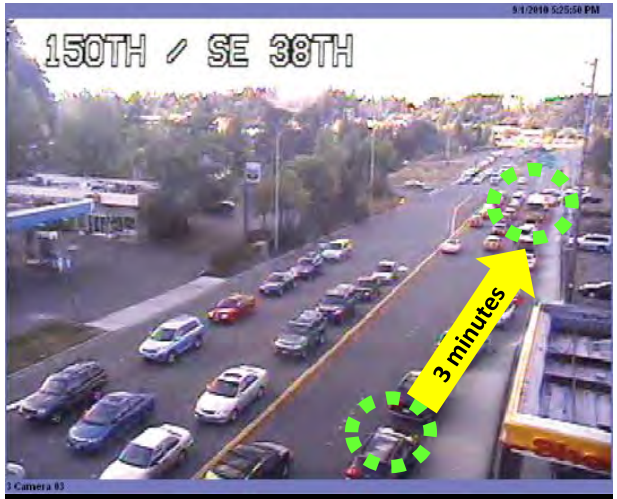
# 2012 Survey (Trip Purpose)

*Standing loads on Route 243.*

***882 of respondents who use transit to commute to work (N=1,545) indicated that they had to stand while riding the bus because every seat was occupied.***




*Elapsed time to travel 1 block on Rt 271.*

***595 of respondents who use transit to commute to work (N=1,545) indicated that service speed and reliability improvements were needed (e.g., investing in roadway and traffic signal infrastructure).***



# 2012 Survey (Work Trips)

**"It's very important that downtown Bellevue be well connected by transit .... a community that doesn't get that … risks losing its economic vitality."**

**Leslie Lloyd**
***President,***
***Bellevue Downtown Association***

**"Speaking from a corporate perspective, we couldn't provide mobility to our workforce without a robust transit system in Bellevue."**

**Jim Stanton**
***Senior Community Affairs Manager,***
***Microsoft Corporation***



# Corporate Interest

Friends of Youth
celebrating 60 years

BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

hopelink
Helping people. Changing lives.

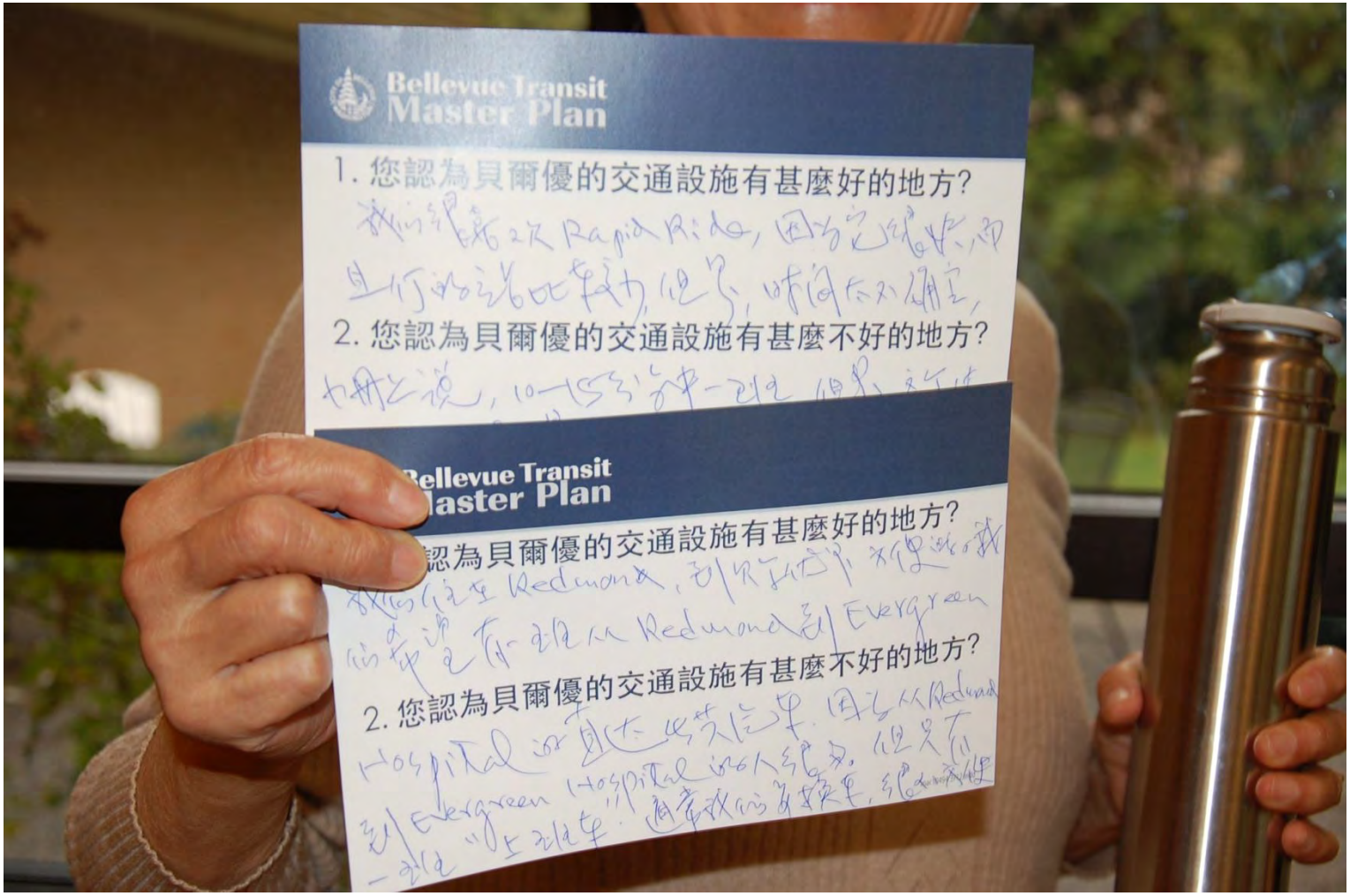
At Work!
Changing the face of employment

BELLEVUE COLLEGE
Become Exceptional

Senior Services



# Institutional Interest




**Chinese (44 cards) - Spanish (33 cards) - Russian (42 cards)**

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## Non-Native English Speakers

1. Approved project principles to guide the Plan Update.
2. Approved major elements in the Plan Update scope of work.
3. Provided direction on Board/Commission engagement process.

1. **Support planned growth and development in Bellevue with a bold transit vision that encourages long-term ridership growth.**

2. **Engage community stakeholders in setting the priorities for transit delivery.**

3. **Determine where and how transit investments can deliver the greatest degree of mobility and access possible for all populations.**

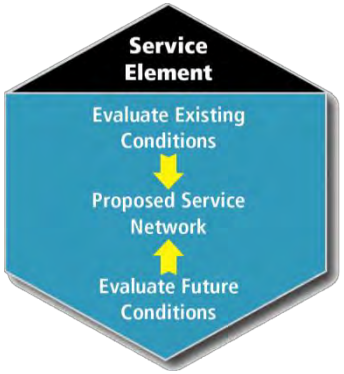


## Project Principles

4. Incorporate other transit-related efforts (both bus and light rail) underway in Bellevue and within the region.

5. Identify partnership opportunities to further extend transit service and infrastructure.

6. Develop measures of effectiveness to evaluate transit investments and to track plan progress.




**Identifies the City's transit service priorities that are responsive to different financial scenarios and attune to different time horizons.**

**Assesses roadway, signal system, and other rights-of-way improvements that could be made to support the transit vision outlined in the Service Element.**

**Articulates Bellevue's interests as it responds to regional transit policy changes and financial uncertainties, and coordinates with partner agencies.**



# Elements of the Plan Update

# *Transit Service Vision*

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## Next Steps

# Bellevue Transit Master Plan

## Join Us!

Please join Bellevue city staff and your colleagues on Bellevue's Boards and Commissions in shaping the city's transit service vision.

On July 9, 2012 the Bellevue City Council initiated the Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP) an update of the City's 2003 Transit Plan.

Per Council direction, Bellevue staff will facilitate an informal discussion on transit among members of the Transportation, Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board.

***WHAT:*** Transit Master Plan Forum
***WHEN:*** Tuesday, September 18 (from 6 to 8 PM)
***WHERE:*** City Hall (Conference room 1E-108 and 1E-113)

We look forward to seeing you there!

*For more information contact: Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner, floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov 425-452-4077*
*Visit our project website: http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-transit-plan.htm*

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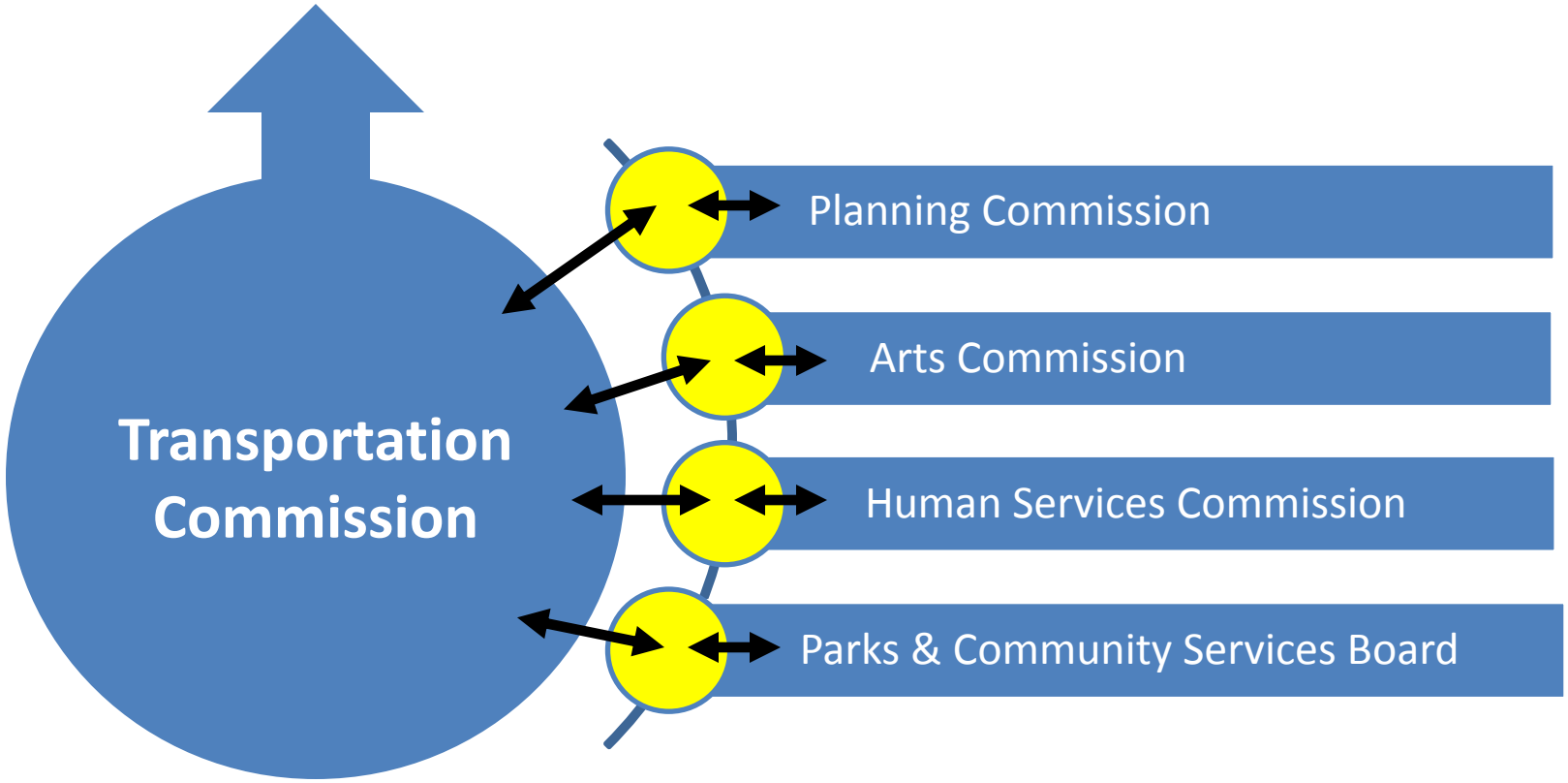
# Transit Forum

# Bellevue City Council




**Members of the Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board are invited to all staff briefings on the TMP to the Transportation Commission.**

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/bellevue-transit-plan.htm

**Franz Loewenherz**
Transportation Department
floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov
**425-452-4077**

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# Additional Information