



DATE: November 3, 2011
TO: Bellevue Transportation Commission
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SUBJECT: Downtown Transportation Plan Update

INTRODUCTION

The update to the Downtown Transportation Plan will address mobility issues and challenges and support Downtown growth forecasts looking out to 2030.

On November 10, staff and Plan update consultant DKS Associates will highlight best practices with regard to mobility in a dense, mixed-use urban setting and identify “measures of effectiveness” that will help evaluate proposed measures to address existing and future transportation issues. Commission input is requested on the proposed measures of effectiveness that may be finalized at the meeting on December 8.

MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS

An understanding of best practices is fundamental for establishing the framework for the outcomes of the Plan update. Selecting the measures of effectiveness (MOEs) for use in transportation planning for Downtown Bellevue requires consideration of those measures that have been successfully applied elsewhere, in similar settings.

Qualitative and quantitative MOEs will help identify and compare the performance of specific transportation project recommendations. MOEs may include such components as the benefit to mobility (vehicular level of service/transit and vehicle travel time/mode split/pedestrian and bicycle circulation), the effect on the Downtown environment (urban character/ aesthetics/ pedestrian and bicycle safety and comfort), benefit to community sustainability (such as walking and bicycling access, vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions), and other factors considered best practice or important for a multi-modal downtown environment.

Recommended measures of effectiveness will be presented by the DKS Associates consultant team on November 10. Each recommended MOE will be accompanied by an explanation of why it is important for this Plan update – and how it can be used to evaluate individual proposed projects as well as the overall package of transportation system recommendations for the Downtown Transportation Plan Update.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT UPDATE

A multi-faceted and robust public involvement effort is underway. A number of presentations and events have been held and are planned. The Plan update web site announces upcoming events, and documents past events, to view the web site go to:

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/downtown-transportation-plan-update.htm>.

The following sections summarize recent public outreach:

Eastside Transportation Association

On October 24, staff provided an overview of the Downtown Transportation Plan Update to the Eastside Transportation Association (ETA). The ETA is a private-sector group dedicated to improving the quality of life and the environment by reducing congestion in the Puget Sound Region through increased mobility. Key points raised by the ETA included comments on improving pedestrian safety and facilities, providing accessibility that supports economic development, increasing transit service focused on the Eastside/I-405 corridor, understanding the tradeoffs and costs of potential transportation projects, and seeking innovative mobility solutions.

Open House and Scoping Meeting

In the early evening of Tuesday, November 1 staff hosted an open house and scoping meeting in City Hall. This meeting provided information to a broad section of the community and created forum to submit “scoping” comments regarding specific transportation issues. The 50-60 people in attendance reviewed display tables and talked with staff about concerns and suggestions for the specific mobility topics featured at individual tables: pedestrians; bicycles; transit; roadways; and signal operations. According to a “raise of hands” during a presentation in the Council Chambers, about half of those in attendance were Downtown residents. Staff will prepare a full report of the open house with a complete list of scoping comments.

NEXT STEPS

- December 1 and 3: Downtown Walking Audits with Feet First
- December 8: Transportation Commission
 - Regional Projects
 - Measures of Effectiveness

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Letter from Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
- B. Web Card