



DATE: February 1, 2012
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 February 9, 2012, staff will review the planning principles slated to be approved by the City Council on February 6. No action is requested.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES

At the June 6, 2011 City Council meeting, during which the general scope of the Downtown Transportation Plan Update and associated public involvement process were discussed, Council members commented that a set project principles would be desirable. Project principles are typically established at the beginning of major planning initiatives such as this. Principles provide Council direction on a range of topical and procedural issues that are expected to be significant factors in the planning process and in the framework of the final product. Principles for the Downtown Transportation Plan Update will guide staff, and the Transportation Commission as the plan update is prepared.

On October 3, 2011 staff discussed with Council a set of draft principles. Council provided comments on the draft principles and requested input from the Transportation Commission prior to finalizing and approving the principles. On October 13, 2011, the Transportation Commission reviewed the draft principles and the Council comments from October 3, and recommended a revised set of principles for Council's consideration.

Revised draft principles are attached. These will be considered by Council on February 6. If approved by Council, staff will provide final copies of the principles for your Briefing Books.

ATTACHMENT

Draft revised principles

Downtown Transportation Plan Update

Draft Revised Project Principles

(Updated per discussions with the City Council on October 3, 2011 and the Transportation Commission on October 13)

1. Plan for multiple modes of travel within and to and from Downtown Bellevue

Develop a multimodal transportation strategy for Downtown Bellevue that updates the existing Downtown Subarea Plan project list. The recommended strategy should consider and incorporate the emerging and anticipated mobility needs of motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and carpool/vanpool riders, and support the transport, parking and loading needs of employers, residents and businesses.

2. Accommodate the anticipated travel demands from the 2030 land use forecast

Ensure that the planned transportation system will accommodate the 2030 forecast for Downtown residential and employment growth.

3. Advance the adopted vision for Downtown Bellevue

Ensure that the Downtown transportation system advances and supports the land use and urban design vision for Downtown Bellevue - articulated in the Downtown Subarea Plan as a vibrant, livable, accessible, and memorable mixed use Urban Center.

4. Recognize changes in the regional and local transportation and land use environment

Incorporate local and regional transportation projects and plans that have been approved and/or implemented since the Downtown Subarea Plan was adopted in 2004 – including such changes as East Link, SR 520 expansion and tolling, improvements to I-90 and I-405, and the adoption of the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative and the Bel-Red Subarea Plan.

5. Integrate City Council direction

As potential Downtown transportation projects are identified, incorporate City Council direction on regional transportation facilities, such as the Downtown alignment for East Link and the I-405 Master Plan.

6. Provide for comprehensive public involvement

Ensure that the process to update the Downtown Transportation Plan invites broad and inclusive public involvement that engages the diverse Downtown commercial and residential communities, nearby residential neighborhoods, and other community stakeholders.

7. Minimize traffic impacts on neighborhoods

Consider measures as needed to protect Downtown residents and nearby residential neighborhoods from significant adverse impacts from traffic and commuter parking.

8. Involve regional transportation and planning partners

Coordinate planning for the Downtown Bellevue transportation system with regional transportation and planning partners, such as the Puget Sound Regional Council, Washington

State Department of Transportation, Sound Transit, and King County Metro, and work to ensure Downtown projects and plans are compatible with each other and are consistent in support of mobility and economic development in Downtown Bellevue.

9. Leverage funding from outside sources to implement projects

Identify transportation system projects that effectively leverage grant funding opportunities. These types of projects will achieve multiple mobility objectives, support economic vitality and residential development, and will sustain Downtown Bellevue's regional status as a Metropolitan City and Urban Center.

10. Utilize measures of effectiveness to evaluate potential projects

Use both quantitative and qualitative measures of effectiveness to evaluate project ideas relative to each other and to community objectives. Consider the cost of a project relative to its benefit to mobility as an important metric, in addition to measures such as improved safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, management of traffic congestion, and the efficient use of the available right-of-way.