



## MEMORANDUM

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**TO: Transportation Commission**

**FROM: Franz Loewenherz, Senior Transportation Planner [425-452-4077]**

**SUBJECT: Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Report**

**DATE: February 12, 2009**

### **Purpose**

Staff is providing the Transportation Commission with the Draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Report for your review and comment given your role (as assigned by City Council) in providing oversight to the plan update process. Although no formal staff presentation is scheduled on the Draft Plan Report at the February 12 meeting; Commissioners are invited to provide comments that staff will reference as it finalizes this document. Please submit any edits you might have to Franz Loewenherz by February 26. We anticipate that the Plan Report document will be finalized and made available to the Transportation Commission in March 2009.

### **Introduction**

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Report provides documentation of the updated Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan. The report contains information on the substantive parts of the plan (the policies and prioritized projects) and documents the process undertaken in preparing the plan. The report is not a regulatory document and will not be adopted by the Bellevue City Council. Instead, it is a guide for City staff to use as they work toward a common vision of making Bellevue more walkable and bikeable, and will be a valuable resource that contains all of the information relevant to the plan in one document. The Plan Report is comprised of the following sections: Part 1: Vision Statement; Part 2: Walking & Bicycling; Part 3: Network Planning; and, Part 4: The Action Plan.

### **Background**

At its March 12, 2007, meeting the City Council initiated the update to the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, consistent with Comprehensive Plan policy objective for periodic updates. Council charged the Transportation Commission with overseeing the update process which included reviewing the Plan's policies, implementation strategies, and priorities to ensure they remain consistent with the City's transportation needs, funding opportunities, and overall trends. New and updated policies are proposed, redundant and obsolete policies are proposed to be removed, and similarly, the list of pedestrian and bicycle projects is proposed to be updated for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and new subarea planning (such as Bel-Red) and to remove out-of-date and completed projects.

On February 17, 2009, staff is seeking Council adoption of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan Comprehensive Plan Amendment into the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. The Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan provides the overall vision for the City's transportation system and addresses pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and roadway

usage. Broad pedestrian and bicycle policies as well as network maps are included in the Transportation Element. Additional policies and a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle projects are located in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan. Other related policies are located in other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. As the document that establishes the City's long range policy direction and serves as framework for implementing capital projects, it's important to have the policies and projects of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Producing a separate stand alone document, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Report, allows all of those related policies, project lists, and figures to be grouped together. Policies in the stand-alone Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Report are verbatim policies adopted in the Comprehensive Plan, but organized in a way that facilitates reviewing the policies specific to pedestrian and bicycle issues. The stand-alone document also creates a place to provide greater information about the pedestrian and bicycle network and the process used to draft the plan, which would be more detail than appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan. This document is the principal reference for planning, designing, constructing, and maintaining pedestrian and bicycle facilities implemented in the City of Bellevue.