



DATE: 18 April 2007

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Maria Koengeter, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: 2007 Downtown Bellevue Circulator Implementation Plan

A downtown Bellevue circulator was last considered in 2002. At that time, the City Council found the circulator service's annual operating cost of \$1.5 million unjustifiable given its anticipated near-term ridership. With 10 to 20 riders per hour (1,324 riders per day), the cost per boarding was projected to be \$4 to \$20. Therefore, the City Council adopted the motion advanced by the Citizen Advisory Committee including direction to work with transit providers for the implementation of a circulator system in downtown Bellevue at such time that ridership would result in a cost per trip of \$2 to \$3, estimated to occur when the residential population reached 4,000 and employment reached 40,000. As the residential population has exceeded this threshold and the employment population is approaching 40,000, the reevaluation of a downtown circulator is timely.

King County Metro's *Transit Now* initiative, approved by voters in November 2006, provides funding for partnered transit improvements, presenting the opportunity to the Bellevue City Council to jointly pursue a downtown circulator service with Metro. The King County Council is considering draft criteria proposed by Metro for evaluating proposals for partnership programs. King County Metro is expected to make a call for projects in late May, with a September deadline for submittals. Per the *Transit Now* legislation, one of the priority criteria for financial partnership projects is to enhance circulation within and between urban centers and activity areas, i.e. circulators or ride-free areas.

In late 2006, Council allocated \$1,000,000 as a resource for a Metro *Transit Now* Partnership Program. In February, Council directed staff to pursue a Downtown Bellevue Circulator Implementation Plan to identify options for a circulator transit service in downtown that could be developed into a partnership program proposal for Metro. The Implementation Plan process included stakeholder interviews, transit service analysis, circulator route development and evaluation, evaluation of additional measures to facilitate intra-downtown travel, and identification of three implementation scenarios for Council consideration. Staff will present a summary of the analysis performed and three implementation scenarios for discussion and comment from Commission.