



MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 1, 2013

TO: Transportation Commission

FROM: Michael Ingram, Senior Transportation Planner
Eric Miller, Capital Programming Manager

SUBJECT: 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan Environmental Review

Purpose

Provide overview of environmental analysis conducted for the proposed 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan and prepare for anticipated future recommendation of 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan to City Council.

Background

On April 11, 2013, the City published the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan. The DEIS is open for public comment, through May 13. Areas of analysis included transportation, air quality, noise, land use & aesthetics and the natural environment. Staff will review key points of the analysis with the Commission. For transportation, key issues identified include a need to monitor future compliance with areawide level of service standards in several areas of the city as well as anticipated levels of completion of pedestrian and bicycle facilities that fall short policy targets. Staff will review these and other issues at the Commission meeting on May 9.

Copies of the TFP DEIS were distributed to Commissioners at the meeting on April 11. The DEIS document is also posted on the City website at, <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/transportation-facilities-plan.htm>.

Next Steps

Following the end of the DEIS comment period on May 13, a Final EIS will be prepared (addressing any comments received). It is anticipated the Final EIS will be released in early or mid-June. At the Commission meeting on June 13, staff will seek the Commission's recommendation of the 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan to the City Council. Attached is the memo the Commission transmitted to Council in July 2012, recommending the proposed 2013-2024 TFP project list; based on feedback received from Commissioners at the May 9 meeting, staff will prepare a memo to Council regarding the proposed 2013-2024 TFP, for consideration at the forthcoming Commission meeting on June 13.

If you have questions or need additional information prior to the meeting on May 9, please contact Mike at 425-452-4166/email: mingram@bellevuewa.gov or Eric at 425-452-6146/e-mail: emiller@bellevuewa.gov.

Attachments:

1. July 16, 2012 memo from the Transportation Commission to City Council regarding 2013-2024 TFP Project Priority List recommendation.

City of
Bellevue



MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 16, 2012

TO: Bellevue City Council

FROM: Transportation Commission

SUBJECT: 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) Update

We are pleased to present our 2013-2024 TFP Preliminary Project Priority List recommendation, in conjunction with the city's periodic TFP update process. Since last fall, we have been engaged with the public and Transportation Department staff in evaluating existing and candidate projects for inclusion in this year's TFP update. A list and map showing our prioritized project recommendations are attached for your consideration. Our preliminary TFP project list, which we approved on June 14th, will become the basis for scoping to determine the appropriate environmental review process. No Council action is requested at this time.

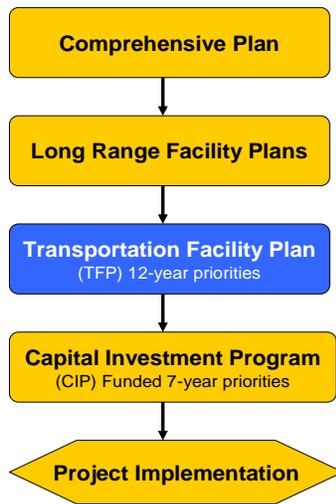
Key highlights of our Preliminary Project Priority List recommendation are discussed below. Our recommended list includes completion of projects prioritized in the current CIP, advances projects necessary to coordinate with Sound Transit's East Link development (including a number of projects in the Bel-Red area), adds a new southbound HOV lane on Bellevue Way SE, includes a second phase of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway corridor improvements and advances a number of projects to address priority needs identified in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

Capital Programming Process

Per the Bellevue City Code (Section 22.16), every two years the Transportation Commission is asked to review and present as necessary an update of the TFP to the City Council for consideration. The current 2009-2020 TFP was adopted by City Council in March 2009 (Res. No. 7896) and amended in April (Res. No. 7914). The TFP is Bellevue's intermediate-range (12-year) planning tool and serves as a bridge between long-range subarea transportation plans in the Comprehensive Plan and the fully financed Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. The diagram on the next page depicts the relationship between the long-range facility plans, the TFP, and the CIP. In addition, the roadway and intersection capacity projects in the TFP are used as the foundation for the city's impact fee program.

The Transportation Facilities Plan is a "financially constrained" plan; the identified cost of the projects in the TFP must be balanced with the city's transportation revenue projections for the 12-year plan period. A number of the projects are proposed for phased implementation; the TFP allocation will in some cases allow for advancing projects to a further stage in planning or

predesign and/or implement a segment of a project; however currently, there are not sufficient projected financial resources to fully complete these projects by 2024.



An environmental review is conducted in conjunction with each TFP update. The environmental review considers potential cumulative impacts to the citywide transportation system and other elements of the environment that may occur due to 12 years of projected land use growth and the implementation of the projects identified in the TFP. In past TFP cycles, the environmental review has included development of an Environmental Impact Statement. City staff in Transportation, Planning and Development Services will determine the appropriate environmental process for this cycle, in accordance with requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act. Following the environmental review, the proposed 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan will be forwarded to Council for consideration. It is anticipated the Council consideration will occur in early 2013, following the adoption of the 2013-2019 CIP.

We considered a number of key factors in our prioritization process and in developing the project list. Following are some of the highlights:

- **Completion of Priority Projects Already Begun.** Included on the Preliminary Project Priority List are the completion of key projects in the current CIP, including funding for construction of the NE 4th Street extension (project RI-111 on the TFP Preliminary Project Priority List), 120th Ave NE improvements (projects RI-112 and RI-130) and West Lake Sammamish Parkway, Phase 1 (project RI-116). Funding to implement a second phase of improvements on the corridor (of an anticipated five phases) is also a top priority.
- **Coordination with the Sound Transit East Link light rail project.** Coordination with East Link is a key consideration in the priority given to a project to add a southbound HOV lane on Bellevue Way SE from the 112th Avenue “Y” to I-90 (project RI-143). A proposed additional element of this project is a multiuse path on the east side of 112th Ave SE and

Bellevue Way from SE 8th Street to I-90. This path is identified in the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle plan and may offer potential for cost savings if the path can be substituted for a sidewalk. Several projects in the Bel-Red area are also recommended for funding so that the city can be prepared to coordinate with the construction of East Link. These include roadway expansions on 120th Ave (project RI-157) and 124th Ave (RI-132) and development of a new NE 16th Street link from 130th to 132nd Ave (RI-135).

- **Phased implementation, placeholder funding.** In several instances, we recommend phased implementation or placeholder funding for important but expensive improvements. A number of projects in the Bel-Red area are proposed for levels of funding that allow for implementation of a phase, but less than the full planned project extent. Locations of such projects include 124th Avenue NE (RI-132), NE 15th Street (RI-131) and NE 16th Street (RI-135). The proposed funding allocation will provide for the level of coordination necessary to most efficiently integrate with the East Link rail corridor, while putting off for later those project segments that are not as urgent. Projects for which we recommend allocation of a modest, “placeholder” funding allocation include, among others, the proposed NE 6th Street extension (RI-113), the NE 10th Street at I-405 southbound off-ramp (RI-104) and the proposed NE 2nd Street extension and I-405 interchange (RI-105). Placeholder funding allows the City to identify as a priority projects for which implementation is likely to be led by another party (typically WSDOT) or to occur in conjunction with development of adjacent property. Having a limited amount of City funding allocated can be helpful to facilitate project scoping, predesign or support implementation elements.
- **Downtown projects.** The Preliminary Project Priority List includes limited, placeholder funding for intersection turn lane projects at five locations in downtown (projects RI-106-110), a roadway project on the NE 2nd Street corridor (project RI-103) and on 110th Ave from NE 6th to NE 8th St (project RI-101). Also included, with limited funding, are non-motorized improvements along Main Street (project PB-105) and 108th Ave NE (project PB-106). The Downtown Transportation Plan update process is currently underway and will establish the priority needs for downtown. Results of this process are anticipated to be available in 2013, outside the timeframe for the current TFP process (they will inform the next TFP process). It should be noted that the NE 4th Street extension project and the Bellevue Way SE project, although not located within downtown, each offer substantial benefit in terms of access to downtown.
- **Eastgate/I-90 planning area projects.** The Preliminary Project Priority List includes funding for intersection improvements at 150th Ave SE/Eastgate Way SE (project RI-144) and 150th Ave SE/SE 37th St (project RI-121). These were identified as priority projects in the recent Eastgate/I-90 planning process. Also included is funding to partially implement bicycle facilities on Eastgate Way (project PB-133) and to continue developing the design for the Mountains to Sound Greenway trail connection (project PB-129).

- **Eastgate annexation area.** A project is included to scope improvements to the 150th Avenue SE corridor from south of SE 38th Street to Newport Way (project RI-154). This will consider needs for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle mobility on this segment and include analysis of needs at the 150th Ave SE/Newport Way intersection.
- **Completion of key links in bicycle and pedestrian systems.** City policy emphasizes the completion of key E-W and N-S cross-town bicycle route corridors and implementation of sidewalks where missing along arterial roadways. One project recommended for implementation funding is addition of bike lanes and sidewalks on Northup Way from NE 33rd PI to NE 24th St (project RI-156), which will fill the remaining gap in the SR520 bike/ped route (and is funded by WSDOT). Another project recommended for implementation is SE 16th St between 148th Ave and 156th Ave (project PB-107). Addition of bike lanes and sidewalks on this segment will fill a gap in a key designated bicycle route and improve pedestrian conditions. Other projects that ranked highly in our process and are recommended for funding at a level that will allow for additional evaluation are 108th/112th Ave from the north city limit to NE 12th St (project PB-102), 140th Ave from NE 24th St to NE 8th St (project PB-120), 164th Ave from Northup Way to SE 14th St (project PB-110) and Coal Creek Parkway from 124th Ave SE to the south city limit (project PB-130). We also identified the BNSF rail corridor as a key opportunity that warrants specific consideration during the early part of the 2013-2024 TFP timeframe. The Preliminary Project Priority list includes funding for initial scoping of a potential pedestrian and bicycle facility along this corridor, taking into consideration community and property owner input as well as other planned and potential uses of the corridor (project PB-112).
- **Revenue assumptions.** For the purposes of developing the TFP Preliminary Project Priority List, the Commission assumed the forecast of available revenue to include impact fee revenue per the adopted impact fee schedule (including increases currently scheduled for 2013 and 2016). Not included is any additional increment of revenue from property tax associated with the Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative, as Council has not acted to increase these rates in recent years. Also not included is any revenue from the local improvement district (LID) funding mechanism.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these recommendations. If you have questions about our recommendation or the TFP update process in general, please contact Ernie Simas, Transportation Commission Chair or Eric Miller, Transportation Implementation Planning Manager, at 425-452-6146 or emiller@bellevuewa.gov.

Attachment 1 – 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan Preliminary Project list
 Attachment 2 – 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan Preliminary Projects map
 Attachment 3 – 2013-2024 Transportation Facilities Plan Update Timeline