



MEMORANDUM

TO: TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
FR: FRANZ LOEWENHERZ, SENIOR PLANNER 425-452-4077
SU: WALK & ROLL: 2007 PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
DA: MAY 10, 2007

On March 12th the Bellevue Council directed staff to move forward with Walk and Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. The 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan project (which will be the second comprehensive update to the original 1993 Plan) will allow Bellevue to build on the successes that followed the implementation of the 1999 Plan. While the 1999 Plan has provided a useful framework for implementing improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle network, the plan is nearly eight years old and in need of an update.

In undertaking the 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, staff intend to:

- Produce an updated blueprint for making walking and bicycling an attractive, safe, and practical transportation and recreation option for the citizens of Bellevue.
- Develop a prioritized list of pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to support continued growth and development and overall neighborhood livability in the City of Bellevue.
- Coordinate with other non-motorized planning efforts underway in the region and within Bellevue.
- Provide a mechanism to inform and involve stakeholders in the community in pedestrian and bicycle planning.

Staff will be at the Transportation Commission meeting on May 10th to provide a brief presentation on progress being made on the following tasks:

- 1) City-wide on-line survey: The survey was on-line from March 6th to April 10th during which time 919 bicycle surveys and 405 pedestrian surveys were completed. Findings of current pedestrian and bicycling conditions and suggested improvements will be shared with the Commission.
- 2) Focus group discussions: Northwest Research Group was hired to facilitate the following sessions: Group 1 – female group with frequent riders who rode within the last week; Group 2 – male group with frequent riders who rode within the last week.; Group 3 – female group with less frequent riders who last rode more than a week ago.; Group 4 – male group with less frequent riders who last rode more than week ago.; Group 5 – female pedestrian group; Group 6 – male pedestrian group. This task involves documenting barriers to walking and cycling in Bellevue for various user groups.

- 3) Non-motorized/vehicle collision analysis: Staff is conducting spatial analyses using GIS of police traffic collision reports for pedestrians and cyclists in Bellevue for the periods 1999 through 2006.
- 4) Facility assessment of current conditions and needs: While many areas of Bellevue have extensive sidewalk, bicycle, and trail coverage, there are also areas with only partial coverage or lacking sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and trail connections altogether. Staff is documenting these current conditions in GIS. The work product of this task will facilitate staff's engagement of the public – vis-à-vis community meetings, interactive web-based strategies, and open houses – in a review, and prioritization, of missing facilities to close system gaps
- 5) Pedestrian and bicycle policy refinements: Staff are reviewing policy language in the Comprehensive Plan related to pedestrian and bicycle facilities to assess their continued applicability, to propose modifications where and if necessary, and, in some cases, to provide recommendations for additional initiatives.

Staff will answer questions and seek input from the Commission on the above tasks and proposed next steps. Staff will continue to provide the Transportation Commission with regular updates and seek guidance on the Walk & Roll: 2007 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan as the project progresses. The plan is anticipated to be completed by the 1st quarter 2008.