



DATE: 30 August 2007

FROM: Michael Ingram, Senior Transportation Planner, 452-4166

TO: Bellevue Transportation Commission

SUBJECT: Downtown "Great Streets" Project

At the Transportation Commission meeting on September 13th, City staff and personnel from the project consultant, Mithun, will present draft design concept plans for downtown streets developed in the Great Streets project. Staff last briefed the Transportation Commission on the Great Streets project on May 10, 2007. Since the May briefing, there have been six Great Streets public workshops and significant work has been done to develop design concepts for the five primary corridors of focus and the downtown street design toolkit that will serve as a resource for downtown streets generally. Staff will be seeking comment from Commissioners on the design concepts and the toolkit.

Great Streets Project Background and Status

The Great Streets project is developing implementation guidance that will carry forward key elements of the urban design vision for downtown identified in the Downtown Implementation Plan update (2003). The design guidance will facilitate evolution of unique identities for the various downtown streets and will include a palette of materials that are pre-approved for use along the different streets and areas within downtown. Primary objectives are to improve conditions for pedestrians, introduce more and better landscaping and enhance the aesthetic quality of street corridors. Specifically, the Great Streets project is developing conceptual design plans for five key street corridors: Bellevue Way, 106th Avenue, 108th Avenue, NE 4th Street and NE 8th Street. A street design toolkit is being developed to identify options and guide the buildout of other streets in downtown (see attached map for streets included in the scope of the project). The project is also developing revised street tree and landscape standards for downtown and identifying opportunities to integrate public art into the downtown street corridors.

An initial round of four public workshops in June and July identified existing problems, constraints and potential opportunities along streets in downtown. Design concepts were presented at two public workshops in August, on the 15th and the 29th. Each of the August workshops attracted approximately thirty people and the conceptual designs were generally well-received. The design concept plans to be presented at the Commission meeting on September 13th will reflect the comments heard at the August workshops.

Next Steps

The Great Streets project team—City staff and Mithun personnel—will use the input from the briefings during the week of September 10 to the Transportation Commission, Parks Board, Planning Commission and the Arts Commission as well as any additional input received from stakeholders (property owners, developers, residents) to inform the further refinement of the

conceptual plans for the street corridors and the street design toolkit. It is anticipated that final concept plans for the street corridors and the toolkit will be completed by early October.

Concurrently, staff will be engaging developers of certain downtown projects currently under construction or already permitted in an attempt to generate interest and facilitate the implementation of Great Streets frontage improvements at these projects. It is anticipated that the City will need to facilitate additional design work to integrate the Great Streets concepts into the project frontages.

Later, in the Fall, staff will identify alternatives for the use of the Great Streets implementation funding made available in the Supplemental CIP. Staff will return to the Commission later this year with information regarding options for improving conditions along key corridors or areas of downtown.



Great Streets Project Timeline

2007						2008
JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV/DEC	Early 2008
<p>June 14 Bellevue Way Workshop 1</p> <p>June 20 NE 4th & NE 8th Workshop 1</p>	<p>July 11 Downtown Districts N&S Workshop 1</p> <p>July 18 106th & 108th Workshop 1</p>	<p>Aug 15 Bellevue way NE 4th & NE 8th Workshop 2</p> <p>Aug 29 Downtown Districts N&S 106th & 108th Workshop 2</p>	<p>Briefings to: Arts Commission Parks Board Planning Commission Transportation Commission Stakeholder groups</p>	<p>Briefing to City Council (Study Session)</p>	<p>Planning Commission review of LUC revisions</p> <p>Boards and Commissions review options for CIP \$</p>	<p>Council awards contract for CIP</p>
Development of Draft Street Designs		Refinement of Design Plans		Alternatives for CIP Implementation \$	Final Downtown Streetscape Plan doc	
Development of Draft Public Art Element		Refinement of Art Element			Preferred Locations for CIP \$ ID'd	
					Draft revisions to City Codes, Stds	
					Art Element integrated w/Streetscape Plan	



Planning Principles To Guide the Great Streets Project

Revised April 2, 2007

These principles will guide Great Streets project process and the development of the street corridor designs.

The *Great Streets Conceptual Design Plans* will:

- A. Support and augment the urban design vision specified in the Downtown Implementation Plan, including the signature street corridors, the street hierarchy and the distinct districts.
- B. Substantially improve the quality of the pedestrian environment along streets in downtown.
- C. Accommodate pedestrians with disabilities (including mobility, sensory, and cognitive impairments) with accessible facilities that meet or exceed all ADA requirements.
- D. Enhance the aesthetic quality of downtown street corridors for all users.
- E. Reflect the tradition of Bellevue as a “city in a park”, and exhibit exceptional quality of landscape design.
- F. Have no adverse impact on roadway capacity (existing or planned).
- G. Complement the project designs for NE 2nd Street, and coordinate with, as feasible, the NE 2nd Street corridor pre-design project that is currently underway.
- H. Accommodate the planned one-way couplet for 106th/108th Avenues and coordinate with, as feasible, the design study scheduled to be conducted in parallel with the Great Streets project.
- I. Complement as feasible the specific design guidance that already exists for certain downtown streets (and which are not included in the scope of the Great Streets project). These include, the NE 6th Street Pedestrian Corridor, several minor streets (NE 11th Street, NE 3rd Street, NE 2nd Place, 105th Avenue, 107th Avenue, 111th Avenue) and Old Bellevue.
- J. Complement the streetwall formed by adjacent buildings or, where development has yet to occur, the building frontage design implied for future development by the guidance provided in the City’s *Building/Sidewalk Relationships Design Guidelines* document.
- K. Accommodate pedestrian wayfinding installations specified in the *Downtown Bellevue Wayfinding Manual*.
- L. Accommodate existing and anticipated future transit service needs, including bus routes, downtown circulator route, and passenger access to bus stops and stations (existing locations as well as potential future locations); include provision of, or facilitate provision by others, of passenger amenities such as shelters and benches.
- M. Accommodate parallel parking in areas where it currently exists or may be implemented in the future. (The project will not, however, be the vehicle to resolve which locations in downtown should have new parallel parking.)
- N. Accommodate potential mid-block pedestrian crossings of streets, as indicated in the Downtown Implementation Plan. (However, the project will not be the vehicle to resolve which mid-block locations in downtown are technically feasible for new pedestrian crossings; this is logically pursued as a separate initiative, which could include implementation of one or more new crossings.)
- O. Complement the existing mid-block pedestrian routes through superblocks as well as future mid-block pedestrian routes to the extent that their locations can be anticipated.
- P. Complement the Major Public Open Space required at intersections with the NE 6th Street Pedestrian Corridor and the Minor Publicly-accessible Spaces required in the Old Bellevue and Downtown Core Design Districts.