CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

January 11, 2016 Conference Room 1E-113
6:00 p.m. Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson[1], Slatter, and Wallace[2]

ABSENT: Councilmember Robinson

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 6:17 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, amended to add Agenda Item 4(a), Council Business and New Initiatives, and to renumber the rest of the agenda. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 4-0 (immediately before Councilmember Slatter joined the meeting).

3. Oral Communications

(a) Janis Medley, representing the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (CENSE), said residents continue to be concerned about the safety hazards posed by collocating Puget Sound Energy's Energize Eastside project along the same corridor as the oil pipeline. She urged the City to incorporate into the Land Use Code a federal recommendation that transmission power poles and pipelines transporting petroleum products must be separated by a minimum of 50 feet. Ms. Medley said the arcing of electricity to the ground has occurred numerous times in the past decade along PSE's

[1] Councilmember Robertson joined the meeting at approximately 6:24 p.m.
[2] Councilmember Wallace was absent from approximately 6:50 p.m. until the meeting resumed following the 8:00 p.m. break.

transmission lines and the Olympic pipeline. A Bridle Trails resident recently described an incident to the Council regarding an arcing incident in his backyard after transmission lines were downed by a wind storm. Ms. Medley submitted her comments in writing.

(b) Eileen Tiamzon introduced herself as President of the Bellevue Youth Theatre Teen Advisory Board. Emily Hernandez introduced herself as Vice President and Abby Manullang introduced herself as a member of the Board. Ms. Tiamzon invited everyone to the annual fundraiser sponsored by the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation. Ms. Hernandez said the event will include entertainment and an auction, and more than 130 tickets have been sold to date. The young women distributed flyers with information on the event and thanked the City for providing the theatre and its programs. A group in the audience sang for the Council and audience.

(c) Leshye Wig, representing the owners of the Red Lion property at 112th Avenue and Main Street, expressed concern about the view corridor of Mt. Rainier from City Hall and its impact on building heights for redeveloping their property. If the view corridor is in effect, the tallest buildings on the site would move closer to 112th Avenue, which is closer to the adjacent single-family neighborhood. She questioned how often individuals visit the City Hall balcony and whether the view is worth preserving. She said that reducing the required width of the view corridor would allow the Red Lion to shift its tallest building away from 112th Avenue and closer to I-405. Ms. Wig noted additional information in the Council meeting packet and submitted her comments in writing.

(d) Mon Wig noted that the view of Mt. Rainier differs from different areas of the City Hall balcony. He noted photos in their submittal illustrating different views. He suggested that the East Main Station Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) might have different recommendations if it was aware of the view corridor issue. He expressed concern that preserving the view results in shorter buildings with larger footprints, reducing the opportunities for open space and more attractive grounds.

(e) Bill Hirt expressed concern about the closing of the South Bellevue Park and Ride in March. According to the East Link Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Sound Transit committed to identifying and implementing alternate parking and transit access at least 60 days before the closure. He said the last public discussion of the closure was during the February 9, 2015, Council meeting. Construction of the new Park and Ride and Light Rail Station is stated as the reason for the closure. However, Mr. Hirt said the Park and Ride is not needed until 2023, and the purpose of the closure is to provide construction staging space for the construction of light rail by Sound Transit. He said the Council is obligated to give Sound Transit the choice of either satisfying the provisions of the MOU or delaying the Park and Ride closure until at least 2020.

(f) Katherine Taylor, representing Puget Sound Energy, said PSE is pleased to see the issue of coal transition on the Council's legislative priorities. She said PSE is working on legislative language that would create a responsible and concrete path to transition away from coal energy. The transition would benefit electric customers in terms of costs, risk, reliability, and environmental impacts. Ms. Taylor said PSE looks forward to working

with the City on this issue.

4. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Wallace said the issue of the separation of the pipeline from the Energize Eastside project has been raised a number of times. He questioned whether staff is working on obtaining information on the issue.

City Manager Brad Miyake confirmed that staff has been discussing the issue and it will be brought back to the Council.

Mr. Wallace observed that the pipeline operators have a vested interest in avoiding an explosion or other adverse incident. He wants to be sure that the Council has the information to adequately address the issue.

Councilmember Lee congratulated Mason Ji, his former intern who is graduating from Yale University this year and has been selected as a Rhodes Scholar.

Mr. Lee said he attended an event at the International School to honor Ryan Lafferty, a physics teacher, for receiving a Milken Educator award accompanied by $25,000.

Mr. Lee offered his condolences to the family of Dick Spady, co-founder and namesake of the local Dick's Drive-In chain, who passed away on January 10. Mr. Spady founded and funded the Community Forums Network, a program to facilitate the involvement of regular citizens in public-policy decisions.

Councilmember Lee noted that Ambassadors from Ukraine and from India will be visiting Bellevue soon. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mayor Stokes said the Council received a notice and invitation for an event on January 17 for the Ambassador from India. Mr. Stokes said an event for the Ambassador from Ukraine will be held in Seattle on the evening of January 25, which conflicts with the Council meeting. However, the Ambassador will attend a meeting earlier that day at Bellevue City Hall and Councilmembers are welcome to participate.

Mr. Lee requested more information on the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) trip to China, which was mentioned during the previous week's economic development update to the Council. Mr. Miyake said the trip is scheduled for January 16-20.

Mayor Stokes announced that a Seahawks Pep Rally will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 15, at the Bellevue Downtown Park. The rally will include the Sea Gals, Blitz the mascot, Seahawks alumni, a fan contest, and the Blue Thunder Band.

Mayor Stokes noted that, in the interest of time, Councilmembers typically no longer provide oral reports on their involvement in City and regional meetings and forums. Councilmembers submit written reports, however.

(b) Presentation by Dr. David Rule, Bellevue College

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced David Rule, PhD, President of Bellevue College, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Dr. Rule introduced Steve Miller, Bellevue College Board Chair. Dr. Rule said he is starting his fourth year at Bellevue College, and previously was President of the Rock Creek Campus of Portland Community College for five years. He completed a doctorate in educational psychology and statistics.

Dr. Rule said Bellevue College is the second or third largest higher education institution in Washington state serving 32,000 to 35,000 students per year, depending on whether one counts Running Start students. It is the first community college to offer baccalaureate degrees and has a diverse population with nearly 50 percent non-white students. Bellevue College is an open enrollment college. However, certain programs have additional requirements. It offers 10 baccalaureate programs and has just been approved for a Bachelor of Science in computer science.

Dr. Rule said Bellevue College has an occupational life skills program, which leads to a four-year associate's degree for individuals with cognitive disabilities. The college partners with approximately 1,800 Puget Sound businesses including Microsoft and Costco on the Eastside. It is the largest provider of Microsoft training in the state and one of the largest in the country.

Bellevue College's economic impact is $172 million annually into the King County economy. The annual budget is $110 million to $120 million. The college covers 131 acres, including 25 acres in Issaquah, and has an average of 1,600 employees. There are 200 full-time faculty and 400 to 500 part-time faculty. Dr. Rule said Bellevue College trains 11,000 students annually for high-demand job skills. A new health sciences building of 70,000 square feet houses associate's and bachelor's degree programs. Dr. Rule said the college has not changed since it began in 1966 in terms of serving the community's needs and partnering with local businesses. Approximately 80 percent of professional-technical graduates work in King County.

Dr. Rule said Bellevue College is a hub for community social and cultural events including the Aki Matsuri fall festival, car shows, theatre and music performances, and free planetarium shows.

The college continues to expand its STEM/H (science, technology, engineering, math, and health) programs and degrees. Dr. Rule said the programs provided by Renton Technical College and Lake Washington Technical College have enabled Bellevue College to focus more heavily on high-tech and healthcare programs. The 10 baccalaureate degrees include interior design, nursing, and a number of science and health-related programs. Dr. Rule said the programs are all tuition-supported except for the radiation and imaging sciences degree program. Education in molecular biosciences is in high demand. The RISE Learning Institute (research, innovation, service and experiential learning) provides undergraduate research with grant-funded projects.

Dr. Rule said Bellevue College was recently contacted by a startup business in San Francisco that wishes to use the college's labs and students.

Dr. Rule thanked the City for its effort in preserving the Metro bus route through campus. He said the college is working on a Campus Master Plan which includes a gateway/portal project, athletic field improvements, gymnasium remodel, and student housing. Student housing will be developed in three phases over 10 years. Phase 1 is apartment suites providing 350 beds, with completion anticipated in March 2017.

Dr. Rule said Bellevue College is in discussions with Washington State University to explore becoming Washington State University-Bellevue. Also under consideration for the current campus is a Student Affairs building to provide a food court and other services for the student housing.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Dr. Rule for the presentation and asked him to elaborate on the discussions with Washington State University. Bellevue College Board Chair Steve Miller joined Dr. Rule at the Council table. Dr. Rule said a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed in June. Several committees are exploring curriculum issues, operations, and governance.

Mr. Miller said the key issue is how to best serve students and the community. Could the partnership offer more for students and do so more efficiently? He said Bellevue College considers itself to be a nimble and entrepreneurial institution. It receives one of the lowest percentages of State funding. In discussions with WSU, there are concerns about how a merger would affect Bellevue College's ability to remain nimble. He said the college was originally approached with the idea of becoming a WSU branch campus. However, Bellevue College wishes to remain an open access institution providing a broad range of services.

Mr. Miller said he is optimistic that the discussions will lead to more opportunities. Bellevue College will be a different institution in the future, with or without a WSU merger. Dr. Rule said the key issues are money and control, including faculty autonomy and independence. The two schools have been in discussions for approximately one year and both would like to resolve the matter relatively soon.

Mayor Stokes thanked the guests for the presentation offered the Council's help in any way possible.

Councilmember Lee thanked Bellevue College for being open to discussions with WSU. Responding to Mr. Lee, Dr. Rule said the first six months of discussion were focused on determining whether it was worthwhile to pursue a merger. He said Bellevue College is not willing to give up its open access mission, associate degrees, certificate programs, and other community services and programs. He said WSU has its key priorities as well.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said it was great to work with the students to preserve the on-campus bus stop. He said the Council will be reviewing its state legislative agenda later in the evening and would be interested in considering how it might support legislative actions pursued by Bellevue College.

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Dr. Rule said Bellevue College is the largest transfer institution in the state. Last year, 550-600 students transferred to the University of Washington and 250 transferred to UW-Bothell. Approximately 600 students transferred to WSU.

Mayor Stokes commended Bellevue College students for their involvement with the City and the community to address the individual room rental issue in the adjacent Spiritwood single-family neighborhood.

Mr. Stokes observed that both the City and Bellevue College are focused on preparing for the future, being nimble, and continuing to serve the community. He thanked the gentlemen for the presentation.

(c) Report on the Findings of the 2015-2016 Human Services Needs Update

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update on the 2015-2016 Human Services Needs Update.

Patrick Foran, Director of Parks and Community Services, said the work to update the human services needs report has been ongoing for approximately one year. Public outreach was completed early in 2015 and presented to the Council in May 2015. The next step is to publish the 2015-2016 Update report.

Mr. Foran introduced Rev. James McEachran, Chair of the Human Services Commission; Commissioner Michelle Kline; and Commissioner Ann Oxreider. Mr. Foran recognized former Commissioner Doug Hoople in the audience and noted that he currently serves on the King County Veterans Levy Citizen Oversight Board and on the King County Veterans Program Advisory Board.

Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, said the Human Services Needs Update provides the foundation for the Human Services Commission's identification of focus areas in developing the annual funding recommendations. She said that Bellevue staff, staff from other King County cities, faith communities, nonprofit boards, and agencies also use the Needs Update for planning purposes. Ms. Leslie said Alex O'Reilly has been the project lead for the Update for 18 years and is instrumental in the preparation of the report.

Rev. McEachran said the Human Services Commission is entering its 30th year, and 2015 was the first time that there was an extensive community discussion at Bellevue College as part of the Needs Update. Mr. McEachran said the three themes of the Update are the need for affordable housing, the increase in homelessness, and the increase in mental health issues and substance abuse. Another significant challenge is access to medical and dental care and to affordable child care.

Ms. O'Reilly commented on the diversity of ages, cultures, races, and abilities within the community. She said the need for affordable housing has been cited as the top community problem since the early 1990s, when the Needs Update first began conducting a phone survey. Ms. O'Reilly said the community survey is now conducted online as well. In 2015, 68 percent of

survey respondents rated the lack of affordable housing as the number one community problem, compared to 51 percent in 2013. Bellevue's rent for a two-bedroom apartment increased 30 percent from 2011 to 2013, and another 13 percent between 2013 and 2015. One in three Bellevue renters are cost-burdened (i.e., more than 30 percent of household income pays for rent and utilities), and one in six are severely cost-burdened (i.e., more than 50 percent of household income pays for rent and utilities). When individuals are forced to move to more affordable areas, this often means moving away from friends, family, churches, schools, jobs, and/or other support networks.

Ms. O'Reilly said homelessness is tracked by monitoring the number of single men, single women, and families using the Eastside winter shelter, the number of children in the Bellevue School District who are homeless, and the number of 18-24 year olds using the shelter at The Landing. The latter is operated by Friends of Youth in Redmond. During the winter of 2014-2015, 449 men were housed in the winter shelter, and 194 adults and 106 children were housed in the winter shelter for women and families. The number of homeless BSD students has increased steadily since 2008. The Landing is seeing an increase in homeless youth, and beds are filled to capacity most nights.

Ms. Leslie said the men's winter shelter averages 85-87 men per night and the capacity is 100 men. The winter shelter for women and families recently moved from Redmond United Methodist Church to St. Peter's United Methodist Church in Bellevue. Eastside cities and King County have recently organized to open a separate shelter for single women on January 15 at the Bellevue First Congregational Church.

Ms. O'Reilly reported that mental health and substance abuse problems are increasing for adults and children. The percentage of 8th, 10th and 12th graders in the Bellevue School District who said they have contemplated suicide increased from 12 percent in 2012 to 16 percent in 2014. In 2014, the Crisis Clinic reported a 22 percent increase in calls from Bellevue residents compared to 2012. Deaths from heroin have increased more than 100 percent between 2010 and 2014.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff for their work on the Update, which is used by other cities in the region as well. He concurred that the three most critical issues are housing, transportation, and access to health care. He commended the Human Services Commission for its extensive review. Mr. Chelminiak thanked Doug Hoople for his work with both the City and King County.

Councilmember Lee thanked the Commissioners for their extensive work. Responding to Mr. Lee, Rev. McEachran commented on how the Needs Update guides the Commission's recommendations. One of the top needs identified during the previous funding cycle was dental care, and the City was able to allocate funding to address that need. Mr. McEachran said the Commission looks carefully at the Needs Update in determining its funding recommendations.

Councilmember Lee questioned the term "cost-burdened." Ms. O'Reilly said that is the term commonly used by the federal government, agencies, and housing professionals, especially in the area of applying for federal grant funding (e.g., Community Development Block Grants). Cost-burdened refers to households spending more than 30 percent of its income on rent and utilities,

and severely cost-burdened refers to households spending more than 50 percent of its income on rent and utilities.

Councilmember Slatter encouraged the public to read the Needs Update. Ms. O'Reilly said the information will be posted on the City's web site, and printed copies will be supplied if requested. Ms. Slatter said she appreciated the information on homelessness by gender and age. She said she would be interested in knowing how the Council might be able to address transitional housing, especially for families and individuals who have recently become homeless. She expressed an interest in data reflecting how long individuals have been homeless.

Mayor Stokes said the Council adopted affordable housing as a key priority in its Vision statement and included related policies in the Comprehensive Plan Update last year. He said the City is working to establish a permanent men's shelter. He noted the ongoing partnership with A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) as well.

Mr. Stokes thanked staff and the Human Services Commission for their hard work. He noted that Deputy Mayor Chelminiak has served as Council liaison to the Human Services Commission for a number of years.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared a brief recess. The meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m., with Councilmember Wallace returning to the Council table.

(d) Sound Transit 3 Discussion

City Manager Brad Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction on two letters, one from the City and a second from Eastside cities, to be submitted to the Sound Transit Board regarding the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) System Plan candidate projects. Comments are due to Sound Transit by January 21.

Transportation Director Dave Berg recalled the Sound Transit briefing to the Council on the ST3 System Plan on June 8, 2015. Bellevue's ST3 interest statement and comment letter, and a joint East King County Cities interest statement, were submitted to Sound Transit on July 14, 2015. The Sound Transit Board approved its project list on August 27, 2015, and held a workshop on candidate projects on December 4, 2015. A second briefing was presented to the Council on December 14, 2015.

Mr. Berg highlighted a map of ST3 candidate projects in East King County: extension of East Link light rail to Redmond; I-405 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), potentially from Lynnwood to SeaTac; Kirkland-Bellevue-Issaquah light rail; HOV direct access at Renton/N 8th Street; North Sammamish Park and Ride facility; and BRT on the Eastside Rail Corridor from Kirkland to Bellevue.

Mr. Berg described the two comment letters for the Sound Transit Board. The City has been working with East King County Cities (i.e., Bothell, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton) to develop joint comments on the scope of candidate projects. The letter is consistent with the July 2015 Joint Cities ST3 Interest Statement.

Mr. Berg said staff has heard comments from several Councilmembers about subarea equity, which is included in the City's letter but is not mentioned in the joint cities letter. He said staff has discussed the concept with other Eastside cities, and so far no one is opposed to addressing subarea equity in the comment letter.

Mr. Berg said Attachment 6 in the meeting packet is the City's comment letter. He noted a suggestion from Deputy Mayor Chelminiak to include language addressing social justice and equity.

Mr. Berg said the letter contains a number of project-specific comments: 1) fully implement BRT (i.e., dedicated right-of-way) on I-405 from SeaTac to Lynnwood; 2) build light rail from Totem Lake to Issaquah via Bellevue, including the NE 8th Street over-crossing; 3) provide HOV access ramps in Renton at Rainier Avenue South and South Grady Way; and 4) coordinate and integrate the ST3 system plan with Metro's long-range plan.

Mr. Berg said staff is seeking Council direction tonight on the two letters. However, there would be time to finalize the letters during the January 19 meeting before the January 21 comment deadline. He said there are many steps ahead in the ST3 process before the Sound Transit Board decides about whether there will be a ballot measure. On January 28, 2016, the Sound Transit Board will review all of the agency comments and review the candidate project scope. In March, the Sound Transit Board will review additional analysis and develop the draft system plan. Public outreach will be conducted in April. The Sound Transit Board anticipates adoption of the final ST3 System Plan on June 23, 2016.

Councilmember Wallace said subarea equity should be a critical factor in the Eastside's and Bellevue's support of a ST3 package. He said the principle is that East Subarea revenue should be spent in the East Subarea. He observed that the East Subarea is financing the entire $900 million crossing of the I-90 bridge for the East Link project.

Mr. Wallace said more detailed discussion is needed, and it is important to communicate this concern to the Sound Transit Board. He noted that Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Sound Transit's web site include a question about subarea equity. The response is that subarea equity is not assumed and will need to be approved by the Sound Transit Board for the ST3 package.

Mr. Wallace expressed support for the joint cities letter and the City's letter. Before commenting further, he clarified that this discussion is about the project list and not about whether taxing a middle class family $1,000 annually is a good idea. He noted the need for more Park and Ride lots throughout the region and to extend the NE 6th Street crossing over I-405 to 120th Avenue. He would like the City to collaborate with the State and Sound Transit in planning the City's Grand Connection project over I-405 into the Wilburton area. He suggested the Lincoln Center property on the east side of I-405 as a potential Park and Ride lot.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for the joint cities letter and for adding the issue of subarea equity. He said it is difficult to comment on the project scope without discussing the revenue source. He observed that the subareas should contribute equal funding for ST3 projects.

He noted plans to extend the light rail system from Everett to Tacoma, which is very expensive. In addition, there has been discussion about a route between Ballard and West Seattle and a new tunnel through Downtown Seattle.

Mr. Chelminiak said that, while he is very supportive of mass transit, he is concerned about the significant costs. He observed that the system should serve Paine Field and The Boeing Company plant as well. He would like to see light rail from Totem Lake to Eastgate at a minimum and, ideally, to Issaquah. He said he is concerned that some agencies will be responsible to their own subareas but not feel constrained to balance the local revenues.

Mr. Chelminiak suggested adding a paragraph to the letter that addresses balancing the revenue from each subarea and avoiding the borrowing of funds between subareas.

Mr. Chelminiak said he is concerned about the Eastside's ability to obtain expanded bus service from Metro. He observed that Sound Transit is likely the best opportunity for better bus service to connect centers within the Eastside. Mr. Chelminiak said that, given what he has observed during meetings of the Regional Transit Task Force, it is important to talk about social equity. He noted that this issue is reflected in the Human Services Needs Update as well.

Mr. Chelminiak said the ST2 package has fallen somewhat short. He would like to continue pressing for the completion of light rail to Redmond. He supports creating a true BRT system rather than enhanced regional express service.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the joint cities letter and concurred that subarea equity is an important issue. She noted that Eastside City Council representatives on the Sound Transit Board have decreased from three to two individuals. Neither are from Bellevue or Kirkland, where a new light rail line is proposed.

Ms. Robertson said candidate projects for Sound Transit's Central Corridor include eight tunnels, four bridges, and one grade-separated crossing. However, none of these are mentioned for the East Subarea. She suggested including in the City's letter that Bellevue does not want at-grade crossings of surface streets. Ms. Robertson said Bellevue worked hard to ensure that the regional East Link system contains a dedicated right-of-way and grade-separated crossings.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for completing light rail to Redmond and for the early implementation of BRT on I-405. Several years ago, she toured the SWIFT BRT system in Snohomish County. She noted that the project was completed, from idea to opening day, within four years.

Ms. Robertson concurred with Councilmember Wallace about the need for more Park and Ride facilities and for extending NE 6th Street to the east. She is interested in considering language regarding the Grand Connection.

Councilmember Robertson said there have been comments about the need for more study of ST3 candidate projects. She commented on the importance of transparency as Sound Transit develops a ballot measure. She said Sound Transit obtained authorization from the state legislature for $15

billion in tax collections. However, that covers only the first few years, and the ST3 plan assumes the collection of significantly more funding over a longer period of time. Ms. Robertson said it is important for the ballot measure to be clear about this issue. She would like the comment letter to address transparency and clarity related to the ballot measure.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Berg said the South Bellevue Park and Ride is not closing in March, as stated during earlier oral communications. He said staff will provide an update on that project during the next East Link quarterly update on January 25.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the letters and for the concepts of subarea funding equity and social equity. He said it is important to know whether money will be available. He suggested including a statement about ensuring a link between the projects and funding.

Mr. Lee said the development of the BelRed corridor is important to Bellevue, and the ST3 plan provides critical connections. However, one concern is what will happen with light rail on I-90. He wondered whether there is a way to separately complete the Bellevue to Redmond light rail segment if the I-90 segment is delayed.

Councilmember Slatter thanked Mr. Berg for the staff briefings over the past week. She concurred with the Council's comments. She would like an update on how Sound Transit plans to address subarea equity. She expressed support for Councilmember Robertson's comments about the need for transparency in the ST3 ballot measure. She would like to move toward an early discussion of BRT along I-405.

Ms. Slatter said it would be helpful to have a presentation by Sound Transit and Metro describing how their system plans work together to provide Eastside bus service.

Ms. Slatter expressed support for including subarea equity in the joint cities letter, if possible, and in the City's comment letter.

Mayor Stokes concurred with the comments about subarea equity. He said it would be helpful to have more details on the reasons for the tunnels and bridges identified in Seattle.

Mr. Stokes said the Denver area deliberately created one large, regional transit system with a long-term comprehensive plan. He observed that this region's transit services are being created in a piecemeal fashion and are lagging behind growth and the demand for services.

Mr. Stokes expressed support for the two comment letters and thanked staff for their work.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Berg said staff hopes to finalize the joint cities letter, preferably with the addition of the concept of subarea equity. He said the City's comment letter would be revised for further Council discussion and action the following week.

(e) Presentation of South Bellevue Station Area Plan Report and Update on Citizens Advisory Committee's work on East Main Station Area Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion of light rail station area planning. The South Bellevue Station Area Plan was recently completed and identifies a number of strategies, issues, and concerns raised by stakeholders that are focused on integrating the future light rail station into the neighborhood. Staff is seeking Council action to accept the South Bellevue Station report and the next steps for implementing the strategies identified in the report. Mr. Miyake said staff would provide a brief update on East Main Station area planning as well.

Mike Kattermann, Senior Planner, introduced Phil Harris, Transportation Senior Planner and co-manager of the project.

Mr. Kattermann said station area planning refers to studying how to better integrate the light rail stations within the community. However, it does not address station design, construction, or mitigation.

Mr. Kattermann described the South Bellevue Station study area within a one-half mile radius. A Citizens Advisory Committee was not appointed for this planning effort because the project does not involve land use changes or redevelopment. The City worked with multiple community stakeholders. He thanked the Enatai Neighborhood Association and noted that Wendy Jones and Brooks Beaupain were instrumental in developing the outreach plan, co-hosting events, and providing feedback throughout the process.

Mr. Kattermann said the study focused on neighborhood character, parks, public facilities, traffic and safety (e.g., cut-through traffic, neighborhood access, crime), parking, transit service, and pedestrian-bicycle routes. Staff developed a set of strategies based on community input including capital improvements, Code and policy amendments, and related plans and programs. Mr. Kattermann said that some of the strategies are already in place including monitoring the tree canopy, monitoring crime statistics, installing “Residential Area” signs, and evaluating the HOV lane noise impacts. Staff made sure that bus service north of the Y at Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue SE is addressed in the recently adopted Transit Master Plan.

Mr. Kattermann said staff is seeking Council direction on additional strategies included in the report on pages 35 and 36. Capital improvements include the design plan (e.g., landscaping, art, signage) for the west side of Bellevue Way; signage at the South Bellevue Station about Mercer Slough Nature Park and the Environmental Education Center; potential emergency call boxes; real-time messaging for parking availability; and pedestrian-bicycle wayfinding, lighting, and, potentially, a Bellevue Way over-crossing.

Strategies involving other plans and programs include education and tree planting programs, restoration and enhancement projects in Mercer Slough Nature Park, special events at the station to highlight the park, community events, crime prevention activities, additional traffic-calming measures, a study of neighborhood access, consideration of a residential parking zone, and commuter information. Strategies identified involving the Code and policies were tree retention policies in the Southwest Subarea Plan and the designation of walk/bike routes to the station in the Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan.

Mr. Kattermann said staff is seeking Council acceptance of the report and direction to pursue implementation of the strategies through appropriate methods.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Kattermann said the strategies and projects are separate from Sound Transit's project and would be completed by the City. Mr. Wallace said it is important for the Council and the public to understand the totality of the efforts by both Sound Transit and the City. In further response to Mr. Wallace, Mr. Kattermann said a multi-purpose path along Bellevue Way and 112th Avenue will be provided by Sound Transit.

Mr. Wallace expressed concern about traffic impacts affecting 108th Avenue, the Enatai and Surrey Downs neighborhoods, and streets from I-90 to Main Street related to the construction and operation of light rail.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Harris said staff is conducting an analysis of the potential for a traffic light on 108th Avenue at Enatai Elementary School.

Mr. Chelminiak expressed concern about crime in the dark residential areas and park. He questioned the plans for lighting at the station and other measures to minimize criminal activity. Mr. Kattermann said staff will request more details from Sound Transit on station elements before the update on January 25. Beyond the station, he said there has been discussion about installing emergency call boxes and providing adequate pedestrian-level lighting. Mr. Kattermann noted that all walkways might not be traditional sidewalks but will involve signage and pedestrian lighting.

Councilmember Robertson recalled past discussions about cut-through traffic, especially along 108th Avenue and near Enatai Elementary School. She noted that other tools include adopting an ordinance to designate "Local Access Only" on certain streets. She likes the idea of emergency call boxes and suggested a broader discussion about where they might be appropriate citywide.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for a pedestrian overpass between the South Bellevue Station and the Enatai neighborhood. She acknowledged that there are ways to provide pedestrian lighting while maintaining a dark sky. She said it will be important to have a Police presence at the station, especially after dark.

Ms. Robertson thanked the community for their involvement in the planning activities. In terms of moving forward, Ms. Robertson stated her understanding that, if the Council accepts the identified strategies, the items will go through the usual analysis by staff and a future budget process. Mr. Kattermann confirmed her understanding and said that strategies will be addressed as capital budget proposals or project proposals, or incorporated into an existing department work program. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Kattermann said project updates will be provided as directed by the Council.

Mr. Kattermann said a proposal that was not funded during the last budget cycle will likely be proposed again for this year's budget process. It proposes establishing a Station Area Plan Implementation Fund for carrying out the specific strategies related to station area planning.

Councilmember Slatter questioned whether the fund could be used to add items in the future, after light rail becomes operational, based on impacts and feedback from the community. Mr. Kattermann said additional items could be part of the fund. He noted that the strategies will require additional work to implement. For example, in considering a residential parking zone, the Transportation Department would conduct an analysis and work with the community to create and monitor the program.

Ms. Slatter said lighting and visibility at the stations are important to her. She is interested in hearing more about the real-time message board item. Mr. Kattermann said the Transit Master Plan includes provisions to work with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and other transit agencies on real-time messaging.

Ms. Slatter noted that Microsoft has call boxes on its campus. She suggested that staff explore their experience with the boxes. She expressed general support for the South Bellevue Station Area Plan report.

Mayor Stokes said the project provides opportunities for improvements in the area around the South Bellevue Station. He thanked staff and the community for their work. He noted general Council support for the report and for moving forward with the strategies as identified.

Mr. Kattermann provided a brief update on East Main Station area planning. The Citizens Advisory Committee includes both residential and business representatives and has been meeting since September 2014. The CAC is working to develop an overall vision and proposed strategies. Key areas of focus are station access, neighborhood access and traffic, and redevelopment of the OLB (Office-Limited Business) parcels. Transportation and station access issues include changes to neighborhood vehicular access, commuter parking in neighborhoods, non-neighborhood traffic (especially using 108th Avenue SE), and pedestrian-bike access to the station.

Mr. Kattermann said the CAC is working to develop a vision and parameters (e.g., mixed use, height, floor-area ratio, street character, public spaces, and walkability) for transit-oriented development (TOD) east of 112th Avenue SE. Additional considerations include compatibility with adjacent areas, traffic, and maintaining the Mt. Rainier view corridor.

Mr. Kattermann said the City asked its consultants to analyze the Mt. Rainier view corridor to determine whether a higher level of development could be accommodated. He described an urban design framework provided in the presentation that would preserve the view while allowing development with a 4.0 FAR. The CAC is discussing whether to suggest that the Council take another look at the view corridor and consider changing the parameters. In the past, the Council adopted a policy to preserve the view of Mt. Rainier from the balcony outside Council Chambers in City Hall.

Mr. Kattermann said the CAC anticipates completing its draft vision and strategies this month followed by a public review and comment period in February. The CAC's final report and recommendations are scheduled for completion in March, and the City Council will be asked to take action on the report and recommendations in May.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Kattermann said the CAC Redevelopment Guiding Principles document is based in part on the objectives established by the Council. It is also based on initial visioning work with the CAC and staff's input and suggestions. Some of the language is from the Light Rail Permitting CAC's work and the design principles it established for each station. In further response to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Kattermann said the Council approved guiding principles for the East Main Station CAC's work. He noted a summary of the principles in the meeting packet.

Ms. Robertson said she did not recall the view corridor policy from the past. She requested some background information on the Council's discussion and decision to preserve the view corridor. Mr. Kattermann said he would be hesitant to offer direction to the CAC on this issue at this point because it could delay some of the CAC's other work. He said the view corridor has been addressed on a project-specific basis. Ms. Robertson suggested that the Council discuss the issue, which is a Comprehensive Plan policy versus a Land Use Code regulation. She said the Council needs to have a thorough discussion of this issue before sending the CAC's report to the Planning Commission for action on zoning recommendations. She noted the need for the Council to provide clear direction.

Councilmember Robertson posed the following questions: How much usage is there of the balcony and area in City Hall with the view of Mt. Rainier? How is the view measured? What is the impact on property values of preserving the view corridor from City Hall? She noted that property values vary based on the FAR allowed for development. She suggested exploring ways to support the usage of the view (e.g., telescope/s). This would provide a point from which to measure the view as well. She noted the need for a measurable view corridor.

Councilmember Robertson said it would be helpful to see the shade patterns on the TOD site based on the anticipated development plan. Mr. Kattermann said that information is available to provide to the Council.

Mayor Stokes said the Council will discuss the view corridor in the future. Mr. Kattermann said staff anticipated that the Council would discuss the view corridor issue before referring the plan to the CAC.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Kattermann said he will continue to research the view corridor policy. Mr. Wallace noted that a project was prevented due to the view corridor. He questioned how a property owner or developer would be able to know about the view corridor. He expressed concern that this is extremely close to a regulatory property taking. Mr. Wallace questioned whether there is any other place in Bellevue with a similar policy. Mr. Kattermann said he was not sure. He said the City has designated major public open spaces in the Downtown to preserve views. Mr. Wallace said he would support reversing the view corridor policy, which he believes is an unreasonable restriction on development.

Mayor Stokes reiterated that the Council needs a more complete history of the view corridor policy.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said it is important to preserve views from public spaces, and City Hall is a public building. He said Mt. Rainier is an iconic natural feature. He concurred with the

need for more discussion of the public benefit versus private property impacts. He observed that the policy does not represent a property taking. The issue is how something the City has established affects the desire for more dense planning and flexibility around transit stations.

(f) Draft 2016 State Legislative Agenda and Legislative Update

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, said the state legislature started its 60-day session today. She said there are challenging issues before the legislature. She noted that all members of the House of Representatives and half of the Senate are up for election in November. The legislature will address both new bills and bills proposed last year, and will work on developing supplemental operating, transportation, and capital budgets. The Governor has released his proposed budget, which is the starting point of the budget process. Each house of the legislature will approve its own budget.

Ms. Nichols said the state legislature faces continuing pressure to meet its obligation under the State Supreme Court's McCleary Decision regarding K-12 education funding. The Court requires that the state legislature approve a plan this session for providing adequate education funding going forward.

Ms. Nichols noted the draft 2016 State Legislative Agenda in the meeting packet. Staff is seeking Council approval of the agenda, which is used to guide staff in their work on behalf of Bellevue. She said Councilmember Wallace submitted proposed revisions, which are provided in the desk packet and were emailed to the Council.

Councilmember Wallace described his proposed changes. With regard to the McCleary Decision, he observed that the important thing is for the legislature to study the impacts on the local economies and school districts (i.e., Bellevue, Lake Washington, and Seattle). He expressed concern that the proposed levy reforms have major impacts on those school districts.

With regard to tools for workforce housing, Mr. Wallace said he cannot support the demolition tax, which he views as illegal. Under clean energy, he suggested adding hydropower as a renewable energy, provided that the transition does not result in negative economic impacts to ratepayers.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said there has been a decline in funding for the Housing Trust Fund, which is probably the State's most important contribution toward affordable housing. A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) uses the Housing Trust Fund to leverage other donations. Ms. Nichols noted where his previously suggested revision is included in the legislative agenda.

Mr. Chelminiak spoke against citing hydropower under renewable energy and observed that the topic is controversial.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to extend the meeting to 10:05 p.m., and Deputy Mayor Chelminiak seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the 2016 State Legislative Agenda and Policy Statement. She requested more analysis on levy reform related to the McCleary Decision, including the cost per household.

In the area of homelessness and workforce housing, Ms. Robertson suggested that staff create a list of all of the City's programs and activities in these areas.

5. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items: None.

6. Continued Oral Communications: None.

At 10:00 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert
Acting City Clerk

/kaw