

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

May 5, 2003  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton and Davidson

ABSENT: Councilmembers Lee, Mosher, and Noble

1. Executive Session

Dr. Davidson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session to discuss one item of property disposition.

The Study Session resumed at 7:12 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Update on Walkway Design for 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE

City Manager Steve Sarkozy asked staff to provide an update on the 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE walkway project. Transportation Assistant Director David Berg introduced the project manager to provide an overview of the project's pre-design analysis and an update on costs and the project schedule.

Tricia Thomson, Project Manager, explained that the project was included in the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan as a pre-design analysis because the corridor contains wetlands and environmentally sensitive habitats. The project concept originated approximately 10 years ago and staff also wanted to be sure to investigate changes in the area that could affect the project. The coordination of input from citizens has been a high priority in terms of defining the project scope. The purpose of the 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE pre-design analysis is to evaluate the feasibility and construction costs of: 1) adding sidewalks on the east side from north of Lake Hills Boulevard to SE 11<sup>th</sup> Street, 2) adding an off-street trail or boardwalk between SE 11<sup>th</sup> and SE 20<sup>th</sup> Streets, 3) adding a trail from 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE at SE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and 4) adding a sidewalk on the west side of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue between SE 20<sup>th</sup> Place and SE 24<sup>th</sup> Street.

An interdepartmental team of staff from the Transportation, Parks, and Utilities Departments reviewed the project and established the following project goals:

- Define the best ways to separate pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.
- Provide improved access to parks, schools, and transit.
- Maintain the area's rural character.
- Develop cost estimates and project schedule for a preferred alternative.

Two residents participated early in the process by serving on the project team. A newsletter was mailed to 2,000 area residents in January 2002 and an open house was held on January 17, 2002. Project boundaries were reviewed at the open house meeting. Staff explained to residents that the purpose of the project is to analyze pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The project will not increase traffic capacity or evaluate street classification. City Parks Department ordinances require that the trail's hours are from dawn to dusk and therefore the trail will not be illuminated. Stop-controlled intersections at SE 16th Street and Lake Hills Boulevard will remain as they are now. Staff noted that pedestrian and bicycle projects do not require a noise analysis.

Ms. Thomson said the development and evaluation of alternatives included a field survey, wetlands survey, the development of preliminary cost information, and consideration of suggestions made at the open house meeting. A second newsletter was mailed to 2,000 residents in March 2002, and a second open house was held on April 2, 2002. Approximately 90 completed questionnaires were collected after this meeting. Several options were not preferred due to wetland impacts and associated costs. Residents were opposed to the proposed trail at SE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, which also had complications due to wetland impacts and steep slopes.

Ms. Thomson said the following project elements are preferred by a majority of residents:

- Sidewalk along east side of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Lake Hills Boulevard to SE 11<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Separated walkway along the east side of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue from SE 11<sup>th</sup> Street to SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Improved bicycle facilities along corridor.

Design of the sidewalk and separated trail will be completed this year. Construction of the sidewalk is scheduled to begin this year, but construction of the trail will be delayed in order to obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland permits. Ms. Thomson said the sidewalk section from Lake Hills Boulevard to SE 11<sup>th</sup> Street is the first project priority. This section is at the 70-percent design phase.

Mr. Creighton commended staff for the extensive public involvement, at a cost of more than \$66,000 to date, in this project. Mayor Marshall looks forward to the completion of sidewalks and walkways along the 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor.

(b) Downtown Implementation Plan (DIP) Citizen Advisory Committee

Mr. Sarkozy opened discussion about the Downtown Implementation Plan process. The last meeting of the DIP Citizen Advisory Committee was held on April 29. After two and a half years of study and discussion, the committee finalized recommendations for City Council.

Planning Director Dan Stroh said staff and CAC members will provide a full report of the recommendations to Council in June. He recalled that staff discussed downtown growth forecasts with Council in September 2002. Transportation modeling shows that anticipated downtown growth can be accommodated without adding general purpose lanes on Bellevue Way or 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Council directed staff last year to not pursue further evaluation of proposals to widen either road.

Despite Council direction to staff, a majority of CAC members voted in favor of further consideration of proposals to widen Bellevue Way at their February 4, 2003 meeting. Staff informed the CAC this option would not be included in the final Environmental Impact Statement analysis as part of the Preferred Alternative.

Councilmember Creighton explained that the CAC voted on April 29 in favor of including the road widening projects in its recommendation as a procedural matter, to accurately reflect the CAC's February vote. He emphasized that he and Councilmember Noble did not vote in favor of those specific projects, however.

Mayor Marshall affirmed that Council wants citizen advisory committees, boards, and commissions to thoroughly evaluate all ideas and alternatives for issues and projects assigned to them. However, she reiterated Council's position to not expend any further resources on studying proposals to widen Bellevue Way or 112<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Creighton clarified that the CAC's vote was not to recommend the widening projects, but rather to suggest further study of those options.

### 3. Council Business [From Regular Session Agenda, Item 6]

Mr. Creighton attended the Downtown Implementation Plan Citizen Advisory Committee meeting.

Deputy Mayor Degginger and Dr. Davidson attended the Arbor Day celebration at Kelsey Creek Park. Mr. Degginger announced an award from Puget Sound Energy to the citizens of Bellevue in recognition of their participation in PSE's Green Power program. More than 440 businesses and households participate in the program, which supports the use of renewable resources. Jim Hutchinson, PSE, thanked citizens for their conservation efforts.

Mr. Degginger noted with sadness the passing of Betty Gilkenson, former Chair and member of the Bellevue Planning Commission, and offered condolences to her family and friends.

Dr. Davidson attended meetings of the Regional Water Quality Committee and the Association of Washington Cities Nominations Committee.

May 5, 2003 Study Session

Mayor Marshall attended several regional transportation planning/funding meetings and participated in DUI drills at Newport and Interlake High Schools.

At 7:42 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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