

BEL-RED

corridor project

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

For Steering Committee Review

June, 2007

Introduction

In fall of 2005, City of Bellevue staff, consultants, and a project steering committee began a process to develop a future vision for the Bel-Red corridor. This process was initiated due to the need to develop a long-term, comprehensive plan for this important part of Bellevue, which connects Downtown Bellevue on the west with the Overlake section of Redmond on the east. The land use pattern for the corridor was initially established in the 1960s, and needed to be reviewed and updated due to changes within and adjacent to the area, and the need to determine the corridor's role in the City's overall growth management and economic development strategy. The City also wanted to be proactive about determining how high capacity transit, to be developed by Sound Transit, should serve the corridor.

Vision Statement

The Bel-Red corridor in 2030 will be an area that is unique within the city of Bellevue and the entire Puget Sound region. It will be an area where thriving businesses will be adjacent to, and sometimes mixed with, livable neighborhoods, all served by a multi-modal transportation system that connects the area to the greater city and region. The area will also be distinguished by environmental and community amenities that will serve residents and employees in the area, as well as residents from surrounding neighborhoods and the entire city. The area will transition gracefully over time, with existing businesses being accommodated while new types of development will occur as conditions warrant.

Specifically, the area will be distinguished by the following attributes:

- ***A thriving, diverse economy:*** Bel-Red will be home to major employers, types of businesses and employment sectors unique to this part of Bellevue, and services that are important to the local community.
- ***Vibrant, diverse neighborhoods:*** Bel-Red will contain a variety of housing types, to meet the needs of a diverse population of varied income levels. Neighborhoods will have convenient access to shopping, jobs, and community amenities, and will also be well connected to the larger city and region.
- ***A comprehensive, connected parks and open space system:*** Bel-Red will have a park system that serves residents, employees, and visitors of the area, and provides recreation and open space benefits for residents from surrounding neighborhoods as well. Park system components will include trails along stream corridors, community facilities, neighborhood parks, and cultural/arts features (*NOTE: should the cultural/arts reference stand on its own?*).
- ***Environmental improvements:*** Redevelopment of the corridor will provide opportunities for major environmental enhancements, including improving riparian

corridors, adding trees and green spaces, and re-thinking how to manage storm water and other natural resources.

- ***A multi-modal transportation system:*** Bel-Red's transportation system will take maximum advantage of its proximity to Downtown Bellevue and Overlake by providing convenient access and short travel times within and outside the corridor for drivers, transit riders, vanpools and access vans, bicyclists, and pedestrians, while minimizing spillover traffic impacts on adjoining neighborhoods.
- ***A sense of place:*** Bel-Red will have a character that is different from Downtown Bellevue, Overlake, or other Bellevue neighborhoods. The area will build on its industrial past while also incorporating new development types that will offer a unique experience for residents and employees.
- ***Appropriate scale of development:*** Development and redevelopment in Bel-Red should complement, not compete with, Downtown Bellevue, and should provide graceful transitions in scale in areas adjacent to residential neighborhoods.
- ***Sustainability:*** New neighborhoods, buildings, streetscapes, parks and open space systems, environmental enhancements, and transportation facilities will also be planned, designed and developed using state-of-the-art techniques to enhance the natural and built environment and create a more livable community.