



City of Bellevue

March 6, 2015

Bellevue Downtown Association
Susan Stead and Patrick Bannon
400 108th Ave Ne # 110
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Ms. Stead and Mr. Bannon:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2015 to the Mayor and City Council regarding BDA input on downtown parking. Your input is timely as we move ahead with the next phase of the Downtown Livability Initiative.

The BDA has requested a comprehensive parking strategy for downtown. Such a comprehensive parking study will involve a significant public conversation, and collaboration with the BDA to develop support and facilitate the work. We would like to meet with the BDA to explore roles, resources and timing. A scope, process and an estimate of resources would be needed to proceed with a request to the City Council.

You have also asked that the City build greater awareness and confidence in the parking component of the next phase of development of the Downtown Park. The Downtown Park has been the subject of extensive study since its inception in 1984 culminating in an exhaustive independent analysis of the Downtown Park parking needs in a 2013 study. The study shows that the Downtown Park, when considered in isolation, has excess parking for its needs for average peak use. The growth in parking need from the expansion will subtract from, but not eliminate, the excess parking available for park users and non-users alike. Park rules manage special event parking that exceeds the supply at the Park to mitigate impacts. If in the future, growth projections are exceeded for the Park parking needs, additional stalls can be added at that time through structured parking replacing surface parking. The City is planning an Open House on the Downtown Park on March 26th to improve awareness of the project in general, and how parking will be managed for the Downtown Park.

We applaud the BDA supporting and facilitating work on the feasibility and market opportunities for a possible public/private partnership to open up new parking capacity for short-term/retail/visitor use in the Old Bellevue area and possibly beyond. The City has demonstrated its willingness since October, 2014 to explore such a partnership. To proceed, however, a private co-lead for the partnership is essential to assure the product meets the needs of the business community. We stand ready to meet with the BDA to explore such a partnership.

Bellevue Downtown Association
March 6, 2015
Page 2

Thank you for continuing to be progressive in advancing the needs of downtown Bellevue. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Miyake" with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Brad Miyake, City Manager

cc: ✓ Ross Jacobson, Bellevue Downtown Association
Claudia Balducci, Mayor
Kevin Wallace, Deputy Mayor
Councilmember John Chelminiak
Councilmember Conrad Lee
Councilmember Jennifer Robertson
Councilmember Lynne Robinson
Councilmember John Stokes