

## Council Information Requests

STAFF COLLECT QUESTIONS FROM EACH COUNCIL MEETING ON THE BUDGET. THIS VERSION IS UPDATED AS OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT COUNCILMEMBER COMMUNICATIONS.

### COUNCIL REQUEST TRACKING

The following table tracks the requests received during the budget deliberations by the date and order they were received. The pages that follow have the question listed as noted. You may also click on the number of the question to be taken directly to the answer.

If staff has misunderstood your question, did not answer the question or if you have additional questions, please contact John Resha at 425-452-7863 or [JResha@BellevueWA.gov](mailto:JResha@BellevueWA.gov).

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## September 17, 2024 Council Meeting

### Mayor Robinson

1. Can you please explain again why this biennial budget is smaller than our last one?

Answer: The 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget is smaller compared to the current Amended 2023-2024 Budget due to two primary factors. First, the City has historically appropriated (budgeted) the cash set aside for reserves which, would show that the City was intending to spend a much larger amount than expected. The City’s reserves are set aside for several purposes from health benefits, public safety pensions, land acquisition, a significant natural disaster, among others and, would only be accessed in rare circumstances. Therefore, budgeting them along with planned spending makes it harder to hold the City accountable for outcomes committed to in the budget. As a result, staff has omitted them from the budget.

The second reason is for what financial professionals refer to as, “double budgeting” which is when the City budgets for services conducted by and then received by two departments within the City. For example, City departments paying the Information Technology Department (ITD) for its services would result in budgeting the costs of providing the services in ITD and within the other departments as an expense for those services. In reviewing the City’s Comprehensive Financial Policies and what is mandated by accounting standards, staff decided to eliminate these historic practices in most of the City’s budget with exceptions for the City’s utilities and Capital Improvement Programs (CIP).

The result of these two actions is a more streamlined budget which more clearly defines the planned spending occurring in the 2025-2026 biennium.

2. Is there a way to fund Lifespring’s request for rental assistance funding? Can we use council contingency? What is the process for that?

Answer: The decision to allocate council contingency to this purpose is a viable option for the Council. The City Manager will continue to work with Council to intake priorities for the contingency and, to evaluate specific impacts. The

Council may submit amendments during the process however, past practice has been to have amendments voted on by Council during the meeting immediately prior to budget adoption so the Council can communicate those approved amendments as part of final direction to bring back the budget for adoption.

## Deputy Mayor Malakoutian

### 3. How does the budget prioritize essential services while considering inflationary pressures?

Answer: The Preliminary Budget balances the challenges of providing essential services while also considering the impact of inflation on the costs of providing those services born by the City as well as being mindful about that burden being felt by Bellevue residents and businesses. In doing so, the Preliminary Budget limits revenue adjustments to the 1 percent property tax adjustment and cost recovery for the development services and utilities lines of business. When taking into account the costs of providing services, the City has taken on additional costs of personnel by adjusting salaries and wages to remain an employer of choice while limiting the growth of nonpersonnel costs to existing contractual obligations and similar arrangements.

### 4. Can you explain how the community input received at the July public hearing was incorporated into the preliminary budget? Reaching our environmental goal, bike, innovation/smart city, human resources and traffic.

Answer: The feedback received on July 9 during the initial public hearing confirmed the path taken by staff during the budget development process to further sustain these investments and, where possible, accelerate their delivery. As will be detailed more in the October 8 presentation on the Safe and Efficient Transportation System Strategic Target Area, there are many multimodal projects that have been designed and will initiate construction in 2025 or where public engagement efforts will bring the community in to prioritize the next round of investments for improving connections for people walking, biking and rolling throughout the City. Some of the highlights include neighborhood safety and mobility, continued work on the Mountains to Sound Greenway, Eastrail connections, 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, among others.

Additionally, staff heard the continued engagement around climate change and the City's role in curbing greenhouse emissions. As a result, the Preliminary 2025-2026 Preliminary budget sustains and implements the investments made within the 2023-2024 Amended Budget. These investments include programmatic staffing and resources to implement the community-facing aspects of the Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). Further invests in greening the City's operations with projects for EV charging, greening the fleet, including an electric fire truck, as well as retrofitting the Bellevue Service Center building with more efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems. Investments in the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) will be part of the High Quality Built and Natural Environment presentation on October 15.

5. If we had unlimited resources, what innovative projects or services could be included in this budget to make Bellevue an even better place to live.

Answer: There is always the opportunity to do more as a city and the resources needed fully support city residents and businesses are incalculable. Therefore, there are always good ideas that won't make it into the budget due to resource constraints. However, with this 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget, staff have put forth their best answer in balancing the resources available with the near-term and long-term needs of the city. To keep innovation at the forefront of budget processes going forward, proposed in this budget is the establishment of an innovation fund to allow city staff to pilot new innovative approaches to service delivery. Governed by a new multi-departmental steering team, pilots would be approved by the steering team and seeks to fund 2-5 innovative pilots per biennium, giving staff the ability to try new technologies, systems, and processes. If successful, staff can propose ongoing funding sources in subsequent budget cycles.

6. Beyond traditional sources of revenue, are there any alternative funding strategies we should consider to support our budget goals?

Answer: State law provides the City with opportunities to receive additional revenues from its existing revenue sources and others not pursued by the City. Currently, staff is not recommending additional revenue adjustments beyond the 1 percent property tax, development services fees and utilities rates. A comprehensive list of potential revenue sources for local jurisdictions is maintained by the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) in its annual [\*Revenue Guide for Washington Cities and Towns\*](#).

7. How can we use budget data to track progress towards achieving our DEI goals throughout the budget cycle?

Answer: Staff are in the process of developing an accountability framework and reporting system that will provide transparency and accountability on the City's performance on DEI efforts as well as the City's Strategic Target Areas and related objectives. Staff is currently working with the Diversity Advantage Team to incorporate the Diversity Action Plan 2.0 initiative with this framework for reporting in 2025.

## Councilmember Hamilton

8. Information on what property tax goes to in the city and what is the impact of the 1 percent increase on the average Bellevue household? (Paraphrased)

Answer: Property taxes serve as one of the primary tax sources for the City of Bellevue and fund many of the general governmental functions of the City's operations and capital investments from parks, public safety, transportation, community services, administrative staff and, much more. Of the annual property tax bills received by Bellevue property owners, approximately 12% goes to the City. The remaining portions go to the local school districts, the State of



Washington education levy, King County, Sound Transit and other smaller agencies.

The median home in Bellevue is worth \$1.19 million; a resulting 1% increase to the City of Bellevue property taxes would be a yearly impact of between \$11-\$12.

## Councilmember Nieuwenhuis

9. Council had partially funded a 2<sup>nd</sup> Fire Battalion previously, is there funding within this Preliminary Budget to make that whole? If not, would like to see that included. (Paraphrased).

Answer: The Fire Department's traditional staffing model for a battalion required 4.3 FTEs. The 2023-2024 budget funded 1 additional FTE and the city, with the agreement of the IAFF, was able to bridge most of the difference via reclassifications and an agreement not to staff B102 for up to 66 days of the year. Fire, however, capably utilizes a shared leadership and support model plus overtime to meet operational needs. This Preliminary Budget Proposal does not provide additional monies to further address the matter within the Battalion. It should also be noted that this matter is a currently a subject of bargaining between the city and the IAFF.

10. Understanding that council was going to increase signing bonuses for police officer laterals. Is that in this the Preliminary Budget? If not, why? Same question for police officer retention bonuses. Are they included? If not, why?

Answer: The current and any potential increase to signing or retention bonuses is not included in the 2025-26 preliminary budget. Savings from existing police vacancies is sufficient to cover the expenses of these programs. There is a small code change necessary to facilitate this program, which is anticipated to be on the October 8<sup>th</sup> Council Agenda for consideration.

Nationwide, agencies have struggled to keep pace with the attrition of officers and Bellevue is not an exception. Our experience has been that recruiting police officers is still very competitive and that many of our local comparable jurisdictions have increased their lateral hiring bonuses since we began our current program in 2018. There are, however, possible mandatory subjects of bargaining involved with modifying our current signing bonus and with any possible retention program. These issues need to be negotiated between the City and Police Guild, after which, any program will be presented to Council for ratification.

11. Answer: Council has prioritized increasing arts funding and in this budget seems flat in terms of the arts at a time where two of Bellevue's most prominent cultural attractions are on the cusp of leaving. Wants more details on this subject as well as KidsQuest. (Paraphrased).

Answer: Bellevue's funding for arts and cultural institutions is critical for small efforts and large cultural institutions which anticipate Bellevue to be one of their streams of support. Flat funding reflects a unified approach to nonpersonnel spending applied to all aspects of the 2025-2025 Preliminary Budget which only included inflationary increases for existing City obligations. Utilizing council contingency to expand existing funding is a viable option for consideration by the body.

Potential funding for KidsQuest has been identified at \$2.5 million each year through 2028 within the Long-Term Planning Reserve. It is not currently budgeted within the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget as there is not an existing funding agreement between the City and KidsQuest. Also, due to the size of the dollar amount, Council action would be required to approve the agreement per the City's Comprehensive Financial Policies. Any such agreement would then come forward with a budget appropriation increase to access the funds set aside in the reserves.

12. Clarity is needed on the investment mentioned during the presentation regarding police transparency and DEI in this budget. What is the investment adding in dollars and value above what already exists? (Paraphrased)

Answer: In the presentation regarding the Budget Equity Toolkit (BET), the mention of investments regarding the Police Department reflect what the Department is currently doing with its existing dollars. The BET is oriented to examining the current state of the City's DEI efforts to identify potential gaps and investment opportunities to mitigate those gaps. In this case, Police is a positive example of using robust data collection for several purposes. Below is the excerpt from the BET on the Police Department:

[The] Police Department is committing to community engagement and relationship building, especially with Police Advisory Councils, comprised of community members with diverse backgrounds. The department also shows a strong collection of data, including its Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies certification, Specialized Police Intelligence and Data Resource technology and a data dashboard that shares essential information with racial and other disaggregated identifying characteristics on Police workforce, crime, arrests, use of force and more. The department is also investing in multiple programs aimed at providing direct services and resources to vulnerable communities, such as CCAT and domestic violence staffing. Staff capacity and training is also a priority, with mental health intervention training for police officers and staffing focused on community engagement and data analysis that will increase DEIB. (2025-2026 Preliminary Budget, Chapter 1, PDF Page 52)

## Councilmember Zahn

13. Regarding permitting support for small businesses and special events – is that to streamline permitting? There is a distinction between support and streamlining so that special events can move forward quickly.

Answer: The additional investment includes both streamlining and support for small businesses, special events and activities associated with public space activation. Community Development would work in partnership with other City departments to streamline the system that can require external partners to engage with several City departments with different deadlines and expectations into a more unified point of entry for utilizing public space going forward. The Development Services Department would also be adding in pre-application support for these stakeholders to complement the public space management program.

14. Regarding funds and plans for public art funding, public art can be part of the arts budget and CIP. For some government agencies they fund through the CIP that is public-facing. Would like to know what is the City's approach is taking in this budget and what considerations there are. (Paraphrased)

Answer: The City's approach to funding arts investments between the operating and capital budget is dependent on what the planned spending will cover. The City follows the Governmental Accounting Standard Board's (GASB) definition of what qualifies as a capital asset, usually items above \$100,000. The City has had a practice of accumulating funding and budget appropriation within the CIP for yet to be identified art installations that would exceed any one year of budget. As the City is moving away from accumulating resources in the CIP for unplanned expenditures, the funding for these capital installations resides in the Arts Reserve and can be appropriated by Council as these opportunities are identified. Operating funding for the City and associated grants programs resides within the City's operating funds to adhere to the standards alluded to above.

15. An investment into the cross-cultural center is mentioned in the presentation as resources and site selection analysis. Is that only the site selection or does that include preliminary design of the cross-cultural center?

Answer: The investment included in the 2025-2026 Preliminary Budget supports the continuing the studies of a future Cross-Cultural Center, which has been funded previously through CIP project G-118. Work will expand on a previously completed site selection analysis. In this phase, site analysis will be conducted using more recent data for siting opportunities, with the goal of identifying a suitable site or sites. This may potentially include conceptual design work and environmental review.

16. Investments in economic development for small and mid-sized businesses is a positive. Are we confident there will be enough resources included in this budget for both the small and mid-sized businesses? If resources are limited, should the City be focusing on small businesses first before we expand in size and scope?

Answer: The resources include funding that will exhaust the remaining American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) dollars allocated to the City by the federal government and while staff anticipates there will be benefits to both small and mid-sized businesses, the primary focus will be that of small businesses.

17. Would like to understand as the conversation moves to the CIP about how the City is considering educating staff on methodologies in capital project management with the hope of maximizing delivery of the CIP.

Answer: In early 2025, staff will be working with an external consultant to evaluate the current capital delivery practices maintained by the capital delivery departments and identify potential best practices to enhance delivery. These may include, resource allocation and planning, training (which could include capital delivery methodology), project management tools, contract and data management, among others. The full scope has yet to be established. Staff will provide more details throughout the process next year.

## Email Received September 24 2024

### Councilmember Nieuwenhuis

18. Request for an independent or third-party PSE reliability study.

Answer: The question was raised regarding how Bellevue will address current and future power needs as the City grows consistent with the Comprehensive Plan targets. The agenda packet (from September 24) includes a one-pager explaining the City's Memorandum of Understanding with PSE to monitor electrical system reliability in Bellevue. As part of the MOU, the City holds an annual meeting that is open to the public to review the reliability report that PSE submits. That meeting was on September 19, and included community attendees in addition to Councilmember Lee, City staff and PSE staff. There is also ongoing work to conduct long-term planning for power needs in Bellevue between City and PSE staff.

19. Explanation regarding the need for an Office of Housing. How much will cost, what is this office focused on, and what will it do that we are not already doing?

Answer: This topic will be returning to Council during the High Quality Built and Natural Environment STA overview on October 15.

## September 24, 2024 Council Meeting

### Councilmember Hamilton

20. What kind of feedback has the City received in terms of the DS fee changes?

Answer: Did not receive feedback from BDC last month. Would not characterize lack of feedback as support or opposition. DS has left feedback loop open for BDC. Additionally, DS will have another meeting with BDC to solicit feedback.

21. What is the status of the Affordable Housing Permit Review and Inspection Fee Reduction program? Is that complete or is there more work to be done?

Answer: This program was born out council's "Next Right Work" and was structured around council's policy direction. DS has implemented the program based on council direction. If there's interest in changing or expanding that program, council has the discretion to do so. During the STA discussions, DS can further discuss the progress of the program as well as the next Council conversation regarding the, "Next Right Work."

### Councilmember Nieuwenhuis

22. Within the 2025 Property Tax Distribution graph, can you break down the Other Jurisdictions bucket of 11% to what the Other Jurisdictions are?

Answer: The other taxing jurisdictions levying a property tax in Bellevue include the following and their percentage of the property tax bill.

- Port of Seattle – 1.3%
- King County Libraries – 3.7%
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) – 2.9%
- King County Flood Control District -- 0.9%
- Sound Transit – 2.1%

23. In regards to SB 5290, is it a 90-day review timeline or a sliding scale timeline depending upon the permit type?

Answer: It is a sliding scale of 65 days, 100 days, and 170 days based upon the project permit type.

24. With the City's expected economic growth and activity, and with what's in the current pipeline, how do we ensure the accuracy of permit reviews and inspections (other than adding FTE/LTEs)?

Answer: Through several ways, including the help of the BDC. DS focuses on relationship building with applicants so that they can have discussions with their reviewers and inspectors; education for customers and internal staff to help understand changes; the BDC meetings has created a forum for customers to bring issues and zero in on after-action reports if there's something DS staff need to educate themselves on.

25. If mid-project something changes, who bears the responsibility for that permit that is already being issued?

Answer: Ultimately, everything needs to be up to code, but DS will work with the customer to address the issue and minimize the impact for the customer.

26. If an emergency/urgency arises for a project that impacts the permitting process, does the City offer any kind of expedited or special service so that the project isn't in jeopardy?

Answer: The City does not have anything specifically structured to address these types of situations; however, DS is committed to providing excellent customer services. When issues arise, DS adjusts and works with the unique needs of the customer.

27. Why has the Issaquah single family impact fees changed dramatically from year to year?

Answer: This is largely due to not having an elementary school growth related project, the increase in high school generation rates, and the application of the state's one-time school construction assistance funding.

28. Can you define the HS student generation rate?

Answer: For every new development and housing unit, it is assigned a value as to how many students from elementary, middle, and high school age will be generated from that project. There is typically more elementary age students generated than high school students. This year the high school generation rate was much lower than normal and didn't have any elementary students. As a result, the Issaquah school district can only collect on the High School generation rate. The calculation and collections are shown in the Capital Facilities plan.

## Councilmember Lee

29. For Reserves, how does the City's budgeted reserve levels compare to past?

Answer: Majority of the reserves is close to what the historical levels have been. Capital reserves is a bit larger because of the integration of planned spend for the CIP. These new reserves are things that have existed in different places at these levels. It is important to note, a number of these reserves are guided by the actuary dictated by RCW or the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). The City has always met or exceeded these prescribed targets.

30. What percentage of the planning reserve is part of the City's entire reserve buckets?

Answer: The planning reserve, which includes parks, fire, municipal, housing, and arts is roughly 90-91 million dollars out of the current 400 million set of reserves. The goal of this reserve is hold them, but to utilize and keep them visible so that it doesn't just sit and collect interest.

31. For property tax, what's the total 1% at the current assessed value? How much do we raise for a 1% property tax increase?

Answer: If we raise the 1% property tax, it equates to \$903k. It is important to acknowledge that 41% will go to voter approved levy type projects with exception of the 2008 parks levy. Of the approximately \$903k, \$531k is associated with the General Regular Levy and will flow into the General Fund.

32. Given the code can be open to interpretation from staff, developers, and other customers, how do we make sure we have excellent customer service (particularly with commercial projects that hasn't been making progress)? Are there conversations and/or incentives the City provides?

Answer: There will be a small percentage that will fall under these circumstances, which will require DS to pursue an after action. Additionally, DS has a customer experience program that allows customers to address any issues and provide information regarding process improvements. BDC has also worked closely with DS to identify priority issues that should be addressed, which are now in a work schedule and/or work program where DS prioritizes issues.

33. In the proposed fees table, why are the fees for single family 500 Sq. FT. Addition almost as high as the minor commercial project?

Answer: For single family permits, DS charges a flat fee that is derived from an hourly rate and the average time it takes to review that permit. The valuation-based fee is based on the nationally recognized internationally code council table that is published twice a year that DS adopts. Along with the adjustment of the CPI-W. The fees for the two project examples provided in the presentation are proportional to the scope and scale of each example.

## Councilmember Zahn

34. Because the budget is packaged differently, the Council is seeing differences in figures showing \$1.75 billion in expenditures, while also seeing \$1.65 billion. Please make sure to address these nuances during the STA presentations. Also addressing the nuances of the reserves, since there a couple of tables with different numbers depending on the presentation.

Answer: In the overview of the STAs, staff will draw these pieces together for a consistent narrative and staff will produce charts and other relevant information to provide greater clarity in this area for the Monday October 715 edition of this memory bank.



35. Would like to understand the revenue options the City has in order to possibly accelerate investments.

Answer: A comprehensive list of potential revenue sources for local jurisdictions is maintained by the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) in its annual *Revenue Guide for Washington Cities and Towns*. Additionally, the City's Banked Property Tax capacity equals approximately \$7 million.

36. Regarding the November election, if some of the measures pass (specifically 2117) what is the impact on the City's revenues and budgeting process?

Answer: I-2117 would repeal the Washington Climate Commitment Act, which would likely remove certain grant funding sources from which Bellevue has benefitted. As future grant awards are not counted on, the revenue and budget impact will likely be minimal. However, programmatically, this will create gaps in supporting the City's Environmental Stewardship Initiative goals.

37. Are opportunities to take advantage of AI for DS' permitting process?

Answer: DS has been partnering with IT to look at technologies to help DS, particularly with low-risk tools. DS gets frequently contacted by AI startups and companies in this space and are figuring out ways how this can help future work. However, DS has yet to see a premier or preferred tool that has emerged as a tool for permitting.

38. Does the City have method of expediting permits for green buildings, affordable housing, and/or other projects of that nature?

Answer: DS is currently looking at expedited options and getting closer to having a better understanding of where DS would like to go. As part of the Next Right Work for affordable housing DS initiated an expedited permitting program for 100% affordable housing projects as a method to incentivize these types of projects based on Council direction.

## Email Received September 29, 2024

### Deputy Mayor Malakoutian

39. Given the ongoing economic uncertainties, how does the City plan to mitigate the potential risks associated with the revenue projections in the Preliminary Budget? Are there contingency plans or alternative revenue sources that can be considered if the economic situation worsens? Any scenario planning? There are several assumptions that may not become reality.

Answer: All forecasts contain risk. Should the forecasted revenue not materialize, the City Manager would first review spending to curtail or slow non-critical services. If those actions are not sufficient, staff would engage with Council regarding revenue sources available and tradeoffs with programmatic reductions.



40. Beyond the immediate concerns of the 2025-2026 budget, what are the City's long-term financial sustainability strategies? Are there any initiatives or policies being considered to address potential structural deficits or revenue shortfalls in the future?

Answer: The 2025-2026 preliminary budget contemplates future focused planning including understanding future service levels and capital needs, in order to engage about prioritization and long-term funding. Additionally, should a spike in economic activity occur, staff will also look at future revenue stabilization reserve strategies to offset future economic fluctuations.

41. How can technology, AI, and innovation be leveraged to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of budget management and financial operations? Are there any specific investments or pilot programs planned to explore new technologies in this area?

Answer: Artificial Intelligence is an emerging space within financial and budget management that the City is maintaining a close eye on from both the financial as well as IT perspectives. Underlying the more simplified budget structure is the first of many steps the City anticipates taking over the near-term to streamline financial systems (IT and business). Streamlining and becoming less unique will allow the City to more efficiently conduct its business while also preparing for the replacement of its enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, JD Edwards. Many products currently on the market are leveraging AI and the City will explore its application to financial processes during product evaluation and selection.

## Email Received October 4, 2024

Mayor Robinson

42. We have talked about losing King County prosecutors. Can we budget to contribute funds to retain these positions? Is it possible to use any of the opioid settlement money?

Answer: Pending

## October 8, 2024 Council Meeting

Mayor Robinson

43. The Bike Patrol Program was put back in after COVID, but there haven't been any recent updates on it. What happened?

Answer: Pending

44. Where does the City stand on implementing State legislation to increase density in neighborhoods? Given the aging infrastructure in some older neighborhoods, how is the City planning to manage the added stress if families wish to add attached or detached dwelling units?

Answer: Utilities is currently developing comprehensive updates to our water, wastewater, and stormwater system plans over the next two years. As part of this planning process, we will engage with Bellevue's Community Development and Development Services Departments to obtain projected changes in housing density, by neighborhood. Any increased demand in system capacity will be determined using the Utilities water, wastewater, and stormwater computer system models, and this information will be included in our updated system plans. Ultimately, the system plans will inform new "capacity for growth" projects to be included in the Utilities Capital Improvement Program.

45. With the repeal of Initiative 2066 on the ballot in November, and knowing that this initiative has been funding some projects, how would its repeal impact the City's budget?

Answer: Initiative 2066 (I-2066) has policy implications for the city meeting its greenhouse gas initiative targets and other climate goals. Bellevue staff is unaware of any direct funding impacts of I-2066 to Bellevue. Initiative 2117 (I-2117) would repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). Repeal of the CCA would negatively impact the scale, scope, timeliness, and overall effectiveness of several Bellevue projects and programs. Some examples include:

*Projects in Bellevue funded entirely by the CCA – At Risk*

**Electric fire truck.** The legislature allocated \$800,000 toward the purchase of electric fire engines and charging infrastructure for Bellevue and Redmond Fire Departments, funded by Climate Commitment Act funds.

**Washington Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Program.** Twenty sites in Bellevue have been selected for Level 2 and direct current fast chargers for public use. CCA funds fully fund the design and construction of this public EV charging infrastructure. Construction of the charging sites has yet to begin. Sites in Bellevue include the Bellevue College campus, Factoria, Crossroads, and Downtown.

**Eastrail Multi-Use Corridor – I-90 Steel Bridge.** The 42-mile walk and roll path connecting Renton and Snohomish received \$12m for the I-90 Steel Bridge rehabilitation. This funding has not been appropriated and is at risk if I-2117 passes and the CCA is repealed.

Projects in or adjacent to Bellevue partially funded by the CCA – At Risk

**Climate Planning Projects in Bellevue.** See below for examples of Bellevue:

- Planning projects involving studies, assessments, data collection, and staff, stakeholder, and public engagement work.
- Residential Electrification Strategy
- Update to annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Development of draft 2026-2023 Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan
- Development of Climate Resilient Bellevue Strategy
- Deputy City Manager Genesee Adkins provided additional information on the CCA and I-2117 to City Council via email on July 12.

## Deputy Mayor Malakoutian

46. Is there a time when utilities can move to spending less on aging infrastructure and more on capacity for growth, or other areas, or just reduce cost impacts to ratepayers?

Answer: Utilities' focus on renewing and replacing aging infrastructure must continue indefinitely in a cyclical manner. Bellevue maintains about \$10 billion in assets across the three piped utilities. This includes over 1,600 miles in water, sewer, and storm pipe, 24 water reservoirs, 22 pump stations, 47 sewer pump and flush stations, and thousands of other infrastructure elements. As assets are built, they progressively age through their life cycle (ranging from roughly 20 years for small assets to 50 - 100 years for pipes and structures), and ultimately reach the end of their life cycle, they will require renewal or replacement. Utilities then implements timely replacement projects for the assets and the cycle starts over again. To strategically manage the renewal of infrastructure, Utilities relies on a robust Asset Management Program. We make data-driven decisions to replace each asset based on its age, condition, risk of failure, and consequence of failure. Replacing assets at just the right time - not too soon and not too late - enables us to get the most service life from an asset before it fails. This is how we reduce cost impacts to ratepayers while providing the level of utility service that our customers expect. To avoid and prevent large rate spikes, careful technical and financial planning is crucial to strategically manage the City's utility infrastructure in the most prudent and responsible manner.

47. Regarding Vision Zero and the Spring Blvd bike route, it was mentioned that the design is anticipated to be completed by 2027. What is causing the bottleneck in the design process for it to take that long?

Answer: There are many environmental factors involved, including wetlands and the need for a bridge, which make up the primary challenges in the design process. It's a large project that will take time to complete. Also, the process of property acquisition is very time consuming.

### Councilmember Hamilton

48. Given that the Council contingency reserve may not be substantial, are there any projects where staff believe those funds could provide a boost? Could some of this reserve be allocated to enhance those programs?

Answer: As mentioned by multiple council members during the meeting on 10/8, we have a long list of needs for new sidewalks, sidewalk repairs and crosswalk enhancements. Transportation would be happy to work with council to identify a particular project where the funds could enhance a project or program, however, the reserve amount may not support much of the cost of a sidewalk or capital construction project.

### Councilmember Lee

49. Is the Curbside Management a pilot program? What is the current status?

Answer: The Council adopted the plan last year, and the first implementation step will be an analysis to determine whether parking meters would be financially viable. This is necessary work, and the analysis will assess the availability of parking spaces in the downtown area and determine how much to charge to fund enforcement of paid parking. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. The study area includes the Urban Core of Bellevue and will be worked through the Transportation Commission. The Transportation Commission will ultimately make a recommendation to council as to whether curb pricing should be used as a tool to improve availability of on-street parking in the Urban Core.

50. Concerning complaints about potholes in I-90, are there any similar issues occurring locally?

Answer: There are no similar issues that staff are currently aware of.

### Councilmember Nieuwenhuis

51. Moving beyond laterals, what else do we need to do in terms of retention that may be inside or outside of the budget process?

Answer: Pending

52. For the event Captain, would that simply be for events, or would that include protests as well?

Answer: The events Police Captain would also be responsible the law enforcement response to protests as well as special events.

53. Is the Bellevue School District reaching out to the City to reinstitute School Resource Officers at Bellevue High School?

Answer: We remain in regular contact with Bellevue School District regarding School Resource Officers and other matters. They are not pursuing this investment at this time.

54. Is the number of incidents on Sound Transit's 2 Line mentioned in the presentation a Bellevue Police number or a Sound Transit Number?

Answer: The number comes from BPD, and BPD may request an access to the data collected by Sound Transit.

55. Number of officers down?

Answer: The number of Police Officer vacancies sits at 27 as of today.

56. Do we have mutual aid agreements for the jet ski water rescue program?

Answer: Yes, Bellevue's Fire Department and the neighboring fire agencies dispatched by NORCOM operate under automatic/mutual aid agreements, use automatic vehicle locators (AVL) and strive to ensure inter-operability. King County has designated geographic regions of the county as Zones, and Bellevue is in Zone One (1). Other Zone 1 fire agencies include Bothell, Duvall (joining Eastside Fire and Rescue January 2025), Eastside F&R, KCFD 27, Kirkland, Redmond, Shoreline, Snoqualmie, and Snoqualmie Pass. Discussions are continuous in Zone 1 on how to best ensure seamless response and inter-operability across geographic boundaries, as all the agencies in the Zone recognize the need to minimize obstacles in emergency situations. Mutual aid responses are specified in the King County Fire Resource plan. The department can both request and provide resources to regional task forces and strike teams under the agreements in the plan

57. What will be the total number of street cleaners if two more are added?

Answer: It will bring the total to four, which will increase the overall cleaning capacity.

## Councilmember Zahn

58. Since Bellevue is covering some costs that King County is no longer paying, are there any other upcoming issues the City should be aware of to ensure King County pays its fair share?

Answer: King County regularly reviews its services and support. As result of Federal funds during Covid-19, the County increased service levels for various programs and service. With the ending of those Federal funds, there are many

service levels returning to pre-Covid levels. The County Budget Office has not actively sought funding for service replacement.

59. Are the additional police captains for events included in the cost recovery efforts for those events?

Answer: Pending

60. What lessons have been learned from the CCAT program and outreach including the opioid crisis?

Answer: Pending

61. What is the status of Fire Station 10 and the fire levy? Since costs are higher than expected, should we consider additional funding for renovation or replacement?

Answer: Fire Station 10 is funded with both Fire Levy and General Fund sources. Additionally, a significant investment in major maintenance at all Fire Stations is being delivered in 2025-2026. It is likely that additional resources will need to be identified for future fire station investment and completion, but not for the 2025-2026 budget period.

62. Can we reexamine the eligibility criteria for the utilities rate relief program, considering the increased Human Service needs?

Answer: Utilities is committed to reviewing the rate relief programs including the eligibility criteria and ways to streamline the application process. This work is slated for 2025,

63. In the Wilburton commercial area, how can we leverage waste energy and rethink our approach to reduce solid waste generation?

Answer: Pending

64. Could WIFIA be another funding source for water infrastructure and utilities from an investment perspective?

Answer: As Utilities and the City explore project delivery and funding, the Comprehensive Financial Policies provide an opportunity to explore many financing options, including the use of debt – like WIFIA.

65. How is the budget for educating about safety aligned with the City's growth?

Answer: The proposed budget for safety aligns with Council direction to plan citywide for a safe, complete, and connected multimodal transportation system that keeps us moving and that connects us to the region. To accomplish this, staff will engage with the public, elected and appointed officials, city departments, community/businesses, and agencies to ensure people in Bellevue are well-connected, with transportation facilities that provide for safe travel to schools, jobs, transit, health care, and to entertainment, shopping, and commercial centers.

66. How are we progressing with multimodal transportation investments and first/last-mile solutions as the 2 Line connects to Seattle? What opportunities are there to partner with the private sector or perhaps, King County Metro to improve transit services to Bellevue?

Answer: Extensive work was done during design of the 2 Line to plan for and implement multimodal connections to 2 Line stations in Bellevue. Many improvements have been completed and additional projects are underway, such as the 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE complete street project in BelRed, extension of the Main St Multi-Purpose Path to 108<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and new neighborhood sidewalk segments connecting to the South Bellevue Station. Included in this budget is the design phase of Spring Blvd Phase 3, which will provide additional multimodal connections between the Spring District and BelRed stations. Staff have also been working with King County Metro to advance small transit infrastructure projects that will support improved transit connections to the 2 Line stations as part of Metro's East Link Connections program.

## Email Received October 8, 2024

### Councilmember Hamilton

67. Group of questions received by Councilmember Hamilton

- If reserves have been removed from the budget, how much is being set aside in cash reserves in 2025-2026?
- How much of the \$2.2B budget was reserves and how much was the double-budgeting? (trying to reconcile the \$500M reduction.)
- How did the double budgeting issue originate, and when was it first introduced?
- Wouldn't an audit or routine financial review have identified this double-budgeting issue earlier (or the bond rating agencies)?
- Has this impacted past budgets and financial transparency for council oversight?
- Councilmember Zahn was not able to get the new budget numbers to add up (and I think Jared or Mo made a similar comment.)
- Have you been provided a revised budget that the numbers add up/reconcile?
- Transparency seems to be an issue. How specifically does the new budget improve on transparency?

Collective Answer: Pending