



DATE: March 7, 2024

TO: Chair Stash and members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: BelRed Look Forward Transportation Policy Amendments

DIRECTION REQUESTED

☒ Action

☐ Discussion/Direction

☐ Information

Staff will present an updated recommendation on draft transportation policy amendments (Attachment A) within the BelRed Subarea Plan. The Transportation Commission first reviewed proposed policy amendments on November 9, 2023; this current version includes the staff recommendation.

Staff request that the Transportation Commission approve a recommendation on draft transportation policy amendments and approve a transmittal letter to the Planning Commission (Attachment B).

BACKGROUND/INFORMATION

Community Engagement

Staff incorporated direction and input given on November 9, 2023 by the Transportation Commission into draft proposed policies that were published for public review in mid-January on [EngagingBellevue.com](https://engagingbellevue.com). A Policy Open House was held on January 20 giving the public an opportunity to talk with staff about policy updates and ask questions. Members of the public were asked to provide feedback on policy moves within three topic areas: Open Space and Natural Systems, Cultural and Community Connections, and Land Use and Urban Form.

Four key policy moves were proposed for transportation policies in the BelRed Subarea Plan:

1. Updates to streamline and remove policies covered in Volume 1 of the Comprehensive Plan that apply citywide and policies that refer to projects that have been completed.
2. Updates to terminology in existing policies.

3. A new policy allowing for limited flexibility to implement the intended alignment and function of local streets where site constraints exist.
4. A moved policy regarding promoting the development of “green streets” with an abundance of trees and areas for landscaping from the Parks and Open Space section to the Transportation section.

To provide feedback, members of the public were asked to respond to the following three questions:

1. Which of these policy moves sound good to you, and what makes you say that?
2. Are there any ideas or considerations unique to BelRed you think are missing?
3. What do you want Board and Commission members to know as they discuss these policy moves and make their recommendations?

Five people responded to the questionnaire on Transportation policy moves. Two expressed strong support for promoting the development of green streets. One wrote, “Having green streets, or more of them, would be awesome!” Another wrote, “Those areas are vital to improving Bellevue.” Another respondent wrote that making it easier to build and connect things is very important.

In terms of what is missing, respondents shared the following ideas about transportation:

- “Public transport should be something we keep in mind.”
- “Having a policy that will update all streets to be complete streets with protected cycling and walking infrastructure,” and
- “DO NOT remove traffic lanes on major streets to create bicycle lanes!”

Respondents wanted Board and Commission members to know the following about transportation:

- “Think long term. Short-to-medium term pain is fine if in the end we ultimately get where we want to go.”
- “Moving people quickly and efficiently should be the top priority. Lower priorities can include electric cars and bicycles, but they should not negatively impact major transportation arteries.”
- “Building a fully connected and protected pedestrian walking and cycling network to access bel red will be vitally important as population and population density increases over the coming years. Car based transportation isn’t feasible long term since it isn’t scalable with the growth this area will see. Additionally, a connected pedestrian network like this will make the city more equitable and affordable when people don’t have to be car reliant.”
- “Make this a city your grandchildren would be proud to call home.”
- Other feedback received included a recommendation to simplify S-BR-81 by removing the word “limited.”

STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR DRAFT TRANSPORTATION POLICY AMENDMENTS

Attachment A contains the strike/underline of all recommended transportation policy amendments. The “New Number” column reflects recommended enumeration in the BelRed Subarea Plan.

Below describes substantive refinements to draft transportation policies shared on November 9, informed by the Transportation Commission’s feedback.

- **Add the following new policy to address challenges in implementation:**
 - S-BR-81. Allow for limited flexibility to implement the intended alignment and function of local streets where site constraints exist.
- **Update to the proposed policy in the public review draft dated January 15, 2024 to retain the concept of pedestrian amenities:**
 - S-BR-63. Improve pedestrian connectivity and the quality of the pedestrian environment with a ~~comprehensive~~ complete and connected sidewalk and trail system, including through-block pedestrian connections, ~~and~~ mid-block crossings, ~~and~~ pedestrian amenities.
- **Retain the original policy and remove the reference to the Curb Management Plan.**
 - S-BR-60. Include on-street parking where it contributes to the pedestrian environment and other elements of the desired neighborhood character.
- **Repeal S-BR-62 as it is redundant with policy TR-94 in Volume 1 of the Comprehensive Plan and does not speak to a unique attribute of the BelRed area.**
 - Policy S-BR-62 in the BelRed Subarea Plan reads:
 - S-R-62. Include pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the design of arterials and local streets.
 - Policy TR-94 in Volume I as amended reads:
 - TR-94. Incorporate active transportation facilities along with other mobility options in scoping, planning, designing, implementing, operating and maintaining the transportation system.
 - Note, S-BR-62 is implemented through the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, the Mobility Implementation Plan, and the BelRed Streetscape Plan.

SCHEDULE & NEXT STEPS

The Transportation Commission's recommendation on transportation policy amendments will be transmitted to the Planning Commission for their review with other BelRed Subarea Plan policies in April and May.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A. Staff Recommended Transportation Policy Amendments to the BelRed Subarea Plan
Attachment B. Draft Transmittal Letter to the Planning Commission