



Bellevue Transportation Commission

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Date: May 25, 2023
To: Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson and Councilmembers
From: Transportation Commission
Subject: Transmittal of the Curb Management Plan

On May 25, 2023, the Transportation Commission approved recommending the Bellevue Curb Management Plan (CMP) to the City Council. The CMP represents over a year of our work, as directed by the City Council, to transform the way Bellevue approaches curb management topics within the city's rapidly growing Urban Core neighborhoods.

The Curb Management Plan presents a comprehensive and mindful approach to managing, planning for, and building our curbside areas. This valuable space, historically reserved primarily for automobile travel and on-street parking, is experiencing changing demands with the rise of deliveries, rideshare, micromobility, and evolving commuter patterns. Today, managing the curb environment must be flexible and dynamic to achieve positive outcomes for mobility, equity, and livability. Concepts and recommendations within the CMP will allow Bellevue to achieve the visions identified in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

A prior deliverable in the context of the CMP was adoption of new policies to support curb management practices in Bellevue. Council approved curb management policy on December 12, 2022 (Ordinance No. 6707).

The CMP addresses the following topics:

- **Curb Supply and Typology:** The total amount of curb space is mostly static, only changing incrementally over time through development and capital improvements. As such, assigning curb uses should be intentional, effective, and context-sensitive. The CMP includes a new framework called the "Curb Typology" which highlights desired uses of curb space block-by-block. Depending on location, curb uses can include movement functions – like curbside travel lanes or bike lanes – as well as non-movement functions like parking, loading, or on-street dining areas.
- **Curb Demand and Pricing:** Nationwide best practices for managing curb demands utilize pricing signals that encourage positive outcomes. In the long run, Bellevue can employ similar strategies while leveraging new technologies and partnership opportunities that will help accommodate a changing curbside

landscape. A new curbside pricing framework is recommended as part of the CMP.

- **Curbside Practices:** The CMP includes more than two dozen recommendations for operational practices that will improve the curbside experience over time. Each practice highlights existing approaches, strategies for future changes, and implementation actions required.
- **Curb Pilots:** The curbside area in Bellevue has been used as grounds for innovation in recent years. The CMP includes a “Pilot Roadmap” which highlights several curb-specific pilot project ideas that can be considered for future testing.

In this CMP the Transportation Commission has responded to Council direction to refresh the city’s curb management approaches. During development of the CMP, the Commission noted existing city approaches that are inefficient, unorganized, and sometimes inequitable. This has led to inefficient results in Bellevue, ranging from street-focused operational challenges to process-focused permitting difficulties. The CMP lays the foundation for Bellevue to make rapid advancements in managing the curbside arena while growing the city’s capabilities to handle growth more effectively.

The benefits and challenges of a robust curb management strategy were thoughtfully considered by the Commission. However, additional work is needed to implement strategies included in the CMP. Future studies and public engagement will be necessary to advance high-impact concepts, such as establishing a paid on-street parking program, growing curbside placemaking opportunities, testing curb technologies, and cultivating public-private partnerships to manage travel demands. Council leadership and commitment to advancing a curb management program will be extremely important to achieve constructive outcomes. Continued attention will be needed to both deploy new strategies and maintain momentum for curbside planning.

During development of the Curb Management Plan, Commissioners and the staff team conducted robust engagement through study sessions, a public “Curb Summit” event, online questionnaires, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, and numerous meetings with organizations like the Bellevue Downtown Association, the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, and the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network.

After helping guide development of the award-winning Mobility Implementation Plan last year, we were excited to have your trust once more as we crafted new approaches for specific curbside functionalities in the city. All of us on the Transportation Commission believe that the Curb Management Plan meets your expectations and will equitably serve our diverse and growing community for years to come.

We recommend Council approve the Curb Management Plan.