

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

December 8, 2025  
4:00 PM

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson and Councilmembers Bhargava, Hamilton, Lee, Nieuwenhuis and Sumadiwirya

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Malakoutian

1. Call to Order

Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

- Councilmember Nieuwenhuis moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Malakoutian from the December 8, 2025, Special Meeting. Councilmember Sumadiwirya seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Robinson welcomed the following state legislators in attendance:

41<sup>st</sup> District

Senator Lisa Wellman  
Representative Janice Zahn  
Representative My-Linh Thai

48<sup>th</sup> District

Senator Vandana Slatter  
Representative Osman Salahuddin

Councilmembers and the state legislators introduced themselves, with the state legislators also noting their committee assignments.

3. Discussion with State Legislators regarding Key 2026 Legislative Priorities

Mayor Robinson noted that, due to the weather, the Grand Connection tour would be through the Bellhop car service instead of walking.

Katie Halse, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City Manager's Office, thanked the legislators for their partnership and collaboration with the City of Bellevue.

Mayor Robinson indicated that each Councilmember would highlight some of the Council's priorities.

Councilmember Hamilton said Bellevue is one of the state's most important economic centers and the second largest job center in the state. He highlighted the Startup 425 accelerator program and other economic development activities. He asked the legislators to weigh the broader regional impacts of taxes and fiscal changes as they consider policy in the state legislature.

Responding to Representative Thai, Mayor Robinson commented on human services and related housing and supportive services funding through HB 1590.

Councilmember Sumadiwirya commented regarding efforts to encourage and support the development of affordable housing and more overall housing. She noted a partnership with Bellwether Housing that will provide more than 120 new affordable, family-sized homes near light rail and other services. She highlighted additional housing initiatives and the City's community engagement efforts.

Councilmember Lee commented on efforts to streamline the permitting process for projects with housing and affordable housing.

Councilmember Bhargava noted the City's commitment to providing a reliable and safe transportation system for all users. He highlighted the City's Vision Zero program and the continued investments in bike and pedestrian infrastructure. He said Bellevue supports Smart Mobility and autonomous vehicle technologies. Mr. Bhargava said Bellevue supports maximizing the effectiveness of the express toll lane system and the full implementation of the I-405 Master Plan.

Mr. Bhargava said the completion of the SR 520 and 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE interchange project will reduce traffic congestion, enhance mobility, reduce traffic collisions and improve access to the BelRed and Downtown areas. Mr. Bhargava said the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is working on right-of-way acquisition funded by the Connecting Washington transportation package. He said the City wanted to highlight the project for any new transportation funding that may become available. He said transportation investments are necessary for keeping the Eastside strong.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked Representative Zahn for sponsoring HB 1980, which would allow employer shuttles to use business access and transit (BAT) lanes. Mr. Nieuwenhuis commented on the RapidRide K Line project, which will use BAT lanes in Downtown Bellevue.

Noting the time limitation before the tour, Mayor Robinson invited the legislators to comment on one or two of their top priorities.

Senator Wellman commented on reducing costs for school districts, including reducing insurance costs. She said Bellevue has a strong creative economy and noted her interest in that policy area.

Representative Thai commented on human services and community based health clinics.

Representative Zahn noted her involvement regarding public health clinics, school districts and supported living for adults.

Senator Slatter talked about making government work better for people. She commented on education partnerships, affordable housing priorities and protecting access to health care.

Representative Salahuddin noted his focus on affordability and serving vulnerable communities including immigrants and refugees. He commented on the importance of prioritizing the development of housing.

4. Bellhop Tour of Bellevue Grand Connection - City Hall Plaza to Bellevue Way

At 4:55 p.m., Mayor Robinson invited everyone to the concourse for an overview of the Grand Connection before taking the Bellhop tour.

5. Adjournment

Following the tour, the meeting concluded at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw