

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: May 25, 2023

TO: Chair Stash, Vice Chair Helland, and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Bike Bellevue – Community Engagement Plan

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

Discussion/**Direction**

Information

At the Study Session on May 25, staff will:

- Respond to Transportation Commission questions about [Bike Bellevue](#) project roles and responsibilities that surfaced during the May 11 meeting (see BellevueWA.gov/bike-bellevue for May 11 materials).
- Seek Transportation Commission input and concurrence on the community engagement plan for the Bike Bellevue project (Attachment 1).
- Summarize next steps, including the July 6 release (for the July 13 Transportation Commission meeting) of the Bike Bellevue Design Concept Guide and how this report will sequence into corridor design engagement, refinement, prioritization, and implementation.

BIKE BELLEVUE PROJECT – TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At its May 11 Study Session, several Commissioners referenced their experience in the lead-up to the 2019 Main Street Bikeway implementation as representative of the polarizing public perspectives that will inevitably surface during Bike Bellevue and requested clarification on project roles and responsibilities.

The Transportation Commission was directed by the City Council to serve in an advisory role to the Transportation Director who, after considering the Commission's recommendation, has the authority to direct staff to implement Bike Bellevue using local (CIP) and other funding sources. In its advisory role, the Transportation Commission will consider technical analysis conducted by staff and community input to identify bicycle infrastructure investment priorities that will fill gaps along corridors in the project area consistent with the Council approved project principles. The decision to repurpose travel lanes on existing streets to achieve bicycle performance targets in the Mobility Implementation Plan rests with the Transportation Director.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

On March 27, 2023, the City Council approved Bike Bellevue project principles; the following two project principles inform the engagement plan:

- **Engagement: Engage community stakeholders in setting priorities for Bike Bellevue investments.** A targeted public engagement strategy will seek input on bicycle priorities from a range of stakeholders including residents, businesses, major institutions, underrepresented communities, neighboring cities, transportation agencies, and others.
- **Equity: Promote equity and inclusion in the development and delivery of bicycle projects.** Consistent with the city's Diversity Advantage Plan, Bike Bellevue will center equity, access, inclusion, and opportunity in project delivery.

Staff seeks Transportation Commission input and concurrence on the community engagement plan for the Bike Bellevue project (reflected below and in Attachment 1):

- **Transportation Commission.** The Transportation Commission – with support from city staff – will meet throughout 2023 to develop Bike Bellevue. The Transportation Commission will transmit a Bike Bellevue recommendation to the Transportation Director for approval.
- **Focus Groups.** Staff will conduct up to five focus groups, facilitated by a consultant, to document community input and priorities for Bike Bellevue investments.
- **Online Presence.** Staff will develop a city webpage to provide information about the project. An Engaging Bellevue webpage, including a questionnaire, will invite community-suggested design refinements on the bicycle facility corridor concepts.
- **Public Open House.** City staff will host one public open house at Bellevue City Hall to provide information and solicit design refinement and prioritization feedback on the bicycle facility corridor concepts.
- **Direct Engagement and Feedback.** City staff will conduct a minimum of five direct engagement briefings to invite input from diverse community members on Bike Bellevue. These opportunities will be made available to neighborhood associations as well as business and community-based organizations.
- **Mailer/Media.** A postcard mailer will be sent to every address in the project area referencing the online questionnaire and open house. Announcements regarding the questionnaire and open house will be made on the city's social media outlets.

With Transportation Commission concurrence, these are the activities staff will undertake. The plan is subject to change as additional outreach opportunities are made available.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Community Engagement Plan, updated for May 25 packet