

## CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Review of Transportation Commission recommendation for the Curb Management Plan

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## DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

### DIRECTION

Staff seeks Council direction to return at a future meeting with a Resolution to adopt the Curb Management Plan.

## RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to return with a Resolution to approve the Curb Management Plan as recommended by the Transportation Commission.

## BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The Transportation Commission has responded to Council direction to assist in developing curb management policy recommendations, practices, and long-range planning concepts. These concepts will help the City accommodate growth and respond proactively to mobility changes seen along the curbside over time. In late 2022, Council adopted policies that were initially crafted by the Transportation Commission and the Planning Commission which provided a foundation to develop the Curb Management Plan.

On May 25, 2023, the Transportation Commission approved, by a vote of 7-0, a recommendation to approve the Bellevue Curb Management Plan. The Transportation Commission held numerous study sessions in 2022 and 2023 to discuss the details and recommendations within the Curb Management Plan. The Transportation Commission also helped gather public feedback during the project, including robust outreach activities in early 2022 that included focus groups, stakeholder interviews, online questionnaires, and a public Curb Summit event.

The Curb Management Plan includes five principles that guide general implementation of practices, pilots, and process improvements into the future. These principles include:

- **Curb Equity:** Provide equitable access to curb space that uplifts vulnerable populations and provides room for a more **Effectiveness** diverse array of curb uses.
- **Efficiency and:** Use data and long-range visions to inform efficient curbside lane operations and curbside area design decisions.
- **User-Friendly:** Develop curb regulations that are clear, easy to follow, and supportive of user needs.

- **Decision-Making Clarity:** Designate clear lines of decision-making authority for curb management and use.
- **Adaptability and Resilience:** Preserve the curb’s inherent flexibility and maintain pathways for regulatory change that promote and support changing use patterns.

To advance these principles, the Curb Management Plan includes the following:

- **Curb Management in Bellevue:** These sections of the plan help define “the curb” and provide background on current operations at the curb and the outreach that was performed to help identify current issues and future needs.
- **Comprehensive Plan Policies:** Operations at the curb had been previously addressed in various policies in the Transportation Element and in the Downtown Subarea Plan. Existing policies were amended and new policies were added to better address the desired operations for the future.
- **Curb Supply and Demand:** The concept of “Curb Typology” was introduced to define the existing and future uses of the curb based on four curb types: Movement, Access, Place and Storage. Maps were created to define the existing and future curb type for every block in the Urban Core of Bellevue. The curb types were determined based on existing plans and policies.
- **Looking Forward:** The plan closes with a recommendation of how to advance the curb pilots and practices considering equity and planning for the appropriate staffing for the program.
- **Curb Practices Guide (Volume 2, Appendix A):** The Curbside Practices Guide is a resource and primary implementation roadmap that describes foundational practices for supporting the Curb Management Plan. The Guide is comprised of 28 curb management strategies and tools.
- **Curb Pilot Roadmap (Volume 2, Appendix B):** The Curb Pilot Roadmap activates the curb as a platform for innovation and cooperation where the City can test and refine new strategies to support the public good. Six pilot ideas were identified through the stakeholder engagement process.

## POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

### Policy Impact

#### Comprehensive Plan, Transportation Element and Downtown Subarea Plan

On December 12, 2022, Council approved Comprehensive Plan amendments to the Transportation Element and Downtown Subarea Plan to better align existing and new curb management related policies with the guiding principles and input from the community. 13 policies were adopted to help guide development of the Curb Management Plan.

#### State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

The Environmental Coordinator for the City of Bellevue determined that adopting and implementing the Curb Management Plan will not result in any probable, significant adverse environmental impacts. A Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) was issued on September 8, 2022.

### Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting this plan.

## **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to return with a Resolution to adopt the Curb Management Plan as recommended by the Transportation Commission.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Transportation Commission Transmittal Letter

## **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

Curb Management Plan  
Volume 2 - Curb Management Plan Appendix