



DATE: September 11, 2023

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

FROM: Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468
Transportation Department

SUBJECT: Downtown Mobility Study

I am pleased to share the final report of the Downtown Mobility Study. An electronic version of this report is attached.

Transportation Department staff, on direction from the City Manager's Office, convened a study and hosted a series of meetings and interviews to identify opportunities to help make it easier, safer and more comfortable for people to get around in Downtown Bellevue.

Our stakeholder group from King County Metro, Sound Transit and the Bellevue Downtown Association met virtually several times in Q1 and Q2 of 2023 to identify challenges for people as they travel through Downtown, to integrate opportunities to improve mobility with existing policies and plans, and to identify project concepts and services that can enhance the performance of the transportation system. Staff also conducted interviews with individuals who represent various Downtown interests. The scope of work included a refresh of prior circulator concepts, until we learned through our interviews of the Visit Bellevue initiative to launch BellHop. This free mobility service was launched on August 1 and is an app-based, on-demand shuttle service for trips within Downtown.

Certain themes emerged at meetings with stakeholders and from interviews, including an emphasis on safety, the identification of small interventions that can make a big difference, the need to update wayfinding, and the importance of access to transit, especially to East Link.

This study identifies project concepts to help build a more complete, connected, and safe network for people walking and bicycling, as well as important components of transit access to make that mode more readily accessible. Notably, vehicle level-of-service is largely within the Performance Targets set in the Mobility Implementation Plan, therefore the report does not describe specific project concepts targeted for this mode.

In most cases, implementation of project concepts will be the responsibility of the City. Yet, there are many opportunities to partner with transit agencies, the private sector and others to improve mobility by completing and enhancing the transportation network and supporting mobility services. Staff is already working to implement a number of these projects. This Study will inform future workplans and potential partnerships, and City resources to

implement project concepts may be allocated through Capital Improvement Program projects and programs.

Staff will be happy to provide additional information to Councilmembers upon request. Please let me know if you would like a briefing on any part of the Downtown Mobility Study.

Attachment A: Downtown Mobility Study

cc: Paula Stevens, Assistant Transportation Director
Kevin McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner