

**DRAFT**

Transportation Commission

TRANSMITTAL

May 13, 2019

RE: Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Project Assessment and Proposed Next Steps

Honorable Mayor Chelminiak and City Councilmembers:

Transportation Commission members are honored by your trust and confidence in selecting us to oversee the Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative (PBII). In this capacity, we have been guided by Council's program principles as we collaborate with staff and the community to advance the PBII scope of work.

At our March 28 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted on the following three items:

- _____ in favor of recommending that the City Council retain the 108th Avenue Northeast Demonstration Bikeway. Overall, through observation of data collection and user feedback, the installation of the demonstration bikeway had a positive impact on community outcomes in safety, efficiency, and livability and can be considered a success to date.
- _____ in favor of recommending that the City Council direct staff to implement rapid build bicycle facility refinements to the 108th Avenue Northeast Demonstration Bikeway per community feedback and staff observations. These facility refinements allow for flexibility to adapt to Bellevue's evolving Downtown construction cycle.
- _____ in favor of recommending that the City Council direct staff to implement rapid build bicycle facilities on Main Street between 108th Avenue Northeast and Bellevue Way (i.e., extending the eastbound buffered bike lane and westbound striped bike lane). Traffic model results reflect an increase to average vehicle delay in the PM Peak Hour limited to the 108th Avenue NE and Main Street intersection (an additional 6.9 seconds of delay/vehicle over existing conditions). Travel times along Main Street indicate that traffic operations are not adversely impacted by the installation of the bike lanes.

The Transportation Commission recognizes it must consider the broader context within which the transportation network evolves—how it preserves and enhances economic vitality, community character, human health, and environmental resources—in addition to serving peoples' mobility needs. The above recommendations to the City Council demonstrates:

- Progress towards Council adopted performance targets in the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan; Policy PB-2 states: "Within 5 years implement at least one completed and connected east-west and north-south bicycle route through Downtown Bellevue." [Note: Main Street is identified as priority bicycle corridor in the 2009 Plan].
- Commitment to the Bellevue Downtown Association recommendation – arising from the Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Project consultative process – that asserts that more can be done to implement a well-connected and comfortable bike network in Downtown Bellevue that meets the community's expectations for improved safety and mobility.
- Commitment to residents who approved the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy in November 2016 that includes dedicated funding (approximately \$1M/annually) to implement bicycle facility improvements in the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program (including Main Street; identified as Project PBC-13).

Given the above considerations, the Transportation Commission recommends the City Council endorse retention of the 108th Avenue Northeast Demonstration Bikeway and direct staff implement refinements to the corridor. Additionally, Commission recommends City Council incorporate rapid-build bicycle facilities on Main Street between 108th Avenue Northeast and Bellevue Way as the next logical element of a downtown bicycle network. Transportation Levy funds are available to implement both the 108th Avenue Northeast refinements (through Summer 2020) and Main Street bike lane project (through Fall 2019).

Sincerely,

Lei Wu
Chair, Transportation Commission