

City of Bellevue

Draft 2022-2023 Federal Legislative Agenda

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The City of Bellevue is planning and investing in the growth, economic vitality, human potential and sustainability of our city and region. Our federal agenda reflects the City Council's vision, values and priorities and we look forward to a continued, strong partnership with our federal partners.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY

Transportation and Mobility

Investment in mobility and transportation infrastructure is a top priority for the City of Bellevue and its growing residential and business community. Bellevue's mobility, land use, equity and climate goals depend on a robust and integrated transportation network. Planned investments will also maximize regional and federal investments in the Northwest region.

- I-405 Master Plan Projects
 - Improvements at SR 520 and NE 124th Street to improve safety and access to the Spring District, an urban neighborhood and job center with connections to light rail and regional trails.
 - South Downtown I-405 Access to improve mobility and access into the city.
- Transit – Additional transit solutions are critically needed to connect communities, especially disadvantaged communities, to job centers along the highly congested I-405 corridor and to connect communities to light rail and other transportation systems within Bellevue.
- Safety – Bellevue's Zero Plan implements a safe systems approach throughout the city to accommodate a growing, diverse population and workforce. It will create safe connections to transit, especially in preparation for the opening of the Sound Transit East Link 2 Line in 2023 and prioritize pedestrian and bike safety near schools and at busy arterials.
- Multimodal Improvements – Bellevue's multimodal projects will increase mobility, improve transportation choices and equity and manage the demands of urbanization in an environmentally sustainable way. Multimodal priority projects include: Eastrail, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail, and The Grand Connection.
- Smart Technologies – Bellevue's Smart Mobility Plan will manage growth and improve safety by leveraging technology to enhance and optimize transportation systems throughout the city. Investments will help Bellevue plan for shared-use mobility, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles and data management.

Economic Development and Workforce

Bellevue's Economic Development Plan supports investments in capacity building and partnerships, support to small businesses and entrepreneurship, workforce development, the BelRed Arts District, and tourism.

- Workforce development – Bellevue hopes to work with its partners to support apprenticeships and programs to retrain and transition workers impacted by business automation and structural changes in the economy.

Environmental Restoration and Open Space

Bellevue is a “City in a Park” where environmental and open space restoration are integral to environmental, community and economic development strategies.

- BelRed Park and streams – Redevelopment of the BelRed Neighborhood Area is an opportunity to restore salmon habit by creating a new and integrated system of parks and open streams for the benefit of the environment and new transit-oriented, multi-family neighborhoods.
- Bridle Trails neighborhood park – This new park will create a variety of recreation opportunities for people of all abilities, including a trail that will service as a buffer to protect a five-acre wetland. Bellevue will look to the Lands and Conservation Fund Grant for this project.

Utility System Resiliency

Bellevue will seek funding for development of an emergency drinking water supply for the community after an earthquake.

Digital Access and Cybersecurity

Deployment of digital connectivity infrastructure is essential to support the growing needs of Bellevue, its employers and its residents.

- Eastrail development may present a unique opportunity to install high speed fiber at a lower cost. King County, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, and other Eastrail stakeholders are working together to explore fiber installation along a 28-mile segment of the Eastrail.
- Digital equity to ensure all residents, especially those in affordable housing, have access to affordable, high -speed connectivity.
- 5G readiness – Bellevue’s infrastructure must be upgraded to support 5G development (i.e., connectivity and power to enable Bellevue’s poles to be ready for 5G and allow for rapid deployment of small cell for private sector entities).
- Cybersecurity – Additional funding support to local governments is needed to enhance the ability to protect critical government functions, systems, and services from cybersecurity attacks and threats.

HUMAN POTENTIAL

Housing, Homelessness and Human Services

Bellevue supports efforts to provide funding and funding tools to construct and/or preserve affordable housing units and that address homelessness.

- Housing supply -- Incentives to increase and diversify housing stock for a broad array of income levels, including very low-income and workforce housing.
- Housing assistance - Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME grant programs, etc.

- Homelessness - resources to respond to and address homelessness such as CDBG funds, Homeless Assistance Grants, etc.
- Treatment and Prevention - Resources are needed to address the root causes of homelessness, behavioral health services, substance use disorder, domestic violence, diversion programs such as community courts to keep people out of the criminal justice system and reentry programs for previously incarcerated people.

Social and Criminal Justice

- Mental health – Bellevue supports the expansion of mobile integrated healthcare and services for those experiencing mental and emotional crisis on an emergency basis. Funding for Bellevue’s Community Crisis Assistance Team (CCAT) is critically needed to serve the growing needs of first responders and residents of the Eastside of King County, especially those with social, behavioral health challenges.
- Public Safety and Accountability – Bellevue strives to enhance public trust and transparency. Equipping police officers with Body Worn Cameras is an important step in that effort and among the recommendations from the Office of Independent Review Group.
- Equity and inclusion – Additional funds are needed to support local programs that address equity and inclusion such as the City of Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage Initiative, Communities of Color Program and the Cross-Cultural Project.

CLIMATE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The City of Bellevue supports proposals that include funding for local governments to implement environmental stewardship actions.

- Reducing carbon emissions -- Bellevue adopted a goal of reducing emissions by 50 percent by 2030. We support funding for electric vehicle infrastructure, smart transportation technology to reduce congestion, the electrification of school buses, public transit, municipal fleets, etc.
- Habitat restoration and preservation, including the removal and replacement of culverts, restoration of valuable streams, and improvement of stream water quality through water quality retrofit projects.
- Lake Washington Sewer Lake Lines Management Plan – a critical first step to the protection of water quality in Lake Washington, this plan will guide the replacement of 14 miles of sanitary sewers along the shoreline of Lake Washington. It will help to alleviate the risk of sewer pipe breaks and contamination of water quality in Lake Washington.
- Renewable energy incentives for solar on public and private buildings.
- Additional funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants.