

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Presentation and discussion of the Transportation Commission's 2026-2045 Transportation Facilities Plan Preliminary Project List

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DIRECTION

The Transportation Commission and Transportation Department staff seek Council review and feedback on the 2026-2045 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) Preliminary Project List before proceeding to the next steps in the TFP update process. These next steps are completion of SEPA review (checklist) and preparation of an updated Transportation Impact Fee Program Report. The Transportation Commission will review the outcomes of these analyses and prepare the final 2026-2045 TFP for Council review and adoption later in 2025. The Commission and staff are also seeking Council concurrence to extend the TFP timeframe from 12 years to 20 years.

RECOMMENDATION

Consider directing the Transportation Commission and staff to proceed with the TFP process and undertake SEPA review and prepare an updated Impact Fee Program Report based on the project list included with this memo (and also attached to the Transportation Commission transmittal memo dated July 10, 2025) and prepare a revision to Bellevue City Code (BCC 22.16.050) to extend the TFP timeframe to 20 years.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

2026-2045 TFP Update Process

The Transportation Commission and Transportation Department staff began the process to update the TFP in September 2024. The Commission reviewed the status of projects listed in the current 2022-2033 TFP and identified other sources of candidate projects. A pool of candidate projects was developed with sources including:

- Unfunded projects in the current TFP;
- Pedestrian system “gaps” identified in the Mobility Implementation Plan (MIP);
- Bicycle system “gaps” identified in the MIP;
- Bicycle project referrals from the Bike Bellevue initiative; and
- Traffic analysis performed for the Comprehensive Plan update (showing potential 2044 conditions along corridors and at intersections).

Candidate projects were evaluated using the MIP scoring system for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular modes and projects were score-ranked by mode.

Public outreach was conducted in February and March and input received online via the Engaging Bellevue platform and at two in-person open house events. A consolidated list of projects, grouped by priority, was then developed with additional, primarily qualitative considerations, including:

- Prior investments in project development;
- Opportunities to partner with other agencies or private development to advance projects; and
- Public input received in the TFP update process and city surveys (Budget Survey, Performance Survey).

Projects were assigned into groups, with projects and ongoing capital programs in the current 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) included in the TFP by default, a short list of seven of the highest priority projects in the “green” category and a longer list of 37 priority projects in the “peach” category. Two dozen candidate projects were not advanced into the 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project List. While addressing gaps, they scored lower and did not have other compelling conditions to elevate their status. They will be referred to the next annual update of the city’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is not financially constrained and allows broader inclusion of desired projects.

Extension of TFP to Twenty Years

The adopted CIP plan includes more transportation projects than available funding can support in the 2025-2030 period of the plan. The funding shortfall is \$157.5 million. This has implications for our ability to support additional projects in the traditional 12-year timeframe of the TFP. Projections indicate that 12 years is not enough time to gain the revenue needed to complete the discrete projects and to continue to fund the ongoing capital programs in the current 2025-2030 CIP. Therefore, staff and the Transportation Commission recommend extending the TFP time period to 20 years, 2026-2045. Extending the TFP to 2045 would also put it into alignment with horizon of the city’s comprehensive plan and reinforce the relationship between the vision for land use and transportation.

Given that little funding is identified as available for TFP projects, there is no apparent advantage to assigning dollars to a few specific projects. Instead, with a couple exceptions, staff and the Commission propose to include the priority projects in the green and the peach categories, to keep them all as active candidates for advancement as opportunities may arise. The proposed exceptions are two projects in Downtown that it is anticipated will be implemented in conjunction with adjacent development; allocating funds to these two projects (TFP-110 and TFP-219) allows them to be treated as Impact Fee Program projects and funds spent by developers to implement them can be credited against impact fees owed for the new development.

Preliminary 2026-2045 TFP Project List Recommendation

At their meeting on July 10, the Transportation Commission approved on a 6-0 vote their recommendations for the 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project List. Attachment A includes the

Commission’s transmittal memorandum. Attachment B is their 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project List, and Attachment C is a map illustrating the 73 project locations.

Transportation Impact Fee Program

Chapter 22.16 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) constitutes the City’s Transportation Impact Fee Program and is enacted pursuant to Chapter 82.02 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The City collects impact fees from developers to partially offset the cost of facilities needed to serve new growth and development. Per BCC Chapter 22.16, the impact fee project list consists of the transportation improvements in the TFP needed to provide capacity on City roadways, where the capacity needs are reasonably related in part or in whole to new development. Projects that meet these criteria for the Impact Fee Program are identified in the project list included with the memo from the Transportation Commission. The impact fee project list is adopted by the Council when it adopts the TFP.

Note: Per city code and state law, the city can and does include completed projects, within the Impact Fee Program, which continue to have capacity for additional growth trips. The cost of these completed projects is inclusive of any debt service for debt incurred through local bond issuance or the Transportation Infrastructure and Finance Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan. These completed projects are not included on the 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project List but will be documented in the 2026 update to the Transportation Impact Fee Program Report.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan:

Policies CF-1, CF-6 and CF-8 of the Capital Facilities Element and policies TR-2, TR-21, TR-29 and TR-30 of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan provide a framework for the City’s compliance with the requirements of the Growth Management Act and the Multimodal Concurrency Code.

Bellevue City Code:

BCC 22.16.050 directs that “Every two years or as otherwise directed by Council, the Transportation Commission shall review and as necessary present an update of the Transportation Facilities Plan to the City Council for consideration.”

BCC 22.16, the Transportation Impact Fee Program, designates the TFP as the long-term transportation plan for identifying improvements to meet future development needs. The list of projects to which impact fees are applied is derived from the TFP and represents the roadway and intersection (vehicular) capacity projects that will serve growth-related traffic impacts.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the TFP. A subset of the projects included within the TFP Preliminary Project List constitutes the prospective transportation impact fee project list. The adopted 2025-2030 CIP Plan includes impact fee revenue projections based on the adopted fee schedule, which is supported by the impact fee projects identified in the TFP.

OPTIONS

1. Direct the Transportation Commission and staff to proceed with the TFP process, including the SEPA checklist and Impact Fee Program Report based on the project list included with the Transportation Commission transmittal memo dated July 10, 2025 and prepare a revision to City Code (BCC 22.16.050) to extend the TFP timeframe to 20 years.
2. Provide alternative direction to the Transportation Commission and staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Transportation Commission TFP Project List Recommendation Transmittal
- B. 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project List
- C. 2026-2045 TFP Preliminary Project Map

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A