

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 18, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson and Councilmembers Barksdale, Robertson and Zahn

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmembers Lee and Stokes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding. She noted three Councilmembers were unable to participate in the meeting.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Stokes from the meeting. Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers except Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Councilmember Lee and Councilmember Stokes were present. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

(a) Earth Day – Arbor Day Proclamation

Councilmember Robertson read the proclamation recognizing April 22, 2022 as Earth Day-Arbor Day in Bellevue and encouraged all residents to take part in protecting our trees and natural environment. She invited everyone to join in committing to reducing our environmental impact as a community.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) John Bellay expressed concern about climate change and the loss of trees. He encouraged the use of solar panels, noting that he cannot use them on his home because they would be blocked from the sun. However, he cautioned against policies that limit building and increase housing costs. He suggested that Bellevue should be a regional leader instead of following what other cities are doing. He thanked Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis for responding to his email and noted that he brought homemade plum jam for him.
- (b) David Petersen introduced himself as an unvaccinated driver-operator who is currently on unpaid leave status with his employer, Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue. He noted that his request for an exemption from vaccination due to religious beliefs was denied. However, he said the Fire Chief recently decided that he wants his employees back. Mr. Petersen encouraged the City Council to look to their Fire Chief for answers. He noted there are members of the Bellevue Fire Department in the same situation. He encouraged the City of Bellevue to be the first in King County to welcome their unvaccinated firefighters back by accommodating them. He said firefighters are loyal public servants who remain apolitical. He believes that the refusal to allow unvaccinated firefighters to return to work could affect future City Council elections and could result in lawsuits.
- (c) Aaron Keller, a firefighter with the Bellevue Fire Department, said he requested a religious exemption from vaccination, but it was denied. He said there is no certainty that an unvaccinated person will become sick or spread the virus to others. He said one of the core values of the City of Bellevue is commitment to employees. He said he was told that it would cost the City too much money for ongoing testing and personal protective equipment. He said overtime costs have increased since he left the fire department and morale is down. He said every member of the fire department is tested daily so he does not understand how he would increase costs for the City. He asked the City to allow unvaccinated firefighters to return to duty.
- (d) Haley, a 14-year-old, said her dad worked as a Bellevue firefighter until October 2021. Since that time, he has had no income and no benefits, and he is unable to find another job that will support his family of seven. She said the Bellevue Fire Department refused to accommodate her dad's request for a religious exemption from vaccination. She said this refusal is unnecessary and illegal. She said that, according to the CDC and the FDA, the vaccine does not stop the transmission of the COVID-19 virus. She said the FDA and CDC have released statements indicating that the vaccine protects the person who receives it and does not protect others. She said the denial of the request for a religious exemption is discrimination. She urged the City to allow her dad to work again.

- (e) Marguerite Richard expressed concern regarding the increase in elder abuse and about the firefighters who have lost their jobs. She said Black Lives Matter signs are similar to the Jim Crow era when Black communities were separated from society. She asked what would happen if a child saw that sign and said, “mommy, I’m not black.” She encouraged justice for all.
- (f) Honorable Michael Fuller said he had a problem with the mayor of Seattle. He suggested that the mayor is violating his oath of office and noted that he is not above the law. He expressed concern regarding immigration policies. He said the mayor of Seattle refuses to enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) because Mr. Fuller is Black. Mr. Fuller said the ADA protects individuals with bipolar disorder, brain damage, cancer, epilepsy and other issues.
- (g) Alex Zimmerman said he was in the hospital for four months with the coronavirus. He thanked the City for resuming in-person City Council meetings. He expressed concern regarding inflation. He compared Democrats to Nazi fascists.
- (h) Heidi Dean noted the Council’s discussion about whether to allow Board and Commission members to participate remotely for meetings. She believes that would make it hard for them to do their work. She said there is currently no mechanism for people to show support for a speaker if participating virtually. She said members participating remotely are not able to read the room, body language and facial expressions, and they are not able to see how many people are in attendance. She noted that she reviewed the Parks and Open Space System Plan. She said she did not see much in the way of adding off-leash dog areas and she wondered why they are not a priority. She suggested expanding the off-leash area in Robinswood Park and adding areas in Ashwood Park and in the south end of Surrey Downs Park. She asked the Council to take the pressure off Robinswood Park and the future park in Newport Hills.
- 5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
- 6. Report of the City Manager: None.
- 7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.
- 8. Consent Calendar
  - Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.
  - The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 4-0, and the following items were approved:
    - (a) Motion to Approve Payment of Claims and Payroll for the Period March 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022.

(b) Motion to approve the Eastrail Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Memorandum of Understanding.

(c) Resolution No. 10085 adopting the Mobility Implementation Plan.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

(a) Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) Update

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's presentation regarding the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP).

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the NEP is reaching the end of a seven-year cycle since the program was reinstated in 2015. He noted that the presentation is for information only and no action is requested of the Council. He said the NEP is one of numerous programs and events hosted by the neighborhood outreach team including Cultural Conversations, Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center, Neighbor Link block parties, Bellevue Essentials course, Day of Sharing and Caring, neighborhood walks and the publication of Neighborhood News.

Theresa Cuthill, NEP Coordinator, said the NEP was founded in 1988 as a Council-directed capital improvements program that provides for residents the opportunity to propose and select small to moderate enhancement projects for their neighborhoods. For the seven-year period ending 2021, the NEP had a \$5 million budget to distribute among 14 designated neighborhood areas. The budget for each neighborhood is based on the number of households. The program rotates through two neighborhood areas annually. There are currently 25 NEP projects in planning or in process in nine neighborhood areas.

The NEP core team is comprised of members from the Community Development, Transportation, Utilities and the Parks and Community Services departments. Ms. Cuthill said the NEP is an excellent example of Bellevue's One City effort. She noted that project managers attend neighborhood meetings and review and scope all of the project submissions against six criteria: 1) affordability, 2) consistency with City plans and policies, 3) feasibility, 4) projects must be designed and constructed within 3-5 years of selection, 5) projects must not require maintenance that is burdensome to the City, and 6) projects must provide a public benefit. The project managers oversee the implementation and construction of the projects chosen by residents.

Ms. Cuthill reported that for the 2015-2021 cycle, 1,307 ideas were submitted, 5,609 ballots were received, 219 projects were placed on ballots for neighborhood residents and 38 projects were selected. Projects requested in most areas are dog parks, pickleball, crosswalks and sidewalks.

Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, said that unique project ideas received included bee pollinator interpretive display, bat houses, Bocci ball, palm trees, neighborhood brewhouse, adult exercise equipment, and 7-11 stores and Slurpees on every corner of the Bridle Trails neighborhood, the latter being suggested by a group of boy scouts. Mr. Heilman highlighted some of the NEP projects including a crosswalk that looks like a row of crayons near a school in the Bridle Trails area, stairs at the southeast corner of the Downtown Park, trails in northeast Bellevue, a playground at Ardmore Park and a lighted art project in the Eastgate area to enhance safety.

Ms. Cuthill said the City suggested a number of small capital projects in response to Amazon's offer to support neighborhood amenities. As part of Amazon's \$1.4 million donation in May 2021, two unfunded NEP projects received funding (public art at Crossroads International Park and the cleaning of children's artwork tiles along NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street in the Wilburton area) and one project (bat houses on the Lake Hills Greenbelt) was expanded.

Ms. Cuthill said that a couple of NEP projects grew in scope from the initial selected project. One example is the enhancement of the pedestrian experience across the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street bridge over I-405, which will receive safety improvements as well as landscaping and other amenities through a partnership with the Urban Boulevards and Downtown Livability efforts. A second example is a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to engineer a new stormwater facility along 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE to improve the water quality in the Kelsey Creek basin.

Mr. Heilman said a number of lessons were learned throughout the community engagement process. One is that in-person outreach to multifamily community managers provided new relationships, resident participation and a broader understanding of the community. He said that ideas and requests from residents inform other City departments about the community's needs and priorities, and several projects became bigger than the initial NEP suggestion. Mr. Heilman said that virtual meetings have worked well and attracted additional residents. He said five mailings were sent to every household communicating the opportunity to participate in the program and to vote on the balloted projects. He noted that Spanish is the most commonly spoken language in Bellevue after English. Before the pandemic, staff conducted a kickoff meeting at Stevenson Elementary School for the first process to be conducted in both English and Spanish.

Mr. Heilman presented a map showing the distribution of responses across the Lake Hills neighborhood. He said the City has also began tracking responses from West Bellevue and 19 percent of the responses to date are from multifamily residents. In reaching out to multifamily communities, Ms. Cuthill contacted a new senior living facility in the Crossroads area. Mr. Heilman said that one of the residents, Susane Ruggles, has appeared in a promotional video for the transportation department.

Ms. Cuthill said the current NEP process is focused on the Newport and Somerset areas. Staff recently completed the scoping phase for the Newport area and an open house is scheduled for June to announce the projects to be included on the ballot for residents. The NEP process was

launched in the Somerset area in early April and it is currently in the project submission phase through May 18.

Ms. Cuthill noted that Randy Dearth, a Lake Hills resident, appeared in the NEP informational video produced in early 2020 for Bellevue TV. He thanked the City for being willing to invest in neighborhoods and for listening to the residents of those areas regarding what is most important to them.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for their ongoing efforts through the NEP. She noted the importance of connecting and collaborating with the community. She thanked the corporate partners who support the City's efforts and encouraged more partnerships. She said she appreciated the engagement with multifamily communities. She said she lives in the Newport neighborhood and she is looking forward to seeing the ideas submitted by residents.

Councilmember Barksdale asked whether the City is working with community organizations to engage multifamily residents and other diverse populations. He expressed an interest in neighborhood events. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Cuthill said the June open house will be held in person. Mr. Barksdale suggested considering a hybrid meeting to expand the potential number of attendees. Mr. Heilman said staff is in the process of learning more about holding effective hybrid meetings. Mr. McCormick Huentelman said the NEP funds capital projects only.

Mr. Barksdale suggested that, since this is a program that helps to identify the community's needs, it could be valuable to work with the Special Events Committee. He said there is an interest in block parties as well.

Councilmember Robertson said she is pleased to see the completion of the seven-year cycle initiated in 2015. She said the value of the program goes beyond capital projects to connecting residents to each other and to the City. She said the program allows strong input from the community, which can lead to other projects even if not selected as NEP projects. Before the next cycle begins, Ms. Robertson said she would like to consider whether the program has adequate funding and whether larger projects should be considered. She thanked staff for the outreach to multifamily communities.

Mayor Robinson said her neighborhood participated in the program before she joined the Council. She praised the program for being responsive to residents and for adjusting to emerging needs.

At 7:02 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:12 p.m.

(b) Discussion regarding Parks Long-Range Financial Planning

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding long-range financing for the Parks and Community Services Department. He said staff is seeking Council direction about whether to

proceed with continued information gathering regarding a voter initiative, the role of the Parks and Community Services Board and whether to initiate a park impact fee study.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking Council direction regarding a potential voter initiative. He said staff recommends involving the Parks and Community Services Board to confirm the community priorities that have been gathered through the Parks and Open Space System Plan update process. He said staff is also seeking direction regarding whether to conduct a park impact fee study.

Mr. Shiosaki recalled that Priority 9 adopted by the Council on May 21, 2021 states: “Advance a park funding strategy, including consideration of new funding sources for operations, maintenance and capital.” During the Council’s March 7, 2022 budget workshop, staff provided an overview of the Parks long-range capital plan and information related to voter-approved initiatives, impact fees and other potential funding mechanisms or new tax sources. The Council reviewed the Parks and Open Space System plan on March 28.

Mr. Shiosaki described the next steps if the Council chooses to proceed with exploring a ballot measure. The Parks and Community Services Board is scheduled to receive the same presentation on April 20 and to continue its discussion to May 10. Mr. Shiosaki said staff will seek Council direction in June regarding the Board’s recommendations. The Council must take action by July 25 to meet the August 2 general election filing deadline.

Mr. Shiosaki said the Parks and Open Space System Plan includes 20-year capital project objectives, which are reviewed and updated every six years. From July 2021 to February 2022, staff conducted extensive public outreach to collect feedback from Bellevue residents and park users. Mr. Shiosaki thanked the Board for its significant role in the plan update process and community engagement.

Mr. Shiosaki highlighted the types of projects anticipated in a ballot package including open space, greenways, trails, active recreation facilities, urban park systems, and waterfront access. The 20-year capital need is estimated at \$880 million. One key funding source is the 2008 Parks and Natural Areas Levy approved by 67 percent of Bellevue voters. There were separate capital project and maintenance/operations levies. Key projects since 2008 include the completion of improvements at the Downtown Park, Surrey Downs neighborhood park development, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center. The two remaining projects in the current levy are Airfield Park and a neighborhood park along Lake Sammamish.

Mr. Shiosaki summarized all of the Parks capital funding sources: real estate excise tax (REET), 2008 Parks levy, 2020-2025 King County levy, BelRed development fees, grants and other sources. Available resources total approximately \$300 million over the next 20 years and anticipated capital needs total \$880 million.

Toni Call, Director, Finance and Asset Management Department, provided information regarding potential levy options. If directed by the Council, staff will return in June with a refined set of options for the Council’s consideration. Topics to be discussed include what is on the project list and the timing of those projects.

The first two types of levies are the regular levy lift 9-year bond and the regular levy lift 20-year pay-as-you-go bond. Both require 50 percent voter approval and provide the option for a single ballot for capital and maintenance/operations or two separate ballots for the two functions. The proceeds of the 9-year bond would be used to issue debt for a package of projects. Ms. Call noted that other 20-year levies for Bellevue are the Fire Facilities levy, Parks levy, and the Neighborhood Transportation levy.

The third type of levy is an excess levy for voter-approved bonds. The ballot measure requires 60 percent voter approval and provides separate ballots for capital and maintenance/operations costs. Ms. Call said this is the type of levy used by King County for the approval of a bond package for improvements at Harborview Hospital.

Ms. Call described a set of scenarios comparing different annual property tax amounts for the 9-year levy option. The annual property tax per \$1 million assessed valuation (AV) ranges from \$50 to \$200. The \$50 annual property tax would generate approximately \$30 million and the \$200 annual tax would generate up to \$120 million.

Ms. Call described the 20-year pay-as-you-go levy comparing the same four annual property tax options (\$50, \$100, \$150, \$200). Over 20 years, the levy would generate \$77 million to \$308 million. The excess levy option is a 20-year scenario generating \$57 million to \$229 million.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff is not seeking direction regarding a preferred levy option but would like direction about whether to continue to provide new information to the Council regarding a potential levy.

Councilmember Zahn encouraged continuing to move forward to explore a ballot measure. Staff said the current parks levy is a pay-as-you-go levy and no funds have been bonded. Ms. Zahn cautioned that the cost of capital projects will continue to increase. She expressed support for the consideration of a ballot measure.

Councilmember Robertson said she supports moving forward to continue to explore a potential voter measure. She said she would lean toward the 9-year bond or the voted bond.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for continuing to move forward.

Mayor Robinson concurred.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff recommends that the Parks and Community Services Board's role, should a bond or levy move forward, would be to confirm the community's priorities. This would include recommendations regarding the types of projects identified by residents, and the Council would make decisions regarding specific projects.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for involving the Board in considering a levy package. Referring to the meeting materials, she asked why the cross-cultural facility is in the partnership opportunities category instead of under active recreation. Mr. Shiosaki said the cross-cultural



facility study is anticipated to come back to the Council in May. He said the project was placed in the partnership category due to interest in the project from community partners. Councilmember Zahn said she wants to ensure that the cross-cultural center remains a priority.

Mayor Robinson observed that a number of projects appear to have the potential for partnership opportunities. She suggested that staff provide a list of projects most likely to involve partnerships.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for the Board's role in reviewing a potential ballot measure.

Councilmember Robertson concurred and said she looks forward to the Board's recommendations regarding the projects that best meet the screening criteria and best serve the public.

Mayor Robinson asked about the value system to be used by the Board to develop recommendations regarding the list of priorities. Mr. Shiosaki said the values include equity, geographic distribution, and other issues, including those voiced through community input.

Mayor Robinson wondered whether it would be helpful to provide criteria or guiding principles for the Board's review.

Councilmember Zahn noted that the Board's review will be focused on broader categories of needs while the Council will make decisions for specific projects.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Shiosaki said the Board's review would provide the first lens in evaluating the best types of projects. He said staff would provide the recommendations as a starting point for the Council's review.

Councilmember Robertson stated her understanding that the levy package could include specific projects as well as broader categories of projects without specific lists at the time of the public vote. She reiterated her support for involving the Parks and Community Services Board.

Mayor Robinson suggested providing the guiding principles for the Parks and Open Space System Plan to the Board.

Councilmember Zahn suggested that staff provide, for a future discussion, a map depicting the distribution of parks facilities throughout Bellevue neighborhoods as well as information about the tools used in generating the Parks and Open Space System Plan.

Mr. Shiosaki described the use of park impact fees in surrounding cities to assess charges on new development projects. The fees provide a portion of the costs of new surrounding public infrastructure required to serve the growth and new residents and employees. He said state law authorizes impact fees for a variety of public facilities including streets, parks and open space, recreation facilities, school facilities and fire protection. The City currently assesses a

transportation impact fee for new residential and commercial development, and collects school impact fees for the Renton and Issaquah school districts. There is no park impact fee in Bellevue.

Mr. Shiosaki said the park impact fee is a common fee for developers working in East King County, including in the cities of Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, Renton and Sammamish. Fees are assessed by formula rates on single-family and multifamily residential development with the option of fee exemptions for affordable housing. The cities of Issaquah and Redmond assess park impact fees on commercial development as well, recognizing that the daytime population of workers are part of the community and use public facilities.

Park impact fees as a revenue source are different than voter-approved funding mechanisms and they are not assessed on every property owner. They are a one-time fee paid only on the development as it occurs.

Mr. Shiosaki compared the impact fees in East King County cities. Since 2018, the City of Redmond's park impact fee generated revenues ranging from \$2 million to \$4.4 million annually. If the Council would like to move forward to consider a park impact fee, Mr. Shiosaki said staff will conduct a fiscal study to quantify the range of fees that would be assessed under enabling state law. Staff would return for further discussion and direction either during the upcoming budget process or during the mid-biennium budget process. Mr. Shiosaki said the consideration of a park impact fee can be on a separate timeline from considering a voter initiative.

Councilmember Barksdale noted that many Microsoft employees like to work at the Redmond campus due to its access to open space. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Shiosaki said a development agreement was implemented in the BelRed corridor. He said developers may provide amenities on site or pay the fee in lieu. He said the park impact fee would be imposed on a per unit or per square footage basis and charged on all new development.

Councilmember Robertson said she supported continuing to move forward with the park impact fee study. She said Bellevue has always taken the approach that growth pays for growth. She said the developers who are bringing more people into the city will help share the expenses for park amenities. She suggested allowing developers to develop park projects instead of paying the impact fee. She said many times cities have benefited when developers actually paid more for their projects than they would have paid through an impact fee.

Ms. Robertson said she wants to discuss how the City balances the park impact fee with the rising cost of housing and how the City balances the fee with commercial development. She said if the Council decides to move toward a park impact fee, it is important to conduct outreach to developers, business organizations and others.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for conducting a study of the park impact fee. She said growth has not been paying for growth, and Bellevue's needs continue to grow. She said she liked that some of the cities with a park impact fee exempt affordable housing development. She suggested that the study look more broadly at the revenue and expense gap for a holistic look at the budget.

Mayor Robinson said she is interested in studying the park impact fee. However, she does not want to impose any new fees at this time. She suggested considering it only for commercial development, and she suggested an analysis of a potential arts impact fee, possibly as part of the park impact fee. Ms. Call said she would follow up with more information, including the state law requirements related to arts funding.

(c) Update on Vision Zero Program

Mr. Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Vision Zero Program.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, Transportation Department, said the purpose of the agenda item was informational and no action was requested. He said safety is embedded into everything the department does to apply its standards. The goal of the Vision Zero program is to achieve zero serious injuries or fatalities by 2023. He said Bellevue's program has received national attention. Mr. Singelakis said the program advances the City's goals related to equity, sustainability and technology.

Paula Stevens, Assistant Director for Transportation Planning, thanked the Council for its continued leadership in support of the Vision Zero program. In 2020, following the Transportation Commission's recommendation, the Council adopted the Safe Systems approach to help focus on safe people, safe streets, safe speeds and safe vehicles. Ms. Stevens said the Vision Zero Strategic Plan was finalized in December 2020. A cross-departmental staff team develops an annual action plan that is approved by the Leadership Team.

Franz Loewenherz, Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager, highlighted a number of Vision Zero accomplishments in 2021 in the areas of safe streets, safe speeds, safe people, safe vehicles, data, leadership, culture and partnerships. He said staff updated the Vision Zero map and one of the notable refinements was the inclusion of a dynamic dashboard that enhanced access to data. He said the City secured \$150,000 in grant funding from the Washington Transportation Safety Commission, and the City will use the funds through 2023 to conduct road safety assessments in partnership with the Bellevue School District.

Mr. Loewenherz said the City received three awards for its road safety work over the past year from the following entities: 1) Federal Highway Administration and the Roadway Safety Foundation, 2) Safety Council Institute of Transportation Engineers and 3) National Operations Center of Excellence.

Mr. Loewenherz described a graph depicting the number of fatal and serious injury collisions since 2012. Bellevue has a lower number of collisions than the statewide average, as well as fewer collisions than the top five largest cities in Washington state.

Mr. Loewenherz said the Leadership Team concluded its work to approve the 2022 Vision Zero Action Plan. He noted the City's interest in implementing bike projects, including for access to transit services. He said that work will be underway this fall with the Transportation Commission and the community.

Mr. Loewenherz highlighted additional efforts currently underway, including partnerships with Amazon Web Services, Ouster, Outsite, Sitehound, Advanced Mobility Analytics Group and Fehr and Peers.

Councilmember Robertson said she serves on the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board as well as other transportation-related assignments. She said the regional transportation plan is updated every four years, which provides the region's long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law. She said the current plan builds from Vision 2050 with key policy focus areas identified by the Transportation Policy Board members for the plan update, including access to transit, project evaluation, equity, climate, local agency needs and safety. She said she also served on the project selection task force, which discussed scoring projects for grant funding.

With the Transportation Policy Board, Ms. Robertson said she has been working for nearly two years to ensure that safety is a more central focus of the plan. She said the Board took action the previous week to place more emphasis on improving safety and achieving the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries. She said the key Bellevue amendment was to develop the regional safety work plan, convene regional partners, establish a progress report to track performance and consider resources for safety projects and programs. She noted that the plan will be reviewed by the PSRC Executive Board, of which Mayor Robinson is a member, and the PSRC General Assembly.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Councilmember Robertson and staff for her work related to transportation. She noted that in January, a number of people attended Bellevue's Vision Zero Summit in Washington, D.C. She said the chair of the National Transportation Safety Board could not attend in person but she spoke with the group virtually for a short time. She said Bellevue has many opportunities related to its Vision Zero program.

Ms. Zahn said she wants to ensure that adequate funding is provided for the Vision Zero program during this budget cycle. She encouraged focusing on projects that can be moved forward more easily. She expressed concern that people are driving faster since the end of the pandemic.

Mr. Singelakis said the Transportation Department has not submitted its proposed budget to the City Manager's Office to date. However, last year there was an item in the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan specifically for matching grant funding.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for the presentation. He questioned the sharp fluctuations in the number of collisions. He expressed support for the City's work to improve bike and pedestrian safety. He said he has been exploring the Story Map. He asked whether staff is speaking with pedestrians and cyclists to better understand their experiences.

Mr. Loewenherz said the 2021 data is preliminary. However, he said many of us have noted anecdotally that accidents, perhaps due to increasing vehicle speeds, are increasing. He said staff will continue to monitor the data and the State will finalize the data. He said increased vehicle speed is at least partly attributed to significantly lower traffic volumes, resulting in people

driving faster. He concurred that increased engagement with the public would be informative for the City.

Mayor Robinson recalled the City's first award related to the video analytics program in 2016 and thanked staff for all of their work.

Councilmember Zahn encouraged connecting with youth in the community to discuss safety. She expressed concern regarding variations in the speed limit ranging from 20 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour near Tyee Middle School. She suggested changing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour along the entire road.

Mr. Singelakis noted that the speed limit is based on the street classification. However, he said safety around schools is a high priority for the City.

Mr. Loewenherz said staff is wrapping up its speed limit analysis, which will help inform the next body of work, the speed management plan. The project team will have its kickoff meeting on May 2.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw