



# Bellevue Planning Commission

November 9, 2022

## **SUBJECT**

2022 Annual Commission Retreat

## **STAFF CONTACT**

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## **PURPOSE**

The Planning Commission's 2022 retreat will occur at the Robinswood House and will also provide a virtual or hybrid option. Participants will include attending commissioners, core commission staff, staff presenters and council liaison Councilmember Jennifer Robertson. The purpose of the retreat is to provide:

- Time to gain collective insight on "bigger picture" issues outside the regular commission meetings;
- An opportunity for all participants to better understand each other's perspectives in a relaxed setting;
- Learn about the City's current development trends and activity;
- Explore the Grand Connection Implementation Plan and anticipated program updates; and
- Dedicated time to invest in the well-being of the City organization.

## **OVERVIEW**

A buffet dinner will be provided to commissioners beginning at 5:00 p.m. The retreat agenda starts at 6:30 p.m. with:

- Welcoming Remarks/ Accomplishments: Commission Chair Ferris, Councilmember Robertson and staff representatives will offer a welcome to the retreat and review of accomplishments from the past year.
- Overview of the Agenda: Staff will provide an overview of the retreat's events.
- Commission Perspectives: Commissioners will have an opportunity to discuss dynamics during Commission meetings and opportunities for improvements over the next year.
- Looking Forward – Strategic Initiatives: Staff will review some of the significant planning efforts to occur over the next few years and how they fit together. The Commission will have an opportunity to ask questions.
- Development Trends and Major Project Updates: Staff from Development Services will provide an overview of the current projects under review and development within the City as well as trends in development activity. The Commission will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

- Grand Connection Overview: Economic Development staff will provide the Commission with information about implementation of Grand Connection Sequence 1 and 2 as well as upcoming projects associated with the Plan including design of a catalyst bridge across I-405. Sequence 1 & 2 of the Grand Connection Framework Plan, established a vision for the corridor from Meydenbauer Bay through Downtown to its future intersection with Eastrail.

Elements are in various stages of implementation and require dedicated attention and coordination. To help accelerate implementation of the full vision from Meydenbauer Bay to Eastrail, the City will begin coordinating the various elements under the new Grand Connection Program. This will ensure the various projects and programs that contribute to (or interact with) the vision move forward in a coordinated manner and support Bellevue's ongoing growth. One of the larger and most significant elements of the work entails launching design for the crossing over I-405. This is currently envisioned as a two-phase process – a nearer-term pedestrian bridge and a longer-term lid over the freeway.

- Summary of evening and closing remarks: Commission Chair Ferris, Councilmember Robertson and staff representatives will summarize the retreat discussion and outcomes.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

An audio recording and minutes for the retreat will be captured and made available on the City web site per standard commission protocols.