

Between November 9, 2023 and December 6, 2023, staff responded to 5 community emails and letters related to Bike Bellevue

**From:** [Loewenherz, Franz](#)  
**To:** [Craig Spiezle](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue - Fire Hydrant Access / Impact of Bike Lanes  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:34:00 PM

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Hello Craig –

The Transportation Department is cognizant of the importance of maintaining EMS response times and is coordinating with the Bellevue Fire Department to account for their input into Bike Bellevue designs.

Please note that this response will be shared with the Transportation Commission.

Feel free to contact me at 425- 452-4077 if you have additional inquiries.

Best wishes,  
Franz

***Franz Loewenherz***

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))

Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager

[Vision Zero](#), [Bike Bellevue](#), [Transit](#)

[Transportation Department](#), [City of Bellevue](#)

[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov) / (425) 452-4077

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**From:** Craig Spiezle <craigsp@agelight.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 9:19 PM  
**To:** Loewenherz, Franz <FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Cc:** TransportationCommission <TransportationCommission@bellevuewa.gov>; Transportation Reception <TRReception@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Subject:** Bike Bellevue - Fire Hydrant Access / Impact of Bike Lanes

Last week I meet with Chief Hagen discussing Bike Bellevue and the impact to connecting to fire hydrants. As you may know pumper trucks need to be able to get next to hydrant to connect the 20-foot standard hose. Adding another 5 or 6 feet between the fire trucks and the hydrants can have a major issue, requiring an additional hose impacting response time. Can you share the survey of all hydrants access impact from the divided bike lanes? For reference this was a major issue when some bike and parking lanes were designed in Seattle, which we want to avoid.

Craig Spiezle  
425-985-1421

**From:** [Loewenherz, Franz](#)  
**To:** [Craig Spiezle](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue - Bike Lane Maintenance Budget  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:26:00 AM

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Hello Craig –

Thank you for letting us know about the debris in the bike lanes along 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE at the north end of the city. You happened to identify a very unique bicycle facility in Bellevue. This is a very old stretch of road that was not designed well for maintaining the bike lane. Our maintenance staff have been notified and did a field investigation yesterday. They have begun a cleanup of this corridor.

Cost for maintenance will not be discussed on the 14<sup>th</sup> but we are aware this is a concern of many stakeholders involved in the review of this project. We are working on an assessment of the future maintenance cost and will be sharing it after we have an opportunity to discuss this more internally.

Thanks again for your continued interest in this project. Please note that this response will be shared with the Transportation Commission.

Best wishes,  
Franz

***Franz Loewenherz***

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))  
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**From:** Craig Spiezle <craigsp@agelight.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 7:01 PM  
**To:** Loewenherz, Franz <FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Cc:** TransportationCommission <TransportationCommission@bellevuewa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue - Bike Lane Maintenance Budget

Thanks for the quick update. This is good to know since a good number of the existing bike lanes in Bellevue are “under maintained”. 116th Ave NE is a good example where it today is not safe to ride in the lanes especially in areas where the small dividers have been added. I ride this route weekly from NE 60<sup>th</sup> to Northrup Way. This route is problematic due the number of large (and great) trees which overhang the bike lanes. Is it reasonable to expect the cost for capital equipment and staffing will be included as part of the budget and cover existing bike lanes? I support this effort in concept

but believe we need understand all of the operating costs before the 3 C's can support the plan (Community, Commission & Council). As you are well aware, the City is already running a maintenance deficit and good fiscal planning considering the operating costs of such projects.

Will you be able to present this data at the upcoming meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>?

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**From:** Loewenherz, Franz <[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:49 PM  
**To:** Craig Spiezle <[craigsp@agelight.com](mailto:craigsp@agelight.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue - Bike Lane Maintenance Budget

Hello Craig –

We do not plan to build any bicycle improvements that we cannot maintain. New infrastructure, whether it is a buffered bike lane or a new bridge over a culvert, is accounted for in future maintenance budget request. We will calculate the annual maintenance expense for these corridors and incorporate it into future budget asks as each corridor works its way through final design.

We are also in the process of purchasing a mini street sweeper that will have the ability to clean bike lanes that have vertical separation. We anticipate having the sweeper on the street well before the first Bike Bellevue corridor is built.

Today, we strive to clean our on-street bike facilities every two weeks. There are times when this schedule slips due to competing demands, but in general this is the goal we strive to achieve. Please report obstacles in the bike lane to our Operations and Maintenance team at [O&Msupport@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:O&Msupport@bellevuewa.gov) or 425-452-7840. You can also use the MyBellevue App to report maintenance issues.

Please note that this response will be shared with the Transportation Commission.

Best wishes,  
Franz

**Franz Loewenherz**

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))

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**From:** Craig Spiezle <[craigsp@agelight.com](mailto:craigsp@agelight.com)>

**Sent:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 9:09 PM

**To:** Loewenherz, Franz <[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov)>

**Cc:** TransportationCommission <[TransportationCommission@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:TransportationCommission@bellevuewa.gov)>; Janice Zahn <[info@janiczahn.org](mailto:info@janiczahn.org)>

**Subject:** Bike Bellevue - Bike Lane Maintenance Budget

Franz,

Can you provide where in the plan maintenance of the proposed bike lanes is discussed and where this would be budgeted from? As the City is running a deficit in street maintenance it is important to understand the impact. This is a key concern of many within the bicycle community. All too often the narrow bike lanes design prohibits the cleaning and removal of debris, leaves and cinders, resulting in many riders choosing to ride in the street vs the bike lanes. This is compounded by irregular cutouts; street drains, broken stanchions and other obstacles which accumulate between the sidewalk curb and the bike path dividers.

Does the city have bike lane sweepers and if so how frequent can we expect the paths to be cleaned? It would be helpful if you can share this information.

Thank you in advance.

Craig Spiezle  
425-985-1421

**From:** [Loewenherz, Franz](#)  
**To:** [pdf3@comcast.net](mailto:pdf3@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue 12/14 Transportation Commission Special Meeting Information  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:39:00 AM

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Hello Mr. Plummer –

We can provide the PowerPoint presentation at the time the agenda memo is made available to the public on December 7, but it will be a preliminary draft and not indicative of the final product.

We prepare the agenda memo and any attachments first so that we meet the publication deadline, after which we finalize presentation content. When posted, you'll find these materials on the [Transportation Commission Minutes and Agendas webpage](#).

Please note that this response will be shared with the Transportation Commission.

Best wishes,  
Franz

**Franz Loewenherz**

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))  
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**From:** David F.Plummer <[pdf3@comcast.net](mailto:pdf3@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:38 PM  
**To:** Loewenherz, Franz <[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Cc:** [onebellevue@googlegroups.com](mailto:onebellevue@googlegroups.com); Zahn, Janice <[JZahn@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:JZahn@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Bike Bellevue 12/14 Transportation Commission Special Meeting Information

***Hello Mr.Loewenherz!***

Thanks for the notice; I'll try to make the meeting.

Would it be possible to obtain copy of your intended presentation material prior to the meeting so that it would be possible to make comments to the Transportation Commission at their regular scheduled 12/14/23 meeting? If a copy can be obtained by submitting a PRR to the public records group, could you please provide the correct identification for the materials?

RSVP/thanks,

David Plummer

On Nov 28, 2023, at 10:52 AM, Loewenherz, Franz <[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov)> wrote:

Hello –

As a past commenter on the [Bike Bellevue](#) project we would like to make you aware that on Thursday, Dec. 14, the Transportation Commission will hold a Special Meeting to provide more information on the project from 4:30-6 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 1E-108.

The 12/14 Special Meeting will provide more information on:

- the performance metrics adopted in the Mobility Implementation Plan and how they apply to Bike Bellevue,
- background on the city's previous bike planning and implementation, and
- how modelling works and is used.

Staff will also respond to technical questions from the Transportation Commission. Please note that the 12/14 Special Meeting is not an open house nor is it a regular Transportation Commission meeting.

Members of the public may make comments on Bike Bellevue during the regularly scheduled Transportation Commission meeting, held immediately after the Special Meeting. To provide comment on Bike Bellevue, please sign up between 5:30 and 6:30 PM in advance of the Transportation Commission's regularly scheduled 12/14 meeting using the electronic QR code linked in the agenda or provided at the entrance to Conference Room 1E-113. You can also email [transportationcommission@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:transportationcommission@bellevuewa.gov). For more information on the regular meeting, including information on how to attend virtually, visit the [Transportation Commission webpage](#).

Thank you,  
Franz

**Franz Loewenherz**

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))

Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager

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[Transportation Department, City of Bellevue](#)  
[Floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Floewenherz@bellevuewa.gov) / (425) 452-4077

**From:** [Loewenherz, Franz](#)  
**To:** [Kevin Wallace](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Bike Bellevue Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:30:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [CandidateCorridorFinal\\_Request20231102.kmz](#)  
[BicycleFacilitiesFinal\\_Request20231102.kmz](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Hello Kevin –

I was glad to see and speak with you last week at the 11/9 Transportation Commission meeting.

Following up on your email below, attached are the requested KMZ files (current bicycle facilities and candidate Bike Bellevue corridors). You'll find the designs for each of the 11 corridors in Appendix F: Corridor Files of the [DRAFT Design Concepts Guide, November 2023](#).

Regarding the 11 candidate corridors, they were informed by previous city efforts including the [2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan](#), [Mobility Implementation Plan](#), [Vision Zero](#), growth in Bellevue's urban centers (see the city's [Comprehensive Plan](#)), and network connectivity with other development and CIP projects. The Bike Bellevue corridors have also been targeted in the city's [High Injury Network](#) to improve safety for vulnerable road users in the city's densest and highest trafficked areas. The goal of Bike Bellevue is to implement bicycle infrastructure improvements in strategic locations to connect with other facilities, such as the new Link Light Rail Stations, Grand Connection, Eastrail, and other corridors with current or future bicycle infrastructure (see [Bike Bellevue's project map](#)).

In terms of alternatives of the design for the selected segments, staff completed traffic alternative analysis during pre-design stages to determine which concept layouts minimized vehicle traffic impact while improving bicycle safety with separated facilities. This traffic analysis included V/C evaluation, vehicle delay, and queue lengths of different alternatives of the Bike Bellevue corridors; for example, comparing the effect of repurposing an eastbound lane to provide space for the bicycle facilities vs repurposing a westbound lane to provide space for the bicycle facilities. When needed, as was in the cases where width was repurposed from a vehicle lane, the Bike Bellevue alternatives were compared to the existing roadway configuration (see Appendix E: Modeling, in the [DRAFT Design Concepts Guide, November 2023](#)). Traffic analysis will be revisited as needed during design refinements.

Please note that this response will be shared with the Transportation Commission. Feel free to contact me at 425-452-4077 if you have additional inquiries.

Best wishes,  
Franz

***Franz Loewenherz***

He/him/his ([Why does this matter?](#))

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**From:** Kevin Wallace <[kwallace@wallaceproperties.com](mailto:kwallace@wallaceproperties.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 30, 2023 9:32 AM  
**To:** Loewenherz, Franz <[FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FLoewenherz@bellevuewa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Bike Bellevue Plan

Would it be possible to get the existing bike corridors and the proposed Bike Bellevue Corridors into GIS layers that are viewable on Bellevue Map Viewer?

Can you send me the Conceptual Plans in PDF, DWG and or KMZ formats? I'm fine with records requesting if necessary.

It would also be helpful to be able to do have the existing bike infrastructure in KMZ format, if such information is available. Is this available?

Has the City considered any alternatives to the 11 segments?

If I need to records request any of the above that's fine, but I try to make Clarence's life easier, so if you can provide guidance on how to make the request I'd appreciate it, and I'm sure he would too.

*Kevin R. Wallace*

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425-278-6363 (Direct Dial)  
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