

**YOUTH COMMENTS FROM IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS – WHICH OF THESE POLICY MOVES DO YOU LIKE?**

Comments related to Parks, Climate &amp; Environment &amp; Neighborhoods

School	Which of these policy moves do you like?
Big Picture	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
Big Picture	I like the parks, recreation, and open space because our city is boring!!! We need more fun, enjoyable, parks!
Big Picture	I like the parks, recreation and open space policy moves. This is because I like parks and outdoors and think they're important to our community
Big Picture	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space because our city is kind of boring and we need more interesting things.
Big Picture	Parks, Recreation and open space. I like parks that have a good playground
Big Picture	Transportation for disabled wheelchairs like the bus ramps. Equality in race, gender, sexuality. I like feeling safe
Big Picture	I like all parks planning policies because I quite like the parks
Big Picture	I like the parks planning one because it seems like it will add a lot to the community.
Big Picture	Parks and recreation is something I like because there are a lot of easily accessible parks in Bellevue. Transportation is something I like because there are wheelchair ramps to access places
Big Picture	Policies to support electrical grid reliability. Policies to protect trees. Policies to support eliminating greenhouse gasses.
Big Picture	Recreation and Parks
Big Picture	I like that there gonna put more greenhouse gasses (?) I also liked how natuary it is and was. I also liked the amount of dog parks that they have around Bellevue.
Big Picture	Eliminate inequities based on ethnicity Provide support to healthy, affordable food for everyone Distribution of resources when a hazard event happens Treating mental health etc. like a chronic disease.

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School	Which of these policy moves do you like?
Big Picture	I like all the policies of the human services especially the one with providing healthy food that is also culturally relevant. This policy is kind of relevant to me since not all the food from my culture can be found here.
Big Picture	Talking about greenhouse gases. Protecting trees. Updating tree canopies by 40%. The bus policies. More bus stops.
Big Picture	Update tree canopy by 40%. Phasing out of using fossil fuels
Big Picture	Updates to several policies to include safety considerations when planning and implementing transportation improvements. New policies to protect trees and minimize loss of trees due to development.
Big Picture	To design new parks.
Big Picture	Transportation, climate, and environment
Big Picture	I agree with the transportation policies and I agree with the climate and environment policies as well. I agree with mostly everything here, including the housing
Big Picture	Nature
Big Picture	EV Transportation and Nature and Recreations
Big Picture	I like the parks and recreation. I like how they maximize the different kinds of spaces for different kinds of activities
Big Picture	I really like the key policy moves (part 1) for housing. I really like how we are planning the houses to be safe and also really updated, I also like how it will be affordable for more people. The building and the structure of the housing is also really advanced and good.
Big Picture	I like the climate and environment policy moves because all of these help protect our safe environment.
Big Picture	I like the policy on parks, recreation, and open space. Policy to increase the ability to walk, bike or roll to parks, trails and open spaces. I like this policy because I like to bike in the summer and go on different trails. I would like to have more. Climate and environment. Support the health of city trees and urban forests. I like this policy because I think that trees and forests are very important to keep safe and also very pretty!
Big Picture	Electric vehicle policy and all nature policies help reduce pollution and or saves environment.
Newport High	Transportation - bicycle, pedestrian and other options. Filling in gaps in current sidewalks and making walking to places safer and more convenient.

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Newport High	Transportation, because I don't want to have to drive everywhere emitting carbon monoxide and risking my life by driving dangerously.
Newport High	Safety conditions on transportation improvements, reduce car accidents. Policy to support development that phases out fossil fuels, keep the environment natural.
Newport High	Transportation because of the population sustainability of housing because of climate. It'll be more environmentally friendly therefore making the environment more livable.
Newport High	New policy to use tools that assign a dollar value to ecosystems to help evaluate the costs associated with protecting, repairing or losing these ecosystems. Because the government can accumulate environmental protection power and value through a simple way.
Newport High	Climate and environment. The earth/environment is our home, this policy might support our home. It also helps our city seem cleaner in the natural environment. I also like "parks, recreation, and open space." because it gives a more welcoming and open environment for the people
Newport High	The climate and environment policy on the trees that can increase biodiversity because I the nature is really cool and very important to organisms' lives as well as provide for us. I also like the reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions as our climate is very important and should definitely be controlled. I also like the Human Services policies as I think it's also very important people get the same treatment in life and deserve the same opportunity of living. The assistance that a person gets I think is very important
Newport High	Climate and Environment. Pt. 2. Nature is very important and more trees create a healthier living environment. Taking a step to stop climate changes is a crucial step because it will make other cities maybe do the same
Newport High	Climate friendly houses because I believe in saving the environment
Newport High	I like the Climate and Environment policy moves because these efforts promote sustainability, try to update the current environmental policies and try to make a more "green" city.
Newport High	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: New policy to encourage sustainable materials to meet/exceed green building standards. This policy means people will be able to get out more and that acts on the population as more green space encourages people to get out more and by doing that we can encourage better relations because people are relatively happier if he build environment is nice.

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School	Which of these policy moves do you like?
Newport High	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: It makes use of spaces to build more stuff like parks. It encourages use of sustainable resources which is good for the environment. Also making more parks could lead to more bike trails.
Newport High	Climate and Environment - I like the idea of reducing greenhouse gas emissions because it can help climate change and reduce growth of that climate change and people can live longer. Trees are a big part of our lives and by improving the soil conditions and consider climate change. Minimizing all of these things will make our plant and the people living there will be better as well.
Newport High	Climate and Environment: Updates to the tree canopy policies. New policies to accelerate the transition to all-electric buildings. I like these policies because they are pretty specific and address pretty significant concerns.
Newport High	Affordable housing for limited households - might help college students living off minimum wage, also families in general. Climate friendly housing - energy efficient housing, more advanced home tech for some energy cost.
Newport High	The policy to design new parks with lots of space and amenities because I like to play sports (volleyball) with my friends in parks. It will be nice to get more places to play. The policy for more pedestrian/bicycle paths because I can't drive that would mean more diversity in the way I can go places without driving will help a lot. the policy that helps get places faster in public transportation because my parents can't always drive me everywhere so having better transportation will help me go play with friends.
Newport High	Transit policies: Security of buses and transit centers because sometimes weird people get on the us and cause scenes or start fights.
Newport High	Bike racks or parking at bus stations - easier to get around, don't have to walk as long to stations. Improvements on riding capacity - many buses often are over capacity, don't come as often compared to empty buses. Factoring in cost of climate change - include factors, face climate changes as it becomes more relevant.
Newport High	Climate and Environment: trees, because protecting trees means plans can take in more CO2 from carbon emissions which will level out the CO2 in the air to slow down global warming. Climate and Environment: because it provides a sustainable environment and more for species and gives them the opportunity to reproduce to continue their species.
Newport High	The second policy move on homelessness appeals to me since it as multiple points to produce results and prevent future homelessness. The sustainability policy discusses climate friendly housing with more renewable energy.

## YOUTH COMMENTS FROM IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS – WHICH OF THESE POLICY MOVES DO YOU LIKE?

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

School	Which of these policy moves do you like?
Newport High	Housing - policy to support the provision of transitional, emergency, and supportive housing to prevent homelessness. Policy to promote climate friendly housing that minimizes energy use and can adapt to a changing climate.
Newport High	Trees - new policies to protect trees and minimize loss of trees due to development. This policy prevents tree death, protect nature.
Newport High	Policy to promote housing stability for renters More trees --> less greenhouse gas emissions = better air quality.
Newport High	Climate and Environment: more trees = less greenhouse gases = better air quality
Newport High	Parks, Recreation, and Open Space: increase space to walk, bike, trails, etc. encourages activity (physical, mental).
Newport High	I think that maximizing the space available will encourage more outdoor activities.
Newport High	Climate and Environment: Supporting net zero development that eliminates greenhouse gas emissions and waste
Newport High	Update public transit to accommodate bikes and keep safer bus stops. New policy for market rate affordable housing. Policies to increase walkability in parks, trails, open space.
Newport High	New policy to support access to health, affordable and culturally relevant food for all people. New policy to design new parks and facilities that maximize available space and provide multiple programs or amenities. New policy to reduce greenhouse gases by 95% by 2050.
Newport High	New policies to increase the ability to walk, bike, or roll to parks because it would make less carbon impact and help citizens health.
Newport High	Climate Change: I like the idea of limiting harmful impacts to human health and safety and wildlife by minimizing pollution. Human Service: I really like the idea of establishing programs that eliminate discrimination and promote inclusion. Also targeting and improving mental health is very important in my opinion, especially among youth and teens. Speaking of housing, making houses more affordable is also important. I see them being addressed in the housing and human services ( <i>element</i> ) which I really like. Resources for homelessness and equal housing opportunity.

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School	Which of these policy moves do you like?
Newport High	Improving bicycle transportation network. Preserving ecosystem
Newport High	New parks for bike trails! Specifically mountain bike trails because the closest one right now is in far Issaquah more would be super nice because me and my friends have fun close by while also being active.
Newport High	I like the policy to design new facilities and parks.
Newport High	I like the policy to increase the ability to walk, bike, or roll to parks, trails and open spaces.
Newport High	The policy to support and treat mental health and addiction and such since nowadays many suffer from things like this. park increases.
Newport High	Housing because more \$\$\$ are wasted on preventing homelessness, rather, get them to join the workforce to make \$\$\$ for their use and taxes. Climate, we can handle the healthy smog from the factories. Transportation, speedy movement good and because we need to build wider roads (does it cost >/\$5 billion).
Newport High	I like the policy to increase the ability to walk, bike, or roll to parks. I like it because I walk a lot and with more places to walk, I can hopefully not have to worry about the cars that coming. More places to visit too!

## YOUTH COMMENTS FROM IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS – WHAT IS MISSING?

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

School	From the perspective of youth what is missing that would make the city more livable?
Big Picture	Raising Canes, In-in-Out, Badam Milk, Reopen Toys 'R Us, waterparks, amusement parks, arcades
Big Picture	I think Raising Canes would make it more livable. Also water/amusement parks.
Big Picture	Safer transportation
Big Picture	More water features. It would make parks more enjoyable
Big Picture	Amusement park
Big Picture	More parks in the area and better/bigger parks
Big Picture	More things to do around here, specifically in Bellevue. Lights in parks. More greenery.
Big Picture	Having lights on dark streets. Having more greenery
Big Picture	The pressure of financial things are around our life 24/7 and so many things like affordable housing and rental stuff is good. Also having good outdoor/environment around more because it would bring more people together.
Big Picture	I don't see many bike trails I like in parks or forests. Why is that? I feel that it would be more fun.
Big Picture	Something that is missing that would make the city more livable is creating more hang out spots like amusement parks or more malls. And also safer roads for people under 18 who are walking without their parents to help them feel safer.
Big Picture	I think greenery would greatly add to the missing vibe I'm feeling. I think having and preventing loss of greenery.

## YOUTH COMMENTS FROM IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS – WHAT IS MISSING?

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

School	From the perspective of youth what is missing that would make the city more livable?
Newport High	Making sidewalks wider and filling in gaps. Increase safety when walking to places. Adding more safety precautions near highway entrances and exits. A lot of houses are next to the highway so there's a lot of noise. Planting trees between houses and highways is good for the environment and decreases noise.
Newport High	Protecting endangered natural environments like Coal Creek and other park areas. I like the light rail. Make it easy to go longer distances.
Newport High	More community sports or recreation centers.
Newport High	More construction of greening the establishments of the living environment for endangered animals.
Newport High	For me, there is a lack of nature and there needs to be more green.
Newport High	Having more environment spaces since Bellevue is getting more development and to protect the animals and living organisms of those environments
Newport High	I feel like Bellevue is getting more urbanized, so there aren't many places to outside and go to parks or nature. I like the policy where Bellevue strives to make 40% of the city natural places.
Newport High	More parks --> there are not many spaces with parks that are close to urban centers., also more greenery everywhere, maybe on buildings/infrastructure for aesthetic appeal. Transportation --> more fast (246) more route times that align with school time.
Newport High	I haven't seen a lot of parks in Bellevue so I feel that more parks would be nice. Also make more little hiking spaces and trails.
Newport High	The safety in buses, which seems important, and helping addiction.

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School	From the perspective of youth what is missing that would make the city more livable?
Newport High	Better cheaper housing in city to give youth safer homes.
Newport High	Considering people's safety and especially youth if they're alone at night. We can reduce risk of kidnapping, killing, etc.
Newport High	More safer spaces to hangout with friends, because places like Bellevue Square are far away. For me and other places near me and they aren't very safe to hang out.
Newport High	More frequent public transport. More public spaces - encourage going outside. Safe transportation
Newport High	Transportation safety and accessibility - more bus routes
Newport High	Transportation safety. More bus routes. Nice parks
Newport High	We won't survive much longer if the climate does change and gets affected. So preventing that increases life expectancy
Newport High	I would be more livable for youth if there is cheaper transportation and better security.
Newport High	I think having more stop signs and streetlights in neighborhoods would help youth learning how to drive (Transportation). Also creating more community gardens (Parks, Recreation, Open Space) would be helpful.
Newport High	Missing more climate change awareness and options to be more "green"
Newport High	I think more sidewalks or areas for pedestrians as a lot of space has been allocated towards vehicles. It sometimes makes it hard to get where we need to go. Additionally, more recreational areas for people my age. I think it would be nice to have a U-Village or The Grove type situation in Bellevue.

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Newport High	Creating higher level of education. I think the only college Bellevue has is Bellevue College, right??? Although Bellevue has very top high schools among Washington State but people all move out to seek higher level education. We also need more education opportunities because everyone is way to competitive here. Better sanitation, clean environment amount the city. More public places, malls etc.
Newport High	A mall or more stores (could also be parks and other forms of fun and entertainment) in close proximity to neighborhoods and parks.
Newport High	There isn't enough social (physical) space to socialize. There are no parks, no malls, and no fun facilities.
Newport High	For new parks there needs to be more sand and interactive items for people to use. Decreases in stores would be good so more students can afford to buy more things.
Newport High	Costs I guess? Of items. Better sidewalks, some of them are wonky. Swings are needed!!! Parks are kind of too safe. Bus doesn't go with school time so students can be there on time.
Newport High	Amusement parks or things/activities. More people go out to do things. Parks are pretty, but boring sometimes.
Newport High	What types of playground structures will be included in new parks? Swings are cool, keep that in mind. Soft sand on beaches.
Newport High	Policies to assist elderly and making new jobs to help employ those in need. Cleaner parks (there's a lot of littering). Adding to parks could be playgrounds which could be designed more in the eyes of children with swings, spinning things, and such as kids like more interactable things.

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Thank you for coming to our school Ms. Brooke and teaching us about the issues and processes on changing the city. Though I think helping the environment and having easy and seamless transportation I think the biggest problem to our youth is drugs and alcohol abuse. I previously when to a high school where it was almost normal to catch kids smoking pot, vaping, and drinking. I have been exposed to the problems of addiction. My family has had a history of alcoholism. My mom has had problems with alcohol herself, and so has her dad. She tells me how destructive addiction it can be. I myself am predisposed the being a alcoholic. There are many health problems with addiction. The development and health problems that come with it from being a teenager. Education on the dangers of drug and alcohol addiction should be a priority to the youth now a days. Nearby Newport high school there is weed shop in walking distance. Addiction is a big problem due to the accessibility of the products. I think education on the health problems and dangers of drugs and alcohol should be something implemented in all schools.

From

**Cal Wada**

**9th Grade Newport HS**

Hello Ms. Brook,

Firstly, I would like to thank you and your associates for coming to our school and educating us in the wondrous world of urban planning. Even as a child, I have always had a familiar feeling with my local park. my parents would always take me to this park called Lattawood park, and most of my most cherished memories remain in that spot. I simply implore that more family parks need be established, for families to bond with one another. The locals play a tremendous role in community structure, and they offer opportunities for neighbors to meet, for kids to play, and is an invaluable asset to all societies across not only the country, but the entire world. This is something people, (young and old), family, and neighborhoods have been and will be for the foreseeable future cherished for many years to come. In addition, community parks play an important role in the environment that we live in. Often, we can see trees, flowers, and other plants in the parks. Not only do they provide oxygen for our planet, but they also provide a stability to the temperature around us, which will also help us save on our heating and cooling bills, and thus they reduce our carbon footprint. Community parks (in my view) are all about bonding, not only with one another, but as well as with the environment. They play a pivotal role to achieve our common mission of improving the environment of the world that we so cherish. Once again, thank you so much for your associates to spend your precious time, and spread your enthusiasm. More importantly, this visit opened many doors and opportunities for general awareness of this seemingly unnoticed portion of our lives. For that I will always be grateful.

Thanks,  
Harry

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear Sophia, Brooke and Gwen

Thank you for taking time to come over to Newport High School and teach my class about the Bellevue urban planning. I appreciate having the opportunity to express my concerns about Bellevue transportation that should be addressed to Bellevue future plans as a Chinese student in Newport. One year ago, I moved to Bellevue from Beacon hill in Seattle and I would always use transportation to get around as my parents are usually very busy with their work. Beacon hill is not the safest neighborhood as there are often many breaks in and people vandalizing or breaking other people's properties. Living in Bellevue was my mother's dream, it was known as a gated and safe environment. The first few months I enjoyed Bellevue but as I noticed how long the buses would take to arrive again if you missed it the first time and how long it takes to arrive at your destination. For example, if I missed my first bus that is located near the school, I would have to wait for my next bus which usually comes in 15-25 minutes. Once I get on my first bus and get off at the East gate Park & Ride to take the 271 bus, I would have to wait for 30-50 minutes for it to come back from Issaquah. Which is a extremely long time for a bus to come back and the seats are always dirty and uncomfortable to sit on. Another example is how extremely long it takes to get to Factoria or Bellevue Mall. The map app said it takes around 30 minutes to arrive at Bellevue square mall from my location by bus and 10 minutes by car. But it usually takes me 50 minutes to arrive at the mall and even longer to head back home. I would like it if there are more bus routes available so we would actually want to go out and hang out with our friends instead of calculating how long it will take until were back home again. Some benefits I read online about access to more bus routes are it improves community health, reduces air pollution and allows people to travel hassle free. I think these can benefit both parties, Bellevue can increase their population, better air quality and students would have more time to do homework and get to one place to another much more easier. This is precisely what I hope Bellevue planning takes into consideration to do.

Thank you again for coming to Newport Highschool

**Sincerely,  
Sophia Wu**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear, Brooke Gwen and Sophia,

Thank you to our guest visitors Brooke Gwen and Sophia. I very liked when you guys were talking about the issue that are happening in Seattle and I very like when you guys were sharing about the ideas your think about the improve Seattle. I am a high schooler from Newport high school, normally riding the bus after school. I think in Seattle we should have more and larger buses and a specific app for buses. Its true that we do have apple map and google map for checking the bus, but I think that we should have a specific app for buses due to the time difference the maps are showing and the actual time the buses are coming. We should have a more accurate strategy to detect bus times, so people won't get to school late or work. Bus crowding in Seattle is another area I think we need to improve. Whenever school is over and at school, our buses are always packed with people, and some students may not be able to get on the bus and have to take the next bus. This results in more late students, and when students are late they miss the point of the class making it harder for them to attend that class. The solution to this problem is simple, I think Seattle could expand the size of the buses and increase the number of buses for some of the larger buses. To prevent students from being late, etc. Besides, buses are a safer means of transportation than if 16-17 year olds had to get their own driver's license and buy their own car, I think if they started using buses it would reduce more car accidents in our country . Buses are also a great way to save money for our environment. Thank you for helping our environment!

Sincerely,

**Jessica Chi**

**Newport high school**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Thank you for some of your associates Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia for coming in to teach us about the ways you're working to make Bellevue a better and safer place. My name is Lucas Xiong I am in 9th grade, and I am a student of Newport Highschool who regularly takes the bus. Although you have informed us on some ways you want to improve transportation, I have some further insight. I think you should implement more buses because I think a lot of us regularly have delayed buses which are 5 minutes or more also some buses come every hour which I think is ridiculous for people to go places on time waiting for hours because not everyone has a car or can afford one. With more buses the buses will be less crowded, and people will be able to get places faster and easier. Also, I have an issue with the smell on the bus consistently the bus and stops smell like weed I don't think our drivers should let them smoke weed on buses and let them blast music I think it is very disrespectful. I think these people shouldn't be able to be given access to the bus or given warnings because this potentially could cause fear and damage to our safe environment. I also think schools should tell us more about transportation and encourage the use of it because I have a brother who attends tyee middle school who has never used Bellevue's transportation system potentially because he doesn't know about it, or he is too afraid I think they should be looked upon as safe and easier to use and not smell like weed and come every hour with delays. I think with the help of transportation fixes we can make Bellevue a safer and easier place to explore.

Lucas Xiong  
Newport Highschool  
Grade 9

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,

Thank you so much for talking about the long range urban planning project for Bellevue, I am excited to see these ideas being implemented throughout the city, and on that note, my name is Gia and my family is currently residing in the Somerset neighborhood - my family is super busy and I have to take the metro back home. I currently attend Newport High School and tutorial ends at 3:30 and my bus (246) is usually always delayed because there are very few buses that go up to my route. This is a huge issue because I have sports practices outside of school that I need to commute to which means that I need to get home from school every day, some of my classmates are not able to get home until 5:00pm on weekdays because the bus is overcrowded with students. I find that other stops like 240 or 241 have more busses and faster route schedules that align with the school day. I propose that we give bus 246 faster pick up and more metros due to the large amounts of student who use it - this will allow the bus to pick up more passengers and it can align with the schedule of students so that students do not have to wait for over half an hour to get picked up and go home. I also find it convenient as less parents will come to pick up their kids from school since they can take the bus - this can improve environment sustainability as well since less people will be using their cars and it will reduce the traffic intake which can create more efficiently moving transportation for many people as Factoria Blvd can get very packed after school. This opportunity can also optimize more time for students to join other clubs or study even more and prepare for school which better helps their future. With this being said, thank you so much again for joining us and talking about all the amazing urban opportunities.

Wishing the best,

Gia Patel

Gia Patel

Newport High School '27

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Hello!

Thank you Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia! My name is Victoria Lee, I was not able to make it to your presentation, but I did read about your system planning. I would like to address a pressing issue concerning our city's transportation system and its profound impact on both our environment and public health. As a concerned student who relies on public transportation daily, I wish to highlight the discomfort and health risks experienced while waiting for the Metro bus. Each day, as I wait for the bus, I am confronted with the unpleasant and unhealthy air caused by the emissions from passing vehicles. This recurring experience is particularly disconcerting, considering its occurrence in my daily routine, especially during school days. The significance of this issue cannot be overstated, as it affects not only my personal well-being but also that of countless other individuals who rely on public transportation as their primary mode of travel.

It is evident that our reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles is exacerbating air pollution and contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating climate change and its associated consequences. Investing in eco-friendly buses equipped with electric or hybrid engines presents a sustainable long term benefits. Transitioning to eco-friendly buses will not only reduce carbon emissions but also promote cleaner air and healthier communities. Moreover, expanding and optimizing our public transportation network will incentivize residents to choose sustainable modes of travel, thus reducing traffic congestion and individual carbon footprints. The number of individuals who rely on public transportation underscores the importance of addressing this issue promptly and decisively. Countless lives are impacted by the health risks associated with emissions from vehicles, making it an obligation that we prioritize investments in eco-friendly transportation options.

Thank you for considering this critical matter. I urge you to recognize both the immediate and long-term benefits of transitioning our transportation system toward a greener, healthier future for generations to come.

Thanks,

Victoria Lee

**Victoria Lee**  
**Newport High School**  
**9th grade**

## **YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### **Email Feedback**

Before I start, I just wanted to say thank you to our special guest Brookie, Gwen, and Sophia who prepared and performed a speech in our AP Human Geography not long ago. I am Jeremy Liu, a 14-year-old student at Newport High school, with me and my family who just immigrated here 4 years ago. We pay attention very much about housing, as me and my family rented a house for 2 years and struggled to find a cheap and decent home, as not only did we take consideration of the quality of the houses, we also worried about the surrounding, such as crime rate, neighborhood friendliness as well as access to parks, trails and other natural activities. I believe we should build more small houses and townhouses as they are cheap and accessible, cheap small houses and townhouses offer affordable homeownership and lower maintenance costs. Their compact size brings a sense of community within neighborhoods, this is important as it acts as a warm welcome to newcomers who settled in the city of Bellevue. Another issue is the crime rate of the city, with the crime rate being 31 per 1,000 people, which is higher than the national average. Many homeless that fills the street, although most are not threats to the people of Bellevue city, it still brings a sense of uncomfortableness. This problem can be resolved by building more homeless centers as well as providing public facility for them to use. I've personally had experience with living in a place of danger, with many violence activities, this danger was the number one reason why me and my family moved out of there. Me and my family also really enjoy nature walks and parks, which is why I believe more trails should be created, one issue is how all of the trails are built by crowded roads, which ruins the sense of nature. Not only does it increase the enjoy ability of walks, but it also appeals/attracts outsiders to live here for the clean, beautiful ecosystem. Thank you!

**Jeremy Liu**

**9th grade**

**NewPortHighschool 2023-2027**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Hello! I hope your day is going well! thank you Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia for coming to my AP human geography class to talk with us about Bellevue's policies and issues regarding livability, it really opened my eyes to what the city considers when choosing where to build things such as buildings or parks.

I moved to Bellevue in the summer of 2018 from Beijing, China. During 2021, my family moved from Bellevue to Clyde Hill where we have resided ever since. because of my current residency I am not sure if my opinion on the city of Bellevue is valid, although I do consider it my hometown.

Before I talk about what I think are the most important issues, I would like to thank the city of Bellevue for considering not only the opinions of those who are able to vote, but also all of us high school students. I think that a pressing issue is the safety and cleanliness of our busses and transit centers. And with the new light rail being tested as I type this, I think that this would be a great time to implement new policies regarding transportation. I take the bus at least three times a week, and I have felt scared more than once while riding. Some examples of this are, A man screaming slurs at people, a man throwing his backpack across the bus because he thought somebody looked like 'a druggie,' and a dagger on one of the seats. I think that the city of Bellevue should be encouraging a safe environment on transportation, possibly stricter video surveillance or encouraging drivers to call the police when fights break out. Regarding the issue of cleanliness, I think hiring janitorial staff to clean the busses and transit stations, similar to how trains are cleaned in countries such as Taiwan, would solve this problem. Additionally, this could eliminate reason for people to avoid busses, resulting in less overall carbon emissions from the city of Bellevue.

Thank you once again for your time and consideration of this issue.

**Alden B Colby**

**9th grade**

**Newport High School**

**Bellevue Washington**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear Sophia, Gwen, and Brooke,

I want to begin by thanking you for your informational presentation to my 2nd-period AP human geography class. I could tell a lot of work went into it and it taught me a lot about the city of Bellevue's future. Before, I had no clue something like this comprehensive plan existed, but through you guys, I have learned a whole other side of Bellevue that I am excited to give recommendations on. However, I want to introduce myself first. My name is Cy Thomas, I have lived in Bellevue since the age of 4 and my family loves it here, but that doesn't mean we can't love it more. I would like to add a recommendation to the plan that I feel could improve your comprehensive plan. This idea is the introduction of more green spaces throughout the entire city. I feel this would be a welcome addition because it fits perfectly into your already existing plans with parks, recreation, and open space. Furthermore, to connect this to my own life, I find myself running out of options on what to do with my friends and family. Sometimes I want to do something new, but I often find myself struggling with what that is I want to do. I feel that if more green spaces were a part of the plan for Bellevue, then it would increase the activities and things we could do. Additionally, these green spaces could act as educational opportunities for those who wish to learn about gardening practices, conservation efforts, and healthy living which can better the population of Bellevue. From what I have learned during our agriculture unit in AP Human Geography, environmental conservation, and gardening can help increase the supply of healthy and sustainable food, leading to a good life for future generations in Bellevue.

Sincerely,

Cy Thomas

Newport High School

Grade 9

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,

Hope you're all doing well! I want to thank you all for the hard work you're putting into making Bellevue a better place. I'm Noah Shen, and I've been living in Bellevue with my family for a while now, about since I was 5.

As we've watched the city grow, one thing that's been on my mind is transportation. Traffic can be a big struggle, and getting to work or school late can be stressful. Trying to get around the city feels so confusing and almost like a puzzle. So, here's what I think a possible idea is; let's make it easier to get around. More buses, better bike lanes, and sidewalks that are safe and easy to use would be great. I'm not an expert, but it seems like if we invest in making transportation better, it could benefit people of all ages. It could help positively help people's lives, less time in traffic or figuring out where to go, and more time on things they love.

Not just that, but better transportation could also help the environment. If more people could bike or take the bus instead of driving everywhere, it could mean less pollution and cleaner air for everyone. This could help future generations be able to be successful.

Also, many places in Bellevue that are less popular or on more difficult terrain to get on have fewer bus stops or transportation. It would be much more convenient if places like Somerset, which is very hilly, could have more bus stops.

So, I'm asking you to think about making transportation a big priority in Bellevue's long-term plan. Let's work together to make getting around town easier and more enjoyable for everyone. Thanks for listening to my ideas. I know you're busy, but I believe we can make Bellevue even better together!

Sincerely,

**Noah Shen**  
**Newport HS**  
**9th grade**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

Dear City Council Members: Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,

Thank you so much for your presentation at Newport High School!

I hope this message finds you well. I'm Anna, and I'm an AP Human Geography student at Newport High School with an interest in sustainable urban planning. My family and I are proud residents of Bellevue, and we are particularly excited about the city's advancements in environmental stewardship. As an electric vehicle (EV) fan and advocate for cleaner transportation options, I have an interest in Bellevue's transportation policy, especially concerning the future of EV infrastructure.

For example, Detroit is the first in the country to try out EV project. I propose that Bellevue also embraces the innovative technology of wireless EV charging systems in its long-range urban planning. Wireless or inductive charging allows for an electric vehicle to charge without the need for cables or plugs, providing a seamless and highly accessible charging experience for users. Implementing such technology at public parking spaces, at traffic lights, or even integrated into the very fabric of our roads could revolutionize the way we think about transportation.

Wireless charging for electric vehicles (EVs), especially through "electrified" roadways, represents a transformative leap in transportation technology, offering profound implications for urban planning, energy consumption, and the broader push towards sustainable mobility. This technology, as exemplified by the upcoming Detroit pilot project by Electreon Wireless, underscores a pivotal shift in how cities and nations might approach EV infrastructure and mobility in the future.

### Urban Planning and Infrastructure

The integration of wireless charging infrastructure into urban roadways necessitates a reimagining of city planning and infrastructure development. Traditional fuel stations may gradually become obsolete, plus more expensive. Instead, they can be replaced by stretches of roads capable of charging vehicles in motion. This could lead to more efficient use of urban space, as large parking areas and charging stations give way to greener spaces. Furthermore, the need for extensive wired charging networks could be reduced, minimizing urban clutter and potentially lowering installation costs for EV charging infrastructure.

### Energy Systems and Sustainability

Wireless in-road charging could significantly impact energy systems, emphasizing the need for robust, renewable energy sources to meet the increased demand from EVs. This technology encourages the shift towards electric vehicles by offering a more convenient and seamless charging experience, which could accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels. Moreover, it highlights the importance of integrating smart grid technologies to manage the energy load efficiently and ensure that the additional demand does not overwhelm existing electrical grids.

### Economic and Social Implications

The widespread adoption of wireless charging roads could have far-reaching economic and social implications. For one, it promises to reduce the total cost of ownership for EVs by enabling vehicles with smaller, cheaper batteries and reducing the downtime required for charging. This could make EVs more accessible to a broader segment of the population, increasing social equity in access to clean transportation. Additionally, the technology could spur new business models and job opportunities, from the construction of charging roads to the maintenance of the advanced infrastructure required to support them.

### Environmental Impact

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

The environmental benefits of wireless EV charging roads could be significant, contributing to reduced air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions as more vehicles transition to electric power. However, the environmental impact of constructing and maintaining such roads, including the sourcing of materials for the wireless charging infrastructure, warrants careful consideration to ensure that the benefits outweigh the potential costs.

The development of wireless charging roads represents a convergence of transportation innovation and sustainability goals, offering a glimpse into a future where electric vehicles move seamlessly through cities, unfettered by the range limitations and charging inconveniences of today's EVs. As this technology progresses, it will be essential for policymakers, urban planners, and the automotive industry to collaborate closely, ensuring that the shift towards electrified roadways not only enhances mobility but also contributes to the broader objectives of environmental stewardship and social equity.

Incorporating wireless EV charging into our city's infrastructure is a bold step that could significantly reduce our carbon footprint, align with global sustainability goals. I urge you to consider this proposal as a strategic component of our city's future.

Thank you for your time and commitment to Bellevue's future.

Warm regards,

**Anna Fatykhova**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Good afternoon,

My name is Braylon Minnis. I am a resident of Bellevue and a 9th grade student at Newport High School. Recently, Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia visited our class and talked to us about urban planning in Bellevue. I appreciated them taking time out of their day to help us understand the concept of urban planning. During the presentation, I was thinking about the parks and recreational centers because that is where I practice soccer and track all year. I have noticed that all the fields that I practice on are turf. After doing some research, I found that some artificial turf contains chemicals and toxins which could affect the people playing on them, especially young kids. These chemicals include BPA, which can be carried by rainwater since turf does not absorb it, creating runoffs and could possibly reach water sources. Additionally, chemicals are released during the summer when the turf gets hot. Relating to this, during hot days, the turf will reach temperatures up to 150 degrees Fahrenheit, which leads to burns, heat exhaustion, and dehydration for the athletes using the fields. However, I also found that these problems are only present in certain types of turf. I found that cork is a good option for filling in the turf. Since it is wood it absorbs water, preventing runoff, and can reduce the surface temperature by up to 30%. Does the city have turf fields made with materials that could possibly contain toxins? Does the city currently use cork in any of the fields? If not, would the city consider using a cork material filling instead of synthetic? Although cork may be a more expensive option, I think that when replacing our city turf fields as they get older, we should consider cork as an option as it is more environmentally and human friendly.

Thank you,

**Braylon Minnis**  
**Newport High School**  
**Grade : 09**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear guest speakers: Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,  
Thank you for your speech in our class!

I'm a student at Newport High School living in Bellevue. My parents and I settled in Bellevue last April. Overall, it is a green, safe, and well-planned city. However, in this living and studying for ten months, I also found some shortcomings in Bellevue.

First, there are inconveniences in transportation. The distribution of bus stops is too sparse. I live in Newport Hills, a neighborhood with several bus stops. If the cars are being repaired or someone else asked for them, my father has to walk more than half an hour to the station to take the bus to work. As I passed through other hillside neighborhoods, I barely found the bus stops along the way. Moreover, subways and light rail have not been popularized in the city, only the light rail is in trial operation. If the city is willing to invest in these two vehicles, I-405 congestion might improve, and it can also bring more convenience to people, because subways and light rail don't get stuck in traffic.

In addition, I found the sanitation of the roads are poor. When passing through the highway on weekends, I often see the road strewn with construction waste, as well as the socks and shoes of people who have been involved in car accidents. A high-speed car may have a safety hazard if it accidentally presses or collides with these things. Once, there was a sandbag lying on the road near my school, and a car hit the sandbag and slammed on the brakes, almost causing a rear-end accident. For the sake of safety and environmental aesthetics, I suggest that these wastes should be cleaned up in time.

In conclusion, as a student's perspective, Bellevue still has the necessity for improvement and re-planning.

Best Regards,  
CP

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Hello!

Thank you Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia! My name is Victoria Lee, I was not able to make it to your presentation, but I did read about your system planning. I would like to address a pressing issue concerning our city's transportation system and its profound impact on both our environment and public health. As a concerned student who relies on public transportation daily, I wish to highlight the discomfort and health risks experienced while waiting for the Metro bus. Each day, as I wait for the bus, I am confronted with the unpleasant and unhealthy air caused by the emissions from passing vehicles. This recurring experience is particularly disconcerting, considering its occurrence in my daily routine, especially during school days. The significance of this issue cannot be overstated, as it affects not only my personal well-being but also that of countless other individuals who rely on public transportation as their primary mode of travel.

It is evident that our reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles is exacerbating air pollution and contributing significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, further exacerbating climate change and its associated consequences. Investing in eco-friendly buses equipped with electric or hybrid engines presents a sustainable long term benefits. Transitioning to eco-friendly buses will not only reduce carbon emissions but also promote cleaner air and healthier communities. Moreover, expanding and optimizing our public transportation network will incentivize residents to choose sustainable modes of travel, thus reducing traffic congestion and individual carbon footprints. The number of individuals who rely on public transportation underscores the importance of addressing this issue promptly and decisively. Countless lives are impacted by the health risks associated with emissions from vehicles, making it an obligation that we prioritize investments in eco-friendly transportation options.

Thank you for considering this critical matter. I urge you to recognize both the immediate and long-term benefits of transitioning our transportation system toward a greener, healthier future for generations to come.

Thanks,

Victoria Lee

**Victoria Lee**  
**Newport High School**  
**9th grade**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Hi Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia,

I am Peyton Kim, a 9th grade student at Newport and I would like to start off by thanking you all for your impactful lesson on what is happening around us. I would like to address one concern I have for our community to follow. As a 15 year old student who enjoys hanging out with her friends outside of school, I find myself in the same two places (Bellevue Square or Factoria). As these places are fun to be around, it gets to be boring after some time and sometimes I find myself wanting to do something more active with my friends, that doesn't always result to sports. I think it would be very effective if we implemented more convenient places that include more than just shops and restaurants. Some ideas may include trampoline parks or indoor go-carting, etc. The recreations don't have to be as extreme as those but giving something different for us teens to take on. While this is one concern, this leads me to another, which is money. It is difficult as a teenager to sustain a stable financial state especially with the added cost of transportation. Making the bikes and scooters cheaper would improve the amount of air pollution and allow teenagers to enjoy their weekends with their friends. Other than just indoor recreations, adding more parks with better scenic views is another idea. What I mean by that is for example, Maydenbaur Park has a gorgeous look out point for many people to enjoy, but there are very few parks with a similar feel. As a young girl and being someone surrounded by many other younger people, I know that we are more drawn to going to places with aesthetic view so we can hang out and watch the sunset or take cute pictures as we walk around, but the beautiful parks don't only attract young teens, but also adults and grandparents walking their grandchildren. When I was younger my grandma would always take me to the parks and push me in a stroller but every time it was in a woodsy trail because there were no other places to go. So, by adding bigger parks with more scenic views, it will attract more people to endure in nature and have a place to hang out. While I mentioned that having lakes is an option, there are many more such as the lights on the trees in Bellevue park with the fountains to throw your coins in. As a little kid I loved that park because of the fountains and I would go everyday after I dropped my mom off at work with my dad. I found that the more open the park is with more pleasing visuals, the more attracted people are. These are just some concerns and ideas I have for our future. Thank you all again for sharing the work you guys do and thank you for helping us make change happen.

Sincerely,

**Peyton Kim**

**9th Grade Student from Newport High School**

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Hello! My name is Angelina. Thank you for making an interesting presentation! I appreciate your interaction with the audience since most presentations I've sat through don't... and then it ends up that presentation is boring and not engaging... So good job lol. I would like to address what I would like to see in the transportation section of new policies for Bellevue. Personally, I sometimes walk or get driven to school. The traffic is tremendous! It's kind of scary the amount of cars racing to drop off my classmates. Some cars even cut through the church parking lot even though there's a sign saying, "No cut through traffic." And the sign being there says a lot about the amount of traffic... This seems to be a problem only when it's the start or end of school from my observations. My friends also always complain about the public buses. They say it's always crowded and late. This sometimes even ends in some people being late to school in the morning! Late to school = less EDUCATION! The public bus problems were also mentioned in class when you came too! With all these problems above I think I might have a solution on my hands... I was shocked when I learned this but maybe... WE SHOULD HAVE SCHOOL BUSES AT NEWPORT!!!! 1. School buses tend to be on time since they have a schedule. (I have learned this from my experience riding a school bus to Somerset in my old days) Therefore less late students = More education! 2. Less traffic because now all the millions of students that would have come to school in separate cars, are all in one vehicle! 3. Less pollution in the air as thousands of cars make more pollution than one bus, of course. 4. BUSES ARE FUN! Again, I was an avid Somerset bus rider in my old days, and when I rode the bus with my friends, IT WAS the most social event of the whole school day. Everyone got to talking and such. There was also some peace looking out the window at everything, plus time to do that homework some forgot. Maybe this email was too ambitious as I don't know the reason why there are no school buses for Newport High School. But hopefully my 15-year-old brain might help the cause and one day that church can finally take down that one sign. "No cut through traffic."

Sincerely,  
Angelina Dadashova.

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

Dear City of Bellevue,

Hello. I am a freshman student from Newport High School, and I'd like to give a big thank you to Brooke, Gwen, and Sophia for the insightful, interesting presentation on Bellevue's future goals, policies, and plans. My name is Aurelia and I live with my mom and dad in a house in Greenwich Crest along I-405. We moved here in July of 2023 so I could attend Newport High School. Since the first day of the moving process, my mom, my dad, and I all took great notice to the sound and pollution from the nearby highway that affected the quality of our lives. The blazing sound of cars rushing, honking, and tires popping impacts our day to day lives, making it hard to focus on schoolwork, or hard to enjoy a beautiful sunset in our backyard. Many times, it even disturbs sleep. The pollution emitted from passing cars also is difficult to ignore. We used to have trees between the neighborhood and the highway but due to the expansion of I-405, those trees were cut down and now the highway is closer to our home than ever. I believe that many of my neighbors would agree on this issue.

A potential solution I see is to plant more trees between our community and the highway. This would increase the greenbelt of our community which is a goal of Bellevue. This would also decrease the greenhouse gases in our air making Bellevue healthier for all. This solution would improve Bellevue's climate, fitting into the climate improvement and change goal as well as improve the quality of life of many in the long term. If you could consider my suggestion, I would appreciate that so much. Thank you for everything that you do for our community. I can speak for everyone in this community that we all feel home here thanks to all of you.

Sincerely,

Aurelia Zhou

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

To whomever is concerned,

Hello. My name is Gokul Balamurali. I am in the 9th grade at age 15 attending Newport High School in the Bellevue school district. After a bit of research, I found that I attend the 3rd most competitive school in the state. On Tuesday, January 30, 3 representatives from the Bellevue environmental services program came to visit the Advanced Placement Human Geography class to talk about the city of Bellevue. In this presentation, we learned about the various conditions that make Bellevue livable and we were also asked for our input as to what we as the people of Bellevue could do to make Bellevue a more livable environment for us. This includes the environmental, transportation, housing, and social aspects. I first would like to thank Ms. Brooke, Ms. Gwen, and Ms. Sophia.

Now a bit about me. I love going into the nuts and bolts of life. I love to ask myself the most complex questions of just about anything that crosses my mind and if I get the chance, I love to write about them. My language arts teacher from my 8th grade described me as a very thoughtful and thorough person. Enchanted by my writing, I was elected to give a speech on graduation for all the 8th graders last year. Later on about a week later, I was also elected to give a speech at my language school that I had been attending for 11 years. Thus, making me bi or trilingual as I know a good amount of Spanish.

This email is about the transportation sector of the presentation I listened to on Tuesday. Everyday, I take advantage of the rule that was passed which states that public transportation controlled by the metro system is free for all students, ages 13-18. As a result, I use the bus to make the 2 mile journey from my house to my school. Every morning, I estimate about 40 people on that bus; after school, particularly on Wednesdays, I estimate up to 50 people on the bus and sometimes, people would have to voluntarily leave the bus. I am a victim of this, and sometimes would have to wait up to 30 mins during rush hour when buses are supposed to come every 15 minutes and up to 45 minutes during non-rush hour times when buses are supposed to come every 30 minutes. This is a commonly shared view between me, my peers, and also my father who has been taking route 240 for about 4 years. One of the leading complaints of my peers as to being late was that there was not any space to get on the bus. Not to mention, route 240 is the only route that runs through the area where I live in for one way and 240 to Bellevue transit center is the only other one going the opposite way.

A few days prior to the beginning of school, I went to get my student identification card and an orca card that I could use to get onto the bus. Wanting to test out the orca card, I went to Bellevue transit center when my father wanted to be dropped off at his work facility. During the time I was waiting for route 240 to arrive, I noticed something quite extraordinary. The point of this email is not to criticize the system which is already used, but to suggest something that could greatly, in my opinion, that would make the city of Bellevue a much more livable place. Route 551, bound to I believe Woodinville, was something that I had only seen otherwise in the airport in London during a stopover. A double decker bus. Amazed, I instantly thought, what if this was the solution to the lack of transportation space (this was my thinking on the day this email was sent). I met up with a few of my peers in the library and discussed the topic, although half of them were asleep with boredom, because of the amount of talking I had done, by the end of the period, I continued to think about this for the remainder of the day. The positives and negatives flowed in faster than ever. This lead me to come to a proposal/suggestion to

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

solve the lack of transportation space on buses.

PROPOSAL: Introduce/convert more double decker buses to increase the number of people that can get on the bus and avoid skipping stops.

Although there are too many positives and negatives to list here, as I am on a word limit, I thought of some of the most important and significant. Starting with the negatives, one of the largest barriers would be the economic cost of creating or transforming regular buses into double decker buses. Secondly, a lot of fuel would be needed to power these transportation monsters which would increase carbon emissions. However, I have also noticed that route 241 is an all electric bus which both reduces carbon emissions and increases bus range. In addition to all this, the batteries are large enough to sustain the bus for up to 3 days. Another positive outcome of this is that with possible electric buses, the amount of people that can receive transportation is literally doubled.

In conclusion, one way that I believe would make the city of Bellevue more livable especially in highly populated areas such as Bellevue downtown, Factoria etc. would be the introduction and/or conversion of regular buses into double decker buses for the next maybe 3 years and then with the arrival of more advanced technology convert those gasoline powered or hybrid electric double buses to full electric double decker buses. This would maximize the circulation rates in congestion prevalent areas such as Factoria and Bellevue downtown and avoid a common problem that many metro users face such as being skipped. This is only meant to be a suggestion and a vision that I have for the greater good of the city. I would love to be involved in this, that is if the recipients of this email are willing to accept a mere high school student. However, I have provided some information where you can reach out to me for any further questions.

To the greater city of Bellevue,  
Gokul Balamurali.

## YOUTH COMMENTS – EMAILS FROM NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### Email Feedback

**Lin Chen**

**Newport High School**

**9th Grade**

I would like to start this message off saying thank you for taking time out of your days to speak to us about urban planning. An idea I have for your future urban plans is adding more parks in the city of Bellevue. I haven't been living here for very long since I moved here from Utah like a month before the school year started. One thing that I have noticed is that there is not a lot of parks here. Back in Utah, there were a decent amount of parks where I would walk my dog or just go for a stroll. I feel like having more parks in Bellevue would be enjoyable for people who just want some time away from the world. There would be more walkspace and it would give more places for children to play. This way it would also increase greenspace here, there is already a large amount of trees and plants here compared to Utah but well more greenspace won't hurt. The benefits of having more parks and greenspace can negate the impacts of urbanization like air pollution. Parks and recreation helps wildlife flourish and promote biodiversity. Parks and greenspace can promote physical and mental health. Parks are places where people exercise and/or play sports which contributes to overall health. Greenspaces help build community and enhance social connections by letting people go out and let people have a chance to just talk to people. Parks and greenways gives more walkspace to people by connecting to businesses and neighborhoods and it can also reduce the need for cars. Parks and greenspaces are an important part of our lives and making a sustainable living place. I would appreciate it if you guys would take into consideration to create more parks here in Bellevue. Thank you for taking time out of your day to read this message and I really do hope that you would consider making more parks.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident of Bellevue, to advocate for a policy that I believe will greatly benefit our city - the implementation of an Economic Development plan.

Firstly, allow me to introduce myself. My name is T.G., and I have been a resident of Bellevue for 9 years. Over the years, I have witnessed the immense potential and growth opportunities that our city possesses. However, I believe that in order to fully capitalize on these opportunities, we need a comprehensive Economic Development plan in place.

This policy matters deeply to me because I am passionate about the prosperity and success of Bellevue. I envision a city that not only thrives economically but also provides ample opportunities for its residents. An Economic Development plan will serve as a roadmap for attracting new businesses, creating job opportunities, and fostering a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The city of Bellevue needs this policy for several reasons. Firstly, it will stimulate economic growth, resulting in increased revenue for the city, improved infrastructure, and better public services. Secondly, it will attract businesses and investors, leading to job creation and reduced unemployment rates. Furthermore, an Economic Development plan will encourage innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of new industries, making Bellevue a hub for cutting-edge technologies and advancements.

To persuade you further, I would like to highlight one persuasive technique - the power of statistics. According to recent studies, cities that have implemented robust Economic Development plans have experienced significant economic growth, higher employment rates, and increased quality of life for their residents. By adopting this policy, Bellevue can join the ranks of these successful cities and create a brighter future for our community.

In closing, I urge you, esteemed council members, to approve the implementation of an Economic Development plan in Bellevue. I believe that this policy will unleash the full potential of our city, attracting investment, creating jobs, and improving the lives of our residents. Together, we can build a prosperous and sustainable future for Bellevue.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to seeing the positive impact that an Economic Development plan will bring to our beloved city.

Sincerely,  
TG

Hello, everyone my name is SH and I go to big picture school, I am here to address the lack of either accessible or affordable maker spaces and spaces to have small scale manufacturing in the bel red district, as a 13 year old boy I, almost all of the time aren't old enough or don't want to pay a large sum to use the metatrails. I have had instances where I needed a small scale manufacturing for a selling at a school fare and was too young or too cheap. We already have a policy to help this issue I have a solution that I think will work, I propose a solution, if a youth wants to use a maker space there should be a process to get a certificate like a driver license or fishing license but this says this person is good to be safe in a makerspace setting. This could be earned in a few ways with a video or a training course or many other ways but this badge would let the one hundred and six out of one hundred thirty-three students we asked to be able to use a maker space.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hi, my name is LK and I live in Somerset. I go to Bellevue Big Picture Middle School.

I am here to speak on the proposed policies for General Transportation. I am in favor of supporting the Vision Zero Implementation. This issue is important to me because I care a lot about the safety of people. In short words, related collisions. The public transit routes are some of the safest ways to get around the eastside. Studies show that riding the public bus is approx. 10 times safer than a personal vehicle. Why I think these matters to me is because the safety of Bellevue Citizens needs to be more focused on. Applying laws/rules to enforce safety will decrease by 2030. So, I ask that when you make a decision you vote to make the streets safer for Bellevue along with making commutes around the eastside a lot safer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is SK and I live in Crossroads. I am a student from Big Picture. I am here to speak on the proposed policies for transportation. I am in favor of designing the transit stations for the security, maintenance, and general operation. This issue is important to me because buses and transit have been getting more popular and I use the metro sometimes. The transit can help you reach places faster and can help you get to places. I want to accomplish making the transit safer and more enjoyable for people. One of the big issues with the transit is the safety, especially for kids and women. I want it to be safe for everyone, so nobody feels unsafe and feels comfortable with taking the transit. From my experience, I have seen people make weird comments towards people, more towards women. It makes them feel uncomfortable and they gain a fear from taking the transit. So, I ask that when you think about the transit, you think about how safer people will feel and how comfortable they would feel in the Bellevue transit. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope you think about what I said.

My name is KL and I attend Bellevue Big Picture School. I am here to speak for the topic of Bellevue park restrooms. The restrooms tend to be very messy and unclean, and I believe people should be comfortable and not be afraid to use the public restroom, and expect them to be hygienic.

Our school had done a survey, and almost 80 percent of the middle school believe Bellevue park restrooms need to be cleaner, and half of the middle school says they need to be a lot cleaner. I personally believe a clean, nice restroom is important because they are a huge key part on what I overall think about a park, or just any place in general.

On the policy list, there's a policy that talks about upgrading new park facilities, but I think the City of Bellevue should have one that also talks about current ones as well. For example, performing multiple restroom checks a day/clean the restroom daily, emptying the garbage cans often, and inputting current technology (touch-free resources, flush sensors). Additionally, I do appreciate the amount of trash cans in Bellevue parks, but I also think it would be great to add more that are more accessible to everywhere around the park. I believe these can improve the overall cleanliness of the park, and also the comfortability of others, which I believe both are important to an ideal park.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is DM I live in west lake hills I go to Bellevue big picture

My policy that I'm trying to add to focusing on the gaps in the bike lane and transportation network. I think we should add more bike lanes and more access to safe places to walk and bike. This matters to me because I bike to school everyday. I live near a really busy street where it's hard to cross the street especially during the morning and at night. The cars drive super fast and don't stop at a designated crosswalk. It's unsafe and I've been at an intersection in the crosswalk and I was barely out of the lane when a car drove speeding by. I want to have more safer options for biking and to be able to cross the street safely. Adding special crosswalk lights at Sameena and on Kamber Road where you push the button and the crosswalk lights up would help keep the neighborhood safer.

I know this is a big decision

Thank you for your time and consideration

My name is TN, I live in Tam'o Shantern and I attend Bellevue Big Picture middle school. Today I will be discussing the Climate and Environment policies. I think the most important policy is the policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 95% by 2050. We need to continue and do better with this issue because it's important to me. My health and life are greatly affected by greenhouse gas emissions. When greenhouse gasses pollute a city, it makes the city unlivable, unwelcoming and dark. Who would want that for their city? For example, Houston Texas has very low c02 emissions. There are many people who love going to Texas and constantly hearing good things about this city. They push electric vehicle usage and have many things that help businesses and homes have clean energy. I think our city should continue to support the policies and people who fight to bring down greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you mayor, deputy mayor, and city council members, my name is NN,

I go to big picture school and I live in Bellevue. Bellevue is known as a City in a Park and I'm wondering if you all like the outdoors? If you do, than you need to know that the use of fossil fuels are damaging it and therefore damaging our City Parks. I am here to speak in the favor of moving away from fossil fuels. This issue is important to me because I truly care about the environment. For the uninformed, fossil fuels release a lot of carbon dioxide in the air, leading to a lot of air pollution meaning a lot less clean air. What you also probably know is that there is a very limited supply of fossil fuels. So that is why we need a plan, a plan to move away from the use of fossil fuels in the City of Bellevue. There are a couple of ways that you can help. The City can move away from using fossil fueled vehicles for City workers which will reduce carbon in the atmosphere. The City can also use more renewable energy such as hydraulics, wind turbines, and solar panels. Doing just a few things will help tremendously. after all it can make it better life not just for you but for our children and our children's children, to have a nice clean environment and wonderful City Parks to use into the future.

Thank you for listening.

**YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY
<p>Hello, my name is TO and I reside in King County. I am here to discuss the proposed policies for Utilities. I strongly support the idea of gathering input from local residents when developing utility-related services and facilities, such as public restrooms and cell towers. I have observed that water fountains in public spaces are often in poor condition and frequently do not function properly.</p> <p>This issue is of great importance to me because I believe that community members should have a say in decisions that directly impact their daily lives. I understand from personal experience that crafting a speech and presenting it at city hall can be challenging, and therefore, providing surveys for feedback can be a more accessible and efficient way for residents to express their preferences. I am confident that by implementing surveys and encouraging community participation, we can enhance overall satisfaction among citizens and promote greater engagement within the community. Thank you for your time and I hope that you will take my proposal into consideration.</p>
<p>Hello, my name is LS, and I am learning about housing polices within Bellevue, more specifically on homelessness in the area. Homelessness is something I want to decrease to help create a safer, and more enjoyable living style for everyone. Bellevue has been great with providing affordable housing services and I want the city to expand that by having more homeless shelters and tents around downtown. We recently surveyed middle school students and out of 134, 68 middle schoolers said that they found homelessness occur most in the downtown area. We think this is achievable and will overall benefit the city of Bellevue. Thank you for taking your time to listen.</p>

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is AS and I live in Bellevue, I go to Big Picture Middle School. I want to talk about the recreational policies, issues, and solutions to those issues. I want to start off with the recreational issues that we have in Bellevue which is that not many people know about the recreational activities that Bellevue has to offer. For example, my friend didn't know that lucky strike had a bowling alley, and she has been living here for eight years. This is not just my friend but it's also me and others as well, as I didn't know about Newcastle beach park until I searched up "recreational activities in Bellevue" for this project. We need to bring more attention to the recreational spaces in Bellevue by promoting them more. This will help Bellevue with two things; first, we get to use all the buildings that we have built and secondly, this will help with gaining funds for Bellevue. The "New policy to support the development of public gatherings and recreational spaces along the Grand Connection" helps with this issue therefore I am in favor of this policy.

The second issue I want to address is parking in front of recreational spaces. I have suffered from this issue as I found a car parked right in front of the exit of the recreation area. This of course is not a place where the car should be parked, and it also causes issues in exiting the building. Additionally, when I dug deeper into the issue, I came to the realization that this can also result in serious car accidents if someone parks in a spot that is not permitted for parking. To this issue my solution is that we use Las Vegas's policy for towing cars if parked in spots that are not allowed for parking.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding the issue.

Hello, my name is MS I live in Sherwood Forest, and I go to Bellevue Big Picture Middle School. I am here to speak about the proposed policies for utilities, more importantly the sustainability side of it.

This is important to me because my family loves to spend time in these parks. We love this city, and wouldn't want to see it fail just because we can't take care of the climate and create more sustainable ways to produce electricity. We can move away from fossil fuels to make more cost-effective and sustainable energy.

One way we can get moving on these policies is make a rule or have incentives for having solar panels on all buildings, from houses in the suburbs, to high-rises in downtown Bellevue. If we do this then we can focus on investing on other things, such as a more sustainable approach to stormwater management and supporting the decarbonization of the electrical grid. This will help the beautiful green parks that our community enjoys. This plan will come together to make an incredibly good and even greener city.

I know this might be harder than I think but when you all decide and vote for something, I ask that you vote for policies that support a more sustainable future for the Bellevue city utility department. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that you all have a good day and I'm looking forward to a more sustainable and greener city for our future.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is RS. I live in Surry Downs, and I go to big picture I would like to talk about Housing in our neighborhood. I would like to see housing costs decrease if possible because in my neighborhoods and, I would like to change the accessibility to services like grocery stores and parks. This topic matters to me because my plan will help the future generation of kids. The reason is because if the housing is too expensive, we will not be able to afford it, and fewer people will leave our neighborhoods.

This personally affects me because the house near my area is so expensive some are going for 2 to 5 million dollars; we have lost some people in our neighborhoods due to cost and some of my friends have left my neighborhood because they did not have enough money to stay.

When you think about making your decision, please think about the lives you could help are neighborhoods by decreasing housing cost.

Thank you for listening to my idea and I hope you take this into consideration, your job is very important, just make sure you do the right thing.

Even the smallest things can have the biggest impact.

Thank you for listening. I hope you have an amazing rest of your day!

Hello my name is JT and I live in the Clyde hill Bellevue area and I am currently discussing about affordable housing policies with my group which are, MA and LS. Helping with these policies is important to me because having things be affordable or in my budget is important to adult life because having a house is also super important because. So when you make the vote on the policies to take note on my speech when you are voting. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is KT. I live in Bellevue, and I go to Big Picture Middle School. The new policy that I find important is the policy to support programs that help children and youth participate in the community and have equitable outcomes in their health, wellness, and education. An issue that is important to me is special education. I have a learning difference and I want other kids who have learning differences to be able to access tutoring for special education. I can see that there are kids in my classes who would benefit from this kind of tutoring.

One of the things that is important to me, and the Bellevue community is education. Bellevue has many programs for kids who need a place to go after school like the Boys and Girls Club, they also have programs for kids who are learning a dual language. I believe for education to be equitable the Bellevue school district should offer after school special education tutoring.

This issue is important because there are kids who need more help in school, and they are not getting that help at school. This matters to me because I had a hard time in school and needed more help. I want kids to have all the opportunities they can get and not have to struggling really hard in school.

So, I ask that when you make a decision about this new policy you think about having more after school programs designed for kids with learning differences and who need more support in their classes.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is NW and I live in the Lake Hills Neighborhood by Lake Sammamish. I am a student at Bellevue Big Picture School, and I spend a lot of time in the community in and out of my education.

I want to talk about this city community and the plans for it, of which there are many. I will focus on those surrounding urban development and art in urban spaces.

I love Bellevue dearly, and the plans for this city are so well put together. In addition, the work going into executing them is incredible. However, I think there is a lot of vague ideals in these plans- We talk a lot about protecting minority groups and their history, but how do we do that? Do we build museums? Do we fund education programs? Do we hold festivals? We need to be specific to be able to make a goal achievable.

One of these areas of vagueness that affects me a lot is in the laws pertaining to land use. There are advantages to zoning, and many of them, but certain laws are confusing and not thought out in ways that can damage communities. Laws on home occupation licenses make children's lemonade stands and yard sales illegal. I am a young person with a desire to start a small self-run bakery out of my home, but it is illegal and highly confusing to even start. There are cities across the world, such as Tokyo, that make access to these sorts of opportunities simple, and it boosts community and success immensely! You will never see a neighborhood noodle shop run out of someone's lower floor in Bellevue, even though this sort of flexible zoning boosts community and convenience.

Adding to and elaborating on these laws based on past failures and successes is vital, and we are very close to something perfect. I ask of all those leading to consider this and think about how to elaborate and how to create opportunities in the local community.

Thank you for your time.

Hello! My name is KY, and I am from Bellevue Big Picture Middle School. I am here to speak about the policies on open space. I am in favor of the policy "Update to policies to call out the important ecological function of parks and natural areas in addition to their recreational purposes."

Ecological functions are the things that provide to the environment and preserving them is really important. Open spaces like trails can be fun and recreational but they are also crucial to preserving the animals and other providers of the environment.

Something that I really like about Bellevue is that it has many parks and open spaces inside the city. I went to a lot of trails in Bellevue however, they were all entirely for recreational purposes. All I saw there were humans and their pets. At that time, I never thought about the wildlife and how much they do for us. Now that I do, I realize that we are not providing enough for them. To achieve this, the city can think about adding forests to the edge of the officials for the animals to thrive. For example, Amsterdam has a policy about making more space for sports, wilderness, and urban agriculture. Though, housing might be a problem when trying to be successful with preserving the animals, there has to be a balance between the amount of houses and open spaces for the animals to thrive. Now, I ask the officials to consider my offer of adding open spaces at the edge of the city.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hi, my name is Alec and I live near phantom lake and go to big picture school. And I have lived in Bellevue for about 13 years now. And I am here today to talk about adding/changing a few polices. The policy I am going to talk about is bike lanes and sidewalks. Also about adding some more of them in specific areas. For an example in most neighborhoods do not have a lot of sidewalks or bike lanes. From my personal experience I was almost hit by a car while biking through one of these neighborhoods and now I take a longer path around the neighborhood to stay on a trail. And I would like to see more bike lanes on roads or adding sidewalks to neighborhoods that do not have them. Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Vishruth and I go to Bellevue Big Picture. Me and my family have been living in Bellevue community ever since I was born. I want the buses to include consideration of nearby living areas and make the quality of the rides more enjoyable. One of the things that is important to me, and the Bellevue community is of course safety, I have seen people doing drugs constantly. I do not feel safe because either they rebel on the bus, or constantly pick fights to other bus drivers. People who are concerned about small details tend to be hyper critical about how things work. Just like other people from what I have noticed (as I have been going on the bus every day for 2+ years), if they (the bad people) talk to me because they want me to do something, it is obvious it will not go well. I Bellevue the city council should have better security and enforce the "do not disturb the driver" sign, and if they disturb other people, they should get a bigger fine. Vote yes for improved security on all buses and programs by 2025. Thank you for your time and consideration.

I live on lake Sammamish. I go to the big picture school, and I have lived in Bellevue since 2018. We provided a survey to students in our school, we asked if they thought the public bus was a safe transit method. One hundred people answered yes, but thirty-four answered no; safety is not a priority, it is a necessity.

I have to use the public bus because the route from my school bus station requires me to use the bike lanes as sidewalks. Aside from the fact that I'm not using a sidewalk, cars often enter these lanes, In some ways it could be considered dangerous. What goes through my mind is: was this place built with my safety in mind? Was this place built knowing people are there? That is why you should start better enforcing of transit safety laws, for a safer, faster and better Bellevue.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Ruha. I live in Bellevue, Washington and currently attend Bellevue Big Picture School. My family and I have lived in Bellevue for 11 years and one of my favorite things about Bellevue is the immense amount of greenery and how lively it makes this city. I am here today to speak about Urban Design and Arts, Neighborhood Centers policy. More specifically, I am focused on the part about increasing arts and cultural opportunities in neighborhood centers. I would like for the city to hire more diverse artists to decorate our city.

This is really important to me because I am someone of a Indian origin and having more of my culture represented around the city would make me feel very included. When I go to downtown Bellevue, there isn't a lot of my culture that I see around. Not being able to see such an important part of my identities and many other people's identities, can make me feel like I'm not really part of the community. I think that using art to represent different culture is a really good way. There are also a lot of other people of different cultures from places like China, Mexico, Thailand, and so many more that live in Bellevue, and seeing diverse art from their cultures around the city they live in, would make them feel so included.

I am focused on Neighborhood Centers, and I want to help make this city a more inviting and inclusive place for people to live in. I believe city council should hire more diverse artists to make art that can help make people of different and diverse cultures feel more included in their city.

I live in the Crossroads community, and I go to Big Picture Middle School. I have lived in Bellevue for about 7 years now and one thing I always enjoy about this city is how lively it has always been and how the architecture felt well designed which made the city feel alive.

I am here to speak on the proposed policies for Urban Design and Arts, more specifically Neighborhood Centers. When I first came to Bellevue, I was didn't feel very connected with community because I didn't know that there was a place that I could engage with others. To be frank, I didn't even know that a community center was at Crossroads until I started researching on them for this speech because there was not proper signage around crossroads. When I visited this community center a couple days ago, I realized that the stairs and wheelchair ramp were not useable because of construction around the center making it not as reliable.

What I am proposing is that there should be better signage and make sure that the center is accessible for it to be more useful to the public so that people can feel more included in the community.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is Diego, and I live in Kelsey Creek and go to Big Picture Middle School. One of the things that I enjoy about Bellevue is the amount of diversity and expression of tradition we have in the neighborhood. My family has lived here for 7 years now, and one policy that stuck out to me the most was activating spaces, and eventually, I want to see a change in the amount of acknowledgement that our neighborhood has for other people's cultures.

This matters to me because I think that it's important to recognize other people cultures, so you can have more meaningful interactions with those around you. When we go out regularly, my father is given looks of judgement because of his appearance and his culture. I have seen that we have great programs and events that celebrate culture and diversity, but people don't know enough about it. I believe that if more people in the community acknowledge and know about these programs and events, then our community will be more tolerant and accepting of other people's cultures.

That is why I propose that our city council improves the advertising and awareness around our cross-cultural events so we can improve the amount of cultural awareness in our community. Thank you, council, for hearing me out today. Now Ruha will take the stage.

Charlie-Hello again, my name is Charlie. I live in Beaux arts village and I go to Bellevue Big Picture Middle School. I am here today to talk about the policies that have been proposed around the topic of Parks. Specifically (Spe - sif - ik - ly) about the policy that will improve the tree canopy in parks. I am very happy that Bellevue is very green. More green than other parts of Washington. For example, I have went to eastern Washington on several trips and my most important memory from my most recent trip was looking out into the distance and seeing sparce amounts of trees. I am not saying that it is the eastern Washington fault that there is hardly any trees there but I feel like we are very lucky to have so many trees in our area. That is why we must protect them for all people to enjoy. Many people at my school also think that we need greener parks. We did a survey at school and 23% of my whole school said they wanted more greenery in parks. Having healthier tree canopies will help the environment as well as decrease the amount of greenhouse gasses. Because of this I ask the council to vote yes for the policy that will make our tree canopy on parks bigger and better for our residents. With your help we can make Bellevue a cleaner place to live. Now I will let Kajsa to talk about engaging the community in constructing parks

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is Kajsa and I attend Big Picture Middle School. Something I enjoy about living in Bellevue is how there is a wide variety to do activities. But as part of the community, most of the activities are not actually what we want. I am here to speak about this policy, which is for the community to have more guidance and engagement on new programs being built in Bellevue. From my personal experience, I have seen people unhappy with the recreational spaces in the area because they find it uninteresting. We recently did a survey at our school and it showed at least 30 people wanted sport fields added to parks, such as tennis courts or soccer fields. Also, 20 people wanted more amenities added to the parks as well. It is important for the city of Bellevue to enjoy amenities that were built. I believe the city council should send surveys to our age group and ask them what they truly want for their time being spent. Thank you for your time and consideration. Let's have Kaito speak about the parks greenery

Hello council my name is Kaito and I live on somerset and currently go to Big Picture Middle School. I am here today to speak to improve the policy's on Parks and Recreation, our school just recently got the chance to present this to the Bellevue city council. I personally love the amount of greenery around and the local parks around the area. I am in favor for a new policy improving sustainability in parks and recreation. Tokyo for example has a green roof policy where all building roofs must be covered in greenery to keep inside temperatures down, and make better use of storm water. Climate change is an important issue to me as I love the nature in the Pacific Northwest I want to see it implemented into an urban city like Bellevue more. Sustainability policy's need to be installed sooner or later, as we can already see the consequences of climate change. Tokyo has seen significant results, I do believe if we follow this policy more we would also see results. I am asking that In term of the Bellevue land code 20.25.120, add a new policy requiring green roofs on building constructed as of today. Thank you for taking time out of your day.

Hello my name is Giray and I currently live in the somerset area and I go to big picture middle school as an 8th grader. My family has lived in Bellevue for over 8 years. I am here today to talk about the Bellevue housing policies. One of the most important things for me in the Bellevue area is homelessness. Thankfully homelessness in my area is not an issue. However Homelessness is an unfortunate situation for many families in other areas of Bellevue and can make me and others feel unsafe in certain situations. This is especially the case for financially struggling families who can only afford housing that limit those family's to rely on light rail and public transportation which is made daunting because of the housing problem. M Although the board has created policies to address homelessness they are very vague and unclear. I would like the board to build homeless shelters and strengthen policies meant to help the homeless find reliable housing and stable jobs so that those who are less fortunate can be supported by the city of Bellevue and families can feel safer.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

My name is Lucas and I live in the Kelsey Creek Area and go to Bellevue Big Picture Middle School. My family has lived here for 10 years straight and have seen many changes upon the city. Most recently the new policies that have been added to help the situation of affordable housing . I am here to speak on the proposed polices for more affordable housing. One thing I would like to see is the construction of more affordable housing as it is a problem that could be impacting other problems such as homelessness in Bellevue. One of the things that is important to me and the Bellevue community is affordability and this is how we can help this situation. From my personal experience I have talked with my parents about how they feel about more affordable housing and they say that it is very expensive to live in Bellevue. When I go to downtown One issue I have seen with my family is homelessness and affordable housing can affect the amount of homelessness in the city. By adding more affordable housing it will impact and improve the homelessness that is also a big problem Bellevue. Thank you for your time and consideration I look forward to seeing what changes will be made and with that I will pass it on to Giray.

Henry: Hello my name is Henry and I live in the Somerset area. I attend big picture middle school. I am here to speak about Bellevue and its climate friendly housing. Now, Bellevue has some great housing that is kind to our planet but there are always things that we can work on. Have you ever been relaxing in your home on a hot summer day? AC cranked all the way up? Did you ever think about what you were doing to the planet? To Bellevue's climate? How could we make housing affordable and adaptable to climate? If you aren't asking yourself these questions, you should be. If we don't make any small changes, how can big ones ever happen? The policy that mentions climate friendly housing on the comprehension plan is quite vague. What we need to do is set a goal of at least 1 in every 10 houses running on reliable energy such as hydro or solar power by 2035. This will take one step in the right direction for green housing.

My name is Olga I live in Medina and currently go to Big Picture Middle School. My family and I enjoy the wide range of activities, places like Bellevue Square, and things to do here in Bellevue. During this time, I will be speaking about the proposed polices for human services. One of the things that is important to me, and the Bellevue community is access to healthy, affordable food for everyone. Food nowadays is getting more and more expensive by the day, especially organic/healthy food. Healthy food is a necessity in everyone's diet, since it provides lots of healthy nutrients and vitamins that unhealthy food doesn't provide. Vitamins strengthen your immune system, and help you live longer. Hundreds of thousands of deaths happen in the U.S. yearly because of unhealthy diets. Some of which are because people are not able to afford healthy food since it is more expensive than unhealthier things. I believe that the city council should persuade people to support small farm businesses, for better and easy access to healthy food, at a cheaper price than in normal grocery stores. Thank you for taking the time to listen to our speeches and taking into consideration the things we suggested.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hello, I am Eve and this is my group partner, Anya Kuan, and we are both students from Big Picture school. Something I like about Bellevue is all the parks and entertainment that it offers, and the topic we are talking about today is what we want to see be approved in the category of Parks and Recreation in Bellevue's comprehensive plan.

The policy I am speaking about today is encouraging new and upgraded park facilities to use sustainable materials to meet or exceed green building standards. This matters to me because I think it's really important to protect parks, and the outdoors. Since first of all, parks provide multiple requirements for animals such as food, space, water, and shelter. Secondly, without parks, many species of plants and animals would go extinct. Plants and animals are important to Bellevue because plants provide shade, reduce water needs, and slow stormwater runoff. Certain types of animals are important too because some help plants reproduce by carrying pollen from plant-to-plant, and by spreading seeds. Animals that eat insects and small mammals help reduce damage by caterpillars, rabbits, and other plant-eaters. So in conclusion, I would like to see Bellevue's City Council to use more sustainable materials, as it is a great way to protect our parks. It would help keep the parks more eco-friendly, and even help out with climate change. Now my partner Anya will talk about another related policy.

My name is Anya and I live in the neighborhood Bretton Wood and go to Big Picture Middle School. I have lived here for thirteen years, and one thing I enjoy about living in Bellevue is that the public safety as compared to other cities is good. I am here to speak on the proposed policy for increasing the ability to walk, bike, or roll to parks, trails, and open spaces. This is important because people of all ages would appreciate better accessibility and would enjoy the fact that there are more things to do in an everyday life. For example, take Lake Hills Community Park. This area needs more focus because a lot of litter needs to be picked up, this could influence how people get around, so we need to enforce a no littering rule. One of the things that is important to me and the Bellevue community is to make more public spaces. We recently did a survey at our school and the results showed that 40% of students from Big Picture think that our community needs more new and advanced public areas. By approving the idea to increase more open spaces, it will impact and improve people's lives. This is considering people who go to parks and other public places daily, for example, teen students. This would generally make peoples' lives feel more interesting and livelier. I believe we should improve the ability to get to parks and open spaces in an increased variety of ways, including walking, biking, and rolling.

We appreciate you all giving us the time to speak and hope to see our requested policies get approved. Thank you for your time and consideration.

## YOUTH COMMENTS TESTIMONY FROM BIG PICTURE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Comments related to Parks, Climate & Environment & Neighborhoods

### BIG PICTURE TESTIMONY

Hello, my name is Anvi, and I go to Big Picture middle school. Me and my partners Olga and Joslyn are here to talk to you about our viewpoints on healthy foods, youth participation in the government, and youth programs in Bellevue. My family has lived in Bellevue for over 15 years, and something I enjoy about living here is all the plants and nature outside. I'm here today to discuss the proposal of a policy on the comprehensive plan, which basically talks about including more educational programs for the youth in need. Recently, we sent out a survey at school and the results showed that students want more sports programs in Bellevue. About 12 percent of Bellevue's residents make less than \$25,000 a year, so including more accessible education and info programs similar to the Seattle youth education program, otherwise known as the SYEP in Seattle can encourage the youth in need to learn about careers they are interested in. I know many people who used to live in Bellevue, but decided to move to a more affordable city, as they couldn't afford to put their children in extracurricular programs etc. If more people are able to receive proper education, we could have more successful figures in the city. Sports programs could also positively impact Bellevue. Sports are necessary in the lives of youth to put on resumes, and to keep their bodies healthy. I believe the city council should consider adding more accessible info, education, and sports programs for youth in need. My colleague Joslyn will now be taking over.

Hello, my name is Joslyn and I currently live around Newport Hills and go to Big Picture Middle School. My family has lived in Bellevue for more than 5 years now. One thing I enjoy about living in Bellevue is the clean and safe environments it provides. Today I will be speaking about having more youth participation in the government. I want to see kids like us having a say in what the government thinks and chooses. People under 18 make up 20% of the population in Bellevue so letting them contribute in votes and meetings would help keep the community of Bellevue a happy and pleasurable space for everyone. From personal experience, I have seen that a lot of Bellevue's "fun" places have not been that exciting and entertaining. It seems to me that this city is built for older ages, there is few places and spaces where kids my age can hang out and have fun. If we could have input from young minds in these choices about entertainment centers, it would let the government see through our perspectives. It would let them understand what we would like. We recently did a student survey at our school and the top votes for youth representation were surveys from the government or bringing in new youth representatives into meetings. I believe the government should choose either of these choices and act upon it. This way our beloved city can be enjoyable for all ages. Thank you and now I will pass on the mic to my partner Olga, who will be talking about equality in foods.