



Date: June 26, 2014

To: Transportation Commission

From: Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

RE: Transit Master Plan comments; Bellevue Transportation Commission public hearing

1. The Chamber praises the City on the work and analysis that went into the Transit Master Plan acknowledging the analyses and market-driven philosophy that help form the plan.
2. The Chamber generally supports the conclusions in the plan, but would like to acknowledge that Bellevue is part of an Eastside network of transportation corridors – and I-405 is the critical link of that network. Terrific transit planning in Bellevue is only worthwhile if Eastside stakeholders and regional transit departments are consulted or included and held to account.
3. The Transit Master Plan, and the process that created it, is valuable and important, but is not the end of this vital work. The transportation department and the city should continue analyzing real-time traffic data and work to incorporate the technologies capable of increasing throughput in and through Bellevue without funding infrastructure projects or restricting access to existing transportation infrastructure. Vanpools, flexible car pools, and car sharing should continue to be discussed and incorporated into the transit master plan.
4. The Chamber is concerned anytime useful transportation corridors that can accommodate cars and transit is restricted to only accommodate transit, including projects L5, L11, and L13 – although transit usage, particularly in the PM peak, could appropriately be given priority in parts of the city with higher levels of transit usage. Insofar as those projects accomplish that goal, the Chamber is in agreement.
5. Chamber members have questioned the underlying performance projections some of the Transit Master Plan is based on. For instance, assuming increased public revenue for transit service and pay-for parking may not lead to market-driven or reasonable conclusions.
6. Market driven transportation infrastructure investments are of the utmost importance to the Bellevue Chamber. Every year our members inform us that transportation infrastructure (mobility) is one of the top three areas of concern for the business community, not just in Bellevue but the entire Eastside.