



DRAFT

Attachment A

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Support the Technology Sector: Bellevue strongly supports reinstatement of the research and development tax incentives that expired in 2014 that have served the local and state economies so well over the past decades. The combined technology sector industries generated nearly \$3 billion in sales and business and occupations tax per year. Bellevue also supports efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the technology sector through investments in infrastructure and education, specifically STEM, K-12, higher education, vocational-technical education, advanced manufacturing for technical specialties and apprenticeships.

Increase Funding and Financing Tools for Workforce Housing: Bellevue supports increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund, which is the state's main resource for funding the capital costs of workforce housing development. Bellevue also supports other state and local tools including a state contribution toward the Regional Equitable Development Initiative (REDI) revolving loan fund to construct transit oriented development (TOD). There are transit-related funds (\$2.5M) in the WSDOT budget that would match local contributions by ARCH, Seattle and King County to complete the local seed money needed to establish the REDI Fund. Bellevue could potentially use REDI Fund monies to leverage TOD at the 130th light rail station in keeping with the vision in the Bel-Red Plan. These tools are critical to address the growing need for workforce housing in cities.

REVENUE/FISCAL ISSUES

Maintain Local Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax and Licensing Authority: Bellevue supports the goal of streamlining administration and reporting of local B&O taxes through the single multi-city business license and tax portal, FileLocal, scheduled to be operational in 2015. Bellevue opposes state administration of local B&O tax as it will reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and it will reduce revenues to the City.

Restore and Preserve State Shared Funding: Bellevue supports preserving state-shared revenues and supports retention of programs and authority benefitting local government. Specifically, Bellevue supports: full funding for the Public Works Trust Fund; state shared revenues such as liquor profits and excise taxes, annexation sales tax credit and the municipal criminal justice account. In addition, the City urges the Legislature to share a portion of the marijuana tax revenue with cities to help offset local enforcement and other impacts from the legalization of recreational marijuana.

TRANSPORTATION

Pass a Statewide Transportation Package in 2015: The strength of our region's continued economic vitality depends upon a multimodal, well-integrated transportation system that reliably moves people and goods within and between significant job centers. Bellevue's highest priority in 2015 is a statewide transportation package that provides new revenue for roads and local revenue options for transit; an increase in the state gas tax; dedicated funding for local distribution; and funds the following local projects of critical importance to the City:

- **Completion projects identified in the I-405 Master Plan, including:**
 - One new lane in each direction from I-90 to Renton
 - NE 6th extension to 120th Ave. NE
 - Restripe NE 12th to SE 8th to accommodate an additional lane in each direction

- Completion of SR 520 to I-405 southbound braided ramp at NE 10th
- **State Route 520:**
 - Funding to complete the projects on SR 520 from I-5 to SR 202 in Redmond
 - Funding for a new full interchange at 124th on SR 520
 - Funding to complete the SR 520 project Regional Bike Path.

New Revenue Authority for Sound Transit Phase 3: Provide Sound Transit new authorization to develop a package of transit investments (ST3) for consideration by voters. The Sound Transit Board recently approved a Long Range Plan that includes projects critical for mobility for the region, including valuable, long-sought projects that improve connections between cities on the east side of King County and for Bellevue. Among these are projects consistent with Council policy along the I-405 corridor: bus rapid transit (BRT) on I-405 between Renton and Woodinville, and extending light rail to downtown Redmond. In addition, potential new projects including high capacity transit from Kirkland around the north end of Lake Washington connecting to the north-south spine of I-5, and express bus service between Bellevue and Woodinville. **These projects are important links in the multi-modal transportation system in King County, and Bellevue supports additional legislative authorization for ST3 in order for projects consistent with Council policy to be included in a final package of Sound Transit investments sent to voters.**

PUBLIC SAFETY

Consolidate Medical Cannabis/Adult Recreational Marijuana Laws: Bellevue supports legislative changes to consolidate laws regulating the production and distribution of medical cannabis and recreational marijuana into a single system. The principle focus should be on achieving safe and appropriate access to medically recommended supply of medical cannabis while removing incentives to continue black marketing of products. The City also strongly supports legislative confirmation of local authority over traditional land use, licensing, local taxes and fees, and other regulatory functions regarding marijuana production or distribution.

Modify Weight and Length Limits for Large Fire Vehicles: Bellevue supports changes to WSDOT's existing weight and length limits on fire vehicles to allow flexibility and cost savings in the design and operation of fire apparatuses. Changes proposed by the Washington Fire Chiefs Association and many cities would resolve a conflict between the state's vehicle size, weight and load laws and modern aerial ladder apparatus design. These changes are needed to ensure that large fire vehicles are designed in a way that allows safe and efficient operation that complies with the law.

UTILITIES/ENVIRONMENT

Fund Stormwater: Bellevue supports continued funding for municipal stormwater capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement NPDES requirements. In addition, Bellevue supports continued funding for the new Stormwater Financial Assistance Program that provides funding for projects with direct water quality benefits.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Reform the Public Records Act: Bellevue takes a customer-focused approach to provide efficient and effective access to public records, and is committed to allocating resources to respond appropriately to the Public Records Act while balancing resources and customer expectations. Bellevue is committed to open and transparent government and supports legislative reform to enable Bellevue and other agencies to meet their obligations under the Public Records Act without being overwhelmed by requests.