

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

May 15, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Simas, and Wallace

ABSENT: Councilmembers Robertson and Robinson

1. Executive Session

Councilmember Simas called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 6:48 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Update on West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase 2

City Manager Brad Miyake opened discussion regarding the West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase 2 project. He said the City is accelerating the transportation project in order to coordinate with utilities projects to lessen the construction impacts.

Transportation Director Dave Berg said the Utilities Department has an agreement with the City of Issaquah to increase the water pressure in South Cove by the end of 2018. This requires replacing approximately two miles of an old water main along West Lake Sammamish Parkway. At the same time, funding is available for Phase 2 of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway transportation project. The funding is programmed for design work beginning in 2018, and the majority of the funding for construction is programmed in 2020-2021.

Mr. Berg said staff would like to coordinate the transportation and utilities projects to minimize the construction and traffic impacts. In addition to the water main project, there is a sewer line project in the area that could be completed at the same time. Mr. Berg said that revising the project schedules somewhat will not affect cash flow in the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. He noted an existing financial management policy that authorizes the City Manager to administratively approve the acceleration of project schedules that do not cause cash flow problems.

Mr. Berg observed that the section of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway project to be accelerated might not be the highest priority segment for residents. However, it makes sense in terms of efficiencies and managing impacts.

Councilmember Wallace expressed support for the proposal. However, he would like more details to understand the cash flow implications and whether combining the projects will result in a cost savings for the City.

Mayor Stokes thanked staff for the update and expressed support for minimizing construction and traffic impacts.

(b) Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan Update and Integration of Transportation Technology Partnership Manager

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled that the Council approved a consultant contract in November 2016 for the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan Update. He introduced discussion of that plan update and the new transportation technology staff position approved last year in the budget.

Chris Long, Traffic Engineering Manager, introduced new staff: Daniel Lai, Senior ITS Engineer, and Steve Marshall, Transportation Technology Partnership Manager. Mr. Lai highlighted his nine years of experience in ITS planning, design and implementation. Mr. Long noted Mr. Marshall's experience in planning and transportation, including as Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Transportation and Energy Solutions (CATES).

Mr. Long described current ITS projects including the adaptive signal system, video analytics partnership, connected vehicle pilot program, performance measures, transit signal priority, and lighting control systems. The adaptive signal system has been installed in every Bellevue intersection. The connected vehicle pilot program involves working with two companies that are using the City's signal data to develop mobile applications to inform drivers. Mr. Long said Bellevue is one of Metro's pilot sites for its next generation of transit signal priority technology, which is anticipated for deployment in late 2018 or early 2019. As LED street lighting is deployed, the City is testing control systems that will enhance energy efficiency and provide proactive maintenance information.

Mr. Lai recalled that the Council approved, in November 2016, the consultant contract for the ITS Master Plan Update, which revises the plan developed in 2004. The update is estimated to be completed by the end of 2017 and establishes an ITS deployment strategy for the next 5-10 years. Emerging issues to be addressed in the update include connected vehicles, autonomous vehicles, electrification, shared-use mobility with service providers, and data analytics.

Mr. Lai highlighted the status of the ITS Master Plan activities. The ITS inventory is complete and the literature review of other agencies' projects and best practices is nearing completion. The needs assessment task is in progress. Stakeholder workshops have been completed with 13

internal focus groups (e.g., parking management, emergency management, neighborhood traffic, and coordination with transit). The identification of needs will guide the short-, mid-, and long-term strategic ITS deployment plan. Mr. Lai said the ITS Master Plan Update will also address public outreach, including through mobile apps, the development of a communication infrastructure plan, and the development of a ITS project deployment plan. He and Mr. Marshall are meeting regularly with City staff in information technology, traffic engineering, economic development, and intergovernmental policy to coordinate planning efforts.

Mr. Marshall highlighted elements to be addressed during his first 90 days, including external outreach with other government agencies, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, Innovation Triangle, corporations, and car and ride share services. The ITS work plan will coordinate with the Smart Cities Strategy.

Mr. Long said a briefing on the ITS Master Plan Update will be provided to the Council in July.

Councilmember Lee said technology is the key to addressing transportation issues and challenges, and he is proud of the progress made by the City to date. He noted that ITS tools have expanded significantly since 2004 to include many technologies and innovations. He said it is important to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and venture capitalists to create transportation solutions.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak questioned which emerging technologies will provide the greatest benefits in the near-term. Mr. Lai described efforts to create data sharing collaboratives, including multimodal data to assist individuals in identifying the quickest travel routes.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Long said the usage of connected vehicle technology is emerging now. Mr. Marshall noted safety improvements through technology including automatic braking. He commented on the potential for using mobile apps to reserve parking spaces at Park and Ride lots and to access other travel information and services.

Councilmember Simas said the near-term introduction of self-driving vehicles is under development for the trucking industry. Mr. Simas questioned whether companies or agencies are currently using the City's data to identify new opportunities for transportation technology solutions.

Responding to Mr. Simas regarding internal City coordination, Mr. Marshall noted the interest in integrating operations across City functions to identify needs and to develop solutions and improvements.

Councilmember Wallace welcomed the new staff and noted the benefit of the neighborhood transportation levy to pursue technology solutions. He complimented Director Berg for putting together a strong transportation staff team. Mr. Wallace observed that the use of technology is likely the best and most cost-effective way to address transportation challenges and needs.

Councilmember Wallace suggested developing goals and/or guiding principles to document the purpose of ITS initiatives. As one goal, he encouraged pursuing public-private partnership opportunities. He said Columbus, Ohio was recently awarded a Smart City grant by partnering with local and national companies. Mr. Wallace suggested that the ITS Master Plan Update include a program for the use of the neighborhood transportation levy funds, including ways to measure outcomes and to forecast project benefits.

Mayor Stokes expressed support for staff's efforts and the City's leadership in transportation technology. He suggested collaborating with the Eastside Transportation Partnership (ETP) and the Sound Cities Association (SCA) to address regional and local transportation technologies and solutions.

Mayor Stokes thanked City Manager Miyake for his leadership and support of transportation technology staffing and initiatives.

(c) Development Services Construction Update

Mike Brennan, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD), introduced Liz Stead, Land Use Division Director, and Mark Poch, Assistant Director of Transportation for Traffic Operations, to provide an update on current construction.

Ms. Stead said construction permit activity remains strong and includes a variety of projects. Downtown projects include a number of apartments and condominiums, mixed use development, light rail stations, and hotels. BelRed projects include the Spring District Residential Phase 1, Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), assisted living, mixed use development, light rail stations, and the future REI headquarters campus. Ms. Stead said there are significant investments in Bellevue schools, completed and underway, including Tillicum Middle School, Bennett Elementary School, Stevenson Elementary School, Wilburton Elementary School, Sammamish High School, Highland Middle School, and Bellevue College student housing.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Brennan said a significant portion of the East Link light rail project permitting has been completed. However, permit activity is ongoing (e.g., right-of-way usage and traffic operations).

Mr. Poch said the City will complete a number of infrastructure projects over the coming years to support the growth and development. In addition, regional projects include East Link light rail, Puget Sound Energy's Energize Eastside project, Eastside Rail Corridor, and I-405 enhanced toll lanes. Mr. Poch said efforts are ongoing to develop the City's construction traffic management plan related to all of the local and regional projects. He described the focus on completing projects within specific geographic areas at the same time to minimize construction and traffic impacts and to maintain emergency management mobility throughout the community.

Mr. Poch noted the City's coordination with businesses and other stakeholders to develop plans that reduce the traffic impacts related to construction activity.

Mr. Brennan said the Development Services Cost of Services Study is nearly complete. He said the City monitors the quality of its services and the tools used to provide services on an ongoing basis. He noted that Carol Helland is now the Code and Policy Director, and Ms. Stead is the Land Use Division Director.

Mr. Brennan recalled that the results of the 2016 customer outreach study were reported to the Council on February 27, 2017. He said the City's response to customer feedback reflects continuing efforts to provide information to assist the public, including through videos on MyBuildingPermit.com and the overall update to the City's website that is nearing completion. The neighborhood development report will be available weekly online.

Mr. Brennan noted that, while development activity can be somewhat unpredictable, Bellevue's development trend will continue in the foreseeable future.

Mayor Stokes thanked staff for the update.

At 8:01 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared recess to the Regular Session.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

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