

February 5, 2018

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Update on the scope and timing of implementing a Downtown demonstration bikeway project along 108th Avenue Northeast.

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Transportation Department

POLICY ISSUES

Comprehensive Plan:

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan aims to "maintain and enhance a comprehensive multimodal transportation system to serve all members of the community" (Transportation Element Goal). The plan acknowledges that "pedestrian and bicycle facilities are vital to Bellevue's transportation system," and that constructing and maintaining "an integrated, connected, and safe pedestrian and bicycle system increases mobility and provides convenient access to schools, work, transit, and parks." (see Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation System). Policy directs the City to:

"Implement the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan and prioritize projects that address safety issues, provide access to activity centers, provide access to the transit and school bus systems, complete and connect planned pedestrian or bicycle facilities, [and] develop primary north-south and east-west bicycle routes through the city" among other considerations (TR-105).

Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan:

On February 17, 2009, the City Council adopted the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan (Ordinance No. 5861). The 2009 Plan establishes specific short- and mid-term performance targets relating to the implementation of priority bicycle corridors including having one north-south and one east-west bikeway implemented in Downtown Bellevue by 2014 (Policy PB-2). Annual progress reports indicate that the City is not presently implementing improvements at a rate consistent with its targets.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative:

On February 9, 2015, the City Council approved program principles and a scope of work to direct the Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative – a complement of action-oriented tasks aimed at fulfilling the projects and programs identified by the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. Included in the program principles is a commitment to: "Advance the implementation of Bellevue's planned Bicycle Priority Corridors to facilitate continuous bicycle travel along a connected grid of safe facilities throughout the City and the region."

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



No Council action is sought at this time. At its February 5, 2018 Study Session, the Transportation Commission and staff will provide Council an overview on the scope and timing of implementing a Downtown demonstration bikeway project on 108th Avenue Northeast..

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Guided by Council’s 2015 Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative Program Principles and Scope of Work, the Transportation Commission and staff are working with community stakeholders to advance the projects and programs identified in the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. At its April 28, 2016 workshop, the Transportation Commission endorsed the Bicycle Rapid Implementation Program (BRIP) which includes recommendations for citywide investments in Bellevue’s bicycling infrastructure. The program, informed by extensive community outreach, identifies 52 projects that would realize a network of bicycle facilities that are:

- *connected*, prioritizing a network that “fills the gaps” in lieu of piece-meal implementation,
- *protected*, promoting physically separated facilities to minimize conflicts between roadway users where possible, and
- *rapid*, leveraging early-win opportunities that can quickly advance project delivery.

Consistent with the 2009 Plan, the BRIP list incorporates project ideas for Downtown Bellevue including 108th Avenue Northeast. The Transportation Commission acknowledged that the ultimate package of projects to be implemented will be determined through additional consultation with the community. To that end, the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) invited staff and members of the Bellevue Transportation Commission to engage in a discussion about how to make Downtown a comfortable, safe, attractive place for people to bike (Attachment A).

The BDA Transportation Committee’s consultative process included briefings on Sept. 28, Oct. 26, and Nov. 16. Following meetings on Dec. 7 and Dec. 19, the BDA Board of Directors endorsed a recommendation to the Bellevue Transportation Commission and Council to implement both a bike share program that permits private companies to make bicycles available for shared use to individuals on a short term basis and a demonstration bikeway project in which temporary and low-cost treatments are made to 108th Avenue Northeast between Main Street and Northeast 12th Street to evaluate how bikeway design concepts function in Bellevue (Attachment B).

The following engagement of Downtown stakeholder groups and the broader community took place concurrent with the BDA process:

Mailer/Social Media

- A postcard mailer was sent to 10,000 Downtown area residents, employers, and building owners referencing the online survey and open house.
- Announcements regarding the survey and open house were made on the City’s social media outlets and multiple online forums.

Briefings

- The Bellevue Transportation Commission received briefings on Sept. 28, Nov. 9, and Jan. 11.
- King County Metro and Sound Transit were briefed on Oct. 9 to ensure transit agencies have an opportunity to inform the candidate demonstration bikeway project.
- The Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee received a briefing at its Oct. 12 meeting.
- Several emails were sent to the Old Bellevue Merchant's Association requesting the opportunity to provide a briefing.

Community surveys

- An online survey on candidate demonstration bikeway project corridors was released Nov. 1 and was available through Jan. 1; it generated 1,260 responses.

Open houses and "pop-up" events

- An Eastside Bike Share Vendor Fair took place on Sept. 27 at Bellevue City Hall generating media coverage by The Seattle Times, KIRO 7, KING 5, KPLU, KUOW, and others.
- A Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Open House took place on Nov. 30 generating media coverage from Bellevue Reporter, KIRO 7, and the Seattle Bike Blog.
- Three pop-up events were held on Nov. 15, Nov. 21, and Nov. 28 to solicit feedback from people who live, work, or visit downtown.

Additional stakeholder communication was received from the following organizations:

- Microsoft
- HNTB
- SAP Concur
- Su Development
- Seattle Children's Hospital
- Valve Corporation
- LimeBike
- Ofo
- Mobike
- Overlake Medical Center
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- REI
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
- Wright Runstad & Company
- Spin
- The Gotcha Group
- VBikes

Communication was also received from the following individuals: Victor Bishop, Todd Woosley, Melissa Harp, Stu Vander Hoek, and Michelle Wannamaker (Attachment C).

At its January 11 meeting, the Transportation Commission voted five in favor and two opposed in recommending staff proceed with implementing the downtown demonstration bikeway project. In their deliberations on the downtown demonstration bikeway project Commissioners concurred that the project should:

- collect data to make necessary adjustments and ultimately for assessing performance and next steps;
- minimize impacts to travel times, on street parking, and access to property;
- support existing and anticipated near-term bicycle projects leading to/from downtown;
- incorporate effective outreach before and during the implementation;

- ensure a safe and comfortable place for people walking, bicycling, taking transit, and driving vehicles; and
- coordinate with transit and ride share services to support frequent and reliable operations.

Commissioners voting against the recommendation indicated that additional analysis was required on the long-range (2030) traffic implications of the project across the entire Downtown transportation network taking into account all roadway users (i.e., people walking, bicycling, taking transit, and driving vehicles) and curb space implications (i.e., freight delivery and transportation network companies). The majority of Commissioners concluded that the level of technical analysis provided was sufficient to pursue implementation of a demonstration project.

Staff confirmed that the Commission will be consulted in developing performance metrics for the bikeway project and preparing a briefing to the Council following completion of the demonstration. Recurring status updates will be scheduled with the Commission during the demonstration period.

At its January 25 meeting, the Transportation Commission continued discussion on the opportunity to permit citywide bike share services concurrent with the launch of the Downtown demonstration bikeway project. Commissioners requested staff return on March 8 to discuss how the City’s goals for privately operated bike share will maintain orderly and accessible public spaces and ensure that helmet use and safe riding behavior is encouraged.

Finally, at its January 25 meeting, the Transportation Commission approved a transmittal letter to the City Council on the downtown demonstration bikeway project (Attachment D). The City has funding from the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Levy, approved by voters in November 2016, to implement bicycle facility improvements Citywide as well as a Downtown demonstration bikeway corridor.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

- A. BDA downtown bike infrastructure improvement series scope of work
- B. BDA recommendation on demonstration bikeway and bike share projects
- C. Stakeholder communications
- D. Commission transmittal letter to the City Council

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

- A. Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative Scope of Work (May 2015)
- B. Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan (February 2009)