

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Bellevue Smart Mobility Plan Update

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POLICY ISSUES

Council approved the Bellevue Smart Mobility Plan Update consultant contract in November 2016.

This plan represents the implementation strategy of the transportation portion of the “Bellevue Smart” smart cities plan that envisions a transportation system that “moves people smarter, safer, faster, while providing more choices, better real-time information, lowering emissions and raising efficiencies.”

The 2018-2020 Council 3-Year Priorities state that the City should “advance implementation of the Smart City Strategy, including advanced transportation technology and autonomous, connected, electric and shared vehicle technology.”

The Transportation Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan supports the monitoring and implementation of emerging technologies related to autonomous vehicles and other technologies that improve mobility and safety (TR-38), as well as the employment of intelligent transportation systems (TR-48).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



No formal action is required by Council at this time. Tonight’s presentation will provide Council an opportunity to learn about recent developments with the Smart Mobility Plan. Staff is seeking feedback on the plan and direction on potential principles to be incorporated into a draft Smart Mobility Interest Statement. As you know, once adopted by Council, interest statements form the basis of Council policy and provide general guidance to City Councilmembers and staff as they participate in forums and other activities to accomplish City Council goals.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Council has endorsed Bellevue Smart (formerly the Smart City plan) that covers smart city strategies and implementation actions to achieve improved livability, sustainability and resiliency in a world that is increasingly digital, mobile, connected and urban. There are six elements to Bellevue Smart, Transportation being one of those six. The Bellevue Smart Mobility Plan delves deeper into the initiatives to be developed and implemented over the next few years.

Staff recently completed a final draft of the Bellevue Smart Mobility Plan (formerly the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Master Plan Update). Components of this plan have been presented to Council at two Study Sessions. At the August 7 Study Session, staff presented the vision statement and goals for the Smart Mobility Plan, as summarized below:

Vision

Use innovation and partnerships to deploy emerging technologies that enhance the safety, sustainability, efficiency, and accessibility of Bellevue's transportation system.

Goals

1. Make Bellevue a nationally recognized leader in advanced transportation technologies.
2. Improve safety for all modes of travel in support of Bellevue's Vision Zero initiative.
3. Leverage Bellevue's ITS network and transportation technology partnerships to support the growth of the technology industry in Bellevue and overall economic opportunities.
4. Improve the efficiency of the roadway network to support regional mobility.
5. Expand and enhance the City's current ITS functions.
6. Create more mobility choices for commuters, residents and visitors.
7. Provide accurate and timely transportation information for more efficient travel choices.
8. Enhance sustainability by reducing vehicle emissions.
9. Pursue private and public-sector funding partnerships in advancing Bellevue's Smart Mobility Implementation Strategy.

At the January 22 Study Session, staff presented the six smart mobility initiatives that would frame development of the strategic deployment plan:

1. **Traffic Management Initiatives:** Provide enhancements to the City's existing traffic management toolbox with a focus on implementing proactive and data-driven traffic management processes to optimize network capacity and improve efficiency of operation and maintenance activities.
2. **Real-time Traveler Information Initiatives:** Leverage both public and private sector resources to enhance the delivery of accurate, timely and relevant traffic data for a more effective traveler information system.
3. **Data Management Initiatives:** Make use of the exponential growth in available transportation data by improving the processes related to data capture, management and analysis to improve safety and mobility within Bellevue.
4. **Electric Vehicle Initiatives:** Support a continued upward trend towards sustainability and clean transportation in Bellevue by supporting the transition to electric vehicles for public transit, shared mobility transportation, personal vehicles and the City of Bellevue's fleet.

5. **Autonomous and Connected Vehicle Initiatives:** Explore autonomous and connected vehicle demonstration projects on public right-of-way to inform future larger-scale deployments in the City, and encourage industry partners to participate in the City's technological advancements.
6. **Shared Mobility Initiatives:** Integrate shared mobility services in Bellevue as a means of providing more equitable, accessible, and cost-effective travel alternatives to single occupancy vehicles which contribute to more than 60 percent of Bellevue's current commuter trips.

Since January, staff has worked to complete the remaining tasks and documentation for this project. The plan is in final review and copies are anticipated to be available by the end of June 2018. Staff are also working on procurement/deployment of some of the initial top priority elements of the Smart Mobility plan. A brief summary of these active plan elements will be presented to Council as part of our Study Session presentation. These include:

- Upgrade of City-wide ITS communication system
- Recent enhancements to the Microsoft video analytics project
- Alerts from NORCOM incident tracking system

ATCMTD Grant Project

One of the initiative projects that has gained immediate support from both public and private entities is a flexible, electric, and eventually autonomous shared mobility solution focused on connecting south King County communities - where housing is more affordable but commute options are more limited - with major employers on the Eastside. In Southeast King County, some areas don't have sufficient population density to justify frequent fixed-route transit service to Eastside employment centers. This mobility solution will supplement traditional transit service for those commuters. This project concept is being submitted for grant funding through the Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) Initiative, a federal grant managed through the US Department of Transportation. The goals of this project are as follows:

- Develop and test a mobile application that allows commuters to reserve a parking space at a pickup location, connect with a shared ride, and coordinate drop off near their workplace
- Provide mobility options to people who live outside employment centers
- Provide an innovative tool for cities to manage curb space in high-demand areas
- Reduce emissions via transitioning to all-electric or hybrid-electric vehicles
- Help employers meet Commute Trip Reduction requirements
- Deploy vehicle technologies that will eventually include autonomous vehicles

A complete list of partners and details of the funding ask will be presented to Council during the Study Session presentation.

Smart Mobility Interest Statement

As part of finalizing the Smart Mobility Plan, staff would like to work with Council to develop and finalize an Interest Statement regarding Bellevue's commitment to Smart Mobility. An interest statement sets Council policy at a high level, and provides policy direction to Bellevue staff to guide participation in activities to achieve Council goals.

At tonight's Study Session, staff will discuss with Council possible principles around which an Interest Statement could be formed, ensuring:

- Public safety
- Public benefit

- Measurable outcomes
- Economic development and livability
- Transportation technology advancement, including autonomous and electric vehicles
- Supportive regulatory framework
- Partnerships, both public and private
- Public engagement and transparency

Staff will incorporate Council discussion and feedback on the principles as it drafts an interest statement.

OPTIONS

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A