

# **DRAFT 202019 State Legislative Agenda**

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The strength of our region's economy depends upon a multimodal, well- integrated and well-performing transportation network to reliably move people and goods within and between significant job centers. The City supports the following:

- Reliable and robust funding for the transportation budget to continue making investments in the state's transportation infrastructure. Bellevue encourages the Legislature to develop a revenue package using alternative funding sources given passage of Initiative 976.

### I-405 Corridor Highest Priorities

- ~~Authorizing tolling of the I-405 Corridor Express Toll Lanes between Bellevue and Renton in conjunction with added capacity on the Corridor.~~
- Funding for the I-405 Master Plan projects and improvements to ensure reliability for Bus Rapid Transit scheduled to open in 2024, the SR 520 to NE 10th Street southbound braided ramp and the NE 6th street extension across I-405 to NE 120th.
- Funding for improvements to provide access between I-405 and Downtown Bellevue, estimated at \$300 million. Final location and configuration of access is pending a study of alternatives conducted by the WSDOT and the City of Bellevue. Authorizing bonding against toll revenue from the I-405 Corridor to fund improvements on I-405.
- Construction funding for interchange improvements on SR 520 at 124th Avenue NE to alleviate congestion, improve safety and enhance access to the Spring District.
- ~~If there is a statewide transportation package, Bellevue's highest priority is funding for projects on I-405.~~

### Additional Transportation Priorities

- Funding to complete segments of the Eastrail (formerly the Eastside Rail Corridor)—a multi-modal regional trail system that provides north/south connectivity for the Eastside— and a trail connection from the Eastrail to Spring Boulevard.
- Funding for the City's Grand Connection project across I-405 that connects growth corridors in Wilburton and BelRed with Downtown Bellevue and the waterfront.
- Incentives and progress on the regulatory framework for the use of smart mobility technologies, including autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles and shared mobility options.
- If the Legislature considers transitioning from the gas tax to an alternative source of revenue

such as a road usage charge to fund the state's transportation infrastructure, Bellevue supports the following:

- o Privacy protections for data collected.
- o A non-regressive approach that does not penalize low-income people.
- o A cost-effective collection system that is easy to administer.
- o A transition period that smooths out potential cost shifts.
- o Provisions to collect data and revenue from out-of-state drivers.
- o Legislation that considers the use of new revenue for the same purposes as the tax it replaces. If the Legislature chooses to expand the use of the revenue it should consider increasing the total revenue collected to ensure adequate funding for critical infrastructure projects.

## **—AFFORDABLE HOUSING, HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS**

**Tools for Affordable Housing:** Bellevue supports legislation to provide funding tools jurisdictions could consider adopting to construct and/or preserve~~add~~ affordable housing units, with a focus on a broad array of income levels, including low-income and workforce housing, affordable at 0-50% of Area Median Income (AMI) where Bellevue has the greatest housing need. Tools may include increased funding for the Housing Trust Fund; a sales tax exemption on multi-family construction of low-income units; and greater opportunities to act locally in order to leverage state funding. Any local-option tool imposed by a county shall allocate funding to the communities where the funds are generated for affordable housing investments,~~and support for the creation of workforce housing, typically affordable at 50-120% AMI.~~

~~Bellevue supports legislation to resolve the condominium construction warranty liability provisions to better balance homeowner protections and developer risks to increase access to affordable homeownership options.~~

**Homelessness and Human Services:** Bellevue supports increased state investments in the human services sector including funding for treatment and prevention programs that focus on the root causes of homelessness, mental illness, addiction, substance abuse, diversion programs to keep people out of the criminal justice system and re-entry programs for previously incarcerated people.

Legislation regulating tenthomeless encampments should not preempt local control. It should: balance impacts on public safety, security, and well-being of residents of the encampments and neighborhoods; and avoid clustering and excessively long stays.

## **ECONOMIC VITALITY**

**Support for the Technology ~~and~~ Education Sectors:** These sectors are vitally important to Bellevue's competitiveness and desirability as "the place you want to be". The City supports enhancing these sectors through investments in the "infrastructure" of these sectors that prepare people for lifetime education and opportunities in our region.

Bellevue supports specific investments including: tax incentives for R&D and technology start-up companies; accelerating investments in STEM, early learning, K-12 and higher education; "cradle to career" workforce development; programs that support career-technical education,

apprenticeship programs and advanced manufacturing. Bellevue also supports funding for schools to meet the requirement to teach civics classes.

Bellevue supports telecommunications facilities such as broadband, small cell wireless and 5G that expand services to our community.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**Preserve Local Control:** Bellevue strongly urges the Legislature to honor local decision-making authority and refrain from preempting the authority of city elected officials who are closest to the people they serve. Local authority decisions include land use decisions on zoning, density, accessory dwelling units and parking; local taxes and financing; siting essential public facilities and wireless facilities. The City strongly opposes unfunded mandates.

~~**K-12 Education Funding:** Legislative actions to deal with the McCleary decision placed added pressure on property taxes. The Legislature should use other methods to resolve K-12 education funding without such heavy reliance on property taxes.~~

**Increase State-Shared Revenues and Revenue Tools:** Bellevue strongly supports increasing state-shared revenues (e.g., liquor taxes/profits and marijuana) and retaining programs and authority benefiting local government. These revenues provide funding for critical local services such as the human services safety net, and public safety and public health., the City also supports ~~and~~ increased funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy to ensure newly-hired officers are trained in a timely manner.

~~**Maintain Local Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax and Licensing Authority:** Bellevue supports continued streamlining of the administration and reporting of local B&O taxes through the single multi-city business license and tax portal—FileLocal. The City strongly opposes state administration of the local B&O tax as it would reduce local flexibility to tailor the tax to local conditions and reduce revenues that fund critical services.~~

## -ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

~~**Reclaimed Water:** State law requires water and wastewater providers to develop system plans to guide future expansion. Bellevue supports legislation to require reclaimed water providers to develop a reclaimed water system plan prior to distribution of reclaimed water, just as is required of all water and wastewater providers.~~

**Storm Water Funding:** Bellevue supports continued funding for municipal storm water capacity grants that provide flexibility for cities to implement NPDES Rrequirements and. ~~The City also supports continued funding for the Storm Water Financial Assistance Program~~ to fund local projects with direct water quality benefits, including storm water retrofits.

**Funding for Removal of Fish Passage Barriers:Culvert Removal/Retrofit:** Bellevue supports a comprehensive funding approach to remove barriers to fish passage focused on rapid implementation of watershed plans for salmon recovery that expand access to habitat on the most productive Chinook salmon runs.

**Clean Energy Tools:** Bellevue supports an accelerated transition from coal to clean, renewable energy provided the transition does not result in negative economic impacts to ratepayers. The City

supports the transition to cleaner energy sources, including: electric cars; “smart city” technologies; green building technologies that save energy; comprehensive science-based limits on carbon pollution and other greenhouse gases; limiting plastics from the waste stream; and infrastructure that supports renewable power and storage.

## **2020~~19~~ CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

**Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park:** Support the City’s request for \$1 million to develop a new 1.65-acre neighborhood park in the Bridle Trails Neighborhood. The park is adjacent to a 5-acre parcel of City-owned open space. Construction is scheduled for mid -2021.

**Changing-tables for Disabled Adults:** Bellevue requests \$250,000 to install 13 changing tables for disabled adults in park restrooms throughout the City. Adults with disabilities are often unable to use park facilities and other amenities due to their restricted mobility and often have to return home to care for personal needs. The addition of these facilities will greatly enhance the ability of individuals to engage in the community.

**Highland Village Apartments:** Support the City’s request for the additional \$500,000 to complete the state’s share of costs to acquire this affordable housing complex.

**Grand Connection:** Support Bellevue’s request for \$1 million to develop one of two connection points through the Downtown Park as part of Bellevue’s Grand Connection project. The Grand Connection is a pedestrian/bicycle corridor that will stretch from the waterfront at Meydenbauer Bay Park through Downtown, across I-405 and connect to the Eastside Rail Corridor in the Wilburton area.

## **POTENTIAL FUTURE CAPITAL AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING REQUESTS**

**Grand Connection:** One of Bellevue’s highest priorities is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to provide a transformative connection from Meydenbauer Bay Park on Lake Washington through Downtown across I-405 to light rail, the Eastrail Corridor, the BelRed and Wilburton Development Districts. The vision for this multi-modal connection is about moving people, fostering economic development, arts and culture and creating public spaces for residents, businesses, workers and visitors to enjoy. In 2020, the City will work to refine a design and meet with local, regional, state and federal partners to make the Grand Connection a reality.

**Regional Aquatics Center:** The legacy swimming pools in East King County funded by Forward Thrust in the 1970’s have reached the end of their useful life. Bellevue is exploring opportunities to partner with King County, surrounding cities, Bellevue College and the Bellevue School District to develop a regional aquatics center. Such a facility could offer swimming classes, water aerobics and water therapy opportunities, provide health, safety and wellness education and host competitive events. The City and potential partners will be meeting with legislators to discuss potential future funding opportunities for this regional facility.