

Additions to the text of the 9/21/2020 Draft Economic Development Plan are denoted below in bold.

Comment		Plan Section and Page #	Response
1	<i>Ensure the importance of childcare within workforce strategies</i>	<p>Page 16: Foundational Strategy</p> <p>Page 22: COVID Impacts</p>	<p>This need should be considered when exploring investment in transportation, livability, and other amenities such as childcare that will help attract and retain a talented workforce.”</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic, the need for more and affordable childcare options was a critical issue for local businesses and residents. COVID-19 has also added workforce strain due to the cancelling of in-person schooling and limited childcare availability, which has created additional challenges for dual working parent households.</p> <p>Note: Work to address structural barriers for childcare providers and the active recruitment of services is covered under the policy guidance in the Small Business and Retail chapters of the plan. Work to increase the availability of affordable housing and improvements in regional transportation will help address two of the key structural issues – the availability of childcare workers within an easy commute.</p>
2	<i>Ensure retail strategies will retain local goods and services for residents within 15 minutes.</i>	Page 25: Strategy 1	<p>Retain and recruit a healthy and diverse retail mix, including neighborhood and resident serving businesses throughout the city.</p> <p>Note: Staff can work with partners and property owners to encourage a more diverse mix of retail within existing commercial areas. Concepts that effect</p>

			land use and zoning in neighborhoods citywide, like the “15-minute city” should be considered as part of the updates to the City’s Comprehensive Plan in 2023.
3	<p>1) <i>Emphasis multimodal transportation</i></p> <p>2) <i>more aggressive efforts in working with private sectors to develop Autonomous, Connected, Electric, Shared applications (ACES) and projects.</i></p>	<p>Page 23:</p> <p>Strategy 3:</p>	Continue to expand transportation including multimodal and advanced options.
4	<i>Equitable should be included when we speak to our sustainable city</i>	Page 12: Desired Outcomes	A sustainable and equitable city, with a prosperous economy, a healthy environment, and an innovative, caring community. We guide Bellevue’s growth in a responsible manner, well-planned and in sync with our natural and build environments.
5	<i>Include how we can increase the number of residents working in Bellevue.</i>	Page 23: Tactic 1.1	<p>Work with service providers and employers to expand internship, apprenticeship and training opportunities across the city. Prioritize opportunities that help Bellevue residents access jobs in the city.</p> <p>Note: Using the above policy as guidance, staff is currently working with major employers, Bellevue College, the King County Workforce Development Council, neighboring cities, and others to develop project and programming ideas. More information will be presented to Council during future quarterly updates.</p>
6	<i>Denote we want businesses to stay in Bellevue</i>	Page 17: Ongoing Services	“Small Business and Entrepreneurship support – Continue to provide the resources that businesses need to start, stay , grow and thrive in Bellevue”
7	<i>Highlight the importance of partnerships and working collectively with regional and state partners</i>	Page 18: Capacity Building and Partnerships, 2 nd Paragraph	“Bellevue should continue discussions with partner organizations, at the local, regional, state, and national level. This includes a mix of chambers, business associations, economic development agencies, and others that help the City implement its plans. The City should also explore new partnerships with organization and residents throughout the

			region who have the expertise and strategic ability to help achieve the City's goals including multicultural and community-based organizations. "
8	<i>Emphasize Multiculturalism and Welcoming</i>	Page 14: Strategic Themes	<p>Regionalism: "Bellevue's economy, workforce and multicultural community is intrinsically linked to both the Eastside and Puget Sound regions..."</p> <p>Internationalism: "Bellevue is a global city with residents, businesses, employees and visitors from across the world. Wherever possible, this international, multicultural connectivity should be celebrated and leveraged to attract and welcome new business, talent and investment to the city.</p> <p>Note: With the addition of the Foundational Strategy specific to diversity, equity, and inclusion, multiculturalism is an element woven in throughout the Plan and will be a guiding element for the individual tactics. Other strategies to cultivate diverse business districts, develop our diverse residents into world-class talent, and improve the diversity of offerings and amenities in the city will also have very strong ties to multiculturalism.</p>
9	<i>Encourage Connectivity and Digital Access and Equity</i>	Page 15: Foundational Strategy 1	<p>"Provide a business climate and related infrastructure that facilitate and encourage desirable business investment. This includes internet and other digital infrastructure as outlined in the Bellevue Smart City Plan.</p> <p>Note: Improving internet connectivity is one of the six elements in Bellevue's Smart City plan. That plan includes several strategies to expand in-home access for low-income residents, and to leverage public & private partnerships to improve internet infrastructure across the city. This element of the plan aims to future-proof infrastructure for smart city networks and increase resiliency. A 2019</p>

			<p>broadband study by King County found that for Bellevue 93% of homes have internet access and 81% report that their internet is mostly or completely adequate. The Smart City plan aims to improve those numbers to improve equitable access citywide.</p>
10	<i>Emphasize the importance of innovation</i>	<p>Page 11: Vision</p> <p>Page 20: Small Business</p>	<p>“Bellevue is a vibrant and inclusive global innovation hub fueled by a highly educated, entrepreneurial and diverse workforce.”</p> <p>Bellevue should continue to maintain its innovative and creative environment attracting and inspiring the next generation of visionaries who take on today’s biggest challenges to build a better tomorrow.</p>
11	<i>Importance of systems to track efforts and measures progress and compare to benchmarks</i>	Page 13: Metrics of Success	<p>Note: Council will receive clear and consistent updates through quarterly reports including comparable city data where feasible. Staff will utilize the Open Data Portal and other tools to provide public-facing updates.</p>
12	<i>Attract investment capital through tax increment financing (TIF).</i>	Page 19: Capacity Building Tactic 2.2	<p>Note: Work on Tax Increment Financing, as well as other tools, is covered under policy guidance in Capacity Building Tactic 2.2 to “Develop additional public-private partnership tools and funding mechanisms.”</p> <p>It is important to note that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is not enabled at the State level. The first step would be to enable this tool in Washington. If the Council wishes to advocate for this funding mechanism, it could be considered for the Council’s legislative agenda and included in discussions with partner organizations analyzing and advocating for additional funding in the State legislature.</p>