

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: June 19, 2018

To: Jennifer Robertson, Councilmember
Bellevue City Council
Parks & Community Services Board Council Liaison

Bradley Calvert, Planning Manager
Community Development Department

From: Debra Kumar, Chair
On behalf of the Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: Comments on the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan, Sequence Two

At the Board's June meeting, we received a progress report on the Grand Connection planning initiative, specifically the alternatives identified for the I-405 crossing. The crossing alternatives are described in the Grand Connection Framework Plan Sequence Two, which is currently inviting public comment. In discussing the alternatives, the Board identified key principles that we ask the City Council to consider in its selection of a preferred alternative. In October 2017, the Board submitted a memorandum with comments on the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan Sequence One. The principles below build on the Board's previous comments, which support the Framework Plan's vision for a vibrant urban experience that will enhance Bellevue's long-standing identity as a City in a Park.

- **Keep the Grand Connection grand.** During its discussion of the three alternatives, the Board observed that the City has a unique opportunity to create a signature park that will define Bellevue for future generations. The Board encourages the City to think big as it considers the best way to connect the landscape and urban fabric of Downtown with the Wilburton Commercial Area.
- **Provide a significant public park for the Grand Connection's east side.** As articulated in the 2017 memorandum, the Board stresses the value of creating a public park of significance on the east side of the Grand Connection, to counterbalance Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Bay Park to the west.
- **Consider cost, funding sources, and partnership opportunities.** The Board identified the need to evaluate potential funding strategies for each alternative, noting that certain funding, cost-sharing, or partnership opportunities might be easier to achieve with one alternative versus another. We also ask the City Council to consider implementation strategies for the three alternatives. Lastly, costs should be weighed against each alternative's capacity to provide the iconic crossing that is a goal of the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this next step in the Grand Connection and Wilburton planning initiatives. The Board continues to enthusiastically support the Grand Connection's vision for a connected, inclusive network of parks and public spaces, and we look forward to future opportunities for comment.