

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

July 25, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Robertson¹, Robinson, Slatter, and Wallace²

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding. There was no Executive Session.

2. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Slatter seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 4-0.

3. Oral Communications

(a) Mary Ellen Stone, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, spoke regarding the County's Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) levy. She said the Sexual Assault Resource Center provides trauma-focused therapy, which is an evidence-based practice that helps victims recover in a relatively short period of time. Funding sources include the MIDD program, as well as Medicaid and private insurance when available. The Center assists approximately 80 individuals annually through the MIDD program, with one-third of those coming from Bellevue and the Eastside. Ms. Stone requested the Council's support of the MIDD sales tax levy.

(b) Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke, Executive Director of Hero House, said the organization provides vocational and social recovery services for adults with mental illness through the evidence-based clubhouse model. She said MIDD funding, which represents 52 percent

¹ Councilmember Robertson arrived following approval of the agenda.

² Councilmember Wallace arrived at approximately 6:15 p.m., and left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

of the HERO House budget, supports pre-vocational, educational, and employment services. Services are provided to clients at no cost, and the organization served 202 individuals from the Eastside last year.

- (c) Diedre Evans said she is the Community Advocacy Program Manager with Lifewire, which provides domestic violence-related services, primarily in east King County. She said MIDD funding is a critical resource for Lifewire and has significantly enhanced the range of services that the organization is able to provide. Lifewire was previously not able to offer any mental health services but now has a counseling program manager and a part-time therapist. The MIDD program has allowed Lifewire to serve 160 domestic violence survivors.
- (d) Stephanie Cherrington, Executive Director of Eastside Pathways, described the organization's mission to mobilize private, public and nonprofit entities to support children. She expressed support for King County's Best Starts for Kids initiative and highlighted its benefits for Bellevue and the Eastside. She thanked the Council for its support of Eastside Pathways.
- (e) Vicki Orrico expressed support for Resolution No. 9126 authorizing execution of the East Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) Implementation Agreement. She served as Chair of the Planning Commission when the BelRed Plan was adopted to transform the area from light industrial and commercial uses to vibrant new neighborhoods and thriving businesses served by an integrated system of multi-modal transportation choices, educational opportunities, parks and open space, and both workforce and affordable housing. She urged the City to continue to work with Sound Transit to uphold the BelRed vision and to restore the full square footage of transit-oriented development (TOD) at the OMSF site. Ms. Orrico requested a continued role for stakeholders to provide input to staff.
- (f) Elizabeth Kiker, Executive Director of the Cascade Bicycle Club and Washington Bikes advocacy organizations, expressed support for the Council's decision to place the neighborhood transportation safety, connectivity and congestion levy on the fall ballot.
- (g) Vicky Clarke, speaking on behalf of the Cascade Bicycle Club, expressed support for the neighborhood transportation levy. She urged the Council to accelerate the implementation of the bike network.
- (h) Alex Zimmerman, StandUP-America, reiterated his request that the City Manager hold meetings with the public. Mr. Zimmerman said he does not understand how Bellevue residents continue to elect the same City Councilmembers.
- (i) Keith Stobie expressed support for the proposed neighborhood transportation levy and for expanding the bicycle network.

4. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

There was no discussion.

- (b) Ordinance No. 6303 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund improvements to fire facilities.

City Manager Brad Miyake said staff requests Council direction on two proposed ballot measures and property tax levies. Ordinance No. 6303 represents a 12.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) 20-year Fire facilities levy. Ordinance No. 6304 represents a ballot measure with a levy of 15 cents per \$1,000 AV for a 20-year transportation neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion projects package.

Bob Hyde, Deputy City Attorney, recalled that the ordinances were discussed with the Council the previous week. The draft ordinances have been revised based on that discussion. In the Fire Facilities ordinance, a Whereas clause referencing the Downtown Fire Station was added pursuant to Councilmember Lee's suggestion. A reference in Ordinance No. 6303 to the neighborhood transportation levy added the word "congestion" to be consistent with revisions to Ordinance No. 6304 proposed by Councilmember Robertson. Mr. Hyde said he revised the transportation ordinance to incorporate additional suggestions by Ms. Robertson, except for her suggested reference to "roadway" projects.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak thanked Councilmember Wallace for his early interest in considering ballot measures for critical needs. He thanked the Council for its ongoing support and development of the final ordinances. Mr. Chelminiak said the transportation ballot measure is a way to request voters' support to expedite the completion of projects (i.e., bike and pedestrian investments, and safety and congestion projects) that have previously been identified as priorities. The Fire facilities levy package contains items identified in recent years related to seismic standards, growth, and modern equipment and facilities standards. Mr. Chelminiak observed that it is fair to ask the public for a property tax to fund those items. He believes this is a smart way for a modern city to respond to growth and to implement new and emerging technologies.

Councilmember Wallace thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their leadership in addressing the ballot measures. He said input from the community was helpful, and it is important to present the proposals to the voters. He said the Fire facilities levy is an obligation that is similar to education levies. He said it would not be prudent to defer the needed investments. He said the neighborhood transportation levy will expedite projects related to growth and residents' concerns and priorities. Mr. Wallace said he hopes the voters see this as an opportunity to continue to enhance the community.

Councilmember Robertson said she supports placing both measures on the ballot. She said this has been a long process, beginning with the Council's adoption of a vision for the community and review of the long-range financial plan. She said a Downtown Fire Station has been a

priority for a number of years. Ms. Robertson said a levy is appropriate to implement the long-term capital projects in the Fire Facilities Plan. She said the investments are needed to ensure ongoing safety and protection for the community.

Councilmember Robertson said the neighborhood transportation levy addresses longtime priorities related to growth and to balancing the investments in Downtown mobility. The levy package includes bike lanes, congestion projects, sidewalks, crosswalks, and other neighborhood features. She thanked Councilmembers for their collaboration in this effort.

Councilmember Robinson concurred with her colleagues. She recalled that a long list of projects was identified during the budget process two years ago. However, adequate funding was not available to complete all of them. She observed that the neighborhood transportation levy is a response to the community, and she is proud of the Council for finding a way to fund neighborhood connectivity, school pedestrian safety, bike projects, and other items. She said it is urgent to address the Fire facilities needs as well and to upgrade the stations to current standards.

Councilmember Slatter concurred with the Council's previous comments. She thanked staff who worked long hours with the Council to develop the ballot measures, and she thanked the community for its input and interest. As a health care professional, Ms. Slatter said she values the Fire Department's daily services. The Fire facilities levy supports essential infrastructure needs with dedicated funds to allow some agility in the use of the funds.

Ms. Slatter said the neighborhood transportation levy is a balanced and serious proposal to accelerate Bellevue's current and future infrastructure needs. She said community input indicates a high priority for safe and predictable travel options. She expressed support for both ballot measures.

Mayor Stokes agreed with the Council's comments. He said the levies are important for completing critical Fire facilities and transportation investments. He said this has been a good team effort by the Council, staff, and the community. He thanked City Manager Brad Miyake, Deputy City Manager Kate Berens, Deputy City Attorney Bob Hyde, Interim Finance Director Toni Rezab, Fire Chief Mark Risen, Transportation Director Dave Berg, Assistant Director of Transportation Ron Kessack, and the Transportation Commission for their hard work and collaboration. Mayor Stokes said the levies provide a great value to the community.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6303, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Stokes recognized the contributions to this effort by Councilmember Lee, who is currently out of the country.

- (c) Ordinance No. 6304 providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City of Bellevue at an election to be held on November 8, 2016, of a proposition authorizing the City to increase its regular property tax levy above the limit established in RCW 84.55.010 to fund transportation neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion improvements.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6304, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.
- (d) Resolution No. 9126 authorizing execution of the East Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) Implementation Agreement between the City and Sound Transit; and authorizing the City Manager to appoint City representative(s) to serve as needed in the processes outlined in the Implementation Agreement.

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion of Resolution No. 9126 authorizing the execution of the East Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) Implementation Agreement.

Monica Buck, Assistant City Attorney, recalled Council input from the July 18 meeting. In response to a request to provide additional clarity regarding the BelRed vision, revisions were not made to the Implementation Agreement. However, language was added to the Request for Proposals (RFP) referencing the BelRed Subarea Plan vision and specific subarea policies related to mixed use development (i.e., office, residential, and retail uses). Resolution No. 9126 includes language reinforcing the vision and the goal to replace development potential lost to the siting of the OMSF. The Implementation Agreement acknowledges the City's participation in the RFP process for the transit oriented development (TOD) offering after the parcels are established.

Ms. Buck said the Council asked staff to propose more detailed language regarding the mix and square footage of uses. Draft language has been added to the RFP indicating that development within this node of the BelRed corridor will "provide a mix of office, housing and retail uses in this area, with office as the predominant use." Ms. Buck said Planning staff recommended allowing more flexibility by not stating specific square footage or percentages for each use.

Ms. Buck said the Sound Transit Board will take action on the agreement on Thursday, July 28. There will be one resolution setting the baseline scope, schedule and budget for the OMSF project as well as a motion for approval of the Implementation Agreement. Next steps will be Sound Transit's selection of a design-build team and a Notice to Proceed in June 2017. The design-builder is anticipated to submit an application during third quarter 2017 for the Master Development Plan (MDP). The Sound Transit Board will take action on the Baseline B plan during fourth quarter 2017.

Councilmember Robertson questioned whether a development proposal for an all-residential development could be approved under the current Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Codes. Ms. Buck said the MDP process requires consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, and Planning staff would need to review the proposal.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for Resolution No. 9126 authorizing execution of the East Link Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility (OMSF) Implementation Agreement between the City and Sound Transit. She said it would be helpful to know potential Code implications that might be applicable to different development scenarios. She wants to be sure the development is consistent with the BelRed vision.

Responding to Councilmember Wallace, Ms. Buck said the Baseline A budget includes the elements for the TOD and trail connections in the MOU. Baseline B will include any additional items proposed by the design-build firms responding to the RFP that are later adopted into the scope of work by the Sound Transit Board.

Mr. Wallace said the BelRed Code does not appear to preclude an all-residential development. Mayor Stokes observed that the Council will have the ultimate decision on the development. Councilmember Robertson suggested that now is the time to amend the Land Use Code, if necessary to preserve the BelRed Plan vision. She wants to ensure the development is primarily office uses with some residential units.

Mr. Wallace said the City puts Zoning Codes and permitting regimes in place that property owners must follow. From his perspective, the current permitting process does not require the property owner to provide a mix of uses at the site. He suggested that, if a City wants to ensure a mix of uses, it would need to amend its Code in advance. Mayor Stokes said the City does have a lot to work on within the BelRed policy up to that point.

Councilmember Wallace said the BelRed Plan did not anticipate a public agency acquiring a massive tract of land and having the ability to give it away. He cautioned that the potential consequences of that should be analyzed.

Councilmember Slatter expressed support for anything needed to strengthen the policy to ensure that it will work as intended. She questioned language in the RFP for the OMSF referencing the BelRed vision and ensuring mixed development, with office as the predominant use. Nancy LaCombe, Regional Transportation Projects Manager, said the language refers to the 120th Avenue node. There is specific, separate policy language for the 120th Avenue and 130th Avenue nodes.

Responding to Ms. Slatter, Ms. LaCombe said that future updates to the Council will occur in June 2017, after Sound Transit selects its design-build contractor and issues the Notice to Proceed. Ms. LaCombe said the layouts and designs for the OMSF and the Master Development Plan proposed by contractors will be kept confidential until a contractor selection is made.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said that legitimate concerns have been expressed, and it is appropriate to focus on the BelRed Code through this process. He observed that it is unlikely the resulting development would be all residential. He said he understands there are concerns about state laws relevant to the surplus of Sound Transit property. Mr. Chelminiak said the important consideration is to meet the BelRed vision for the 120th Avenue node. He believes a mix of uses will be necessary for the viability of the development. He wants to ensure that Sound Transit replaces the square footage of development lost to the OMSF site, and that amenities are provided to make them attractive and competitive in the market.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said it is important for the Sound Transit Board to know that the agency needs to compensate the City for what it is taking. He still believes Lynnwood would have been a better site for the OMSF. He said Sound Transit pre-purchased property in the BelRed corridor for the OMSF site at the same time that the agency indicated that a siting decision had not been made. Mr. Chelminiak wants to ensure that the Baseline B scope and budget includes items to make the development viable and consistent with the BelRed vision. He expressed support for the motion.

Mayor Stokes said the Council has been clear about the type of development it expects to see. He asked staff to continue to reinforce the Council's position.

→ Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve Resolution No. 9126, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(e) Regional Issues

(1) Update on King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)
Sales-Tax Funded Programs and Proposed Renewal

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) program and King County Best Starts for Kids levy. He noted that Councilmember Robinson serves on the MIDD oversight committee.

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced Kelli Carroll, Strategic Advisor with the King County Department of Community and Human Services, for a presentation on the proposed MIDD levy renewal.

Ms. Carroll said the MIDD program is supported by a Councilmanic, countywide 1/10th of one percent sales tax generating approximately \$63 million per year. Under state law, the revenue must be used for new and expanded mental health and substance use disorder services, including King County's therapeutic courts. The first levy was approved by the King County Council in 2007, and King County is one of 24 counties in Washington state that has authorized the tax revenue to date. The MIDD funding will expire on December 31, 2016 unless extended by the King County Council.

[Councilmember Wallace left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.]

MIDD funding links individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders with effective services from 40 community-based agencies and eight county agencies and departments that help them to become stable and more productive. MIDD-supported programs on the Eastside include the Geriatric Regional Assessment Team at Evergreen Health, Crisis Intervention training for first responders (including the Bellevue Police Department), mental health counseling at LifeWire, and support and employment services at HERO House. The MIDD program served 35,906 individuals between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

Ms. Carroll highlighted MIDD outcomes including a significant reduction in emergency room visits, psychiatric hospital use, and jail bookings. When change was evident in individuals and could be measured, approximately three out of four people showed reduced mental illness symptom severity or reduced substance use at some point over their course of treatment.

Ms. Carroll said the King County Council requested a service improvement plan for MIDD 2. The draft plan was released to the public last week and reviewed by the oversight committee. The committee proposes 16 new initiatives including law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD), housing capital and rental assistance, crisis diversion, and mobile crisis services. The proposed initiatives also include access to urgent and next-day appointments for services, peer support, and community-driven grants focused on services for geographically and culturally diverse communities.

Next steps are the vote by the King County Council about whether to extend the tax, County Council review and acceptance of the MIDD I report, transmittal of the service improvement plan to the County Council on August 25, and transmittal of the MIDD 2 budget in September.

Councilmember Robinson thanked Ms. Carroll and Alex O'Reilly of the Human Services Division, Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department, for their work. Ms. Robinson said there are 252 homeless children in the Bellevue School District, and Bellevue residents are in need of homeless, mental health, and drug dependency services. She encouraged support to continue MIDD funding, which complements the City's efforts to address affordable housing. She said she is proud to be able to represent Bellevue on the MIDD oversight committee.

Ms. Carroll noted that, of the individuals using MIDD-supported services who provide a zip code, approximately 17 percent have Bellevue zip codes. The three types of services used most in Bellevue are mental health treatment, prevention and early intervention services for older adults, and substance use disorder treatment.

Ms. Nichols said staff is not requesting formal City Council action. However, Ms. Carroll said she will include a comment letter from the City Council, if provided, in the King County Council's meeting packet.

Mayor Stokes suggested considering action on August 1 regarding a letter.

Councilmember Slatter expressed support for submitting a letter from the City Council. She said the MIDD program is an equitable and important tool for providing help to the community. Noting the outcomes reported during the presentation, Ms. Slatter said it would be beneficial to broaden those to include additional behavioral outcomes. Ms. Carroll concurred and said the oversight committee discussed revising the policy goals, which are directly aligned with the outcomes provided in the report. Examples of outcomes include reducing the number, length and frequency of behavioral health and crisis events as well as increasing culturally appropriate trauma and behavioral health services.

Responding to Ms. Slatter, Ms. Carroll said age-related data is available online in the MIDD annual reports.

Councilmember Slatter noted that Overlake Hospital provides mental health services. She questioned how MIDD-funded services collaborate with current services provided in institutional settings, outside of the psychiatric outcomes mentioned in the presentation (e.g., emergency room services).

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Carroll said the MIDD sales tax is set by state law at 1/10th of one percent. Ms. Robertson questioned whether service expansions are anticipated for the Eastside. Ms. Carroll said the committee did not identify specific service expansions for the Eastside that correspond to the targeted and stated need for South County crisis diversion. Ms. O'Reilly said one new initiative serving the Eastside is a crisis team working with agencies that assist homeless youth and young adults. Ms. Carroll said community-driven grants for ethnic and rural communities as well as enhanced children's domestic violence outreach will benefit the Eastside.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for culturally sensitive services. She noted that Overlake Hospital will be updating its behavioral health department as part of its long-range capital facilities plan. She suggested exploring partnerships with the hospital.

Councilmember Robertson noted the Veterans and Human Services Levy, the MIDD program, and Best Starts for Kids, all of which provide services for individuals who are struggling with certain issues. She questioned whether there is effective coordination to avoid the duplication of services as well as to ensure that the needed combination of services is available to individuals.

Ms. Carroll said the levies are supported by three different statutory tools. The MIDD sales tax is based on a State RCW, and the Veterans and Human Services Levy and Best Starts for Kids package are supported by property taxes. The three initiatives provide certain similar services. However, there is no overlap. Ms. Carroll said 140 MIDD concepts and suggestions submitted by different parties were reviewed last fall and consolidated into 90 briefing papers. Each proposal was analyzed to determine whether it was more appropriate for MIDD or the Best Starts for Kids initiative. Ms. Carroll said staff supporting the three programs continue to collaborate. She noted a recent proposal to convene regular meetings of the Co-Chairs of the three advisory committees to ensure effective coordination.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. Carroll said the legislation to continue the MIDD sales tax is currently before the County Council. The service improvement plan will be submitted on August 25 to the County Council, which will consider it concurrent with the County budget process.

Mr. Chelminiak said he served on the initial MIDD oversight committee, during which time sales tax-based funding was particularly challenging due to the recession. He thanked Councilmember Robinson for her work on the committee. He expressed support for MIDD funding and for drafting a letter from the City Council with comments to the County Council. He noted, to City staff, the importance of following up on the final service improvement plan and of describing the relationship between the three regional human services levies. He reiterated support for sending a letter now and suggested providing input in the future on the service improvement plan.

Ms. Carroll provided an additional response to Councilmember Robertson's earlier question about the intentional coordination between the three levies. Ms. Carroll said the County has a focused internal process to coordinate the levies and is working to enhance external processes through the request for proposals (RFP) and contracting activities. She recalled that a study in 2002/2003/2004 identified a \$80 million gap in human services needs. The three levies represent a well-planned strategy to respond to those needs for specific populations and services. Ms. Carroll said the County continues to improve its processes and efforts.

Councilmember Slatter questioned whether there is any emerging legislation or other tools for addressing human services. Ms. Carroll said that connecting with the County Council and County Executive around the state and federal legislative agendas is one way to ensure that Bellevue's input is heard and that the region's needs are adequately reflected.

(2) King County Best Starts for Kids Levy

Ms. Nichols introduced discussion of the Best Starts for Kids program, which was approved by a countywide vote in 2015. The levy established a 14-cent per \$1,000 AV property tax. She noted that Terry Smith, Assistant Director of the Department of Parks and Community Services, played an active role the identification of needs to be addressed by the levy.

Ms. Nichols introduced Sheila Capestany, King County Strategic Advisor for Children and Youth, to present the implementation plan and timetable.

Ms. Capestany said the Best Starts for Kids initiative is designed to invest in promotion, prevention, and early intervention for children, youth, families, and communities. She said a portion of the MIDD program addresses prevention. However, prevention is the primary focus of the Best Starts for Kids levy. Children and families might also be referred to MIDD-funded services if appropriate. Ms. Capestany said her role coordinates Best Starts for Kids with overall County programs and services for children and youth.

Ms. Capestany said the first round of community conversations were held in 2015 and addressed both Best Starts for Kids and MIDD-funded programs. In February 2016, the Children and Youth Advisory Board was established and a science and research panel was created. The Youth and Family Homelessness Prevention Plan was transmitted to the County Council on March 1 and approved in May. The second round of community conversations were held as a series of 10 meetings this spring. The Implementation Plan was transmitted to the County Council and to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC) on June 1, 2016. The latter approved the plan last week and forwarded it to the Council's Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee.

Ms. Capestany highlighted input from Bellevue encouraging multigenerational and multicultural approaches as well as an enhanced focus on youth mental health issues (i.e., anxiety and depression) and on continued services for children beyond age 3, if needed, even if they received early intervention services up to age 3. Ms. Capestany said King County partnered with Eastside Pathways in holding community conversations and working with the data/evaluation team. She noted that Mr. Smith represents Bellevue on the Children Youth Advisory Board (CYAB)

Ms. Capestany highlighted the key performance indicators for prenatal to age 5 children and for five to 24 years of age. The Best Starts for Kids initiative uses a results-based accountability

strategy that embeds an evaluation plan from the beginning as well as ongoing community involvement. Indicators for prenatal to age 5 focus on healthy birth outcomes, child abuse and neglect, resilience, and preparation for kindergarten. The areas of focus above age 5 include third grade reading level, fourth grade math level, on-time high school graduation, keeping youth and young adults in school and/or employed, substance abuse, overall health and resilience, and preparation for career and/or college objectives.

Ms. Capestany described efforts focused on youth and family homelessness. She presented the dollar amounts for each category of overall Best Starts for Kids services (e.g., home-based services, parenting support, child care health consultation, workforce development, programs addressing youth resiliency and risky behaviors, mental and behavioral care, and jail prevention). She highlighted a proposed diversion program at Southcenter's Westfield Mall co-sponsored by the Tukwila Police Department, Public Defenders Office, mall management, and community-based providers. Last year, 350 young people were arrested for shoplifting at the mall.

Mayor Stokes questioned whether the initiative involves Challenge Seattle and how the County will work with cities. Ms. Capestany said the County's role will vary because cities have different needs and existing programs. She confirmed the objective to avoid the duplication of services and programs.

Councilmember Robinson questioned how the reductions in the Head Start program affect Best Starts for Kids. She said she would be interested in hearing the effects of housing and stability on the outcomes and performance measures. She observed that data could help direct more money toward housing as critical to providing stability and success. She questioned whether the City Council should consider commenting on the Best Starts for Kids program in the comment letter on the MIDD levy renewal.

Ms. Capestany said County staff will be working to address the implications of the recent defunding of the Head Start program. It is possible that similar services will be provided by certain organizations. She confirmed that housing stability is an important factor. Councilmember Robinson said her earlier comment was to suggest that the County identify a way to measure the impact of housing and stability relative to other performance outcomes.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for early learning and intervention, and for continued assistance beyond age 3 if a child's progress is delayed. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Capestany said the levy does not fund dental services but provides education and referrals related to dental health. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Capestany said the County is working on opportunities to partner with existing parenting peer support programs.

Ms. Robertson recalled that, years ago, helpful information was sent to all households about children's health and development. Ms. Capestany said the Child Profile Program still exists but funding has been a challenge and mailings have been scaled back. The program no longer mails immunization booklets. Ms. Capestany said she and other staff would like to reinstitute that type of service. She noted the need to consider new ways for distributing information through email and social media.

Councilmember Slatter thanked Ms. Capestany for the information. She said it is good to see the combination of science, practical tools, and performance measures focused on targeted outcomes. Ms. Slatter expressed support for extending youth programs through age 24.

Ms. Slatter questioned the ability to compare the correlation between certain outcomes (e.g., birth health, reading level, substance abuse). Ms. Capestany said that is a long-term goal. However, that level of individual tracking is complex and resource-intensive. The current focus is on population level indicators. Ms. Slatter acknowledged that the latter is useful as well.

Ms. Slatter questioned whether the implementation of the Best Starts for Kids programs will compare King County's outcomes to other areas of the country and world. Ms. Capestany said the initial approach is framed around disparities (e.g., using the typical white female birth outcomes and infant mortality rate to determine disparities within other populations). Ms. Slatter said it would be helpful to obtain information reflecting the precedent for all performance measures, where possible. She expressed support for a focus on multicultural populations and needs in the allocation of the levy dollars.

Ms. Capestany noted that most countries with low infant mortality rates have a practice of home visits by a nurse or medical provider following a birth.

Ms. Capestany said County Council approval of the plan is anticipated by the end of September. Staff will continue to work with partners and key stakeholders to plan specific investment areas and strategies.

Mr. Smith said he is reaching out to Eastside Pathways and the Eastside Human Services Forum to educate providers about the timeline and request for proposals (RFP) process.

(f) Update on the Grand Connection Visioning Process

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update on the Grand Connection visioning process. The Grand Connection is a non-motorized corridor extending from Meydenbauer Bay to the Wilburton commercial area and the Eastside Rail Corridor.

Dan Stroh, Planning Director, said no action is requested of the Council at this point. However, staff will provide an update on the visioning process and community involvement.

Bradley Calvert, Community Development Program Manager, said the request for proposals (RFP) related to the Wilburton Land Use and Urban Design work has been issued. Public engagement activities include a charrette web site (www.BellevueGrandConnection.com) providing an interactive map, which has been visited by individuals from 170 cities, 35 states, and 20 countries. A number of comments have been submitted online addressing the park entrance, weather protection, pedestrian and bike amenities, safety, and recreational opportunities. Additional public outreach activities include interviews throughout the community, the engagement map in City Hall, and stakeholder engagement with property owners and technology companies.

Mr. Calvert said King 5 News visited City Hall to report on the project. He said the book from the initial charrette with the Bellevue Arts Museum and design professionals has been published and copies will be provided to the Council.

Mr. Calvert said the consultant began working on the project in April 2016, and a workshop of consultant and City staff was held in May. He said the goal of the Sequence One scope of work was to establish an identity to be conveyed along the entire Grand Connection route, identify opportunities for improvements (i.e., immediate, intermediate, and long-term solutions), and to identify opportunities to support the route identity through cohesive elements (e.g., paving, street furniture, landscaping, and raised intersections).

Mr. Calvert said the consultant recommended expanding the route over the long term to connect parks and natural assets including Meydenbauer Bay, Downtown Park, the Grand Connection, the Eastside Rail Corridor, Bellevue Botanical Garden, and Wilburton Hill Park. A secondary route follows Main Street to the Eastside Rail Corridor and Botanical Garden. The three primary identity elements are: 1) ecology and sustainability, 2) a playful landscape, and 3) communal spaces expressing Bellevue's history. He highlighted recommendations to increase park permeability (access and visibility) at Downtown Park and to create public spaces and encourage movement through the Pedestrian Corridor and Compass Plaza. Mr. Calvert said the art consultant, SuttonBeresCuller, has been chosen to work with Balmori Associates and the City.

Mr. Calvert said the project team will continue to refine the Sequence One work and hold an open house both online and at City Hall, before beginning work on Sequence Two (I-405 crossing). He said the RFP for the Wilburton Land Use and Urban Design consultant was issued the previous week, and the selection of the consultant is anticipated by the end of August.

Responding to Mayor Stokes, Mr. Calvert said Sequence Three will be designed to be compatible with Sequences One and Two.

Councilmember Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and expressed enthusiasm for the project. Mr. Calvert noted that there are approximately 300 slides depicting additional ideas and concepts, should the Council be interested in viewing and discussing them.

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Mr. Calvert said the Grand Connection visioning process will be completed next year. The Wilburton Land Use and Urban Design planning is anticipated for completion in 2018.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak complimented the creativity in the planning to date. He noted that he and Councilmembers Robinson and Lee saw a number of potential elements during their recent trips to other countries. Mr. Chelminiak expressed support for the suggested supplemental route along Main Street to the Bellevue Botanical Garden. He said it is exciting to see the vision and plan developing through the efforts of many talented and creative individuals.

Councilmember Robertson expressed enthusiasm for the vision and recommended design elements. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Calvert said more of the 300 slides will be posted on the web site in the near future.

Responding to Councilmember Slatter, Mr. Calvert said the designs from the initial charrette were on display in City Hall for a few weeks. He said it is possible the designs will be displayed at the Bellevue Arts Museum at some point.

Mayor Stokes said he has heard positive feedback from the community about the Grand Connection project. He thanked staff for their work.

5. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items: None.

6. Continued Oral Communications: None.

Mayor Stokes declared the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw