

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

May 14, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, and Stokes

ABSENT: Councilmember Zahn

1. Executive Session

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

2. Approval of Agenda

- Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Chelminiak noted that Councilmember Zahn was traveling on work-related business and would be stopping to visit one of Bellevue's Sister Cities, Yao, Japan, as well.

(a) National Police Week Proclamation

Mayor Chelminiak read the proclamation declaring the week of May 14 as National Police Week in Bellevue.

Police Chief Steve Mylett accepted the proclamation and thanked the Council for recognizing National Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day, which honors officers who have lost their life or have been disabled in the line of duty. He noted that the day was initiated by President John F. Kennedy in 1961. Chief Mylett said it can never be acceptable for a public guardian to lose his or her life. He thanked the Council and the community for their support of the Bellevue Police Department.

(b) Affordable Housing Week Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing May 14-18 as Affordable Housing Week in Bellevue.

Representatives of the Bellevue Network on Aging, Hopelink, and the Eastside Human Services Forum accepted the proclamation. They noted housing projects for senior, low-income, and disabled individuals, and thanked the City for its ongoing financial assistance to local nonprofit organizations.

(c) Bike Everywhere Month Proclamation

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis read the proclamation recognizing May as Bike Everywhere Month.

Ron Kessack, Assistant Director of Transportation, introduced Vicky Clarke from the Cascade Bicycle Club to accept the proclamation. Ms. Clarke noted the need for a connected and protected bike network, and thanked the City for its plans to expand its bicycle facilities. Mr. Kessack thanked the Council for its ongoing support of multimodal transportation options in Bellevue. He noted the City will build 19 miles of new bike lanes this year.

Mayor Chelminiak paused the meeting for photographs of the Council and the guests.

3. Oral Communications

- (a) Alex Zimmerman, StandUP-America, commented on his concerns about collusion between local governments and corporations, and about income disparity across the country.
- (b) Tzachi Litov, an Eastgate resident, said affordable housing is considered by most experts who work in the field to be the primary way to resolve homelessness. He noted it is a national and even global issue. He said Finland has been successful in helping persons move out of homelessness through the Housing First model. He said Bellevue does not have ordinances to ensure that this critical need is met, and incentives for developers to provide affordable housing are not working. He thanked the Council for their hard work.
- (c) Pamela Johnston spoke regarding the City's Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) and her interest in preserving and enhancing the tree canopy. She would like to see expanded public involvement in the topic. She noted that residents of the Bridle Trails neighborhood want to minimize ambient noise and light in their neighborhood, especially to avoid disturbing the area's wildlife. She encouraged the City to take a proactive approach in public outreach regarding the issue.
- (d) Walter Scott, Legacy Commercial, noted their ownership of the former Coco's site near the light rail tunnel portal on NE 6th Street, and expressed support for the City's development of the Grand Connection project. He commented and submitted information

regarding the company's redevelopment plans. He encouraged a Grand Connection project design that will separate bike and pedestrian use.

Mayor Chelminiak noted that Legacy Commercial owns properties on 112th Avenue NE between NE 6th Street and NE 4th Street.

4. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives.

Mayor Chelminiak said Councilmember Lee will be absent from the May 21 Council meeting and has requested an excused absence. Mr. Lee will be traveling to Singapore as a delegate of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce 2018 International Leadership Mission.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to excuse Councilmember Lee's absence from the May 21, 2018, City Council meeting. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

(b) The Grand Connection Framework Plan: Sequence Two (I-405 Crossing)

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion of the draft Grand Connection Framework Plan: Sequence Two (I-405 Crossing). He recalled that staff's most recent presentation on the project occurred in December 2017. At that time, the Council adopted the Grand Connection Framework Plan: Sequence One, which focused on the Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Code updates, and design guidelines.

Mac Cummins, Director of the Planning and Community Development (PCD) Department, noted that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding the Grand Connection Framework Plan project options. He said no action was requested from the Council at this time. Staff anticipates returning to the Council later in the summer to present further project refinements.

Bradley Calvert, Community Development Program Manager, highlighted the Grand Connection planning process to date and recalled that the visioning effort was initiated in April 2016. The preferred alternative for the I-405 crossing will continue to be refined throughout 2019 and early 2020. The Grand Connection Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Land Use Code updates, and design guidelines will be developed through early 2019.

The Wilburton Commercial Area work is ongoing, and related Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Land Use Code amendments, and design guidelines will be developed in 2019-2020. Mr. Calvert said the citizen advisory committee (CAC) recently completed its work, and staff will present the vision for the area to the Council in June.

Mr. Calvert recalled the key visioning goals for the I-405 crossing: 1) safe and comfortable connection, 2) opportunities for open space, 3) integration with future development in Wilburton

commercial area, 4) interface with Eastside Rail Corridor and 116th Avenue NE, and 5) a signature community feature in terms of form, design, and experience.

Mr. Calvert recapped the I-405 crossing alternatives connecting the Downtown and the Wilburton area. Alternative 1 is a sculptural, curvilinear bridge. Anticipated elements include a viewing platform, gardens, park and play areas, viewing terrace, plaza, amphitheater, and connection to the Eastside Rail Corridor. This alternatives requires the acquisition of private property.

Alternative 2 is a linear bridge providing a direct connection, with multiple access points from surface streets. It connects to the Lincoln Center site on the east side of I-405 and is similar to the High Line in New York City. It does not provide as many opportunities for screening from the freeway below and has smaller public spaces than Alternative 1. Alternative 2 creates approximately 100,000 square feet of open space, and Alternative 1 creates 160,000-180,000 square feet of open space. Both require the acquisition of private property.

Alternative 3 is a lid park covering approximately 190,000 square feet between NE 4th Street and NE 6th Street, with access points from both streets. It provides gardens, a viewing platform, play areas, open space, and a large central plaza. Mr. Calvert noted that the elements of all three alternatives are preliminary and will be refined through further design.

Mr. Calvert noted that the Grand Connection Framework Plan for Sequence Two provides chapters describing each alternative and related case studies. A comparison of the alternatives is included as well.

Next steps are to post the report on the project website for public review and comment. Staff will present the information to the Boards, Commissions, general public, and civic organizations throughout the summer. Staff anticipates that the Council will identify a preferred alternative by the fall, at which time staff will initiate the request for proposals (RFP) process to refine the design of that alternative.

Mayor Chelminiak noted that he served as liaison to the Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis is now liaison to that group. Mr. Chelminiak questioned how the City will integrate this work into the Wilburton plan and how it relates to the recent Downtown Livability Initiative land use code amendments.

Mr. Cummins recalled that the Council deferred addressing certain issues raised during the Downtown Livability work (e.g., Pedestrian Corridor, FAR (floor-area ratio) bonuses, transfer of development rights, etc.). He said there was significant discussion about OLB (Office Limited Business) zoning at that time and how it might interact with public spaces and ground floor spaces that would be required as part of the incentive system. He anticipates that the Downtown Livability code amendments will fit well with the future design work on the Grand Connection.

Mr. Calvert said the Wilburton Commercial Area CAC focused more on public open space and the need for a central civic space, whether in the Wilburton area or over the freeway. However, the group did not discuss design options for the Grand Connection. Mr. Calvert noted that the

Wilburton Commercial Area vision will be presented to the Council prior to making its decision regarding the Grand Connection preferred alternative.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Calvert confirmed that the principles the Council will adopt for the Wilburton vision will be guided by the decision on the Grand Connection preferred alternative. Mr. Chelminiak said the preferred alternative will not necessarily dictate the final project but will provide guidance.

Mr. Chelminiak noted other projects in the area including the Civic Center between City Hall and Meydenbauer Center, NE 6th Street overpass, and light rail. He questioned how they integrate with each other. Mr. Calvert said that none of the Grand Connection crossing alternatives interfere with NE 6th Street, and the crossing can be designed to accommodate nearby development.

Mr. Cummins said that Civic Center planning will address placemaking issues and economic development objectives. However, the design of the I-405 crossing will not preclude any needed transportation improvements.

Mr. Chelminiak requested information regarding the private property acquisitions required under Alternatives 1 and 2.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis said that all three alternatives have great possibilities. He questioned staff's greatest concern related to each alternative. Mr. Calvert said the use of innovative structural material proposed for Alternative 1 could cause concerns. However, other materials can be considered as well. For Alternative 2, the issue is whether it will be a compelling enough experience to draw people across the freeway. Alternative 3 is a large, complex project with a number of challenges.

Mr. Cummins observed that the Grand Connection is the largest project to be undertaken by the Council. He said it will be transformative for the community.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Calvert said the bike path will likely be cement. However, that issue will be addressed as the design guidelines are developed.

Councilmember Lee agreed that the project will be an important defining feature for Bellevue. He noted his interest in the development potential of the Wilburton area and how it will affect the Downtown and the rest of the community. He suggested that overall land use in the Wilburton commercial area should drive the Grand Connection design. He said the Grand Connection project must be memorable. He does not want to compromise economic development in the Wilburton area.

Councilmember Robertson said Alternative 3 seems significantly better in terms of open space, park development, coverage over I-405, and the lack of a need to acquire private property. However, it is also more expensive than the other alternatives. She said the case study of Klyde Warren Park in Dallas indicates that a large portion of the costs was paid by other sources (e.g., state and federal governments, private donors, and others). Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr.

Cummins said the analysis to date has not addressed funding sources. However, as the project is better defined, staff will develop a strategy for acquiring funding.

Councilmember Robertson said the City has accomplished major audacious goals in the past. She questioned whether Alternative 3 could be phased based on incremental funding. Mr. Calvert said Alternatives 1 and 3 are more conducive to phasing. However, further analysis during design refinement will be necessary to explore options. Ms. Robertson said it would be valuable to address project phasing as the analysis moves forward.

Referring to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, Ms. Robertson expressed an interest in the impacts and potential benefits of building the lid over the freeway, including the impact on noise, dust, and pollution to surrounding areas. Mr. Cummins said staff will work with the City's SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Officer to explore that issue.

Councilmember Stokes said he is pleased to see the project moving forward relatively quickly over the past two years. He said it will be a defining feature of the community. He has been excited about the concept since he traveled to Denver and toured a similar connection between their downtown and surrounding areas. He said it is important to jointly consider the development of the Grand Connection and of the Wilburton area. Mr. Stokes noted the Grand Connection's role in economic development as it is likely to attract people and businesses to Bellevue. He looks forward to learning more details about the feasibility of Alternative 3.

Deputy Mayor Robinson observed that the Grand Connection project will provide activity, transportation, and connection. She encouraged a balance between the experience and the expedience of moving through the site for an individual. She challenged staff to come up with something unique to Bellevue, noting that Alternative 3 is similar to Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle.

Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff for the presentation. He likes the concept of creating a project that is innovative and unique to Bellevue. He observed that Alternative 2 is not enough and Alternative 3 is complex. He concurred with Councilmember Lee about the importance of integrating the Grand Connection well with the Wilburton area. Mr. Chelminiak acknowledged Councilmember Robertson's comment about pursuing a number of funding sources. He noted the goal of creating something memorable and do-able.

(c) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Update

City Manager Miyake noted that the Council recently received a report on the City's pilot program to incentivize green building in Bellevue as well as a management brief regarding the achievement of the STAR Communities certification. He said tonight's presentation would provide an update on the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) strategic plan that was launched in 2013.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, said the Environmental Stewardship Initiative is driven by the Council Vision, policies in the Environmental Element of the Comprehensive Plan, ESI Strategic Plan, Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) commitments. Ms. Ewing recalled that the ESI

Strategic Plan for 2013-2018 contains 17 sustainability indicators and 57 actions, with 98 percent of the latter initiated or completed. The five primary topical areas are: 1) greenhouse gas emissions, 2) mobility and land use, 3) energy and water, 4) materials management and waste, and 5) ecosystems and open spaces.

Ms. Ewing noted that the City was recognized as a SolSmart Bronze Community in October 2017 and as one of the top 10 communities in the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition. The City has made significant progress in the area of greenhouse gas emissions through a U.S. Department of Energy grant that funded new methodologies for analyzing greenhouse gas emissions trends. Key next steps are to continue to advance the green building pilot program, develop a green fleet strategy, prepare the ESI Strategic Plan progress report, conduct a tree canopy assessment, and to develop zero waste guidelines for City events.

Ms. Ewing noted the Comprehensive Plan objective of achieving a 40-percent tree canopy. The 2007 tree canopy assessment identified a 36-percent tree canopy and documented the extent of impervious surfaces and open space. The City is currently involved in a regional tree canopy assessment through the King Conservation District and a regional urban forestry working group. The report is expected to be released this summer. Ms. Ewing said the City's tree canopy update involves an interdepartmental working group, mitigation pre-planning for major infrastructure projects, training for neighborhood mediation volunteers, and an education and outreach program. Following the completion of the tree canopy assessment and update, staff will work on understanding overall trends, reviewing best practices, and identifying strategies for increasing the tree canopy.

Ms. Ewing presented information on the City's municipal operations greenhouse gas emissions, which have decreased since 2006, despite a slight increase from 2016 to 2017. Community emissions performed similarly. Ms. Ewing highlighted key factors that affect greenhouse gas emissions including colder weather, population growth, and the electricity fuel mix. She provided an overview of the STAR Communities program, which includes approximately 70 certified communities. Bellevue, King County, and Tacoma received a four star rating, and Seattle achieved a five star rating. The STAR Communities program scores local governments on the following goal areas: 1) built environment, 2) climate and energy, 3) economy and jobs, 4) education, arts and community, 5) equity and empowerment, 6) health and safety, and 7) natural systems.

Next steps are to complete the tree canopy assessment, develop the ESI progress report, update the ESI Strategic Plan, and continued development of the advanced green building pilot program.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation and noted that Ms. Ewing is well respected within the region in her field of expertise. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Ewing said the trends in greenhouse gas emissions reflect significant regional job and population growth. Ms. Ewing confirmed that Seattle scored higher due in part to its cleaner energy source (i.e., hydropower versus coal-based electricity) and the number of neighborhoods that the STAR rating system recognizes as "compact and complete" and well served by public transit. Bellevue's Downtown and Crossroads neighborhoods were recognized as compact and complete.

Deputy Mayor Robinson encouraged enhanced public education regarding energy conservation, decreasing the community's carbon footprint, proper waste disposal, and planting trees that do not block views in residential areas. Ms. Ewing concurred with the goal of enhancing the City's public outreach and education.

Councilmember Stokes questioned the challenges of implementing the full plan and asked what the Council can do on a policy level. Ms. Ewing noted the constraints in resources, including staff time. She said the next plan provides the opportunity to review progress and to identify the key areas of focus for ongoing efforts.

Mr. Stokes said he appreciates staff working with the King Conservation District, which has been transitioning from a rural forest program to an urban-focused program. Responding to Mr. Stokes, Ms. Ewing said the tree canopy assessment will help to target solutions toward achieving the 40-percent tree canopy goal. She noted that the City of Redmond has increased its tree canopy to 38 percent. She said redevelopment of the BelRed corridor provides the opportunity for expanding the tree canopy.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Ewing said Bellevue's tree canopy is similar to the coverage in Kirkland and Redmond. Issaquah has a slightly higher percentage of tree canopy, while Seattle's and Portland's percentages are lower.

Mayor Chelminiak said the City is doing a good job but can always do more. He commented that renewable natural gas produced by landfills has been used to produce electricity. He said the City of Seattle, through its landfill contract with Waste Management, receives enough power to provide electricity to 12,500 homes. He said Republic Services has a similar program, and the City might want to explore purchasing different forms of renewable energy.

Mr. Chelminiak said he likes the idea of planting trees that do not block views. However, the challenge is to manage the tree heights. He concurred that redevelopment in Wilburton and other areas provides the opportunity for adding to the tree canopy.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:11 p.m.

(d) Creative Edge Plan: A strategy for Bellevue's Creative Economy

Mac Cummins, Director of Planning and Community Development (PCD), introduced staff's presentation of the Creative Edge Plan for the City's creative economy strategy.

James Henderson, Economic Development Director, said the Creative Edge strategy addresses how Bellevue attracts, retains, and grows local talent by creating a vibrant artistic and creative community. He said the development of the strategy involved identifying Bellevue's strengths and assets, and it was informed by the Economic Development Strategy, Cultural Compass Plan, Grand Connection plan, and other studies and initiatives. He said the Creative Edge Plan provides a holistic view of how Bellevue could grow its creative economy, supports its talent, and ensure it is a desirable location to live and work.

Joshua Heim, Arts Manager, said staff worked with a consultant who is a leader in developing creative economy strategies for cities, as well as with a regional task force, to develop the Creative Edge Plan. He noted the study, referred to as the white report, included in the meeting packet, which explored both the regional and local creative economy with an emphasis on understanding the talent pool of knowledge workers. He said knowledge workers are fueling growth in jobs and in creative industries, especially in technology fields. He said Bellevue is competitive both regionally and nationally in its creative index score, which reflects the conditions needed to foster the arts and creative industries. Mr. Heim noted that only 12 percent of the employees working in Bellevue also live in Bellevue.

Mr. Heim said the Creative Edge Plan, referred to as the black report, reflects the combined work of the consultant and the task force. The strategy was developed from a perspective of looking at Bellevue's strengths and determining how to build on those. He noted that more than half of the nonprofit organizations in Bellevue focus on arts education versus performance. The Creative Edge vision states that Bellevue is an international center for arts and creative learning and innovation. The major components are arts and creative learning, digital and interactive technologies, and cultural diversity.

The Creative Edge Plan is structured with three main goals: 1) creative placemaking and a transformed public realm, 2) creativity and culture as a key driver in innovation and economic growth, and 3) resilient and sustainable creative cultural sector. The desired outcomes related to the goals are strong cultural districts, embedding arts and creativity across the city, an enhanced civic image, entrepreneurial and start-up culture, increased investment from all sources, increased capacity and impact, and affordable creative spaces.

Mr. Heim described an interactive cultural resource map of Bellevue identifying a number of resources including book, art and music stores; creative businesses; cultural organizations; education facilities; festivals and events; historic sites; public art; and others. He said there are more than 900 creative businesses in Bellevue. He noted the involvement of Gwen Rousseau, Associate Planner, and the diversity program staff in developing the map.

Mr. Cummins noted that the next steps will be to explore ways to implement the strategies and goals contained in the Creative Edge Plan.

Councilmember Stokes, liaison to the Arts Commission, said the plan demonstrates the importance of the connection between economic development, arts, culture, talent, and creativity. He thanked staff and the Arts Commission for their hard work.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for the presentation and asked whether the intent is to ask the Council to formally adopt the Creative Edge Plan.

Mr. Cummins said staff's intent was to present the information for the Council, but not to request formal adoption of the plan. He noted that the strategies in the plan are consistent with other Council priorities and policies.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Cummins said the strategy provides a lens through which staff will make future recommendations to the Council. For example, one of the strategies is to assess zoning. As part of the upcoming BelRed Look Back process, staff will assess the arts district originally envisioned for the area through the lens of the Creative Edge Plan versus a traditional planning lens.

Ms. Robertson observed that the plan contains substantive strategies that might not be supported by all Councilmembers (e.g., impacts on zoning practices). She does not want the plan to be interpreted as Council direction to begin implementing strategies that have not been discussed or supported by Council policy decisions.

Mr. Cummins suggested looking at the plan as an extensive research effort that will help to inform the next update of the Economic Development Strategy. He said the promotion of arts and culture will be an additional lens for the Council as it considers future rezones and other policy decisions.

Councilmember Robertson noted a statement in the Creative Edge Plan suggesting a change in the role of the Arts Commission. She asked whether staff plans to propose a code change to redefine the Commission.

Mr. Cummins said staff's recommendation is that the Arts Commission could be used as a group to study and consider topics (e.g., funding, land use, and other broader issues) that have historically been segmented. Ms. Robertson reiterated that a change in the Commission's role would require a code change. Mr. Cummins acknowledged that the Council could consider that approach.

Ms. Robertson thanked staff for the good work. However, she expressed concern about the implications for budget, land use, and City Code policies. She wants to ensure that the Council's receipt of the report does not imply direction to proceed with the proposed strategies. Mr. Cummins said that was not staff's intent in compiling the plan.

Ms. Robertson acknowledged that the plan can be used as a resource for updating the Economic Development Strategy. However, it should not be considered an adopted policy document.

Mayor Chelminiak concurred with Councilmember Robertson's concern and noted there are statements in the plan that appear to reflect specific policy direction. Mr. Chelminiak suggested a clarification stating that the plan is a guiding document recommended by the task force. He said he appreciated the good work reflected in the plan.

Councilmember Lee said he appreciated the extensive work that went into preparing the Creative Edge Plan. However, he concurred that it should not be considered a policy document. He sees the plan as important information in considering overall economic development strengths, weaknesses, and strategies. He expressed support for staff's work with other cities.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis concurred with Councilmember Lee regarding the value of the Creative Edge Plan as an economic development baseline. As a knowledge worker in a creative industry, Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he understands the challenge of recruiting younger adults who

might be more likely to see Bellevue as a place to live later when they are ready to settle down with a family. He expressed support for the plan's concept that Bellevue needs to look the part of an innovative and creative community, and he encouraged ongoing communication.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked staff and noted that the work provides important advisory information for the Council's ongoing policy decisions. She highlighted the need for affordable office space to support start-ups and creative endeavors, and encouraged staff to continue to pursue those opportunities.

(e) Transportation Capital Investment Program (CIP) Projects Update

Mr. Miyake introduced staff's update regarding Transportation Capital Investment Program (CIP) projects.

Ron Kessack, Assistant Director of Transportation, said staff is seeking Council direction to transfer certain project savings to the Mountains to Sound Greenway project and to advance the design of the Bellevue Way SE HOV projects. He said project costs are increasing in the region due in part to the cost and limited availability of concrete and concrete finishing work. Property acquisition continues to be a critical path for the TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act) projects.

Mr. Kessack provided updates on a number of projects. The Northup Way corridor improvements are completed and approximately \$341,000 in grant funds will be returned to the State. He recalled that the Council approved funds to build the Spring Boulevard Zone 1 (116th Avenue NE to 120th Avenue NE) project in advance of the East Link light rail track operations. Despite substantial soil contamination that was found, the project is expected to be delivered within the original budget. The 120th Avenue NE Stage 2 (NE 7th Street to NE 12th Street) project is completed. The 120th Avenue NE Stage 3 (NE 12th Street to Spring Boulevard) project was completed as a cost-shared project with Sound Transit and resulted in a cost savings of approximately \$5.2 million.

Chris Masek, Engineering Supervisor and project manager for the Mountains to Sound Greenway, said the trail extends from Puget Sound to Ellensburg. There is a 3.6-mile gap in the trail through Bellevue, and the current CIP project will complete approximately 2,900 linear feet of that gap. The path is 12 feet wide and designed for cyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Masek said the City and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are coordinating their efforts to build one wall to serve both the trail project and the I-405 Renton to Bellevue project slated to begin construction in 2020. The trail project will receive \$2 million in WSDOT I-405 Corridor funding. Mr. Masek said that construction of the Mountains to Sound Greenway project needs to start this fall in order to complete it before WSDOT's I-405 project.

The City received \$14 million in Connecting Washington funding for the greenway project. Mr. Kessack acknowledged the efforts of Representative Clibborn and Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, in securing those funds. He said staff is seeking Council direction to move \$1.5 million in project savings from PW-R-168 (120th Avenue NE Stage 3) to the greenway trail project.

Mr. Kessack noted that a combination of projects on NE 4th Street and 120th Avenue NE in the Wilburton and BelRed areas received the American Public Works Association (APWA) Project of the Year Award.

The SE Newport Way (Somerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue SE) project is currently at 60-percent design, and construction is anticipated to begin in early 2019. Mr. Kessack highlighted the TIFIA-funded projects in the BelRed corridor on Spring Boulevard, 124th Avenue NE, and 130th Avenue NE. The West Lake Sammamish Parkway Phase 2 project (SE 200 block to NE 800 block) has progressed beyond 30-percent design, and construction is anticipated in 2019.

Marina Arakelyan, Capital Program Manager and project manager for the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane project (112th Avenue SE to I-90), recalled that the project scope was approved by the Council on April 6, 2017. Work since that time included 30-percent design; environmental documentation; the review of construction phasing, cost, and project options; and a cost-benefit analysis of a phased approach. The City collected public feedback in April 2018 regarding the cost-benefit analysis and staff's recommendation for phased construction. Ms. Arakelyan summarized the project's public outreach efforts since March 2016 including community briefings, open houses, updates to the City Council, newsletters, and online surveys.

Ms. Arakelyan described the options of completing the HOV lane from the South Bellevue light rail station and park and ride facility to the Winters House (\$22.2 million) and from the South Bellevue Station to 112th Avenue SE (\$34.4 million). She compared the performance of both options in terms of vehicle and person throughput and travel times. The cost-benefit analysis determined that building the first phase of the HOV lane to the Winters House achieves the greatest benefit for the cost based on a 10-year horizon. The full project to 112th Avenue SE provides a greater benefit to HOV lane and transit users and would likely show a more favorable cost-benefit ratio beyond 2030.

Ms. Arakelyan said staff recommends implementation of the first phase of the HOV lane from the South Bellevue Station to the Winters House.

Mr. Kessack said \$4.4 million is currently funded for project design. Staff is seeking Council concurrence to advance the design in 2021-2022 and to pursue grant funds for both design and construction. He said staff proposes drafting a CIP proposal for funding the construction of the HOV lane from the South Bellevue Station to the Winters House.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for moving the \$1.5 million in project savings to the Mountains to Sound Greenway project. She recalled discussion of the project during the Eastgate/I-90 planning process. At that time, she served as Council liaison to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and Councilmember Stokes served on the CAC as a member of the Parks and Community Service Board. She is thrilled that the project will improve the capacity and function of the Richards Road off-ramp from I-90.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for reallocating CIP funds to the greenway project.

Mayor Chelminiak noted Council support and directed staff to bring approval of the funds transfer back as a consent calendar item for Council action.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson regarding the Bellevue Way SE HOV lane project, Mr. Kessack said the design work in 2021-2022 will complete the design for the project between the South Bellevue Station and the Winters House.

Councilmember Lee, liaison to the Transportation Commission, expressed support for staff's recommendation regarding the HOV lane project. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Kessack said the HOV lane is for southbound traffic to I-90.

Mr. Chelminiak expressed support for staff's recommendation and commented that the HOV lane will likely be the most expensive stretch of road in Bellevue. He observed that increasing the travel time on Bellevue Way SE will minimize the incentive for cut-through traffic in adjacent neighborhoods. He suggested that state and perhaps federal funding is appropriate and needed for the project.

Mayor Chelminiak noted a Council consensus to move forward with staff's recommendation.

Mr. Chelminiak offered Councilmember Stokes the opportunity to speak regarding the earlier Creative Edge Plan presentation.

Councilmember Stokes said he was surprised that the purpose and expectations regarding the report and presentation had not been more clearly defined before coming before the Council. He opined that the Creative Edge Plan is similar to the Affordable Housing Strategy. He said the work provides valuable information and insight from the Arts Commission and staff. He would like staff to come back with recommendations for Council discussion and policy decisions. Mr. Stokes said the Creative Edge Plan is consistent with many existing policies. He does not want to shortchange the extensive effort by all of the parties involved. He said the plan is a beneficial, comprehensive document that affects the economy, neighborhoods, and the whole community.

Mayor Chelminiak questioned whether the Council would like to consider discussing the plan as a policy document, recognizing that there will be changes. He commended the Creative Edge Plan for identifying the numerous arts and creative assets and opportunities in Bellevue. He recalled that the Council had a number of discussions regarding the Affordable Housing Strategy before adopting it as policy.

Deputy Mayor Robinson asked staff to come back with an example of a comparable document that the Council uses as an advisory document.

City Manager Miyake said staff will review the plan and move forward as directed by the Council.

Councilmember Robertson said she is comfortable using the Creative Edge Plan as a report versus adopted policy. She noted that the Council's schedule is quite full and continued review would require more than one additional discussions. Before considering the plan as policy, she

would prefer to see more aspirational language to replace certain language that implies decisions have been made and that those items are moving forward. Ms. Robertson suggested addressing the goals and strategies of the plan within the context of upcoming neighborhood/subarea planning (e.g., arts district envisioned for BelRed corridor).

Councilmember Lee said this is an important topic and valuable information within the broader context of economic development.

5. Continued Oral Communications

Pamela Johnston concurred with Council's concern that sections of the Creative Edge Plan sounds like commitments and policy decisions that will be implemented by the City.

At 9:51 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared the meeting adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw