

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

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TO: Chair Bishop and Members of the Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative – Progress Report & Next Steps

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

Discussion

Information

At your 11/9 meeting, staff will: (i) provide a status report on its engagement of Downtown stakeholder groups and the broader community related to implementing a bike share program and demonstration bicycle corridor project; and, (ii) seek Commission input on additional outreach strategies and evaluation criteria to inform its proposed demonstration project. At its 1/11/18 meeting, staff seeks a Transportation Commission recommendation to the Bellevue City Council on the scope and timing of implementing bike share and a Downtown demonstration bicycle corridor.

Note: Multiple hyperlinks are included in this memo requiring extensive Commission consideration. It will not be possible to review these materials in depth in the 45 minutes allotted to this topic at the 11/9 meeting. Staff offers to meet with Commissioners to review materials and answer questions in advance of the 11/9 and 1/11/18 meetings.

Background

Guided by Council's Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative (PBII) [Program Principles](#) and [Scope of Work](#), the Transportation Commission and staff are working with community stakeholders to advance the projects and programs identified in the [2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan](#). Public [engagement](#) associated with PBII continues to serve an important role in helping the Transportation Commission evaluate and prioritize budget

recommendations for citywide investments in non-motorized infrastructure. To that end, the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) invited staff (see [one page summary](#)) and members of the Bellevue Transportation Commission to engage in a consultative process to inform the BDA's bicycle infrastructure improvement recommendations to the Commission on implementing:

- a *bike share program* in which bicycles are made available for shared use to individuals on a short term basis; and
- a *demonstration bikeway project* in which temporary and low-cost treatments are made to Downtown streets to provide a real-world opportunity to evaluate how state-of-the-art bikeway design concepts fit and function in the Bellevue context.

On 9/28 staff attended the first of three [BDA Transportation Committee](#) meetings providing an overview on PBII and the BDA consultative process (see [presentation](#)). Staff shared with the Committee a [map](#) of the following four candidate demonstration bikeway project corridors:

- 108th Ave NE between Main Street and NE 12th Street;
- Main Street between 105th Ave and 112th Ave;
- NE 2nd Street between 106th Ave NE and 110th Ave NE; and,
- 106th Ave NE between Main Street and NE 12th Street.

At this first meeting, staff solicited BDA Committee input on nine draft evaluation criteria for assessing the four candidate corridors. Committee members asked a wide range of questions and offered suggested refinements to the criteria (see [Q&A from Bike Series Meeting #1](#)).

At its second meeting on 10/26 the BDA Transportation Committee was presented an assessment of the four candidate corridors evaluated with eleven criteria that take into account feedback received from its 9/28 meeting (see [City Staff PowerPoint Presentation | Meeting #2](#)). Staff also presented the Committee with a [Briefing Book](#) depicting street-level visualizations of the conceptual designs under consideration for each of the candidate corridors.

Multiple business representatives at the 10/26 BDA Committee meeting spoke in favor of 108th Ave NE as being their preferred corridor for a demonstration project given its Bike Network Connectivity and Bike Facility Comfort ratings (frequently cited as the highest priority assessment criteria). Joining the BDA Committee at its 10/26 meeting were Commissioners Bishop, Woosley, and Chirls.

Consultations with the BDA Transportation Committee will conclude in an 11/16 recommendation to the BDA Board which will vote – at its 12/19 meeting – on a position that will be communicated to the Bellevue Transportation Commission at its 1/11/18 meeting. Commissioners are invited to attend the 11/16 BDA Committee meeting scheduled from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Bellevue Downtown Association (2nd Floor Conference Room; 400 108th Ave NE; Bellevue, WA 98004).

Engagement of other Downtown stakeholder groups and the broader community are taking place concurrently with the BDA process. These include:

- Briefings: The Bellevue Transportation Commission received a briefing at its 9/28 meeting. King County Metro and Sound Transit were briefed on 10/9 to ensure transit agencies have an opportunity to inform the candidate demonstration bikeway project. The Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Public Affairs Committee received a briefing at its 10/12 meeting. Several emails were sent to the Old Bellevue Merchant's Association requesting the opportunity to provide a briefing.
- Community surveys: An on-line survey exploring the public's interest in a privately run bike share service operating without public financial investment was released on 9/1 and was available through 10/30; it generated 816 responses (see [summary results](#) and [raw data](#)). An additional on-line survey on candidate demonstration bikeway project corridors is in production and anticipated for release in November.
- Open houses: An Eastside Bike Share Vendor Fair took place on 9/27 at Bellevue City Hall generating media coverage by The Seattle Times, KIRO 7, KING 5, KPLU, KUOW, and others. An additional open house on the candidate demonstration bikeway project corridors is scheduled to take place on 11/30 from 5 – 7 PM at Bellevue City Hall.

At its 11/9 meeting, staff seeks Transportation Commission feedback on additional outreach strategies and evaluation criteria leading up to its 1/11/18 meeting when it considers community feedback received from briefings, surveys, and open houses and prepares its Council recommendation. The Bellevue City Council will receive a briefing and Transportation Commission recommendation regarding the scope and timing of implementing bike share and a Downtown demonstration bicycle corridor in January 2018. The City has funding from the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Levy, approved by voters in November 2016, to implement bicycle facility improvements citywide as well as a Downtown demonstration bikeway corridor.