

Eastside Transportation Association

"Dedicated to improving our quality of life and environment by reducing congestion through increased mobility"

P.O. Box 50621
Bellevue, WA 9801

September 10, 2021

TO: Bellevue Planning Commission PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov

CC: Mayor Robinson and the Bellevue City Council

RE: Congestion relieving capacity projects 'On the books' in Bellevue.

July 28, 2021, Public Hearing on the Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

Chair Malakoutian and Planning Commission members,

This memorandum is specifically addressing the abundance of opportunities available in Bellevue for traffic congestion relieving capacity improvement projects according to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), all of which have been adopted by the City Council.

The Planning Commission, after the Public Hearing regarding the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Transportation related amendments to the Comprehensive Plan on July 28, 2021, adopted a resolution requesting the Council to retain the concept of 'reducing congestion' in Comprehensive Plan Policy T-2.

We support retaining the concept of 'reducing congestion' because an analysis of the 2019-2030 TFP data shows that 37 of our 99 'system intersections' are expected to fail by 2030.

During the Public Hearing, Chair Marciante of the Transportation Commission made statements implying that there are few, if any, locations left in the City of Bellevue to increase vehicle capacity on our arterial street system.

Also, at his testimony at the Planning Commission's Public Hearing, ETA Chair-Elect Todd Woosley identified four significant arterial street improvement projects that will provide capacity increases.

There are 69 individual capacity enhancing projects on the City of Bellevue's four transportation project lists in the attached TIP. These 69 projects (highlighted in pink on the attachment) are estimated to cost about \$400 -500 million. Twelve of them are in the current seven year adopted CIP with a program cost of \$88.9 million; an additional 18 capacity projects are in the twelve-year TFP; and an additional 35 projects in the TIP. In addition, the TIP includes the concept project of a NE 6th St. Subsurface Arterial between 112th Ave. NE and Bellevue Way NE (TIP project # 69) at an estimated cost of at least \$150 -200 million.

In addition to the approved City of Bellevue projects, Washington State plans major highway capacity projects in Bellevue. WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation) maintains the I-405 Master Plan plus the I-90 corridor and SR-520 corridors through Bellevue. The entire I-405 Master Plan has multiple projects in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Transportation 2040 Plan totaling \$13.1 Billion on the entire corridor with 13 of them totaling \$5.2 Billion within or serving Bellevue on I-405. These projects include changes and upgrades to I-405 interchanges at 112th Ave. SE, Coal Creek Parkway SE, I-90, SE 8th St., Lake Hills Connector/NE 2nd St., NE 4th St., NE 6th St., NE 8th St., NE 10th St., and SR 520 as well as a new interchange at SR 520/124th Ave. NE.

Each of these WSDOT projects are major capacity improvement projects and most of the interchange projects will require some city participation, some of which (but not all) are included in the existing TIP.

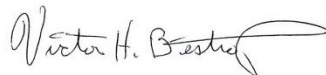
Table 1. Summary of Capacity Improvement projects on the Adopted 2022-2027 TIP¹						
	CIP²	TFP³	TIP⁴	Outside Agency- Led Projects⁵	Total City Projects	WSDOT⁶
Number of Capacity Projects	12	18	35	4	69	16
Notes: 1. 2022 - 2027 Transportation Improvement Program, May 10, 2021 2. CIP, Adopted 2021-2027 Capital Investment Program Plan 3. TFP, Adopted 2019 -2030 Transportation Facilities Plan (additional capacity projects, not in the CIP) 4. TIP, Adopted 2022-2027 TIP (additional capacity projects not in the CIP nor TFP) 5. Other regional or outside agency-led projects in which the City may choose to participate financially (Capacity projects) 6. ETA Summary of I-405 Master Plan unfunded WSDOT(Washington State Department of Transportation) projects per PSRC's Transportation 2040 Plan, https://080b3073-74ff-4d8b-bb84-78b5cf287f45.filesusr.com/ugd/c593a0_f6c411fc3d5849989ba1fdb4c46f1be6.pdf .						

The City of Bellevue is growing very fast with multiple high-rise office and residential towers under construction or in the permitting process, with additional projected employment growth announcements by the tech industry almost monthly. The Bellevue Kirkland Redmond (BKR) Travel Forecast Model forecasts over 75% of the person trips will be in automobiles in 2030. The BKR model assumes aggressive growth for transit ridership, walking and bicycling. Current congestion levels are significant (with 15 failed intersections) and result in ‘traffic congestion’ being the number 1 issue identified by the residents of Bellevue in the City Council’s bi-annual Budget Survey.

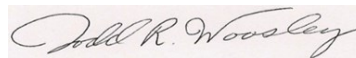
A brief review of the capacity projects currently ‘on the books’ in Bellevue reveals that there are multiple opportunities available to reduce existing and relieve future congestion in the City of Bellevue.

It is a matter of resource allocation and the will to make a commitment to congestion relief.

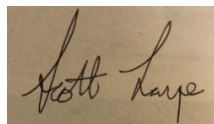
Thank you.



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Todd Woosley
 Former Vice-Chair, Transportation Comm.
 Chair-Elect
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Scott Lampe
 Former Chair, Transportation Commission
 Treasurer
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David Elliott
 Former Chair, Transportation Commission
 Board Member
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Attachment:

2022 -2027 Transportation Improvement Program, Adopted May 10, 2021, annotated with pink highlights to identify capacity projects