



December 11, 2017

Bellevue City Council  
Bellevue City Hall  
450 110<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), I'm writing to share brief feedback for your discussion of the Grand Connection Framework Plan. We recognize the extensive planning effort behind it and thank the City Council and City staff for rallying strong participation from the community.

Overall, we support the progress to date and continued refinement of the vision. We also know a lot of work remains to bring specific actions to fruition.

Moving forward, we urge the City to use the Framework Plan as a guide only, not as a definitive project list or detailed implementation plan. We ask you to stay open and flexible on specific actions, and avoid signaling any of the recommendations are committed at this stage. It remains a vision coming into better focus.

In addition, key concepts from the Framework leverage and connect many of Bellevue's major private and public spaces and investments. Private development will continue to be a driver on big moves like an expanded Compass Plaza or the I-405 crossing from Downtown to the Wilburton Commercial Land Use District. Implementation will call for exceptional collaboration, clear guidelines and strong incentives on both sides of the freeway.

Project prioritization, design and funding for the big projects will likely take considerable time and engagement. Smaller scale and tactical actions are important and will contribute to progress and stakeholder interest. Our staff and members can help identify options and how best to implement them.

The BDA anticipates working closely with the City to establish ongoing stakeholder dialogue and forums for project prioritization with owners and tenants (including residents) along the Connection's primary and secondary routes. The BDA will further connect with our members, the City, and other organizations to explore partnership options and help unite on detailed actions to move Grand Connection vision forward.

Thank you again for your leadership on this significant step for Downtown Bellevue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patrick Bannon'.

Patrick Bannon, President