

July 27, 2021

City of Bellevue
Bellevue Planning Commission
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: Multimodal Concurrency Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dear Chair Malakoutian and Commission members:

On behalf of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), we wish to convey support for the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment that transitions the City of Bellevue to a multimodal concurrency policy and standard.

Our position, endorsed by the BDA Board of Directors at the recommendation of the BDA Transportation Committee, is based on the two desired outcomes resulting from Comprehensive Plan update: 1) establish the policy foundation to advance the City's work on the Multimodal Implementation Plan (MIP) and 2) replace Bellevue's legacy approach to concurrency based on vehicle-specific level of service.

In addition to our support, we share the following recommendations for incorporating and monitoring the proposed *Transportation Elements* in the Comprehensive Plan. These recommendations are intended to serve as tools for ensuring a smooth policy transition.

1. Closely monitor for any unintended consequences of this policy change, and do not overlook or discount the impact of vehicle congestion. Because Bellevue has long relied on the existing concurrency standard, closely supervising this policy transition will help prevent issues and build confidence with the community.
2. Consider how other emerging modes of transportation will be accounted for in the future. The proposed updates provide a less rigid approach in adapting multimodal concurrency standards to changing circumstances; however, the proposed TR-132 update solely prioritizes performance targets for walking, biking, transit riders, and vehicle trips.
3. Prepare an ad-hoc policy lookback option within the MIP's 10-year review cycle as a safety net for unintended consequences or adaption for new modes of transportation. This option would allow Bellevue to respond to the two points listed above.

Establishing a multimodal concurrency system allows Bellevue to account for all modes when advancing land use plans and permitting development in growth areas such as Downtown, Bel-Red, Wilburton, and East Main. It also creates the policy foundation to complete the MIP, a framework that will organize existing transportation plans for consistency when prioritizing projects and programs. These are necessary outcomes we urge you to support by recommending Council adopt the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and moving Bellevue forward. We appreciate your attention to the Transportation Commission's work and community's feedback.

Sincerely,



Dave Miniken
Chair
BDA Board



Patrick Bannon
President
BDA



Amy Carlson
Co-Chair
BDA Transportation Committee



Susan Stead
Co-Chair
BDA Transportation Committee