



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2017-2018 Budget

### Public Engagement

The 2017-2018 budget process includes options for public engagement. Below is a status of each engagement option:

**Budget Process Public Involvement Website** is available at:

<http://www.bellevuewa.gov/budget-public-involvement.htm>

- The website provides links and contact information for anyone interested in further information.

### Statistically Valid Budget and Performance Surveys

- **Budget Survey:**

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2016\\_Budget\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2016_Budget_Survey_Report.pdf)

In preparation for the new budget, the City conducted a budget survey. The survey was designed to provide a statistically valid tool to enhance the City's knowledge of residents' perceptions about the City and to better understand community priorities and expectations regarding City services. This survey has been conducted every other year since 1998.

- **Performance Survey:**

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2016\\_Bellevue\\_Performance\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2016_Bellevue_Performance_Survey_Report.pdf)

The city conducts a performance survey annual to measure the performance of the city. The methodology for the Performance Survey is the same as in the Budget Survey.

- **Business Survey:**

[http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2015\\_Business\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Finance/2015_Business_Final_Report.pdf)

The city conducted business survey in 2015 for the first time. It will be done every other year. The survey addresses Bellevue's key metrics, attitudes about operating and owning a business, starting a business, and questions relating to taxation.

### Public Hearings in June, July, and November

- The City Council holds three public hearings on the 2017-2018 budget to provide stakeholders multiple opportunities to officially comment on the operating and capital budgets. Two public hearings, one in June and the other in July, are held prior to the submission of the Preliminary Budget to the Council, and offer residents and other stakeholders the opportunity to let the Council know what issues are important to them. The third hearing, in November after the Council receives the Preliminary Budget, provides interested parties the chance to address new budget proposals and comment on significant budget issues.
- Summaries of the June and July public hearings are presented in this section.



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2017-2018 Budget

### **Public comment** at all Council meetings

- The public is welcomed and encouraged to speak during public comment at all regular Council meetings. The Council agendas are posted on the Council website.

### **Boards and Commissions:** [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards\\_commissions.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards_commissions.htm)

- Five city boards and commissions provide input on the budget process.
  - Transportation Commission: provides funding recommendations on the Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget.
  - Environmental Services Commission: provides funding recommendations on both the operating and CIP Utilities budgets as well as rate recommendations.
  - Parks and Community Services Board: provides funding recommendations on the CIP budget.
  - Human Services Commission: provides funding recommendations on allocations to human services (City/CDBG) agencies.
  - Arts Commission: provides funding recommendations on arts acquisitions as well as allocations to arts groups.

### **E-mail/Contact Councilmembers:** [Council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:Council@bellevuewa.gov)

Comments to the full Council may be emailed to the address above or submitted by phone to the Council Office at 452-452-7810 (to leave message).

### **E-mail/Contact Finance:** [FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:FinanceDepartment@bellevuewa.gov)

- **Presentations to Neighborhood Groups, Business Associations and Others**  
The Finance Department will give presentations about the budget upon request to any group. Please contact us (425-452-5281) or at the email above.
- **Information Provided Upon Request**  
Finally, the Finance Department responds to any communication received regarding the budget process. Please contact us (425-452-5281 or at the email above).



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2017-2018 Budget

### PUBLIC HEARINGS TESTIMONY (paraphrased)

June 6, 2016 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes) (paraphrased)

1. Alexa Volwiler, Board member of the Cascade Bicycle Club, expressed support for expanded bike infrastructure and facilities in Bellevue.
2. Blake Trask, speaking on behalf of the Cascade Bicycle Club, expressed support for increasing investments in Bellevue's bike network beyond the Transportation Commission's recommended plan.
3. Marc Berejka, Director of REI's government affairs program, noted that REI has a letter of intent to relocate its campus to the Spring District in Bellevue. The company looks forward to creating a sustainable, visionary campus and to contributing to a livable, transit- and bike-friendly environment with a healthy natural environment.
4. Pamela Johnson, representing the Bridle Trails Community Club, expressed support for the funding request by the Parks and Community Services Board. She requested the continued completion of projects in the 2008 parks levy package and the creation of a coordinated plan for preserving the tree canopy. She said both the built and natural environments are important for healthy development. She encouraged the City to join King County's One Million Trees campaign.
5. Steve Kasner expressed strong support for the City's system of parks and open space and connections throughout the community. He asked the City to remove from the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street (148<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue) transportation project that would provide bike facilities. He noted that every other east-west road in East Bellevue has bike facilities. He said Microsoft traffic causes congestion in East Bellevue, and residents are interested in projects to improve traffic throughput at NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He said signal lights at 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street will be replaced this year.
6. Patrick Bannon, President of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), expressed appreciation for the business survey and the outreach conducted by the City as an early element of the budget process. He said transportation and mobility projects continue to be a high priority for the business community. He expressed support for the work over the past year by the City's Economic Development Office.



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2017-2018 Budget

July 18, 2016 (source: adopted Council Meeting Minutes) (Paraphrased):

1. Ted Dezember, King County Housing Authority, encouraged approval of the budget request for the Eastside Pathways program. He said the King County Housing Authority serves 1,000 students in Bellevue in public housing, Section 8 housing, and in traditional housing voucher programs.
2. Colleen Turner, Bellevue Schools Foundation, spoke in support of funding for Eastside Pathways.
3. Sue Baugh expressed support for Eastside Pathways, a partnership of more than 40 organizations working to have a positive impact on the lives of children and youths. She said the organization's collective impact model has been successful in addressing problems in a more efficient and effective way than traditional approaches. She said the Eastside Pathways program is consistent with the City's diversity initiatives. Ms. Baugh submitted her comments in writing as well as letters from Tim Mills, Superintendent, Bellevue School District and Amy Morrison Goings, President of the Lake Washington Institute of Technology.
4. Amanda Sherry, Imagine Housing, thanked the City for its participation in A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and for its financial assistance to Imagine Housing to provide services. She said continued funding is needed to enable ARCH to develop additional affordable housing options.
5. Madeline Stein said she is a steering committee member for the New Bethlehem Project, which has contributed many volunteer hours and nearly \$475,000 toward helping families experiencing homelessness. The effort will create a family day center in Kirkland across the street from Lake Washington High School. Ms. Stein said more than 370 St. Louise parishioners, including 255 Bellevue residents, signed letters requesting assistance from the City for the New Bethlehem Project's family day center. Ms. Stein submitted copies of the letters from Bellevue residents, which indicate their commitment to volunteering and donating funds to the project.
6. Angela Murray, Executive Director of The Sophia Way, thanked the City for supporting the Eastside Housing Trust Fund through ARCH and requested increased funding this year. She said The Sophia Way recently released three women from its programmatic shelter into homelessness because there is not sufficient affordable housing on the Eastside. Ms. Murray commended the Council for developing an affordable housing strategy. She asked the Council to support the recommendation of the Human Services Commission to approve funding for three programs assisting homeless women on the Eastside. Ms. Murray requested a modest increase in funding to extend the weekly operation of the day center to include weekends. She said there are no weekend daytime services for women on the Eastside.



## Stakeholder Summary Public Outreach for the 2017-2018 Budget

7. Mike Nielsen, former Executive Director of what is now Imagine Housing, said he spent nearly 40 years working in the areas of behavioral health and affordable housing. He currently serves as a Board Trustee for a countywide crisis clinic. He said he is increasingly concerned about the affordability of housing in Bellevue. He encouraged the Council to increase funding to the ARCH Trust Fund. He said the 24-hour crisis line received 9,000 calls from Bellevue residents, including 200 youth, last year.
8. Vicky Clarke, Cascade Bicycle Club, expressed support for non-motorized transportation projects including the Eastside Rail Corridor, Bicycle Rapid Implementation Plan, and the Grand Connection. She thanked the City for its work to invest in bicycle infrastructure and amenities.
9. Joel Ing, Shelter Resources, Inc., thanked the Council for supporting ARCH and its important housing projects. He said Bellevue's support is critical to the regional efforts.
10. Len Brannen, Shelter Resources, Inc., said ARCH is one of the more progressive organizations in the country for achieving housing goals. He encouraged the Council's continued support.
11. Michelle Plesko expressed support for expanding bicycle infrastructure, noting that she and her four children use bikes as much as possible. She said bikes provide an affordable transportation option if facilities are safe, comfortable, and convenient.
12. Steve Kasner, representing the East Bellevue Community Council, noted that he distributed three documents to the City Council. He said the Lake Hills area represents more than 10 percent of Bellevue's population. He encouraged the Council's support of a proposed project to improve traffic at 148th Avenue and NE 8th Street. He said there are no CIP projects specifically for the Lake Hills area. He said the EBCC does not support Transportation Facilities Project 158 in East Bellevue. He said an additional sidewalk is not needed in that project location. However, a bike connection to the Lake Hills Greenbelt would be useful. Mr. Kasner observed that the sidewalk project funds could be better spent elsewhere. He is pleased that the Fire Facilities and Neighborhood Transportation levies will be presented on the fall ballot. He encouraged the City to continue working toward the redevelopment of the Newport Hills Shopping Center.