



Bellevue City Council 2021-2023 Vision & Priorities

Quarterly Report
April 1, 2023





Bellevue City Council Priorities Q1 2023 Report

On May 19, 2014, the City Council approved a 20-year vision for Bellevue, including strategic target areas and two-year priorities, and has continued to refine and set new priorities every two to three years. The seven strategic target areas are:

- Economic Development
- Transportation and Mobility
- High Quality Built and Natural Environment
- Bellevue: Great Places Where You Want to Be
- Regional Leadership and Influence
- Achieving Human Potential
- High Performance Government

In early 2021, the Council deliberated and reached consensus on a list of 22 priorities to support the seven strategic target areas for the 2021-23 term. This report provides a high-level overview of key accomplishments, ongoing actions, and next steps in the implementation of each priority. In order to ensure effective implementation of the priorities, the Leadership Team has assigned a sponsor and lead staff member for each priority who identified tasks and milestones to support the outcomes outlined by the Council. For the most part, the 2021-23 priorities represent a continuation of initiatives that are already underway with allocated staff and budget. The Council added four new priorities to this ongoing work in 2021-23 which have been incorporated into department workplans. This represents a significant body of work – 22 priorities with 111 supporting workplan items.

As of Q1 2023, the majority of supporting actions are on track and 68% of the three-year work plan has been completed. Staff is fully engaged in this work and focused on meeting Council and community expectations. As of the latest update, approximately 11% of actions are experiencing some level of disruption. This is primarily due to conditions currently impacting many industries such as supply chain constraints, material costs, or staff vacancies. Despite these disruptions and additional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have made significant progress in advancing each of the 22 priorities.

Updated status reports will be provided to the Council and posted on the Bellevue Performance dashboard on a quarterly basis: performance.bellevuewa.gov.



Economic Development

Priority 1: Implement the direct strategies of the Economic Development Plan, addressing: Capacity building and partnerships, small business and entrepreneurship, workforce, retail, creative economy, and tourism.

Accomplishments: Bellevue and Redmond have agreed on the terms of a Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) interlocal agreement (ILA). City Council has approved the Resolution of Intention and ILA.

In Progress/Ongoing: Implementation has continued on the Economic Development Plan. The Startup 425 partner cities have confirmed programming adjustments, including more network-building events and 1x1 advising. Perkins Coie has been working with the BelRed stakeholders on forming the neighborhood-based non-profit, with formal incorporation expected in mid-2023. Staff is working on the RFP for the "Kelly" site in BelRed to identify a developer for affordable artist housing.

Looking Ahead: In Q2, staff will bring the final elements of the TPA (establishing an advisory board, contract with the WA Department of Revenue, and formally establishing a finance fund) forward for City Council approval. Staff is working to hire Startup 425's first dedicated coordinator and anticipates onboarding to occur in Q2. Research and analysis for the city-wide retail study will continue into Q2, and the project is on track to wrap up in Q4 2023.



Transportation & Mobility

Priority 2: Continue to execute our transportation capital plans for future growth and mobility of the city. Use the funding provided by the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy to improve safety, transportation, and quality of life in neighborhoods.

Accomplishments: The Mobility Implementation Plan (MIP) and associated Multimodal Concurrency program have been completed and adopted by Council. The MIP was recently recognized by the Department of Commerce with the 2022 Governor's Smart Communities Award. Construction is progressing well on three TIFIA projects and the final project, 130th Ave NE from Bel-Red Rd to NE 20th St, is almost ready to advertise. The Neighborhood Levy program recently completed ten new and enhanced crosswalks in the Lakemont, Eastgate and Lake Hills neighborhoods. The Vision Zero program completed seven of the grant-funded Roadway Safety Audits (RSA) and will be kicking the last one in April. The 2022-2033 Transportation Facilities Plan has been completed.

In Progress/Ongoing: Work has begun on the project evaluation and prioritization for all the concerns identified through the RSA process. Staff is currently working on the MIP Implementation Guide which will be delivered in Q2-2023. Design continues to progress on multiple levy projects, including a new traffic signal on 156th Ave SE at Lake Hills Blvd and the next phase of improvements associated with the transformational sidewalk and safety project in Northwest Bellevue along 100th Ave NE. Construction is underway on multiple levy projects including congestion improvements on 148th Ave NE at Lake Hills Blvd.

Looking Ahead: Staff will be advancing engagements with the City Council and Transportation Commission and the public outreach portion of the Urban Core Bicycle Rapid Implementation Project early in 2023. Design is beginning on multiple new levy projects including a jointly funded grant and levy safety project on Coal Creek Parkway to address speeding on this corridor.



Transportation & Mobility

Priority 3: Advocate with the state Department of Transportation and regional agencies for acceleration of the I-405 Corridor Program and completion of SR 520 improvements, including Bellevue projects (i.e. NE Sixth St., 124th Ave. NE Interchange, braided ramps, Coal Creek Parkway).

Accomplishments: Together with stakeholders, the City successfully advocated to legislative leadership on the importance of near-term funding for WSDOT's SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange Project. Funding for design of the SR 520/124th project is expected to be reinstated in the 2023-2025 biennium.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Advance the NE 6th Street Extension study alternatives through the periodic Comprehensive Plan update environmental analysis process with an anticipated draft Environmental Impact Statement in late-April 2023 and a preferred alternative in mid-2023. The final Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated for release in late August 2023.
- The City will continue to coordinate with WSDOT on preliminary engineering and environmental review for the SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange Project, including the Northup Way pedestrian/bicycle approach, right of way, and public outreach.

Looking Ahead:

- Develop a funding approach for construction of WSDOT's SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange Project. Funding certainty is critical to construct the project in 2025.
- Develop a funding approach for interchange and access projects along the I-405 corridor.

Priority 4: Continue oversight of light rail construction and ensure that we implement an effective strategy for construction mitigation for neighborhoods, traffic and business.

Accomplishments: Civil construction is complete with only punch list items remaining. Construction mitigation has been successfully managed for neighborhoods, businesses, and the traveling public.

In Progress/Ongoing: Civil construction is complete with only punch list items remaining. Construction mitigation has been successfully managed for neighborhoods, businesses, and the traveling public.

Looking Ahead: Sound Transit will be starting noise and vibration testing for the light rail in Q3 2023 and is currently reevaluating the project opening date with plans to update the schedule in Q2.



High Quality Built & Natural Environment

Priority 5: Execute Affordable Housing strategy, including: 1. Look at code amendments instead of comprehensive plan amendments for projects with exceptional amounts of low-and middle-income housing; and 2. Strengthen housing bonus program.

Accomplishments:

- Significant increase in the use of the Multifamily Tax Exemption (MFTE) program.
- Community Engagement Guide for Supportive Housing.
- Supportive and Emergency Housing LUCA adopted.
- Removing maximum residential occupancy LUCA adopted.
- Continued progress at Operations & Maintenance Facility East & 130th sites.
- Housing Stability Program (HB 1590) 2021 funding processes for behavioral health & human services and capital investment.
- City capital funding for men's shelter, Plymouth Supportive Housing, and Illahee.
- Adopted C-1 Phase 2 faith-based properties comprehensive plan amendment.
- City of Bellevue 2022 Housing Needs Assessment.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Ongoing support for the Multifamily Tax Exemption program, ARCH, Housing Stability Program (HB 1590), and regional affordable housing planning.
- Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and Wilburton: additional housing supply and work.
- Work to finalize a partnership at 130th TOD site.
- C-1 Phase 2 faith-based properties LUCA.
- "Next Right Work" items: remove barriers to micro-apartments LUCA; allow higher floor-area-ratio for residential developments LUCA; reduce permit fees for affordable housing projects; encourage detached and attached accessory dwelling units and other types of housing such as duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes; and simplify and expedite permitting for affordable housing.
- Environmental review of wide range of potential housing concepts as part of the Comprehensive Plan periodic update.

Looking Ahead:

- Release of draft EIS for Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and Wilburton.
- Selection of preferred alternative for the preparation of final EIS and drafting of Wilburton plan and Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Processing and adoption of "Next Right Work" items.
- Wilburton LUCA (expected 2024), including added housing supply, affordable housing, and targeted housing land use districts.
- BelRed Look Forward LUCA will be part of the code update for the Comprehensive Plan (expected 2024), including added housing supply and affordable housing.
- Assessment of 2023 state legislation relating to land use and housing.

Priority 6: Complete construction of Phase One of Meydenbauer Bay Park by 2018 and the Downtown Park Gateway by the end of 2019 and synchronize with the Grand Connection as possible. Include celebration of the connection of downtown to the waterfront.

In Progress/Ongoing: Continued installation of the new artwork, with the installation of 6,665 pieces and 180,000 rivets.

Looking Ahead: A celebration is anticipated this summer to mark the completion of the Downtown Park NE plaza and the newest public art piece enhancing the Grand Connection experience.



High Quality Built & Natural Environment

Priority 7: Advance implementation of the Smart City Strategy, including advanced transportation technology and autonomous, connected, electric and shared vehicle technologies.

In Progress/Ongoing: Working on a new video analytics study focused on using passive pedestrian detection to improve the clearance of pedestrians in crosswalks. Also advancing testing on the next generation of Transit Signal Priority for the B-Line.

Looking Ahead:

- Eastrail fiber development RFI to be released April 2022.
- Electric vehicle charging plan will launch in early 2023.

Priority 8: Implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which identifies actions in five focus areas: Climate change, Energy, Materials management and waste, Mobility and land use, and Natural systems.

Accomplishments: Of the 78 actions in the plan, staff initiated the implementation of 58 actions and completed 4 actions. Highlights include:

- Clean Buildings Incentive Program: Enrolled 186 buildings in the program and completed 106 energy benchmarks and have another 80 in progress. The team has completed six building scoping assessments and has another 13 in progress and is assisting ten buildings in applying for WA State Department of Commerce Clean Buildings Act Early Adopter Incentives.
- Energy Smart Eastside: Initiated hiring for an Energy Smart Eastside Program Manager staff position, to manage the program. Held a home electrification webinar with Rewiring America, King County Library System, and other partners with over 200 attendees.
- Enrolled 83 households in the Sustainable Bellevue Climate Challenge.
- Convened the Sustainability Leaders Group and held a Sustainable Bellevue Community Townhall in March 2023.
- Completed the Air Quality and Planning Guidelines report.

In Progress/Ongoing: Staff is continuing to implement the plan, hiring new staff to provide additional capacity to support plan implementation, and identifying state and federal grants and funding opportunities to accelerate implementation.

Looking Ahead: Staff will finalize plans and staffing needs associated with the 2023-2024 budget, to identify opportunities for accelerating efforts to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Priority 9: Advance a park funding strategy, including consideration of new funding sources for operations, maintenance and construction.

Accomplishments: The Bellevue Parks and Open Space System Plan was adopted by the City Council on July 11, 2022. In subsequent Council meetings, a parks levy package was compiled and approved by the Council for consideration on the November 2022 ballot. That voter initiative was subsequently approved.



High Quality Built & Natural Environment

Priority 10: Proceed with site selection and feasibility analysis for a major aquatic center in Bellevue.

Accomplishments: City Council has endorsed the recommended Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan that includes an Aquatic Facility among other park elements.

In-Progress/Ongoing: Environmental reporting and SEPA review are in progress.



Bellevue: Great Places Where You Want to Be

Priority 11: Continue to advance the Grand Connection as the city's signature gathering place. Establish the preferred crossing of I-405 and begin design discussions with WSDOT; build public support by completing city projects in the early implementation plan; educate key public and private funders on the unique opportunities available; and integrate the vision of the Grand Connection into the Wilburton plan.

Accomplishments: Continued work with private-sector developers to further the Grand Connection vision along the corridor. Staff stood up core teams in Q1 to advance the catalyst I-405 bridge crossing, which includes both the capital construction of the crossing and the operations work to ensure the space is well managed and programmed for community use. Coordination has begun with the Bellevue Downtown Association, Amazon, and the new "Friends of the Grand Connection" group.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Construction for raised intersections at NE 6th/108th and NE 6th/110th has shifted due to site constraints and will begin in late Q2 2023, with completion expected in Q4 2023.
- Continued work on implementation of the Wilburton vision, including SEPA, policy, development, and LUC updates through the Comprehensive Plan periodic update. Significant work is being done to analyze three growth alternatives as part of the EIS process.

Looking Ahead:

- The Draft EIS for the Wilburton Vision Implementation (part of the Comprehensive Plan update) is expected to be released in late April 2023, with a preferred alternative selected by City Council in summer based on public feedback and the Planning Commission's recommendation.
- An RFQ for the 30% design work on the I-405 crossing will be released in April. Additional RFPs for funding consultants, public space management consultants, and other necessary supports will come out in mid-2023. Initial programming and activities will come to City Hall Plaza over the summer.



Bellevue: Great Places Where You Want to Be

Priority 12: Work with King County and Sound Transit to ensure that Eastrail from Renton to the Wilburton Trestle is completed; complete the section of the trail from Kirkland to the Light Rail Maintenance Facility East; complete the interim connection through the Spring District; and begin to establish community connection points to Eastrail.

Accomplishments:

- The City completed 60% design and environmental documentation necessary for permits for the Eastrail to Spring Boulevard Connector project.
- With support from the City and stakeholders, King County is expected to receive Move Ahead Washington funding for construction of the Wilburton Trestle in the 2023-2025 biennium.
- Final design of the Northup Connector is complete.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Construction for the Wilburton Bridge project is scheduled to go to bid in Q3 2023, pending completion of a project agreement with WSDOT for anticipated Move Ahead Washington funding.
- King County's NE 8th Street overcrossing bridge continues construction.
- Ongoing design of the Eastrail to Spring Boulevard Trail Link Project and easement acquisition from Sound Transit.
- Eastrail Partners, Bellevue, and King County continue to assess opportunities to secure full funding for the I-90 steel bridge.
- WSDOT's Renton to Bellevue project contractor continues construction of the pedestrian and bicycle bridge over I-405.

Looking Ahead:

- Advance discussions about the funding gap for the I-90 steel bridge, including grant applications for federal funding.
- Construction of the Northup Connector will begin, with an anticipated opening to the public in late-2023.
- The NE 8th Street overcrossing is anticipated to open to the public in late-2023.
- The Wilburton Bridge is anticipated to open in 2025, together with the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over I-405.



Regional Leadership

Priority 13: Be an active regional partner, whether it is with cities east of the lake, Seattle and King County, schools and special purpose districts, or the state and federal government. Strategically pursue public and/or private funding and partnerships where beneficial to Bellevue and the region. Establish a partnership with the Port of Seattle on our mutual areas of interest, including attraction of international business and tourism.

Accomplishments:

- Consistent with Council's federal legislative agenda, Bellevue submitted four requests for congressionally directed spending and community project spending, also known as "earmarks."
- Bellevue secured four Sound Cities Association appointments for 2023 and two appointments through the Association of Washington Cities.

Looking Ahead: Staff is meeting with legislators from the 41st and 48th districts to prepare for the 2023 session. Bellevue is using Port grant funding to activate the Grand Connection in partnership with the BDA, catalyze the BelRed Arts District, and support small businesses and entrepreneurs with the Small Business Development Center and Startup 425.



Achieving Human Potential

Priority 14: Leverage the higher education institutions in Bellevue to benefit our residents and businesses. The Global Innovation Exchange and its partners present an opportunity to dramatically grow human potential in the field of technology innovation. The city should support GIX and take advantage of the financial and human benefits that will come from it. Bellevue College is an important partner in providing workforce development. The city should support the college, the faculty and students in the city's transportation and affordable housing plans. The city should implement the TechHire initiative to benefit the region's technology companies.

Accomplishments: Bellevue's new workforce specialist has held regular office hours at Mini City Hall which has allowed residents of diverse backgrounds to get connected and get help with job needs. Bellevue is also partnering with Redmond on a survey of residents to help quantify the needs of job and training seekers.

Looking Ahead: The survey will go out in Q2 with initial information coming back in Q4. Bellevue staff is also working with community organizations on apprenticeship and internship programs.



Achieving Human Potential

Priority 15: Continue to implement the Diversity Plan, including determining the availability of and need for multicultural programming in the city and completing the cross-cultural study already underway.

Accomplishments:

- Recruited new Centering Communities of Color (CCC) team members
- Developed initial work plans for all Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network (BDAN) committees
- Successfully assisted BDAN in advising on four major city projects to improve each department's ability to communicate, collaborate, and better serve Bellevue's diverse community.
- Developed initial CCC work plan with award-winning Civil Rights facilitator Joshua Barr.
- Completed phase 1 of the CCC work plan with Joshua Barr.
- Completed all phases of beta testing for citywide microaggressions training which includes: The City Council, Leadership Team, Operations Policy Team, Human Services Commission, and Diversity Liaisons.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Recruiting new CCC team members completed in Q1 2023 and there are regular meetings and behind-the-scenes work moving towards co-creating recommendations and actions that will advance racial equity in our community.
- Supporting BDAN's ability to advise and improve the City's ability to communicate, collaborate, and better serve Bellevue's diverse community.
- Working with award-winning and Civil Rights facilitator Joshua Barr to work with the CCC team.

Looking Ahead:

- Develop cross-cultural programming within the City's community centers and with our community partners, as well as identify possible non-profit partnerships for a future cross-cultural center.
- Develop an implementation plan for the Council's cross-cultural direction.
- Conduct engagement with community stakeholders in the cross-cultural project.
- Analyze feedback and convene a workgroup of subject matter experts to advance the DAP 2.0 work plan and outline.
- Conduct training for the various boards and commissions, as well as staff.
- Complete the CCC team charter and develop work plans.

Priority 16: Work toward an Eastside solution for a permanent location for a men's homeless shelter.

In Progress/Ongoing: Construction is nearing completion for the 100-bed permanent men's shelter, after a small delay caused by elevator supply chain issues. City staff is coordinating with CFH staff to support the transition to the new location.

Looking Ahead: Completion of the CFH Eastgate Men's Shelter and transition of operations from Lincoln Center to Eastgate is scheduled for June 2023.



Achieving Human Potential

Priority 17: Explore a safe parking program for homelessness response.

Accomplishments: City Council discussed program options in July 2022 and received an update on program structure and implementation in January 2023. Staff developed the program framework, completed the analysis, and selected the Lincoln Center as the host site for the pilot program. There were no qualified applicants to the City's initial Request for Proposals (RFP). After further engagement with potential operators, the RFP will be reposted in April. The program is a two-year safe parking pilot, with contracted site and case management services, as well as outreach to religious organizations to support the expansion of safe parking programs. Funding for the program is included in the City's 2023-2024 budget.

In Progress/Ongoing: Staff will re-release the RFP in April 2023. Staff regularly coordinates with outside partners including KCRHA Vehicle Residency Working Group, Eastside cities, and safe parking locations.

Looking Ahead: Anticipate selection of operator in Q2 2023 and launch of program operations in Q3.



High Performance Government

Priority 18: Build trust in government by developing and implementing a comprehensive communication plan with proactive strategies and systems, and robust, transparent, open public engagement processes. Characteristics that were discussed include: Share clear and timely information; engagement – getting input; and the more we listen, the more responsive we are.

In Progress/Ongoing: After completing an initial draft plan through a consultant in Q4 2022, the plan is now in review with city staff and leadership. Staff is currently in the review and refinement process and will make a determination on whether further consultant help will be needed to finalize the communications plan.

Looking Ahead: Staff will work over the coming months to finalize the draft and develop a subsequent/companion internal strategic communication plan for use to develop staff work plans. The final comprehensive communications plan will be posted to the city's website.

Priority 19: Identify and implement technologies that improve customer service by the City of Bellevue.

Accomplishments:

- Completed RFP and vendor selection for an enterprise-wide service management platform that incorporates capabilities for both internal and public-facing customer management services.
- Open Data inventory wrap-up in preparation for full-scale publishing of services.

Looking Ahead:

- Service management pilot with select departments on public-facing customer service needs.
- Open Data Enhancement go live.



High Performance Government

Priority 20: Establish a long-range financial strategy that includes options that respond to the future operating and capital needs of the city.

Accomplishments: The 2023-2024 Adopted Budget continues implementation strategies to provide fiscal sustainability for the City including continuation of prior cost reductions and increasing revenue to address a growing and urbanizing city. The near-term outlook shows the fiscal gap narrowing substantially in years 2025/2026 barring a severe recession or other economic downturn. The main drivers for the City are twofold: Revenue structural imbalance not keeping pace with expenditure growth and urbanization and new growth creating additional expenditure pressures.

In Progress/Ongoing: As the economy continues to unfold staff is developing financial forecasts that recognize the current economic challenges including, inflationary pressures, global instability, and higher interest rates, to provide actionable information to City leadership that also outlines potential risks and opportunities for the City. Staff will continue to monitor and return to Council in late 2023.

Looking Ahead: Even with the advances adopted in the 2023-2024 budget, the long-term outlook shows a continual structural deficit. Staff will continue to present options to Council for the longer-term outlook as the mid-biennium approaches. The main drivers for the structural deficit are twofold: Revenue structural imbalance not keeping pace with expenditure growth and urbanization and new growth creating additional expenditure pressures.

Priority 21: Develop and establish a new brand identity for the City of Bellevue that reflects both our past and our future; an identity that is iconic and leaves a lasting impression that Bellevue is a place that people want to live, work, learn and play.

In Progress/Ongoing: This initiative is in-progress, contingent upon advancements made on Priority #18 (Comprehensive Communications Plan). Further progress toward completion of Priority #18 is expected to inform the objectives and outcomes of Priority #21. As Priority #18 is advanced substantially this year, efforts on Priority #21 can ramp up near the end of the year (exp. Q4 2023.)

Priority 22: Leverage data and technology to enhance community engagement, equity, and accountability. Measure and share interactive reports of key performance indicators across city services. Increase the reporting of correlated and aggregated community inputs to inform future policies. Set up a dashboard to continuously report on progress against council priorities/vision.

Accomplishments: Initiated the City of Bellevue Racial and Social Equity Composite Index project in partnership with multiple departments. This seeks to provide support for the city's objective of having more intentional data and performance-driven practices in our diversity initiatives. Public Safety customer communication software branding was completed along with NORCOM integration mapping.

Looking Ahead: Public Safety Customer Communication Software go live is anticipated in Q2 2023.