



Bellevue City Council 2021-2023 Vision & Priorities

Quarterly Report
October 1, 2023





Bellevue City Council Priorities Q3 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 112 supporting workplan items.

As of Q3 2023, the majority of supporting actions are on track and 80% 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 has 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 approved the Tourism Promotion Area (TPA) interlocal agreement and revenue collection began on July 1, 2023.
- The City hired two “entrepreneurs in residence” to lead Startup 425 who are developing programs to grow services provided to first-time business owners. Programming is being rebuilt around core “Co-work” sessions that sync with other workforce efforts.
- The BelRed Arts District Alliance, a new neighborhood non-profit, filed incorporation paperwork.
- Artspace has submitted a final report on space needs based on community engagement.

Looking Ahead: The city-wide retail study has been completed. Staff is working on an implementation plan and preparing for a briefing session with local property brokers.



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 adopted by the City Council and received the 2022 Governor’s Smart Communities Award.
- Construction is progressing well on the TIFIA projects, with two more segments reaching substantial completion.
- The Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy program recently completed ten new and enhanced crosswalks in the Lakemont, Eastgate and Lake Hills neighborhoods.
- The Vision Zero program has completed all eight of the grant-funded Roadway Safety Audits (RSA) and has published the final report for the grant-funded work.
- The Bike Bellevue project began its public outreach campaign with the publishing of the Concept Guide in September.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Work has begun on the project evaluation and prioritization for all the concerns identified through the RSA process.
- The final stage of 124th Ave NE - Ichigo to Northup Way is under construction and scheduled to be complete by Q2-2024.
- Design continues to progress on multiple levy projects, including a new traffic signal on 156th Ave SE at Lake Hills Blvd, a large pedestrian safety project on NE 8th St at the I-405 interchange and the next phase of improvements associated with the transformational sidewalk and safety project in Northwest Bellevue along 100th Ave NE. Construction is almost complete on the levy-funded congestion improvement project at 148th Ave NE at Lake Hills Blvd.



Transportation & Mobility

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Looking Ahead:

- Staff has kicked off the public outreach portion of the Bike Bellevue project with City Council and the Transportation Commission. Public outreach will continue through the end of the year.
- 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.
- The final TIFIA project, 130th Ave NE from Bel-Red Rd to NE 20th St, is on track to advertise before the end of the year.

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: WSDOT and Sound Transit awarded the I-405/Brickyard to SR 527 project and construction has begun, enabling future Sound Transit Stride bus rapid transit service on I-405. The City of Bellevue supported partner agencies in advancing this work despite budgetary constraints.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- WSDOT and Bellevue are advancing the SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange to the 5% concept plan with a traffic signal layout that is compatible with future signalization of the 127th Avenue intersection.
- Continuing to advance the NE 6th Street Extension alternatives (5-lane arterial or no arterial) through the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update environmental analysis process. A preferred land use alternative has been selected, for analysis and transportation modeling results will be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement in January 2024. A preferred outcome of the NE 6th Street extension will be a combination of quantitative and qualitative metrics that will be documented in the FEIS.

Looking Ahead:

- WSDOT is planning for an open house and access hearing for the SR 520/124th Avenue NE Interchange in early-2024.
- WSDOT has identified a funding gap for several projects along the I-405/SR 167 corridor, which will likely impact the NE 6th Extension project that is part of Renton to Bellevue Contract 3, which was anticipated for completion in 2029. The I-405/SR 167 Executive Advisory Committee will be asked to provide feedback to WSDOT through 2023 about consideration in resolving the funding gap. Feedback will be shared with the Legislature in advance of the 2024 session.

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. Construction mitigation has been successfully managed for neighborhoods, businesses, and the traveling public.

In Progress/Ongoing: City staff are working with Sound Transit to create an O&M Agreement that outlines responsibilities and procedures for both parties. A draft will be completed by November 1 and the final document will be signed in Q1 2024.



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 use of 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 and Maintenance Facility East & 130th Sites.
- Housing Stability Program (HB 1590) 2022 Funding Processes for Behavioral Health & Human Services and Capital Investment.
- 2022 ARCH Housing Trust Fund projects awarded in May 2023.
- City Capital Funding for Men's Shelter, Plymouth Supportive Housing, and Illahee.
- C-1 Phase 2 Faith-Based Properties LUCA.
- Release of Draft EIS for Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and Wilburton.
- Assessment of 2023 state legislation relating to land use and housing.
- Downtown Residential FAR/Affordable Housing Interim Official Control adopted.
- Micro-apartments LUCA adopted.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Ongoing support for 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 affordable housing work.
- Work to finalize partnership at 130th TOD site.
- Site and program analysis initiated for the Kelly Site affordable housing project in preparation to release RFP in Q1 2024.
- Update affordable housing target number in the Affordable Housing Strategy Implementation Plan.
- Maximizing SEPA Categorical Exemptions BCCA.
- Transportation Standards BCCA to align with 2021 Unit Lot Subdivision approval.
- "Next Right Work" items: allow higher density 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 housing projects.
- Environmental review of wide range of potential housing concepts as part of Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update.
- MFTE Code Amendment to encourage use of program for Very Small Dwelling Units.

Looking Ahead:

- Processing and adoption of "Next Right Work" items.
- Wilburton LUCA, including added housing supply, affordable housing, and targeted housing land use districts.
- BelRed Look Forward LUCA, including added housing supply and affordable housing.
- Analysis of HB 1110 (middle housing) and HB 1337 (ADUs) new state legislation.
- Analysis of SB 5290 (permit streamlining).



High Quality Built & Natural Environment

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.

Accomplishments: Phase One of Meydenbauer Bay Park and the Downtown Park are complete. The Artwork 'Piloti' has been installed and the grand celebration of NE Gateway Plaza was held on June 24.

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

Accomplishments:

- Completed a traffic data dashboard for internal monitoring of key operational metrics for the adaptive signal system and bicycle network.
- Completed the Autonomous Vehicle Strategic Vision, which defines how Bellevue should prepare for autonomous vehicle technology.

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. Deploying weather sensors at strategic locations around the city to improve forecasting during winter weather events and to gather more accurate pavement temperature information to support the anti-icing program for critical hills and bridges.

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 has begun implementation of 61 actions and completed six actions. Staff has also launched the Clean Buildings Incentive Program and Energy Smart Eastside. Completed Phase 1 of the tree code engagement, including a survey, information session and stakeholder meetings. Launched the Energy Smart Eastside Boost program.

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

Looking Ahead: Initiate Phase 2 engagement of the tree code update. Evaluate impacts of the State Building and Energy code updates on EV charging, rooftop solar and green building.

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 2022. In subsequent meetings, a parks levy package was compiled and approved by the Council for the November 2022 ballot. That voter initiative was subsequently approved.

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. In June, the City held a community celebration for the opening of the NE gateway to Downtown Park. "Friends of the Grand Connection" has officially organized.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Staff worked with the Bellevue Downtown Association to publicly launch all phases of the work in October.
- Completion of raised intersections at NE 6th/108th and NE 6th/110th 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.

Looking Ahead: Design work on the non-motorized crossing kicked off in Q3 2023 and will wrap by the end of 2024. Broad public engagement is planned for Q1 2024.

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:

- Council approved the \$2 million Bellevue contribution to the Eastrail Wilburton Trestle project on June 12.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Final design is expected to be complete for the Eastrail to Spring Blvd Connector by the end of 2023, with ongoing coordination with Sound Transit and King County. This is a City-led project.
- The Wilburton Trestle final design is complete and the project is expected to go to bid in November 2023.
- Most major construction elements for the NE 8th Street Overcrossing project are nearly complete: the bridge and decorative cladding, the approach trails and stairways, along with the majority of the lighting. This is a King County-led project.

Looking Ahead:

- The Northup Way (SR 520 Trail) Connector project is expected to open in November 2024. This project is led by Eastrail Partners.
- The NE 8th Street Overcrossing bridge will open in May 2024 after the anticipated start of light rail service. The north mixing zone and connection to the Hospital District will be open by the beginning of ST service.



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:

- Bellevue secured four Sound Cities Association appointments for 2023 and two appointments through the Association of Washington Cities.
- In preparation for 2024 Sound Cities Association appointments, staff drafted an appointments process and supporting materials. Staff incorporated Council direction from the March 2023 Council retreat.
- Bellevue staff is implementing an Economic Development Partnership Grant from the Port.
- During Congressional recess Bellevue hosted and attended several events, which are described below. Staff prepared a recommendation for Council's 2024 State Legislative Agenda through an inter-departmental process.
- State Representative Tana Senn toured the Mountains to Sound Greenway project. Staff met with State Representative Julia Reed regarding upcoming legislation.

Looking Ahead: Staff will brief Council on recommendations for the 2024 State Legislative Agenda and Council will consider adoption in October. Councilmembers will submit applications for 2024 Sound Cities Association appointments in November. Bellevue staff will create a detailed report documenting Port-funded projects and outcomes. Bellevue staff anticipates submitting the report to the Port in December.



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.
- In partnership with Redmond, completed a survey of residents to help quantify the needs of job and training seekers.

Looking Ahead: Staff reached an agreement with Mentors in Tech to sponsor a pilot project that provides mentorship and micro-internships to Bellevue College Computer Science program students.



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:

- Communities of Color Initiative: Completed the Phase 2 work plan with Joshua Barr. Completed a series of dialogue sessions to discuss the needs and opportunities for communities of color in Bellevue that took place from July to August.
- Diversity Advantage Plan 2.0: Completed engagement with steering team focus group and created an external engagement plan for the plan's update.
- Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network: Work plans for all committees complete. BDAN has advised on four major City projects to improve communication, collaboration and the City's ability to provide better service to its diverse community. Hosted and organized the 2023 Welcoming Week Resource Fair.

In Progress/Ongoing:

- Communities of Color Initiative: Continue to gather and organize feedback from the series of community dialogues to consider how to implement policy concepts aimed at improving equity and inclusivity.
- Cross-Cultural Programming: The convening group will host community sessions to identify the top priorities for this phase of implementing the Cross-Cultural Center.

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

Accomplishments: Construction is complete and the men's shelter has moved to its permanent location on the Eastgate Housing Campus.

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 analysis, and selected the Lincoln Center as the host site for the pilot program. Due to lack of capacity in the homelessness services provider network, the first two rounds of the City's Requests for Proposal were not successful. The third-round Request for Proposal yielded a successful application, and staff is currently engaged in contract discussions with this agency. 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 expansion of safe parking programs. Funding for the program is included in the City's 2023-2024 budget.

In Progress/Ongoing: Staff is negotiating a contract and lease agreement with the identified safe parking program operator. Staff regularly coordinates with outside partners including KCRHA Vehicle Residency Working Group, Eastside cities, and existing safe parking locations.

Looking Ahead: Anticipate Council approval of provider contract before the end of 2023 and program launch in early 2024.



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 plan.

Looking Ahead: Staff will work to finalize the draft by the end of the year and develop a subsequent/companion internal strategic communication plan for use to develop staff work plans related to communications approaches. 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: The Open Data project completed in May 2023. The project's goal was to provide a data portal to the public in expanded downloadable formats that include metadata, integration with web maps and applications, and providing a direct connection to the most up-to-date versions of city data for consumption. The City has also completed implementing an enterprise service management platform starting with a focus on internal services and expanding to pilot a subset of public-facing service requests.

In Progress/Ongoing: The city is currently piloting an updated version of the city website's MyBellevue Chatbot leveraging advanced AI capabilities that indexes website contents in minutes and provides an interface that the public can interface with in a conversational manner. New capabilities enable more efficiency in indexing the city website to provide an improved search experience.

Looking Ahead: Leverage existing enterprise service management platform to pilot a customer service management tool with the City Clerk's Office to handle public requests. The Utilities Customer Portal upgrade is scheduled to complete and available publicly by the end of 2023. The portal will provide city utilities customers with a modern interface and more detailed water consumption information.



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 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: Staff has worked with City leadership to develop a technical mid-biennium budget update package that makes routine technical adjustments to personnel, revenues and other areas as well as continues implementing the investments included in the 2023-2024 Amended Budget.

Looking Ahead: As part of the mid-biennium public process, staff will provide an overview of the adjustments included in the 2023-2024 mid-biennium budget and separate sessions for Development Services fee impacts, a public hearing and other topics Council identifies. In addition, staff will present an updated 6-year General Fund forecast to Council in Q4 which will outline the current economic conditions and risks facing the City. These materials will begin to set the table for the 2025-2026 budget development conversations that will begin in 2024.

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 the 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 in the first half of 2024

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:

- The implementation of the digital communications system called SPIDR has successfully launched. This technology enables the Police department to build and maintain a trusted relationship with the community, improve public perception, and increase efficiency internally by enabling community members to connect and provide feedback to the Police department directly via the five languages supported: English, Chinese, Hindi, Russian, and Spanish. In addition, the system seamlessly integrates with Police technology systems while allowing real-time statistics and survey insights via an internal dashboard.
- Completed and launched an internal Data Hub as part of the city's Data Analytics Data Hub pilot for Utilities. A centralized data cloud warehouse is intended to serve as a foundational piece to support future data analytics projects that will provide insights and enhance data-driven decision-making capabilities of the organization.

Looking Ahead: The Bellevue Equity Atlas project is scheduled to be completed in December 2023. The project's goal is to create a racial and social equity composite index to aid the city in data-driven decision-making during city planning, budgeting, and investment activities.