

May 10, 2019

City of Bellevue
Bellevue City Council
450 110th Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: 108th Ave NE Demonstration Bikeway

Dear Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmembers:

The Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) recommends the City of Bellevue retain the bike lanes along 108th Ave NE. This Board-approved position resulted from extensive BDA member review and discussion since Q4 2017, including five BDA Transportation Committee meetings, multiple Board check-ins, and a recent BDA member survey.

The City of Bellevue's *Downtown Demonstration Bikeway Assessment Report* of 108th Ave NE acknowledges bike trips increased, vehicular travel times were unaffected, and cyclists transitioned off sidewalks onto the bikeway. Identified tradeoffs included minor impacts to transit and garage operations. In other words, Downtown Bellevue's bike connectivity and safety improved without major impacts to other modes. Strengthening multimodal connectivity in a measured way is consistent with past BDA positions and its 2019 adopted Downtown Access Strategy.

Based on our review of the report and evaluation of the demonstration bikeway, we wish to communicate the following five points to help inform future investments and plans for 108th Ave NE.

1. **Enforcement** across all modes needs to be strengthened. A functional multimodal system relies on people who comply with the rules. As Downtown's transportation network expands and accommodates growth in trips, enforcement needs to adapt with the changes to ensure travel safety and efficiency.

108th Ave NE serves private and commercial vehicles, rideshares, pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit and employer shuttles, and other emerging modes. Each of these uses needs to be monitored for enforcement.

2. **Safety** must remain a priority and opportunities to improve safety for the 108th Ave NE bike lanes should continue to be identified and implemented. Appropriate safety measures should account for all modes and access points along the corridor. Acknowledging future growth and planning for these changes will be critical for maintaining a safe environment.

108th Ave NE provides access to multiple office garages, supports the Bellevue Transit Center, is vital for vehicular and transit throughput, connects bikes to a broader network, serves pedestrians with a key access point to the Grand Connection, and supports residences and businesses throughout Downtown Bellevue.

3. **Data** must continue to be collected to track trends in usage of the 108th Ave NE bike lanes and impacts to businesses and parking garages on the corridor. Information should be used to identify issues and opportunities, make changes and inform decisions for future investments.

Due to the multimodal function of 108th Ave NE, regular system assessments to maximize efficiency and throughput are needed to identify issues and offer solutions.

4. **Connectivity** is essential for building a fully functional multimodal system. Acknowledging a mode is only as useful as its system's reach; it's important to continue advancing connectivity for modes that currently operate in isolated stretches. Impacts to other rights-of-way and modes must be considered and mitigated where possible in the design and implementation of new facilities.

108th Ave NE is a nexus for Downtown mobility, and accessing it relies on a broader, connected transportation network.

5. **Coordination** among the users of 108th Ave NE is necessary for a functional multimodal system. The City must communicate and establish expectations for these trip users; notable examples include the public, transit agencies, private shuttles, transportation network companies (TNC), bike share companies, parking garages, and freight and delivery companies.

Designate pick-up and drop-off zones for rideshares, freight and deliveries. Organize mobility plans with transit agencies, private shuttles and parking garages. Increase public awareness of the rules through outreach.

We will continue to track bike facility projects in and around Downtown Bellevue. Our members understand growth is going to increase trips and create new challenges, and the BDA remains committed to positioning our members to address challenges and share informed feedback in a timely manner. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this project and others to come as our Downtown continues to grow.

Sincerely,



Jim Hutchinson
BDA Board Chair



Patrick Bannon
BDA President