

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting  
**Legislative Breakfast**

January 6, 2010  
7:30 a.m.

Conference Room 1E-112  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Davidson, Deputy Mayor Lee, and Councilmembers Balducci, Chelminiak, Degginger, Robertson, and Wallace

ABSENT: None.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. and welcomed the following state legislators in attendance:

41<sup>st</sup> District

Representative Judy Clibborn  
Representative Marcy Maxwell<sup>1</sup>

48<sup>th</sup> District

Representative Ross Hunter  
Representative Deb Eddy<sup>2</sup>

Mayor Davidson asked the legislators to introduce themselves. He acknowledged that this will be a short legislative session in which only the top priorities will be addressed. He noted that transportation projects are Bellevue's highest priority.

Representative Maxwell noted her particular interest in education and the SR 520 tolling issue.

Representative Clibborn addressed the significant transportation demands, including the SR 520 project. The legislature will be looking for new revenue sources, including partnerships with local governments.

Representative Hunter commented on the severe decline in sales tax revenue, the brokered natural gas proposal, and Bellevue's remaining potential annexation areas.

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1 Representative Maxwell left the meeting at 7:55 a.m.

2 Representative Eddy arrived at 7:50 a.m.

Representative Eddy expressed concern regarding proposed revenue sources for the SR 520 project and the overall economic downturn.

## 2. 2010 State Legislative Priorities

Mayor Davidson referenced the Legislative Agenda in the meeting packet for a full summary of the City's priorities.

### SR 520 & I-90 Tolling

Councilmember Degginger recalled the history of the SR 520 project, his involvement with the mediation group, and the work on the final design. He noted the importance of this project for the Eastside, especially as it relates to retaining large employers. Mr. Degginger said the City Council will support state legislators in their efforts on this project, and the Council will encourage support from the business community as well. He acknowledged the difficult issues associated with the tolling proposals, but stated that the project is a critical one for the region.

Mayor Davidson spoke in favor of moving forward with the Eastside portion of the project, including pontoon construction, while issues surrounding the west end of the project continue to be resolved. He noted the need for citizens in Seattle to work with their City Council, state legislators, and Congressional delegates on this priority.

Representative Clibborn commented on the importance of both the SR 520 project and the Alaskan Way Viaduct project in terms of their role in the region's economic viability.

Representative Eddy noted the risk of the consolidated bill that full funding will not be approved. She said it is not right to start tolling until agreement can be reached between the parties.

Councilmember Chelminiak stated that funding is available to start the project now, while tolling and other issues are worked out.

### I-405 HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes

Councilmember Balducci noted Bellevue's goals to expand capacity and facilitate throughput on I-405. The City has not identified a preferred alternative, but supports moving forward with a comprehensive approach to improve performance on both general purpose and HOT lanes.

Representative Clibborn noted that the sequencing of this project is important, and that savings should be achieved to complete the Kirkland work as well. She noted the need for two years to prove to bonding agencies that HOT lanes can achieve adequate revenues. She supports the consideration of HOT and reversible lanes for I-5.

Ms. Clibborn noted that this project replaces previous RTID projects. Councilmember Balducci concurred that the project list closely approximates RTID planning.

Representative Eddy said the gas tax is declining and new revenue sources must be identified.

Councilmember Wallace expressed concern that tolling on SR 520 and I-405 will increase cut-through traffic using Bellevue surface streets. He said it is important to fully understand the impacts of tolling to local arterials.

Representative Clibborn agreed that local impacts of tolling need to be studied and mitigated. She is interested in discussion about appropriate ways to toll, and feels HOT lanes are workable.

### King County Lodging Tax

Mayor Davidson briefly reviewed the historical use of Bellevue's lodging tax revenues to support the Meydenbauer Convention Center. Bellevue wants to ensure that its current lodging tax authority is maintained. If the state legislature contemplates a broader use of revenues, consideration should be given to broadening the decision-making body beyond the King County Council.

Representative Hunter said the legislature plans to try to address the King County stadium and Seattle Convention Center issues. He noted that Seattle is considering the expansion of its convention center using its own funding.

### Revenue Issues

Deputy Mayor Lee stated the City's interest in retaining existing revenues and revenue authority, and its opposition to the proposal to centralize the collection of local business and occupation (B&O) taxes. Noting the potential loss to Bellevue of uncollected brokered natural gas tax revenues, the City urges the legislature to adopt legislation clarifying cities' authority to collect the tax.

Representative Hunter said the legislature will address the brokered natural gas tax issue this year. He does not anticipate a bill this year regarding the B&O tax. However, he feels there is a need to improve the consistency of tax collections among cities in King County.

Mayor Davidson stated that B&O revenues are an important funding source for the City's capital and operating budgets.

Councilmember Balducci expressed concern about the shifting of jail costs to cities.

Deputy Mayor Lee encouraged the legislature to continue to pursue local authority for transit projects. He stated that Metro should not stand in the way of local projects, and he noted that Microsoft is running its own transit service for employees.

### Land Use

Mayor Davidson said that Bellevue supports an incentive approach to encourage cities to accommodate and create transit-oriented development nodes around high capacity transit stations. This is an underlying principle of redevelopment planning for the Bel-Red area, which

is becoming a model for the nation. The City has a strong interest in retaining local authority over land use and development.

Representative Clibborn commented that developers want to retain flexibility as well, as they cannot obtain financing if what is to be built is overly restricted.

Representative Eddy noted the importance of connecting land use and transportation planning, but acknowledged that this issue requires further study and deliberation.

Turning to shoreline issues, Councilmember Chelminiak noted the confusion surrounding the application of the Shoreline Management Act and the Growth Management Act to the protection of critical areas located within and near the shoreline. Bellevue will be working with other jurisdictions to pursue legislation that will clarify which set of regulations should be used until the State Department of Ecology approves a Shoreline Master Program update, which is expected in late 2010 for Bellevue. A clarification at this time would provide certainty for property owners and lower potential legal costs associated with challenges arising from the uncertainty.

Mayor Davidson recalled the City's development of its Critical Areas Ordinance, which was based on the premise that cities should protect their ecosystems and also apply policies mandated by the State. He feels that the legal action has divided the two issues, and that a clarification is needed.

Representative Eddy said she will follow up and get back to the Council as to what she finds out.

Councilmember Balducci said Bellevue's approach is to follow its Critical Areas Ordinance until its Shoreline Master Program Update is reviewed and approved by the State later this year.

Mayor Davidson thanked everyone for attending and said he looks forward to continuing to work with Bellevue's legislative delegates.

At 8:56 a.m., Mayor Davidson declared the meeting adjourned.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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