

**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering: “Planning for Growth”
February 27, 2018
Meeting Summary**

On February 27, 2018, Neighborhood Outreach hosted its semi-annual Neighborhood Leadership Gathering, which included over 80 Bellevue neighborhood leaders. In advance of the meeting, a survey was posted asking residents to identify; a) top priorities as Bellevue grows, b) advice for the new Planning and Community Development (PCD) Director, and c) questions that they would ask the new PCD director. Mike McCormick Huentelman, Neighborhood Outreach manager, facilitated the evening’s discussion. He provided an overview summary of the 766 resident responses to the online survey. Mac Cummins, the new PCD director was introduced and shared about his background and philosophy of community development and approach toward planning for Bellevue’s growth. He also answered questions from the online survey and from those in attendance.

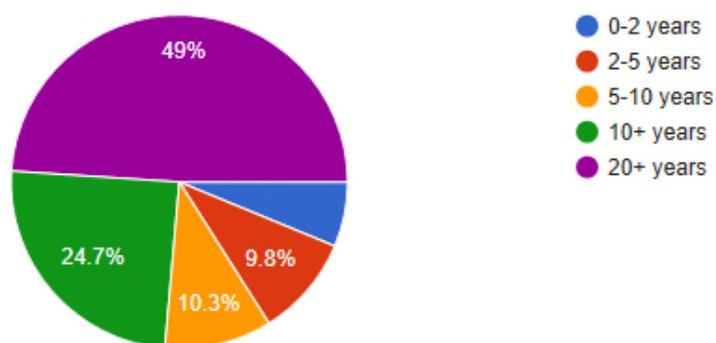
The complete survey results and video of the conversation is available on the city website: <https://planning.bellevuewa.gov/community-development/neighborhoods/classes-and-events/neighborhood-leadership-gathering/>

Online survey results

766 residents responded through an online survey. The majority of respondents identified themselves as long term residents, with 49% of responses from residents who had lived in Bellevue for over 20 years. Roughly 25% of responses came from residents who lived in Bellevue over 10 years, and the remaining 25% of responses came from new residents.

How long have you lived in Bellevue

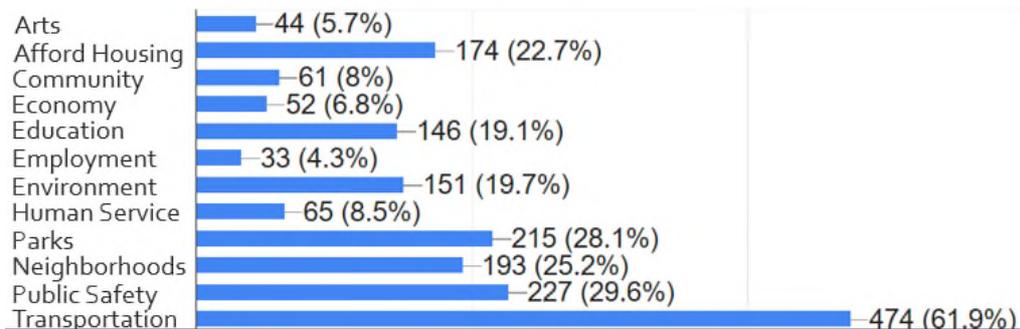
766 responses



When asked what their top two priorities for Bellevue as we grow, responses prioritized transportation and congestion as the top concern. After Transportation, Public Safety and Maintaining Parks and Open Spaces ranked high as concerns for future planning, followed closely by Neighborhood Character, Environment and Tree Canopy, Affordable Housing and Education.

What are your top two priorities as Bellevue grows?

766 responses



Community Advice

Bellevue residents care deeply about how Bellevue is planning for growth. Some of the themes from the advice provided include:

- ❖ Planning for traffic and congestion impacts with new development
- ❖ Protecting the distinct character of neighborhoods
- ❖ Placing a high value on maintaining Bellevue parks and open spaces
- ❖ Concern regarding Bellevue's tree canopy
- ❖ Addressing the need for affordable housing
- ❖ Planning for public safety
- ❖ The need for improved communication and outreach for planning initiatives

The advice also came with a community invitation: buy a pair of tennis shoes and walk our neighborhoods and see what we see.

A sample of community advice includes:

Please find ways for people who are not rich to be able to live in Bellevue. We need service workers as well as senior vice presidents. Also, please do not allow more development unless the traffic increase is well accommodated.

Too many people, with too few roads, and too few parking spaces. More "neighborhood" places, within walking distance. Small restaurants, wine bars, things like that. But mostly, look with a new eye to actual traffic and where roads and parking can be expanded.

We are seeing the gradual destruction of the "City in a Park" due to loss of tree canopy. We see major projects and construction destroying trees and degrading the environment. We can certainly do better!

Stop permitting large apartment buildings as we do not have the infrastructure to handle them. They are ruining the livability of the city with traffic congestion, not enough room at schools, and straining our public safety.

Transparency is critical - residents want information and most importantly they want to have input and their voices heard and considered.

If you have not done so already, spend time in the neighborhoods. Early morning, during commute times and later in the day when folks are heading home. Walk them, bring your team and include a member of the community. No doubt the needs/wants for each neighborhood are and will be different. That's what gives Bellevue character and diversity.

Questions Asked

During the evening, residents asked questions and offered advice for about 50 minutes to Mac Cummins. A sample list of questions is provided below and Mac's responses can be viewed on the video of the evening.

- ❖ How do you ensure equitable investment in development for Bellevue?
- ❖ Mac, you've told us about your relevant experience for this job. What experience of yours is not so relevant?
- ❖ How much coordination/planning is being done by the city with neighboring cities? (Resident asking this question lives on the Bellevue side of Bel-Red.)
- ❖ How is the tree canopy measured?
- ❖ As the city is considering the Grand Connection, what is going to be done with mid-block crossings? Grid of pedestrian streets would be great. With the building heights, how is the city addressing air quality and dealing with car exhaust?
- ❖ Resident commented about development around Lake Bellevue. The trees were removed by Sound Transit, and pollution is now impacting the lake. There has been a significant decline in the number of geese and ducks.
- ❖ Describe the public process.
- ❖ Can the One City concept be expanded to Boards and Commissions and get the different commissions to work more closely together?
- ❖ With the survey, how will you bridge the gap between the departments? How will this survey be taken forward?
- ❖ City of Bellevue has a lot of density. What can be done to better coordinate projects and traffic flow, walkability and overall feel? Examples given of areas not working well: T-Mobile, Bravern, Bellevue Towers.
- ❖ For small business to start in Bellevue, what does it take?
- ❖ Sub area plans? Are they still on the board?

