
POLICY ELEMENT

CHAPTER XVI- POLICY ELEMENT

Project Purpose

Bellevue’s long-range vision on the City’s growth and related transportation needs are outlined in its Comprehensive Plan. Comprehensive Plan policies serve as the “umbrella” by which all other policy is created and implemented and project-specific solutions are developed. As outlined, the Bellevue City Council considers transportation a top priority. Further, the Council views transit solutions as an increasingly important part of the local and regional transportation system—as reflected in the City’s overall goal for the Transportation Element of its Comprehensive Plan:

To maintain and enhance mobility for residents and businesses through the creation and maintenance of a balanced system of transportation alternatives that:

- Provides a wide range of travel choices,
- Supports the land use vision of the City,
- Protects our neighborhoods from adverse transportation impacts,
- Reflects the regional role of the City in transportation issues, and
- Reduces the overall dependency on automobiles throughout the City.

As part of any comprehensive planning process, it is vital to (1) revisit existing guiding policies to assess the applicability of those policies, (2) reference them in development of plans and alternatives, and, (3) if necessary, propose modification of those policies to better reflect present conditions.

Policy discussions for existing guidelines are discussed in each of the previous chapters. Table XVI-I summarizes the number of existing policies that have been documented, as well as their location.

**Table XVI-1
Policy Summary by Transit Plan Chapter**

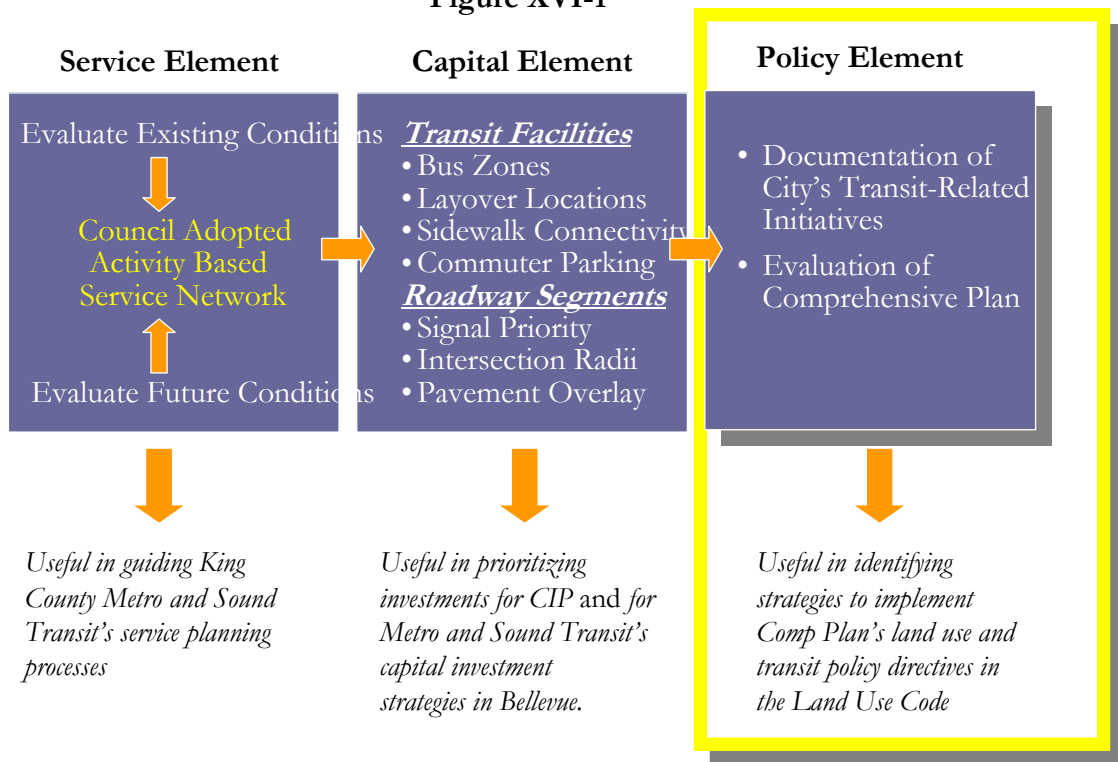
Improvement Type	Chapter Reference	Relevant Policies
Service	Chapters I-V	9
Pedestrian Accessibility to Transit	Chapter VII	2
Bus Stop Amenities	Chapter VIII	6
Arterial Improvements	Chapter IX	2
Pavement Overlay	Chapter X	0
Transit Centers	Chapter XI	5
Transit Signal Priority	Chapter XII	2
Commuter Parking	Chapter XIII	5
Finance	Chapter XV	13

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Although it has been initiated as the third-phase of the *Bellevue Transit Plan*, the Comprehensive Planning Policies and related directives examined within the Policy Element have been used to develop and shape the conclusions of the other plan elements (Figure XVI-1).

The third element of the *Bellevue Transit Plan* also recognizes that the recently adopted King County Metro (Metro) Six-Year Transit Development Plan for 2002 to 2007 includes service allocation policies that are predicated on the commitments made by local jurisdictions to aggressively implement local land use plans, growth management strategies, and regulations to facilitate development that is supportive of transit services (as reflected in Metro Strategy S-4). The Bellevue Council takes its partnership with Metro seriously and has already undertaken a number of strategic transit initiatives over the last several years to improve the environment within which transit operates in the City of Bellevue. The policy element of the *Bellevue Transit Plan* reflects the policy support for this partnership as reflected in the City's Comprehensive Plan and explores the different strategies the City is undertaking in support of transit.

Figure XVI-1



Project Approach

The goal of the Policy Element is to provide a comprehensive listing and review of Bellevue's transit-related policies and objectives. The sources of these policies are Bellevue's

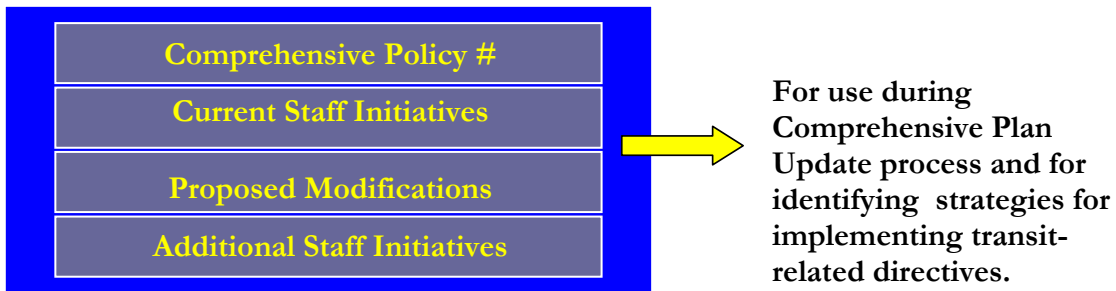
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Comprehensive Plan, as well as more specific directives adopted by the City Council since adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.¹

As noted, the primary direction for transit initiatives in the City of Bellevue can be found in the policies embodied in the Comprehensive Plan. These policies are revisited in the Policy Element to assess their continued applicability, outline current staff initiatives in support of these directions, propose modifications where and if necessary, and provide recommendations for additional staff-driven initiatives in the area where fit. Figure XVI-2 outlines this project approach for the Policy Element.

The result of this effort is a list of considerations for the pending Comprehensive Plan update to ensure its continued relevance in directing City transit development. Further, where applicable, additional strategies that the City might undertake to support transit in the form of new initiatives are provided.

**Figure XVI-2
Policy Element Project Approach**



¹ The complete list of comprehensive plan transit-related policies and council interest statements related to transit are included in Appendix K.