

City of  
Bellevue



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January 30, 2018

Ms. Kelly McGourty  
Puget Sound Regional Council  
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500  
Seattle, Washington 98104

RE: City of Bellevue Comments on the Draft PSRC Transportation 2040 Plan

Dear Ms. McGourty:

The City of Bellevue is pleased to provide comments on the Puget Sound Regional Council's draft Transportation 2040 Plan. As a region, we have both the opportunity and the challenge to harness our tremendous population and economic growth to help maintain the quality of life for which we are renowned. The T2040 plan is a critical component to this regional opportunity.

We understand that the 2018 plan update is relatively minor in terms of substantive change, with a significant plan overhaul anticipated in 2022. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by some of the new draft plan components—such as the regional access and parking strategy and technology appendix—that call for maximizing existing resources through innovation as well as public-public and public-private partnerships.

As indicated in the draft plan, regional transportation needs continue to grow while resources to address them diminish. That dynamic makes it essential that government agencies be strategic and make effective use of regional transportation investments. The City has long supported greater collaboration and efficiencies between state and regional agencies to get maximum benefit from public investment in the regional transportation system and we are pleased to see this reflected in the draft plan.

Bellevue supports efforts to ensure that the regional transportation system uses new and smart technologies that increase overall system efficiency, including the exploration of new technology-related funding mechanisms. We look forward to a deeper study of the complexities of the potential expansion of transportation user fees. Further study of this area is critical to inform the 2022 plan update as our region moves closer to embracing new technologies in our transportation system.

We appreciate the inclusion of Technology as a stand-alone plan item (Appendix N). As the draft plan notes, the way our regional transportation system is planned, designed, built and operated is poised to be fundamentally altered by the rapid evolution of new technologies. Bellevue has prioritized readying our transportation system for these changes. But as indicated in the draft plan, embracing new technologies must not only be a local undertaking, but a regional one. We stand ready and willing to assist the PSRC in convening a technology advisory committee or in facilitating regional discussions to identify opportunities to support private sector projects and partnerships and the deployment of pilot programs. Lastly, as these technologies continue to advance, in future plan updates it will be prudent for the Transportation Policy Board to take a close look at its prioritization measures and determine if changes are appropriate, given the rapidly changing transportation landscape.

The next four years promise to be exciting and challenging for our region as new transportation investments are made and infrastructure projects realized. But, perhaps the biggest game changers ahead of us are the elements we don't yet have planned. We look forward to continued participation in the regional transportation planning and implementation processes through this plan's horizon and beyond.

Sincerely,



David Berg, P.E.  
Director, Transportation Department