



Bellevue
Downtown
Association

May 2, 2018

I-405 Program Team
Attn: Allison Hanson, I-405 Program Environmental Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation
600 108th Avenue NE, Suite 405
Bellevue, Washington 98004

RE: I-405, Downtown Bellevue Vicinity Express Toll Lanes Project Environment Assessment

On behalf of the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Assessment for the I-405, Downtown Bellevue Vicinity Express Toll Lanes Project. WSDOT Program Administrator Kim Henry briefed our Transportation Committee on April 23, 2018.

The BDA remains strongly in support of advancing implementation of the I-405 Master Plan. Bellevue's economy, quality of life, and capacity to welcome future growth are all tied in large part to corridor improvements for all trips.

We acknowledge additional capacity improvements are required for I-405 beyond the scope of this project. As one step in addressing capacity needs, the EA reports on the mobility improvements in the traffic projections, as well as plans to reestablish the east-west connection across I-405 consistent with the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail project. The Downtown Bellevue-area project specifically provides major relief for the severe bottleneck in the southbound evening peak direction.

We request the following set of actions as part of further environmental review and project reporting:

1. Coordination of transportation and impacted utility projects between WSDOT, Sound Transit (I-405 Bus Rapid Transit and East Link), the City of Bellevue, and Puget Sound Energy.
2. Outlined benefits, costs and impacts associated with adding a half diamond interchange at Main Street in Bellevue.
3. Plans for maintaining Downtown arterial and corridor capacity during the Main Street bridge rebuild.
4. Strategies for noise impact mitigation during construction.
5. Corridor construction mitigation plans, both on lane capacity and enhanced multimodal service. We also encourage WSDOT to explore incentives to offset mobility impacts.
6. Strong coordination on TDM strategies with TransManage, Bellevue's Transportation Management Association, and the City of Bellevue's Choose Your Way Bellevue program to boost non-drive-alone travel in the corridor during and after construction.
7. Integration of Wilburton Commercial Area zoning options and trip generation ranges in the review and reporting of I-405 traffic projections.

The success of the I-405 Master Plan, and resulting mobility benefits for the region, require completion of all its outlined improvement projects. We support accelerating the improvements whenever possible, and encourage working with the State Legislature and Congress to identify funding to complete the Master Plan projects.

The BDA will remain closely engaged with the I-405 project implementation and the subsequent environmental assessment of the I-405, Tukwila to I-90 Vicinity Express Toll Lanes Project. Additionally, we look forward to responses and reporting to the points above and a successful opening in 2024.

Sincerely,



Susan Stead
Parker, Smith & Feek



Amy Carlson
Jacobs Engineering Group



Patrick Bannon
Bellevue Downtown Association

BDA Transportation Committee Co-Chairs

BDA President