

DOWNTOWN ACCESS STRATEGY

Bellevue Downtown Association | Adopted 2011

Improving mobility is a key factor to Downtown Bellevue's success as a thriving retail destination, a center for knowledge workers and innovative companies, and a vibrant residential community.

The Bellevue Downtown Association believes successful transportation and land use plans should be guided by the following strategy.

1. **Enable and serve growth (jobs, housing, retail) downtown.** Regional and local plans call for continued growth downtown, resulting in increases to daily trips. A successful transportation network will help stimulate development, attract jobs, residents and visitors. Transportation and land use policies should align with proper funding to maximize efficiencies in the transportation network.
2. **Optimize traffic flow.** Continue to prioritize strategic roadway capacity and technology investments to address critical chokepoints, improve traffic operations (to, from, within downtown) and minimize delays for all modes.
3. **Optimize light rail implementation.** Work affirmatively to implement East Link light rail pursuant to the Bellevue/Sound Transit MOU provisions, with special attention to mitigating impacts and assisting downtown businesses and residents during construction.
4. **Maintain the safety, quality and capacity of existing facilities.** Downtown's limited roadways and arterial connections to regional facilities must be preserved. Maintaining what we have is less expensive than playing catch up.
5. **Establish priorities for the pedestrian environment and non-motorized access.** Much of downtown relies on inadequate non-motorized access. Design and investments should reinforce a compact, walkable, well-connected downtown.
6. **Achieve mode-share goals.** Downtown roadways are constrained (superblocks, limited ROW) and resources are limited. As congestion levels and drive-alone travel costs grow, demand for reliable options (transit, vanpools, rideshare) will rise. Transit service and infrastructure should anticipate and respond to demand.
7. **Strive in all cases to reduce costs and environmental impacts.** Bellevue continues to support this principle by enabling and serving growth downtown.
8. **Minimize traffic, property and business impacts due to construction.** Downtown residents, businesses and customers require adequate notice and planning assistance to avoid or minimize disruptions.