



# Bellevue Transit Master Plan

July 2014

Department of Transportation

# Draft

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prepared for the  
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Transportation Commission





PHOTO BY John Tiscornia

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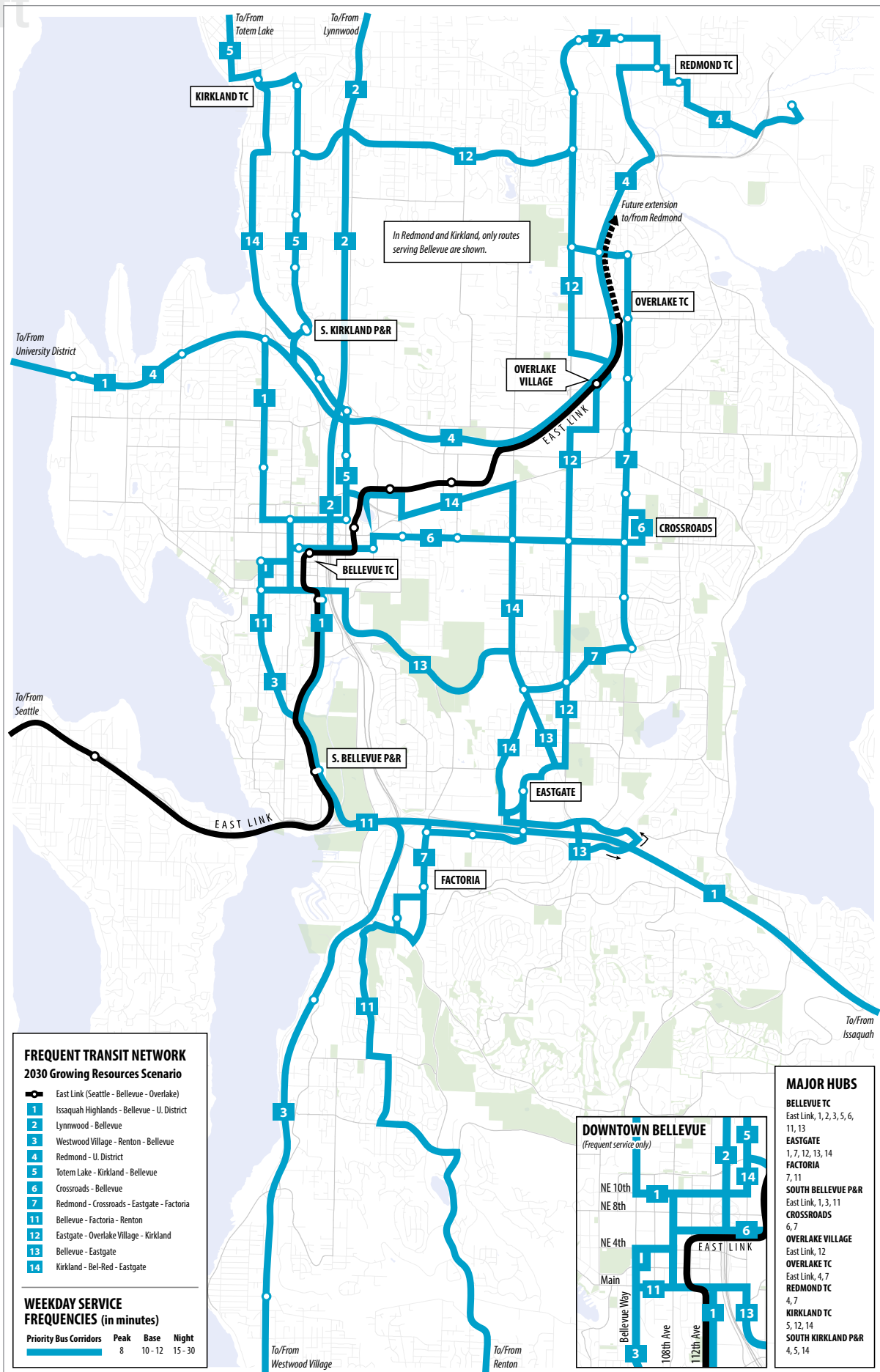


Figure 1 2030 Frequent Transit Network (FTN).

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

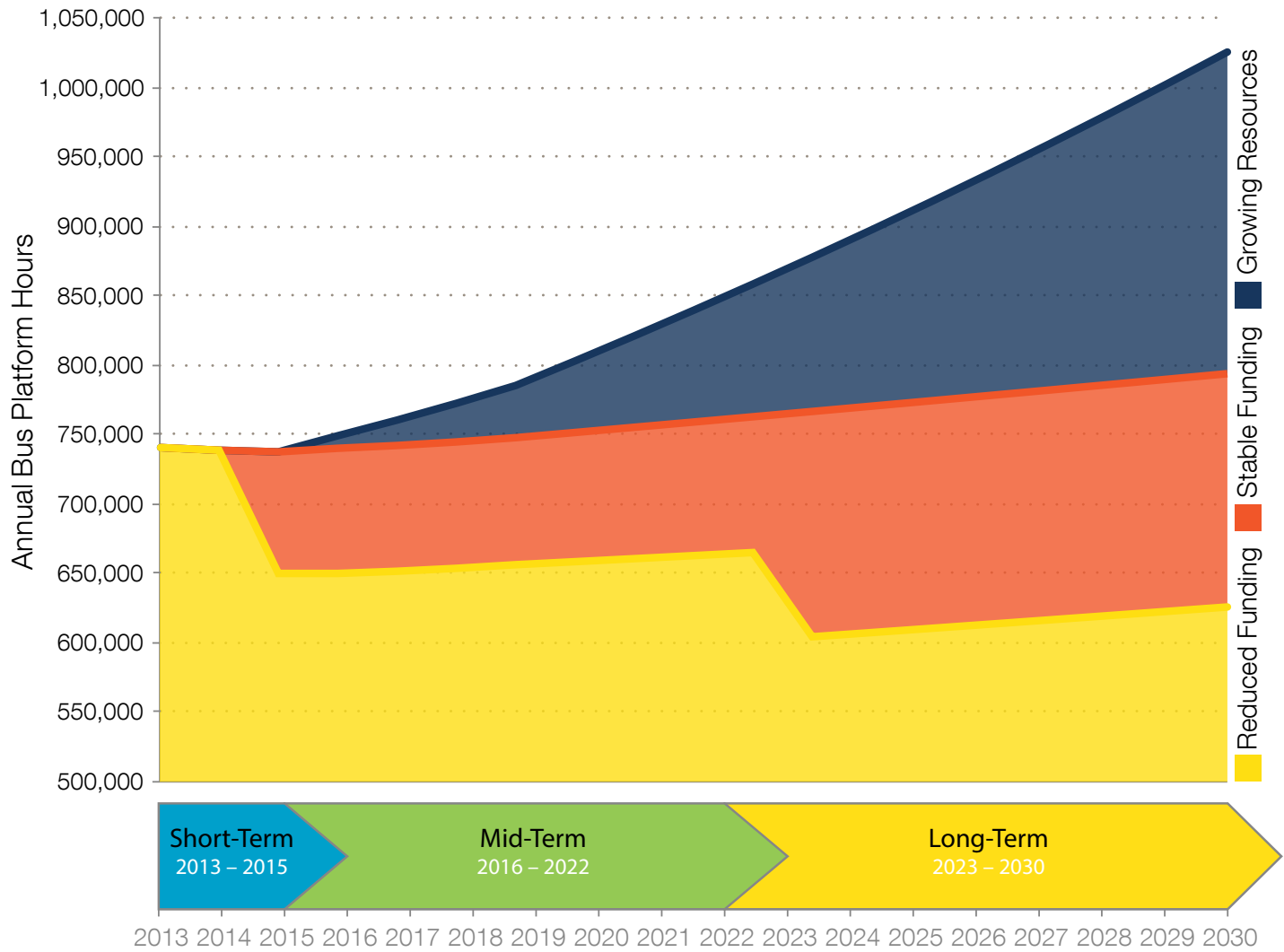
The Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP) is a comprehensive, twenty year look ahead at the system that will be required to meet Bellevue's transit needs through 2030. The TMP establishes short- and long-term strategies and projects that help foster a high-quality transit system that is more effective at connecting residents, employees, and visitors in Bellevue with the places they want to go.

This report summarizes the two-year long TMP planning process, including a review of existing and future conditions and community outreach conducted in support of the plan, and presents the City's service and capital visions for transit in Bellevue. The Policy Element functions as the guiding framework for the planning process and identifies the strategies that should be pursued to realize the service and capital visions. The Service Element presents route-level recommendations that are responsive to different financial scenarios (reduced, stable, and growing resources) and attune to different time horizons (2015, 2022, and 2030). The 2030 Frequent Transit Network (FTN) shown at left (Figure 1) represents the core of the most abundant scenario presented (the 2030 Growing Resources Network). Finally, the Capital Element identifies more than 100 projects that can be implemented along transit running ways and at intersections to improve the speed and reliability of transit services operating along FTN corridors.



**Figure 2** The Transit Master Plan (TMP) is comprised of three major elements—the Policy, Service, and Capital Elements.

**Figure 3** Projected future bus service funding scenarios.



## WHAT IS THE TRANSIT MASTER PLAN?

While the City of Bellevue doesn't operate its own transit system, it can positively influence regional transit agencies to keep Bellevue moving and maximize transit performance with supportive land uses that maximize existing transit facility investments. The Bellevue Transit Master Plan (or TMP) is timely in the current environment where King County Metro's financial outlook is compromised, and service cuts and fare increases are an immediate reality commencing in September 2014. In the near-term, the TMP ensures that the City's transit interests are effectively represented before regional committees, transit authorities, and other agencies. As Bellevue grows and matures, TMP strategies will become increasingly important to supporting the transportation system and level-of-service standards in Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan. The TMP aims to maximize the return on investment on existing and anticipated public transportation projects by coordinating with local and regional transit efforts to identify the types of service and capital features required to meet Bellevue's needs today and through 2030.



**Figure 4** Planned and projected growth in Bellevue activity centers is closely related to investments in transit.



**2030 Vision for Growth in Downtown Bellevue**



**East Link Light Rail in Downtown Bellevue**



**Transit-Oriented Development in Bel-Red**

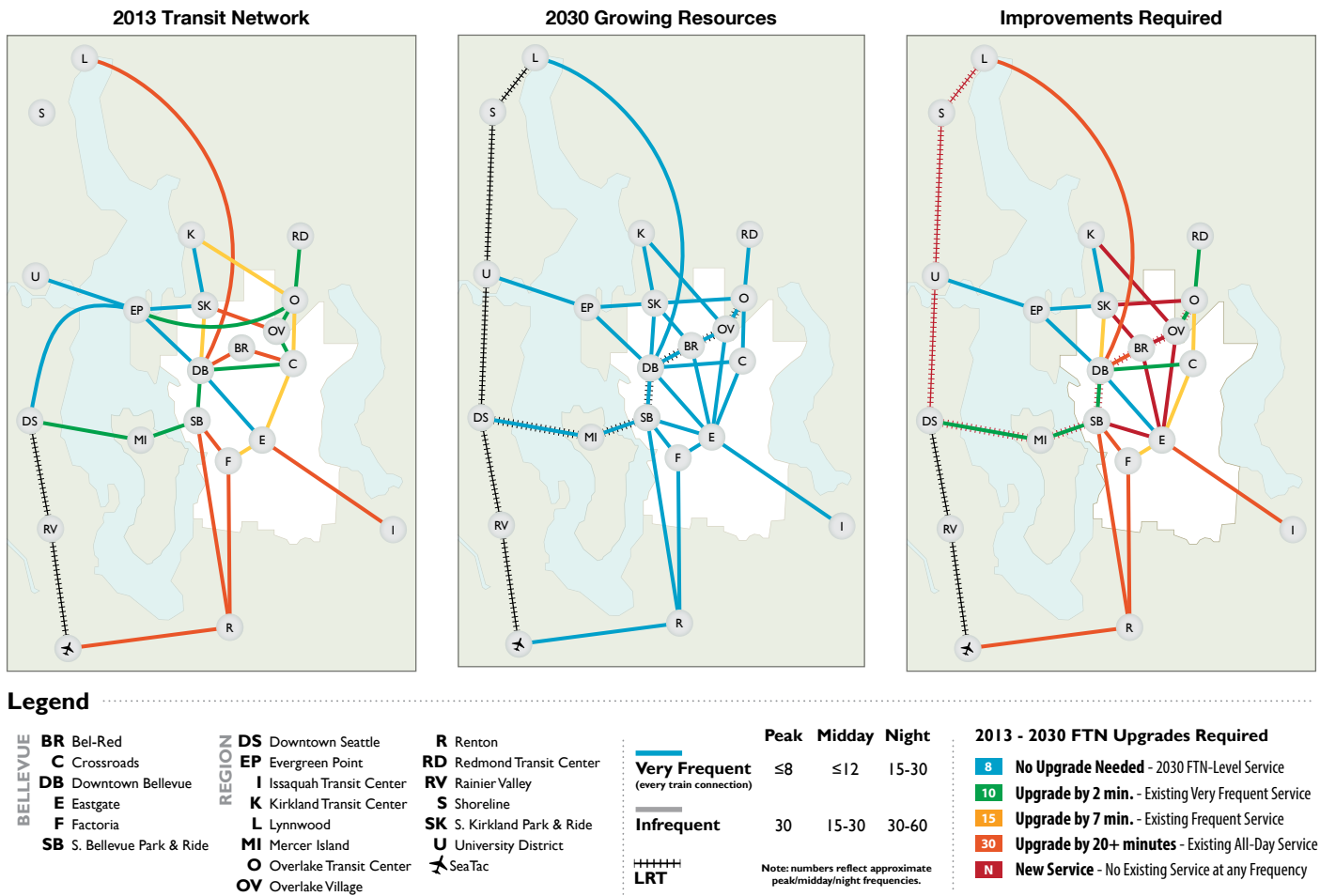


**Transit-Oriented Development in Eastgate**

## WHY UPDATE THE 2003 TRANSIT PLAN?

On July 9, 2012, Council initiated the Bellevue TMP, an update of the City’s 2003 Transit Plan. The TMP builds on the successes of the City’s previous plan by considering current transit operations and performance, the priorities expressed by the public about the network, projected growth in population, employment, and ridership, and anticipated changes resulting from the introduction of East Link light rail and various planned and potential investments in roadway and transit infrastructure. Council charged the Transportation Commission with overseeing the update process with input from members of the Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board (see Project Principles, Appendix 2).

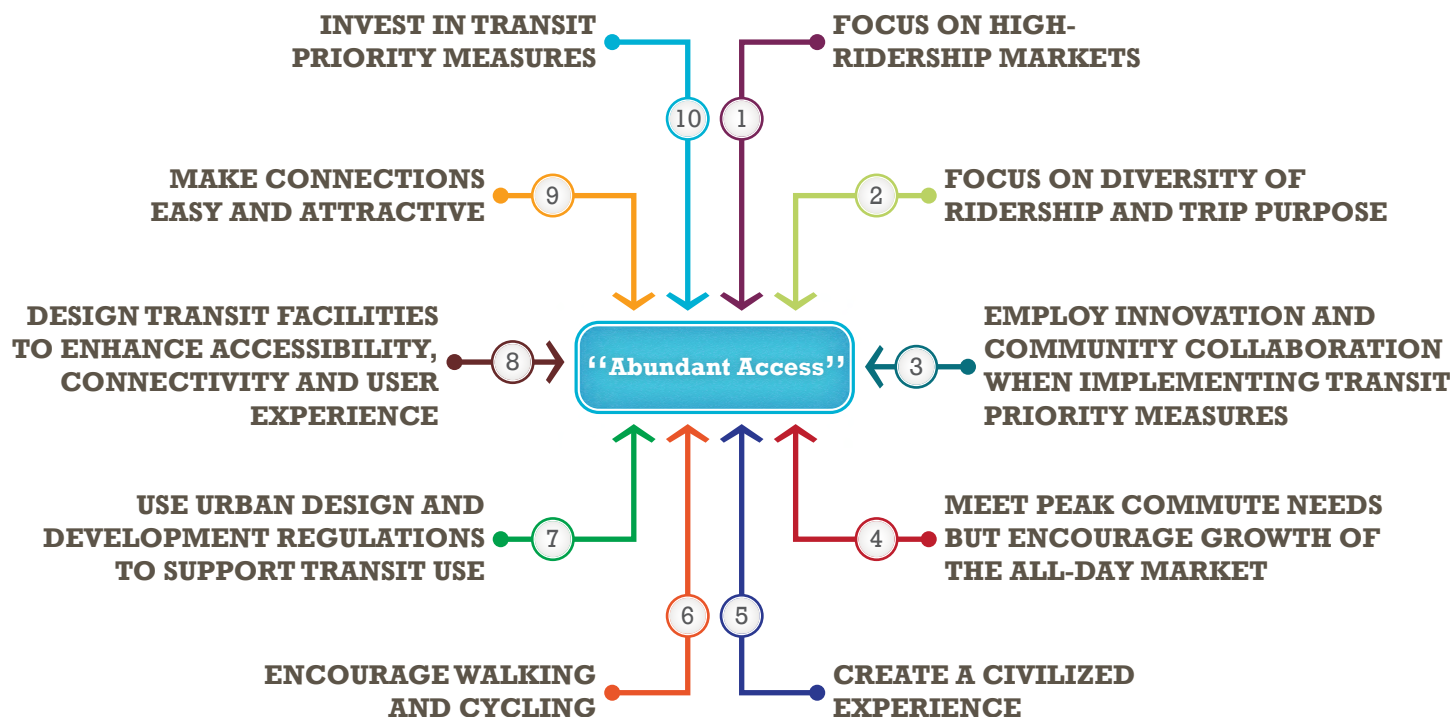
**Figure 7** Progress toward the 2030 FTN by frequency of service connections between major centers.



## WHAT DOES THE TMP TELL US?

Informed by public input, technical studies, and market analyses, the TMP identifies service and capital investment priorities needed to establish a Frequent Transit Network that meets the travel needs of most Bellevue residents and workers (see Figure 7). The plan was developed with feedback from King County Metro and Sound Transit, whose partnership is critical to creating a seamless, fully-integrated, and user-friendly transit network in Bellevue. The plan presents a bold vision supported by practical, achievable strategies in the near term that establish a foundation for longer-term improvements through the 2030 plan horizon year. The TMP also provides guidance on how transit investments will be prioritized in the future, and contains performance measures that establish how the city will track progress made in accomplishing the goals of the plan over time.

**Figure 8** The “Abundant Access” vision statement and supporting Market Driven Strategies.



## WHAT DOES “ABUNDANT ACCESS” MEAN?

The TMP aims to: “Support planned growth and development with a bold transit vision that provides efficient, useful, attractive service for most people, to most destinations, most of the time, serving maximum ridership.” This “Abundant Access” statement and supporting Market Driven Strategies—detailed in the Policy Element—supports Downtown growth, Bel-Red corridor redevelopment, and Bellevue’s other activity centers with a well-connected Frequent Transit Network (FTN) that seamlessly interfaces with East Link light rail. The FTN is also where capital investments need to be focused to serve the most riders and provide the highest quality of service to people who travel to/from or within Bellevue.

**Figure 9** Goal statements reflecting what the “Abundant Access” vision statement aims to achieve.



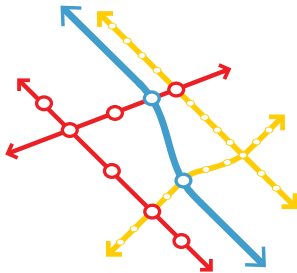
**CONVENIENT**, making it the logical choice for the largest possible share of trips.



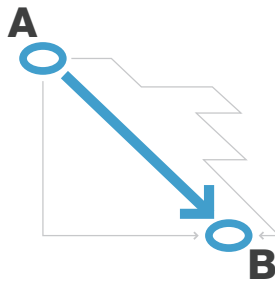
**FREQUENT**, to minimize waiting times and improve connections.



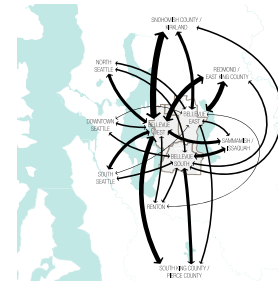
**EFFICIENT**, in terms of being designed for high ridership and cost-effective operations.



**SIMPLE**, with the fewest possible discrete lines, so that each can have the best possible frequency, speed, and duration without complicated redundancy.



**DIRECT** to major activity centers in Bellevue by minimizing the degree to which a route deviates from the shortest path between its start and end points.

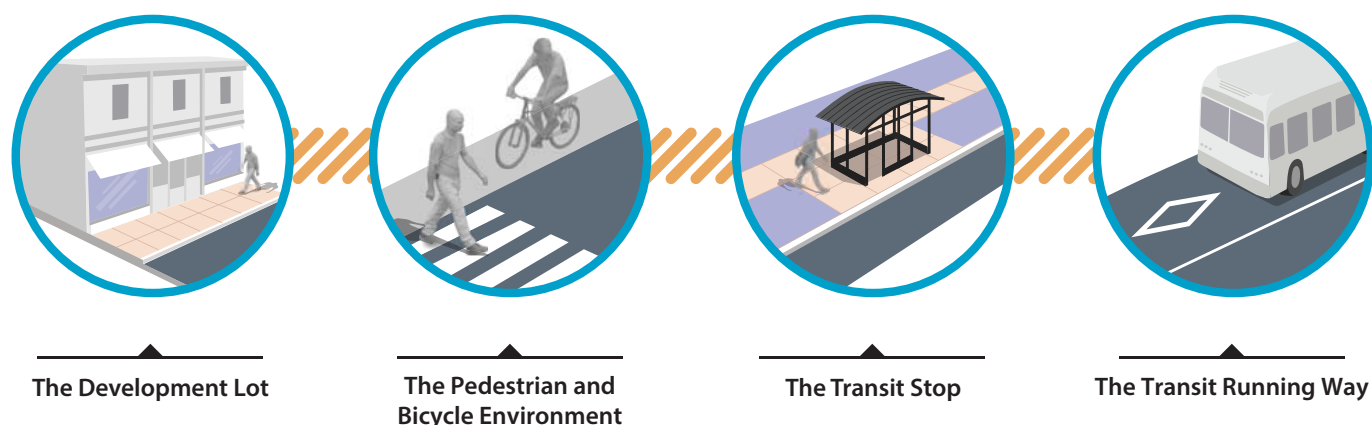


**REGIONALLY CONNECTED**, with a complete network of regional links in all directions, with particular focus on abundant north-south service along I-405.

## WHAT ARE THE SERVICE-ORIENTED STRATEGIES?

On May 20, 2013, the Bellevue Council approved a set of service-oriented strategies that lead to a vision of “Abundant Access” which means guiding additional transit service to/from Bellevue’s major activity centers where transit demand is high and expected to increase in the future. We recognize that this approach of maximizing the return on investment of limited resources has an impact on coverage routes in Bellevue’s lower density residential areas where service is less productive. Participants in the TMP outreach effort overwhelmingly agree that if service reductions are necessary, Metro should delete commuter routes operating empty in the counter-flow direction and low performing coverage routes before impacting high demand FTN corridors. Consistent with this guidance, the Service Element details route-level recommendations for nine funding/ time-horizon scenarios that align with the TMP’s vision statement and service-oriented strategies.

**Figure 10** Areas related to transit capital facilities over which the City of Bellevue has influence.



## WHAT ARE THE CAPITAL-ORIENTED STRATEGIES?

The TMP recognizes that, although the City does not operate its own transit service, it has an influence over how well transit services perform along FTN corridors. This includes influencing demand for transit by co-locating appropriate land uses to transit services, connecting pedestrians and bicycles to the transit network, providing convenient, safe, and comfortable transit stops and commuter parking facilities, and maintaining roadways, traffic signals, and other infrastructure that supports efficient and reliable operations. Informed by public input, technical studies, and market analyses, the Capital Element recommends investments that will help the City realize its proposed 2030 FTN thereby enabling more people, to reach more destinations, in less time. All of these projects have been ranked as high, medium, or low priority depending on the value they bring to improving transit speed and reliability on FTN corridors. The project prioritization presented in the TMP is the first step in the multi-stage process from transportation project inception to implementation. To move these projects forward to construction, transit capital investments will still have to compete with other infrastructure priorities identified in other Long Range Facility Plans before they are incorporated into Bellevue's Transportation Facilities Plan and then Capital Investment Program.





**SECTION 1:**  
**BACKGROUND**



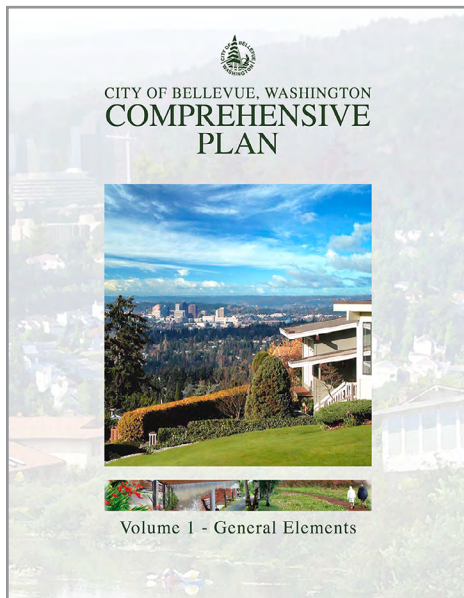
# INTRODUCTION

## PLAN PURPOSE

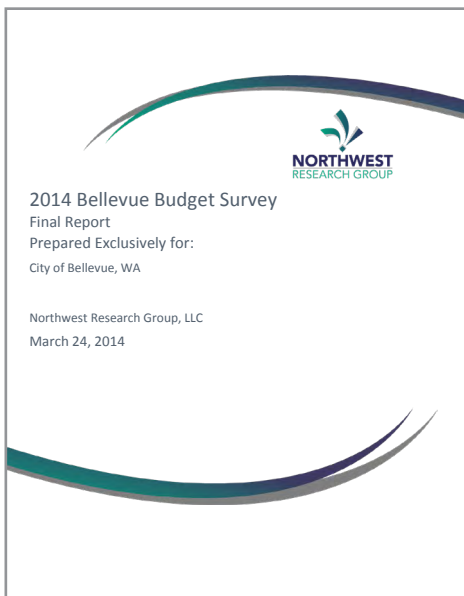
Bellevue’s *Comprehensive Plan* acknowledges that responding to anticipated growth in travel necessitates a multi-modal transportation solution that offers the public real choices about how they travel within, to, from, and through Bellevue. Looking to the future, the Bellevue City Council envisions a public transportation network that serves a more diverse range of people and trip purposes, and that is the mode of choice for an increasing number of people who live, work, and play in Bellevue. Council’s perspective on transit is reflective of the values expressed by members of the community. According to the 2014 Budget Survey, 90 percent of Bellevue residents agree or strongly agree that the City should “work with regional agencies to improve local and regional public transportation serving Bellevue”—up from 83 percent in 2012 (see Figure 13).

The role of transit in Bellevue is evolving, and this plan is part of that process. On July 9, 2012, Council initiated the Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP), an update of the City’s *2003 Transit Plan*. The TMP builds on the successes of the City’s previous plan by considering current transit operations and performance, the priorities expressed by the public about this network, projected growth in population, employment, and ridership, and anticipated changes resulting from the introduction of East Link light rail and various planned and potential investments in roadway and transit infrastructure.

Council charged the Transportation Commission with overseeing the update process with input from members of the Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board (see Project Principles, Appendix 2). This project also benefitted from the active involvement



**Figure 11** Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan, currently undergoing its decennial update, includes a variety of policies that promote transit operations in the city.



**Figure 12** In the 2014 Budget Survey—and all previous City budget survey efforts—public support for transit consistently ranks the highest across an array of transportation strategies on how to handle traffic and congestion in Bellevue.



and support of residents, business owners, and the workforce as well as numerous institutions and agencies, such as Bellevue College, Sound Transit, King County Metro, and adjacent jurisdictions. As indicated in Figure 13, these diverse groups collectively spoke of the many ways that transit benefits Bellevue (see the *Benefits of Transit Report* for details), including:

- **Economic Benefits** – Businesses, especially large employers, frequently locate in communities with strong public transit services;
- **Environmental Benefits** – Cities benefit from reduced traffic congestion and improved air quality when people take transit;
- **Community Benefits** – Since transit requires less land and energy than the private car to move the same number of people, it is often cheaper to meet mobility needs with transit rather than through other measures such as road widening or new parking facilities;
- **Individual Benefits** – Public transportation provides an affordable, and for many, necessary, alternative to driving.

The Transit Master Plan aims to maximize these benefits for Bellevue by coordinating with local and regional transit efforts to identify the types of service and capital features required to meet Bellevue’s needs today and through 2030.



“Speaking from a corporate perspective, we couldn’t provide mobility to our workforce without a robust transit system in Bellevue.”

– JIM STANTON, SENIOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MANAGER, MICROSOFT



**Figure 13** Efficient, useful, well-utilized public transit provides a variety of benefits, summarized here in four broad categories: benefits to the economy, environment, community, and individuals.



## PLANNING PROCESS

The Transit Master Plan Summary Report is the result of a two year-long process undertaken by the Transportation Department to comprehensively understand the current state of fixed-route bus transit service in Bellevue and plan for the city's anticipated needs in the years ahead. This process included extensive outreach to the community, consultation with local stakeholders and transit agencies officials, and an assortment of technical analyses in support of transit service and capital planning. More specifically, the TMP process included:

- Compilation and analysis of existing fixed-route bus transit network performance statistics;
- Examination of current and future market conditions and projected travel demand by mode;
- Outreach to the public, city boards and commissions, and other local stakeholders to elicit the perspectives and service priorities of various groups;
- Consultation with local transit officials to ensure that the proposals ultimately advanced reflect adopted service guidelines, multi-modal integration plans, and the realities associated with potential transit funding situations in the coming years;
- Consideration of a wide variety of potential projects, both new and those previously identified by other planning efforts, to determine where and how City investments can help make transit operations faster and more reliable;
- Examination of other components of the transit trip over which the City has influence, including the development lot, pedestrian and bicycle environment, and transit stop, to determine where investments can be made to improve the transit user's experience and attract additional ridership.

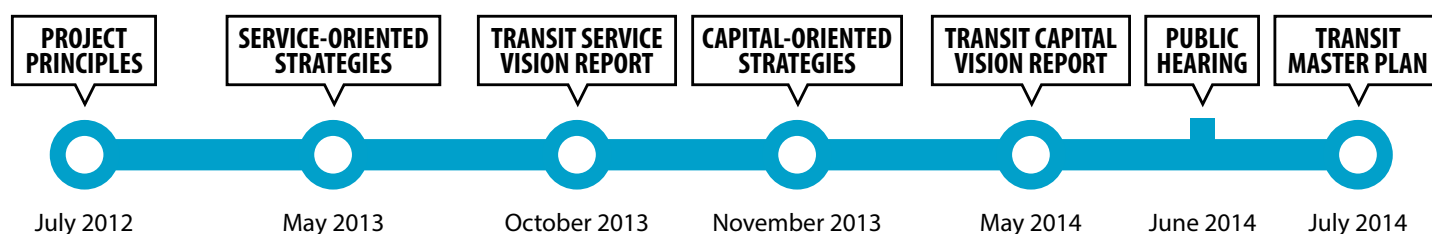


**Figure 14** All of the reports compiled by the City of Bellevue in support of the Transit Master Plan derive data from and strive for consistency with documents published by King County Metro, Sound Transit, and the Puget Sound Regional Council, including the *Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021*, *Service Guidelines Reports*, the *2013 Service Implementation Plan*, and *Transportation 2040*.

To date, the Transportation Department has published an assortment of documents describing each stage in the overall TMP process. All of these documents, briefly summarized in Appendix 1 on page 104, are available to view and download at [www.bellevuewa.gov/transit-plan-documents.htm](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/transit-plan-documents.htm). These efforts were generally organized into two separate but closely related processes: the Service Element and the Capital Element (see Sections 3 and 4, respectively). Both leveraged technical analyses and input obtained from community outreach to arrive at the service- and capital-oriented strategies, as indicated by Figure 16 and Figure 17 on the following pages. Collectively referred to as the market-driven strategies, these define the priorities of the “Abundant Access” vision statement—addressed in greater detail in the Policy Element (see Section 2)—which guided the development of the service and capital visions. Reports associated with these strategies and visions represent the most significant milestones of the TMP planning process, as shown in Figure 15.

The TMP planning process began with an assessment of the fixed-route services provided by the existing transit network and how well they perform, outreach to determine the attitudes and preferences of the community related to transit, and projections of future travel demand within Bellevue and between Bellevue and other regional markets. As shown in Figure 16, the results of these endeavors served as inputs in the development of the service-oriented strategies. These strategies consider the

**Figure 15** Transit Master Plan timeline of project milestones.

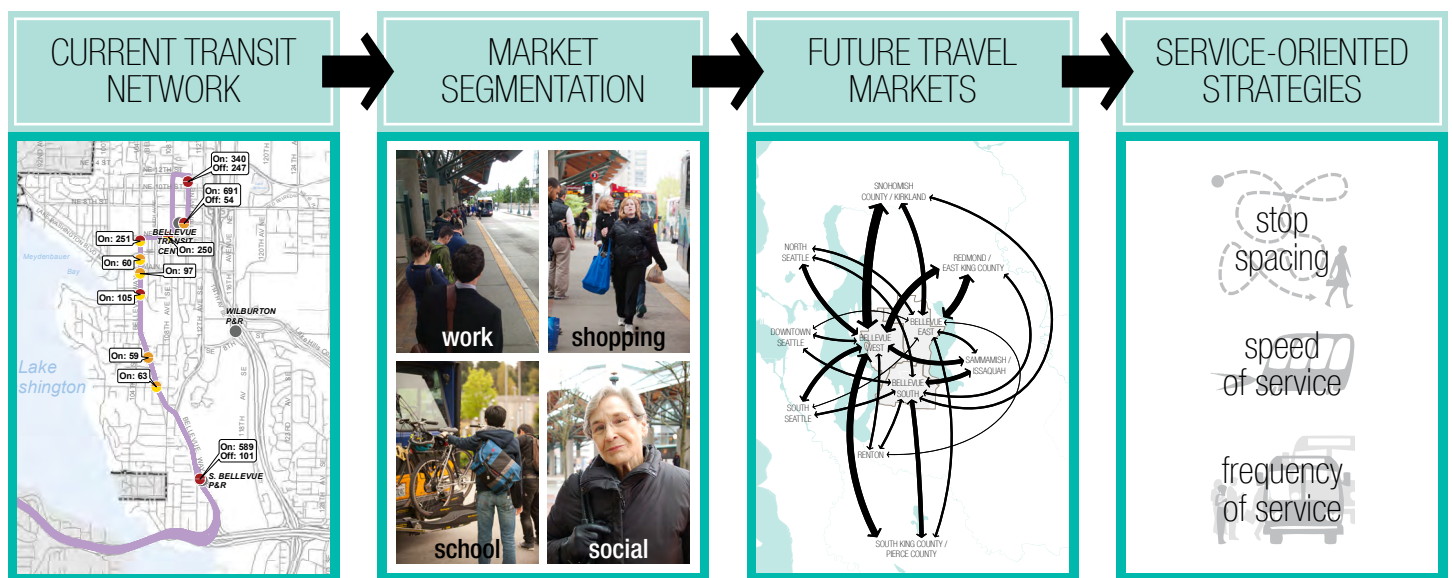


fundamental tradeoffs associated with operating transit service and advance the priorities believed to best reflect the city's needs and the preferences identified by the community.

The transit service vision uses these strategies as its guide and presents route-level recommendations that are responsive to different financial scenarios (reduced, stable, and growing Resources) and attune to different time horizons (2015, 2022, and 2030). These nine networks were created to plan for the uncertainty that exists in the financial outlook of transit while incrementally guiding network development toward the aspirational 2030 Growing Resources network to the extent possible with available funding.

The 2030 Frequent Transit Network (FTN) represents the core of the services envisioned in the Growing Resources scenario and includes all routes operating 8–12 minute headways all-day (see Figure 1). Because these routes will provide the primary connections between local and regional activity centers and serve the most ridership, corridors served by the FTN are the most important to target for capital investments that would improve service speed and reliability, pedestrian and bicycle access to transit, and other infrastructure improvements. Therefore, as shown in Figure 17,

**Figure 16** This graphic describes the Service Element planning process, which arrived at six service-oriented strategies based on a detailed review of the current transit network, an assessment of the attitudes and preferences that drive traveler choices, and an evaluation of future travel markets.



What service types are in place today and how well do they perform?

What are the attitudes and preferences that drive traveler choices?

Which segments in which travel markets should transit services compete for?

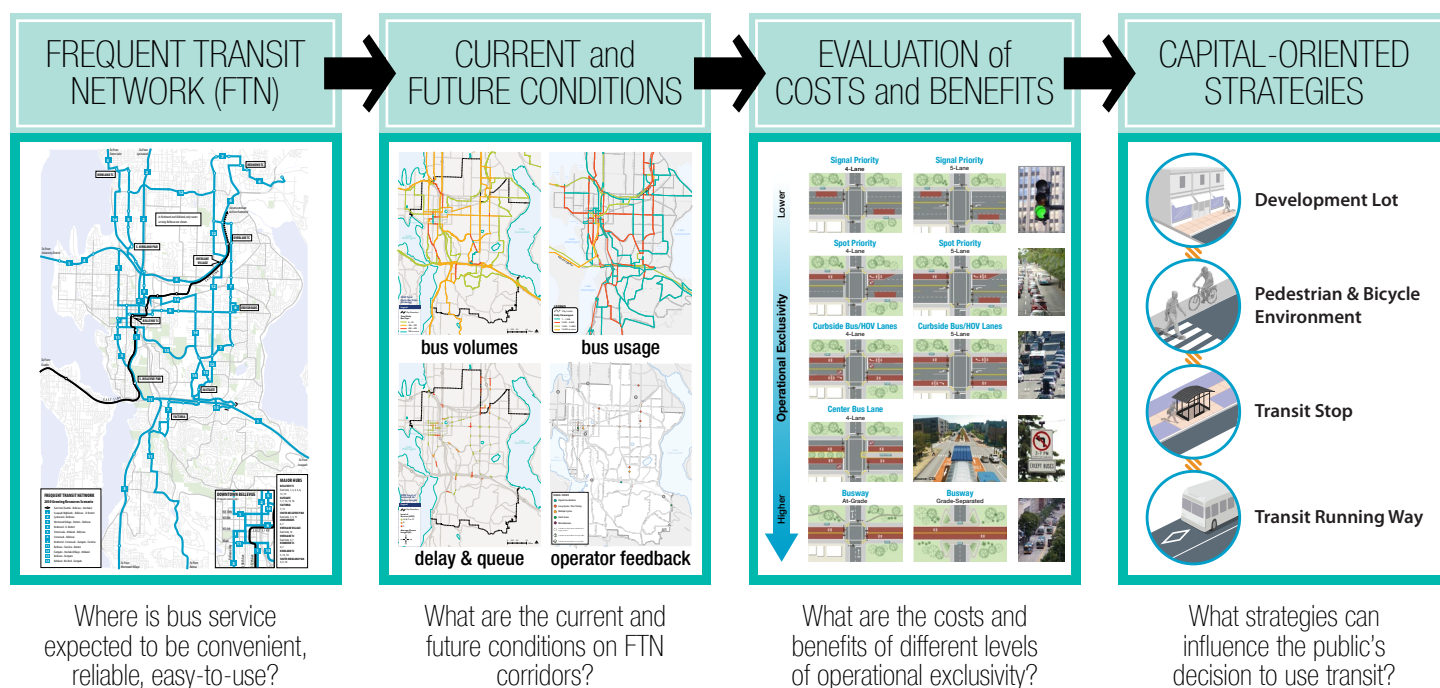
What kinds of strategies can best seize these opportunities?

the FTN served as the starting point for all analyses conducted as part of the Capital Element.

The capital-oriented strategies were developed based on assessments of the current and future conditions along FTN corridors, input obtained from community outreach efforts, and consideration of the types of improvements that could influence the public's decision to use transit. The capital vision reflects these priorities, identifies the various types of infrastructure that support productive, accessible, efficient transit services in Bellevue, and recommends investments that would help the City realize and maximize the performance of the 2030 FTN.

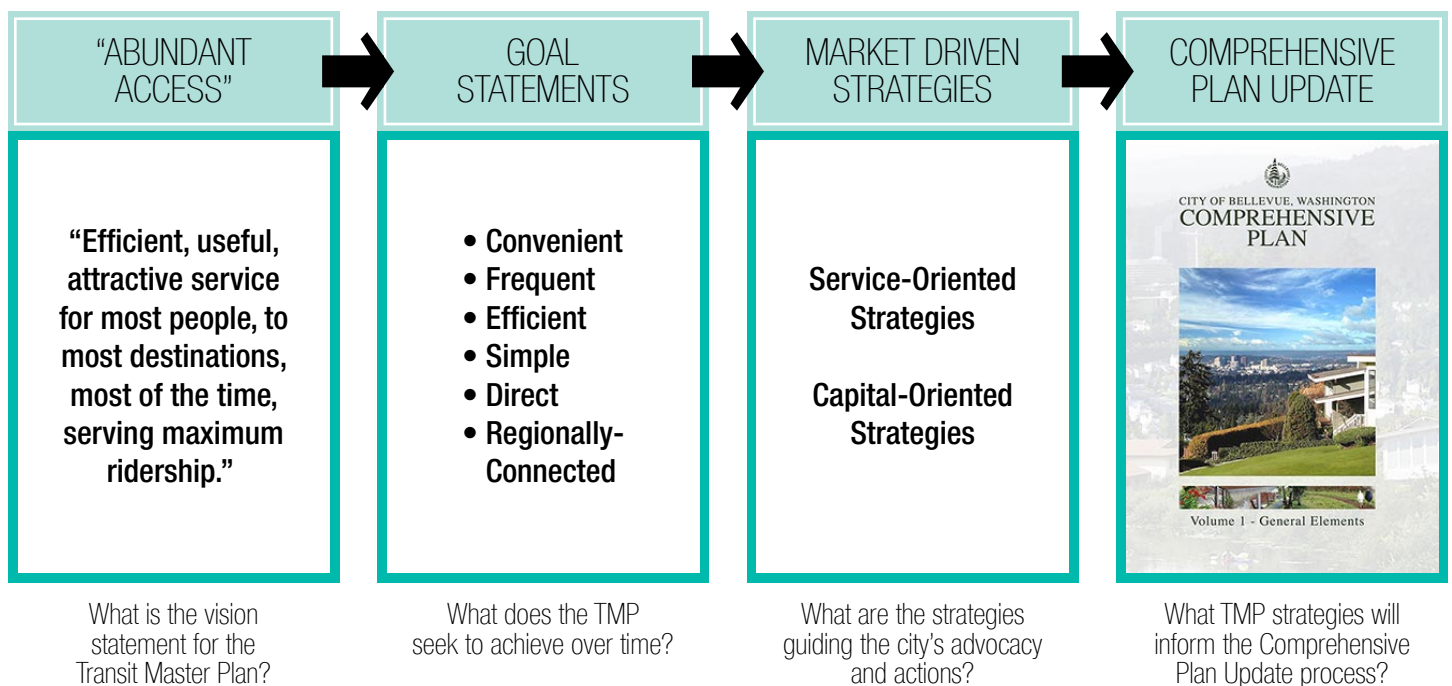
Whereas the Service and Capital Elements were addressed in succession, with the latter building on the outcomes of the former, the Policy Element section in this report represents a compilation of all the strategy and policy considerations addressed by the Transit Master Plan, which were identified at various stages of the TMP planning process to provide guidance to the other two elements and the overall planning effort. Because these strategies and policies serve as the framework upon which the rest of the plan is based, the Policy Element precedes the Service and Capital Elements in this report.

**Figure 17** This graphic describes the Capital Element planning process, which arrived at four Capital-Oriented Strategies based on an assessment of current and future conditions on corridors served by the 2030 Frequent Transit Network, identified by the growing resources scenario of the service vision, and an evaluation of the costs and benefits of various potential transit priority infrastructure investments.



Before presenting the service and capital visions, it is instructive to first review some of the Transit Master Plan’s more significant foundational materials. The resulting vision is meant to be a logical extension of the principles established by City Council, the opinions expressed by the public, and the priorities identified by various officials, representatives, and other stakeholders throughout the planning process. The following pages describe the community input that guided all aspects of this planning effort, followed by a brief summary of the current state of fixed-route transit in Bellevue and the projected changes in land use, population, employment, and ridership on which the need for changes to and investment in the future network is based.

**Figure 18** This graphic describes the structure of the Policy Element, with the “Abundant Access” vision statement and goals leading to market-driven strategies that inform both the service and capital visions and the Comprehensive Plan Update process.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Analysis of existing and future conditions can help to inform where and how resources might reasonably be allocated to achieve productive and efficient services; however, such analysis only provides guidance, not definitive answers. Situations frequently arise in which decisions must be made about competing interests of comparable merit that simply reflect different perspectives. Given limited resources, often only one solution can be pursued. Careful consideration must therefore be given to how alternative courses of action would address the values and interests of the end-users of the transit system—the public.

To that end, the Transit Master Plan obtained input from the community through a variety of means, each of which provided direction for the Policy, Service, and Capital Elements. The earliest and most expansive outreach was conducted via the web-based Transit Improvement Survey, which generated input from over 4,200 respondents—of which nearly 1,100 are Bellevue residents—including current riders, former riders, and those who have never used transit in Bellevue. To facilitate input from recent immigrants and other non-native English speakers, comment cards were distributed to local human services agencies in multiple languages, including Chinese, Russian, and Spanish. Video interviews were conducted with several individuals representative of some aspect of the community, and voluntary surveys were distributed to coach operators to obtain their perspective about common issues affecting transit in Bellevue. Businesses and organizations were also encouraged to provide their perspectives on transit service in Bellevue, and many did so directly by submitting letters to the City and indirectly by encouraging their employees and members to complete the Transit Improvement Survey.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the *Phase 1 Outreach Report* for translated results of the non-English comment card outreach, video interview transcriptions, letters obtained from businesses and organizations, and the complete results of the responses received to the Transit Improvement Survey.



**Figure 19** Postcard advertising the Transit Improvement Survey.



**Figure 20** A participant in the outreach to non-native English speakers and her completed comment card.



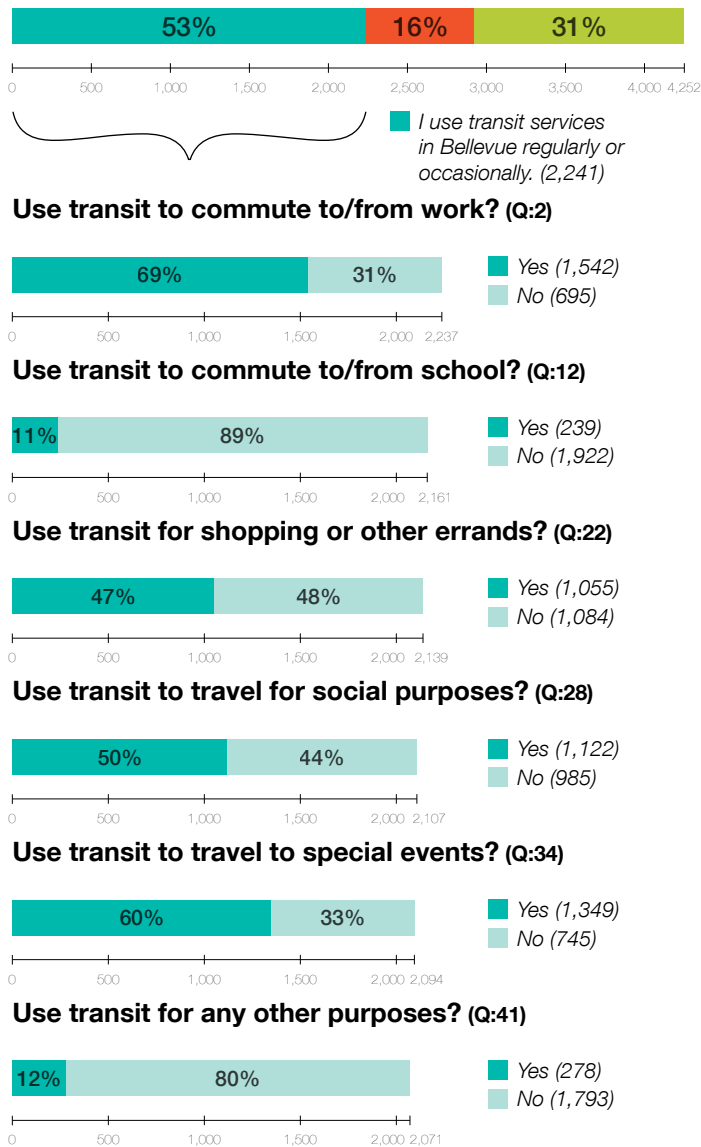
**Figure 21** Coach operators identified transit operations issues in Bellevue related to safety, speed, and reliability.

Finally, the Transportation Department solicited the perspectives of City board and commission members, transit agency representatives, and representatives from other community stakeholders by engaging them at three workshops held at various stages of the TMP process. These events served as valuable forums for evaluating the tradeoffs among competing service and capital investment decisions inherent to transit and advancing policies reflective of the perspectives obtained from the community at large.

## Transit Improvement Survey

The Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey was conducted between February and March of 2012. The survey addressed all aspects of transit use and user experience in Bellevue, answering the broad questions: Who uses transit in Bellevue and how? How do people perceive various qualities about transit service in Bellevue? What are peoples' priorities for transit service in Bellevue? Some of its most significant outcomes include the identification of (1) common characteristics of transit use in Bellevue by trip purpose, places of origin and destination, and demographic characteristics, (2) the factors that most influence individuals' decision to use (or not use) transit in Bellevue, (3) the qualities of service that are most important to current and potential transit users, and (4) the community's priorities for municipal investment in transit, advocacy to transit agencies, and preferred solutions in the event of service reductions resulting from diminished resources.<sup>2</sup>

Commuting to/from work is the most common trip purpose among transit users in Bellevue (see Figure 23), but more than three-quarters of all respondents use transit for more than one trip purpose. Almost regardless of trip purpose, transit users selected the same three qualities of service

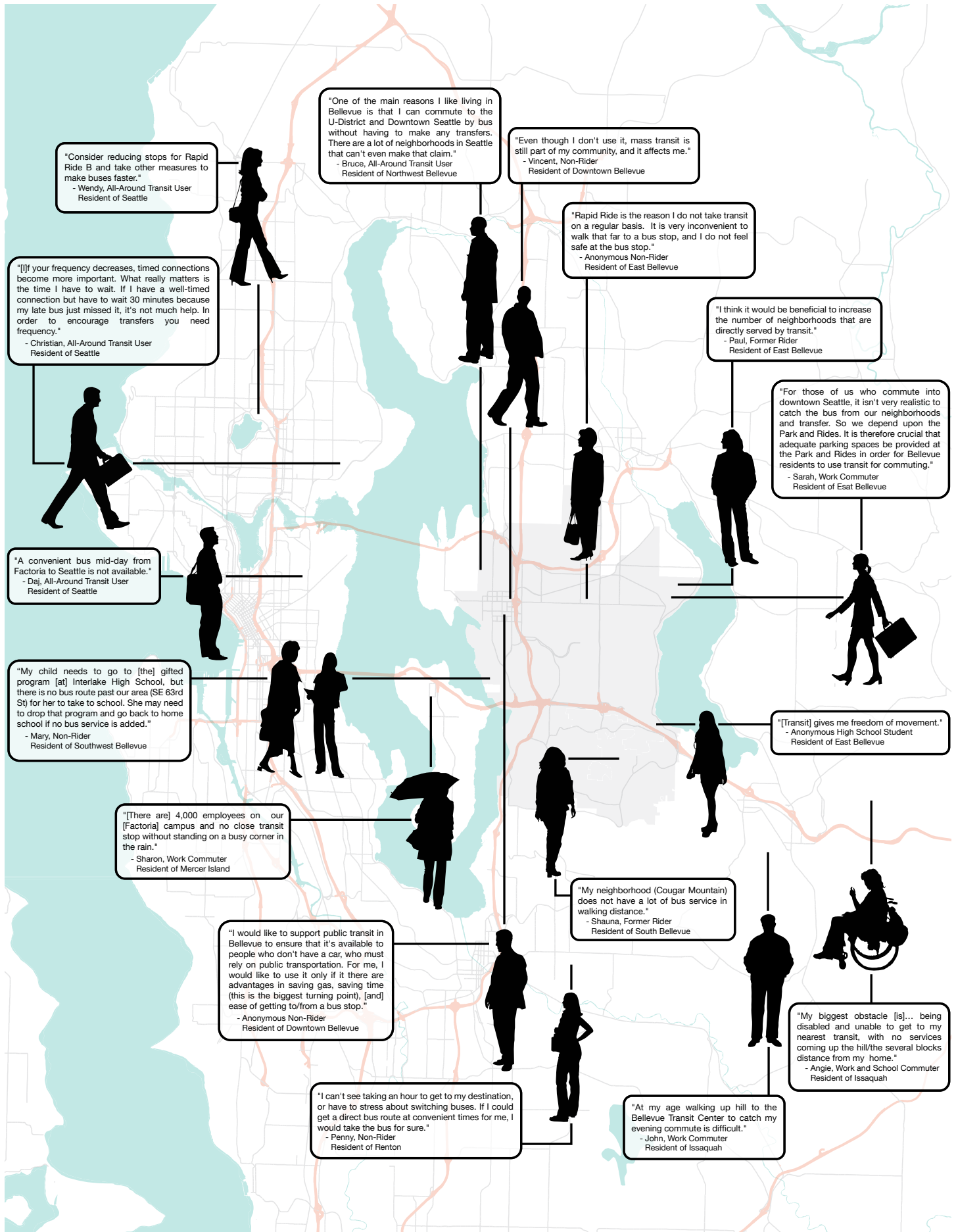


**Figure 23** Trip purpose(s) of the 2,241 respondents who identified themselves as current users of transit in Bellevue.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the *Transit Improvement Survey Report* for a thorough review of the results obtained.



Figure 24 Selected write-in comments provided by Transit Improvement Survey respondents.



**Table 1** Advocacy priorities of respondents who currently use transit in Bellevue.

Quality of Service	All Respondents		Bellevue Residents	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Increase Frequency During Peak	643	33.2%	149	22.8%
Increase Frequency to Reduce Overcrowding	249	12.9%	74	11.3%
Increase Vehicle Capacity at Park & Rides	183	9.5%	65	9.9%
Other	168	8.7%	54	8.3%
Increase Frequency During Midday	152	7.9%	58	8.9%
Revise Schedules to Improve Connections	131	6.8%	44	6.7%
Expand Service Coverage in Bellevue	114	5.9%	71	10.9%
Install Additional Shelters	60	3.1%	30	4.6%
Increase Frequency on Weekends	50	2.6%	30	4.6%
Extend Service at Night on Weekends	48	2.5%	20	3.1%
Increase Frequency During Late Night	47	2.4%	22	3.4%
Expand ORCA Sales Locations in Bellevue	41	2.1%	18	2.8%
Extend Service at Night on Weekdays	32	1.7%	13	2.0%
Increase Bicycle Capacity at Park & Rides	18	0.9%	6	0.9%
	<b>respondents</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>654</b>	



PHOTO BY John Tiscornia

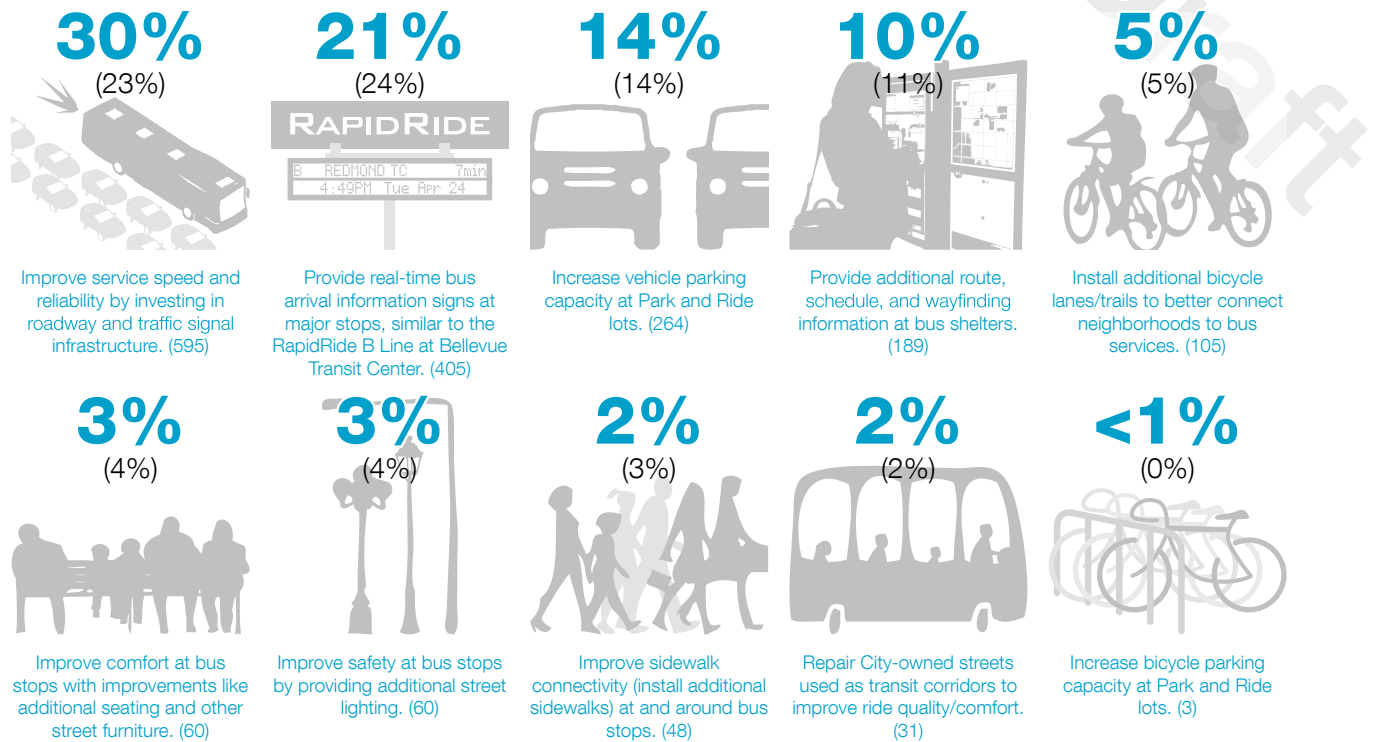
**Figure 25** Half of all work commuters who responded to the Transit Improvement Survey cited increased productivity and/or relaxation as a reason for choosing to use transit instead of driving.

as their three highest priorities: (1) the frequency of weekday service, (2) schedule reliability and on-time performance, and (3) the speed of service. A perception that traveling by transit takes too long is the most common reason why former riders no longer use transit and why non-riders have never used transit, and both former and non-riders cite lacking service frequency among their top three reasons for not using transit.

When asked how the City could best leverage its influence with local transit agencies to improve service in Bellevue, respondents emphasized improving frequency during peak hours, which received more than twice as much support as the second-highest priority of reducing overcrowding. Bellevue residents are more likely than respondents overall to support advocacy for increased frequency throughout the day and expansion of service coverage into unserved Bellevue neighborhoods. Park-and-ride vehicle capacity is also considered to be inadequate and worthy of advocating for additional investment. When asked how the City should invest municipal resources to improve transit, current transit users' three highest priorities were to (1) invest in roadway and transit signal infrastructure to improve transit speed and reliability, (2) provide real-time arrival information at major stops, and (3) increase vehicle parking capacity at park-and-ride lots (see Table 1). Finally, when asked how to address a hypothetical future budget shortfall, respondents tended to favor revenue-increasing solutions over service reduction solutions. When considering the difficult choices associated with reduced funding and service cuts, Transit Improvement Survey respondents overwhelmingly agreed that if service reductions are necessary, Metro should eliminate low-performing coverage routes before impacting off-peak service frequency or span of service at night, both of which received little support.

# HOW SHOULD THE CITY INVEST?

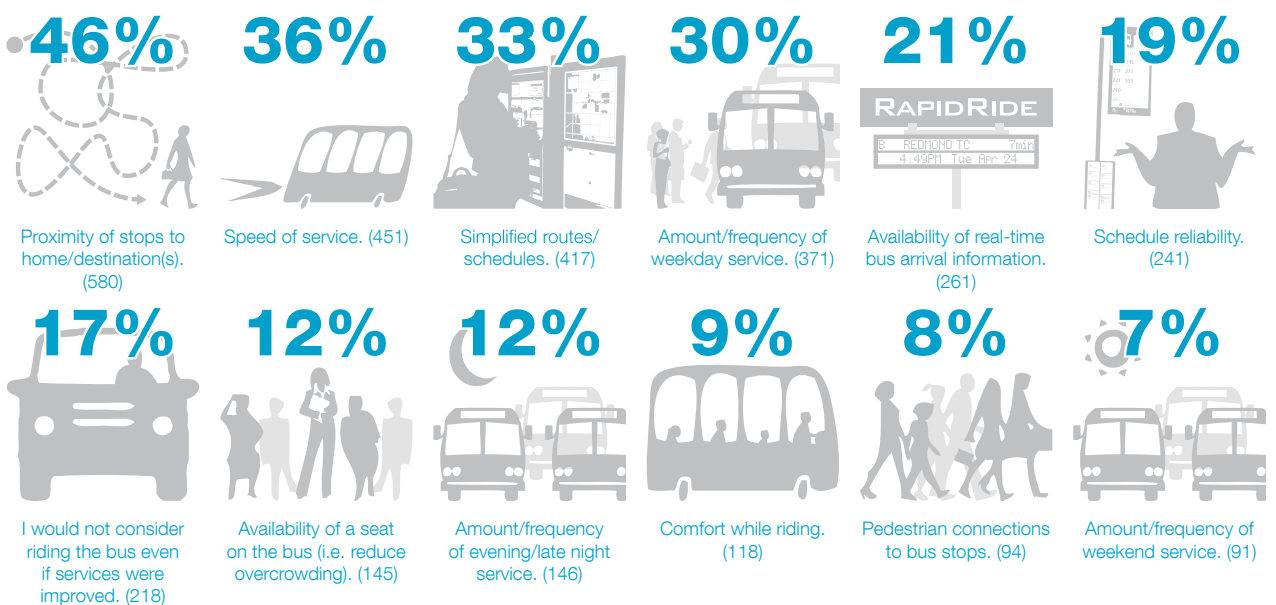
ACCORDING TO CURRENT TRANSIT USERS



**Figure 26** Priorities for municipal investment in transit among those who currently use transit services in Bellevue, according to the Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey. Large blue percentages reflect all current transit users, small black percentages in parentheses reflect all current transit users who reside in Bellevue, and small blue numbers in parentheses following each description reflect the total number of respondents.

# WHAT IMPROVEMENTS WOULD GET YOU TO CONSIDER RIDING THE BUS?

ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER USED TRANSIT IN BELLEVUE

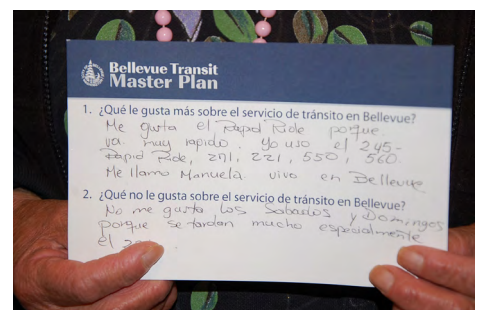
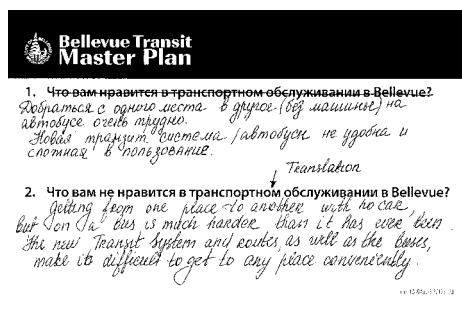
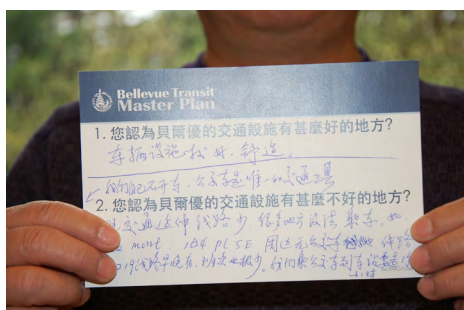
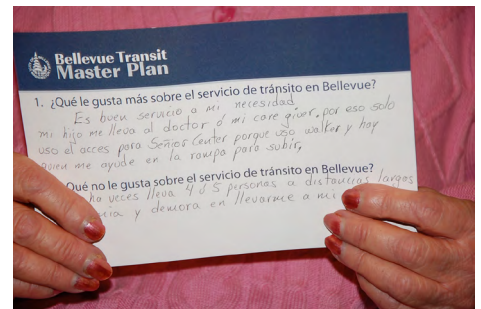
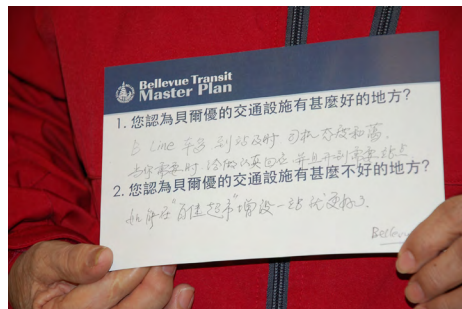
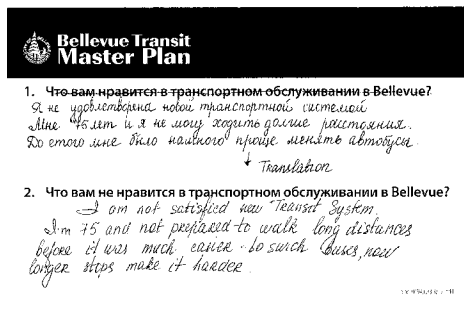
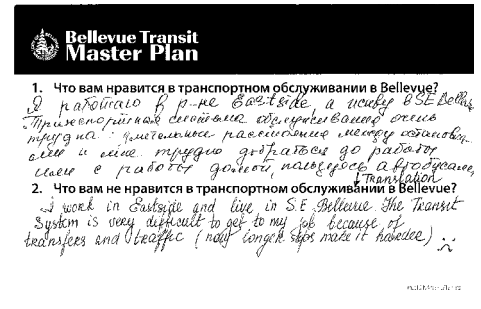
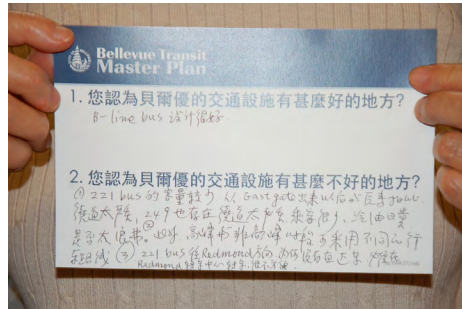
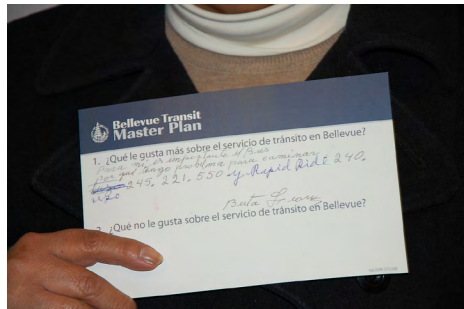
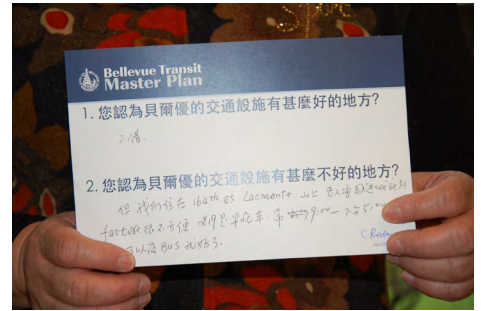
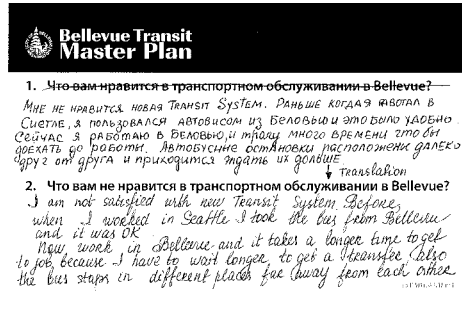
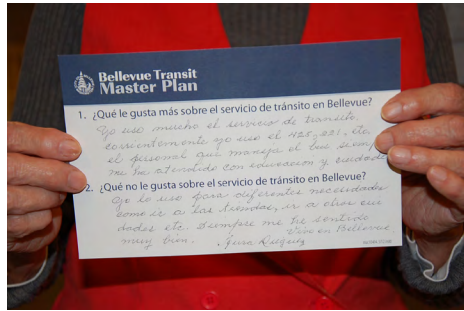
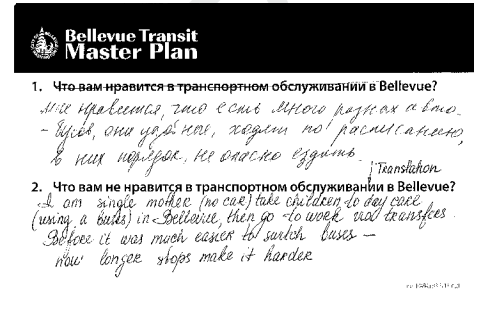
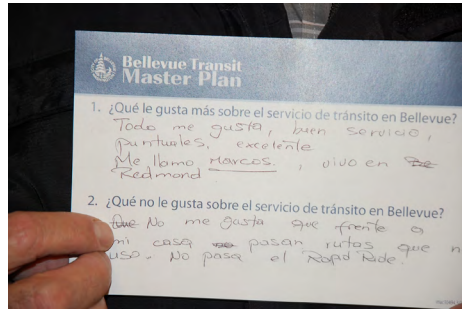
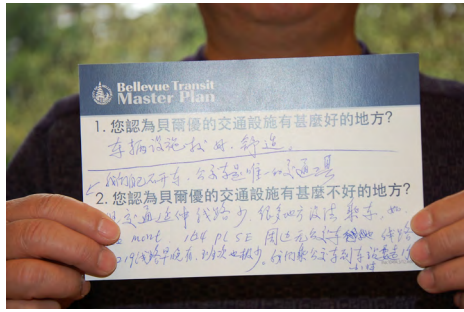


**Figure 27** Factors that would encourage those who have never used transit services in Bellevue to consider doing so, according to the Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey. Large blue percentages reflect all current transit users; small blue numbers in parentheses following each description reflect the total number of respondents.

**Figure 28** Comments from selected stakeholder interviews.



**Figure 29** Some of the Chinese, Spanish, and Russian comment cards submitted by participants in outreach to non-native English speakers.



**Figure 30** Excerpts from letters, interviews, and comments made by various organizations who provided input to the Transit Master Plan.

"Employees at our headquarters in Bellevue documented on RideshareOnline.com savings of over 35 metric tons of CO2 Equivalent in 2013 through alternative commuting. With continued investment in transit infrastructure, we believe the already strong, positive environmental impacts of our alternative commuters could be increased dramatically, year after year."

CHI PAK, SENIOR MANAGER OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY, T-MOBILE USA, INC.



"The dramatic increase in the senior population over the next two decades highlights the need for a transportation system where mobility choices and access to services are provided equally and affordably to all residents and are responsive to the needs of people for whom transit is a necessity, including seniors, people with disabilities, low-income populations, youth, people of color, people with limited proficiency in English and people without access to private vehicles. The transit system should ensure that all people have access to mobility options that allow them to move freely around the community, preserve dignity, maximize independence and provide access to the full range of activities that contribute to quality of life."

PAULA L. HOUSTON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SENIOR SERVICES



"During the school year, over 3,000 Bellevue School District high school students access metro transit as their primary mode of transportation to and from school. Our students depend on reliable, consistent and timely mass transit between their neighborhoods and schools to arrive to school on time and ready to learn."

TERRY PARKER, TRANSPORTATION MANAGER, BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT



"Nearly a third of our students ride transit as their primary mode of transportation, which alleviates congestion in our neighborhood and throughout Bellevue."

RAY WHITE, VP ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BELLEVUE COLLEGE



"Bus travel to and from downtown Bellevue from employment centers to homes, and parts in between, helps employees, residents, and business patrons move Bellevue's economy forward."

BETTY NOKES, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BELLEVUE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



"Our Children's Bellevue Clinic and Surgery Center is a significant trip generator in downtown Bellevue, attracting over 250 patients and their families and over 100 employees and volunteers daily. Patients and staff arrive throughout the day - not just at peak times. It is critical that the frequency and span of transit service on Bellevue's most productive corridors be maintained which is consistent with Children's travel demand."

PAULO NUNES-UENO, DIR. OF TRANSPORTATION & SUSTAINABILITY, SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



"Abundant transit and great overall mobility are key strategies to support the growth of our thriving and livable downtown."

PATRICK BANNON, PRESIDENT, BELLEVUE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION



"People with disabilities must have accessible and reliable public transportation in order to work and be productive members of their communities. When people with disabilities work, lives of isolation and poverty are transformed into lives of inclusion and self-sufficiency. When people with disabilities work, businesses experience increased profits and higher employee satisfaction and morale. People with disabilities who have jobs pay taxes, support our economy, and no longer rely upon other social services to survive."

CHRISTINA BRANDT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AtWork!



"Proximity to the variety of transportation options that the Bellevue Transit Center provides was integral to our decision to relocate Concur's headquarters from Redmond to downtown Bellevue in May 2013... As Concur grows, we strongly believe that increased transit options will help us attract and retain the best talent."

Bus and rail service to Bellevue is not only about getting to work - it's about livability, quality of life and living smart. All three values are necessary for our company to thrive."

SANDY BUMSTEAD, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES, CONCUR TECHNOLOGIES



"With transportation accounting for nearly 47 percent of our communities' greenhouse gas emissions in Washington state, policies that accelerate energy-efficient transit choices and transit ridership will be a key part of the solution to reduce transportation-related GHG emissions."

ANDY WAPPLER, VP OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, PUGET SOUND ENERGY



"Transit service offers people with special needs access to vital human services, health care, educational opportunities, employment, and a wide range of other activities that in many cases they would not be able to access without transit. Transit therefore plays an important role in reducing social and economic inequalities by enhancing mobility for people, regardless of age, race, income or disability. In particular, it helps to bridge the mobility divide currently existing for many low-income families, people with disabilities, or older adults who lack access to a vehicle."

LAUREN THOMAS, INTERIM CEO, HOPELINK



# TMP Forum and Workshops

The three workshops held in support of the Transit Master Plan included the TMP Forum in September 2012, the Transit Network Design Workshop in January 2013, and the Capital and Policy Workshop in September 2013. Each of these provided guidance that helped inform the development of the service and capital visions.

## TMP Forum

The TMP Forum provided an opportunity for representatives from the Transportation, Planning, Human Services, and Arts Commissions, the Parks and Community Services Board, and the Bellevue Network on Aging to engage in a discussion with City Councilmembers Kevin Wallace and (then-mayor) Conrad Lee and City staff about trends and policies related to transit in Bellevue, and how the Council-approved Project Principles (see Appendix 2) should be considered in the context of some of the fundamental tradeoffs regarding transit service allocation. The following four main themes summarize that discussion, and the quotes (below right) provide insight into participants' recognition of the need to make strategic investments in transit to grow ridership:

1. Transit is an essential component of the City's mobility strategy and an increasingly important tool for addressing Bellevue's anticipated growth in travel demand.
2. More can be done to improve transit service for people who depend on transit due to age or disability, in areas of lower density, and at non-peak hours.
3. Current sources of funding won't cover everything that needs to be done; as such, the near-term focus needs to be on maximizing ridership.
4. We need to make strategic investments to support future development and growth in ridership.



**Figure 31** Then-Mayor Conrad Lee discusses the role of transit in Bellevue with Planning Commissioners Tebelius and Carlson, Human Services Commissioner Yantis, Parks & Community Services Boardmember Hollebeke, and City staff at the TMP Forum.



**Figure 32** TMP Forum participants including Councilmember Lynne Robinson (then of the Parks & Community Services Board) and Commission-members Fateeva (Arts), Laing (Planning), McEachran (Human Services), and Bishop (Transportation).



**Figure 33** Transportation Commission member Tom Tanaka discusses potential speed and reliability improvements at intersections with Commission-members Beighle (Human Services), Sheffels (Planning), and Heath (Parks & Community Services).

## Transit Network Design Workshop

The Transit Network Design Workshop was held early in the Service Element planning process to more clearly define priorities related to the location and frequency of transit service in and around Bellevue. Board and commission members and other stakeholders were asked to brainstorm what corridors should be prioritized in the 2030 transit network and what service frequency should be allocated to each based on the projected growth in population, employment, and ridership, and the values previously expressed by the community, Council, and TMP Forum participants. Keypad polling was used to record participants' preferences among competing priorities, from which the following themes can be drawn:

1. Pursue robust all-day service with supplementary peak service. This approach was favored by most, though a notable minority preferred emphasis of peak-only commuter services instead.
2. Encourage transferring to foster a more frequent and more connective network. More than half favored this approach; nearly a third preferred more direct service at the expense of frequency.
3. Prioritize abundant service rather than investing in service that caters to higher-end markets.
4. Consider homes and jobs within one-quarter to one-half mile of transit to be served. About half of participants considered this distance an acceptable maximum; most others consider one quarter-mile as the acceptable maximum.
5. It is acceptable to not provide service to between 25 and 35 percent of Bellevue's population if necessary to provide a more useful, better-performing network for all users. About one-fifth considered 15 percent to be the maximum acceptable unserved share of the population; less than one-tenth of respondents considered service coverage of 95 percent or more necessary.



**Figure 35** Participants contemplate how to allocate the transit service resources they were provided.



**Figure 36** 'Rules' of the network design exercise.



**Figure 37** Consultant Jarrett Walker highlights how the networks designed by Groups 5 and 6 demonstrate the trade-off between providing a grid of frequent service and widespread coverage with infrequent service, respectively.



## Capital and Policy Workshop

Following the completion of the *Transit Service Vision Report*, the Capital and Policy Workshop was held to consider potential policies and infrastructure investments that would improve transit travel time and reliability along major transit corridors identified in the proposed 2030 network. Workshop participants discussed the appropriate degree to which transit should be given priority over other modes—if at all—and in which situations. This was considered both in terms of the language used in City policies and in relation to transit priority treatments used along particular corridors. The following themes summarize the discussion and keypad polling exercise.

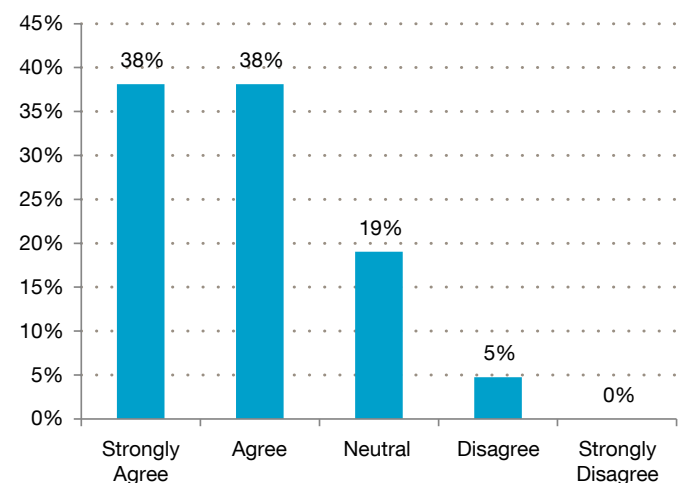
1. Bellevue faces difficult choices about the use of its limited street right-of-way.
2. It is neither possible nor desirable to build enough roadway improvements to keep pace with ever accelerating demand for travel in single-occupant vehicles.
3. In principle, high-ridership frequent transit deserves a higher priority than low-occupant private vehicles in access to limited road capacity.
4. Manage arterial travel lanes to maximize the throughput capacity for people rather than vehicles.
5. Transforming high-volume arterials into transit-supportive corridors requires careful and coordinated planning.
6. Package transit speed and reliability improvements with supportive land use policies, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, stop/station design, and transportation demand management strategies.
7. Make transit the logical choice for a wide range of people and situations by ensuring reliable operations.
8. Consider pursuing bold investments in transit priority on some high-demand corridors by 2030.



**Figure 38** Then-Mayor Conrad Lee opens the Capital and Policy workshop by emphasizing the important role of transit in Bellevue's future.



**Figure 39** Participants cast votes using keypad polling devices. City officials, staff, and project consultants did not cast votes during audience polling exercises.



**Figure 40** In principle, high-ridership frequent transit deserves a higher priority than low-occupant private vehicles in access to limited road capacity.

# EXISTING AND FUTURE CONDITIONS

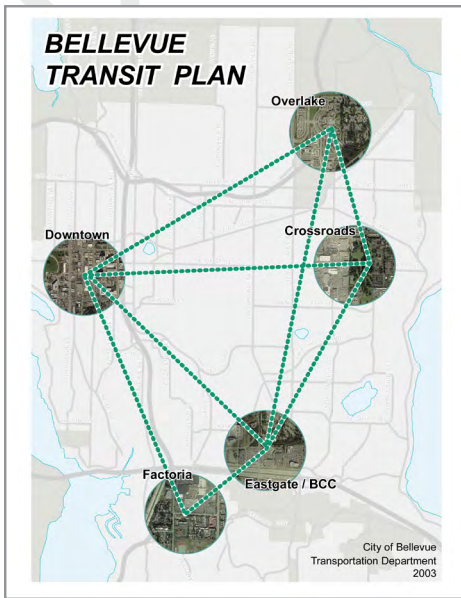
## BACKGROUND

In response to community feedback, the Transit Master Plan examines opportunities and obstacles to improving transit in Bellevue. This section summarizes recent changes and current and projected future conditions relating to transit in Bellevue to inform the identification of future service and capital improvements.<sup>1</sup>

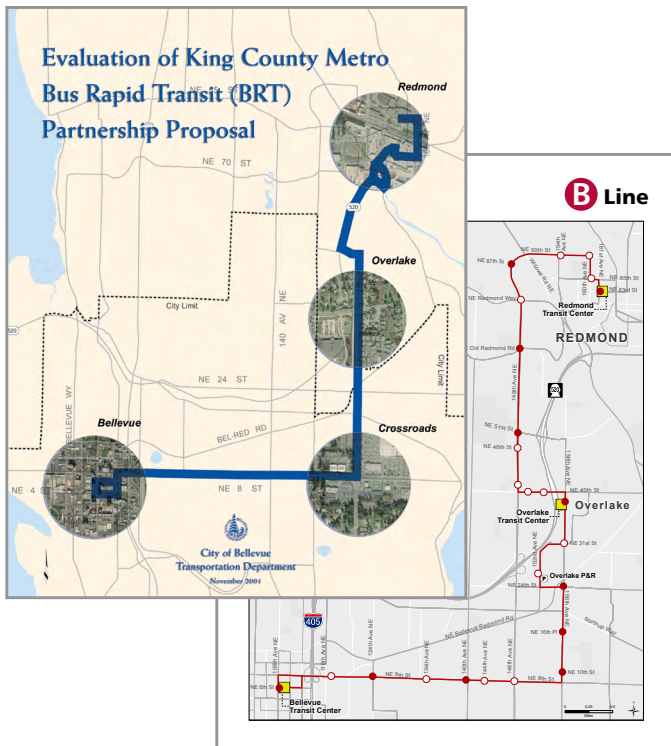
Since the adoption of the 2003 *Transit Plan*, hundreds of millions of dollars in HOV access ramps, transit centers, park-and-ride lots, and speed and reliability projects have been completed in Bellevue in support of transit operations. Figure 44 reflects the array of capital improvements implemented since 2003 in coordination with King County Metro, Sound Transit, and WSDOT. Services operating in Bellevue have also been restructured on several occasions since 2003, with the most significant recent revision occurring in Fall 2011. Among other notable changes, that network restructuring resulted in the introduction of the RapidRide B Line, a route whose concept was first defined by a planning study conducted in 2001 (see Figure 42), providing an example of how long-range planning programs like the TMP ultimately translate into tangible improvements.

In addition to these transit improvements, much has also changed in Bellevue in the decade since that plan's adoption: the city has grown significantly in terms of both population and employment, Downtown has developed into the primary regional urban center on the Eastside and competes as much with Seattle as it does with its neighboring suburbs,

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* for more information about the use of geographic information systems, route performance data, market research, and travel demand model data informing this work.



**Figure 41** The 2003 *Transit Plan* provided recommendations about how transit service should operate in Bellevue and what capital investments and policy strategies could be pursued to support those transit services locally.



**Figure 42** This 2001 BRT evaluation report provides an example of how long-term service planning established a vision for future implementation. The RapidRide B Line ultimately began service in Fall 2011.

planning studies have established new visions for activity centers including Eastgate and Bel-Red, and East Link will connect Bellevue to Sound Transit’s regional light rail network by 2023.

Meanwhile, King County Metro, the primary transit operator in Bellevue, has confronted funding shortfalls twice since the TMP process began in 2012, creating uncertainty about what level of resources will be available for transit in the future. It is in this context of growth, both realized and projected, and future changes both planned and unknown that the Transit Master Plan establishes a vision for how bus services will operate in Bellevue through 2030, how these will be coordinated with East Link light rail, and how the City can direct infrastructure investments to maximize the usefulness and attractiveness of those services to the community and thereby its ridership potential.

Line	Route	Weekday Headways		
		Peak	Off-Peak	Night
B Line	Bellevue to Redmond via NE 8th St, 156th Ave NE	10	15	30
234	Kenmore to Bellevue via Juanita	30	30	—
235	Kingsgate to Bellevue via Kirkland	30	30	30
245	Kirkland to Crossroads, Factoria via Overlake, Eastgate	15	15	30-60
255	Totem Lake to Downtown Seattle via Kirkland, SR-520	8-20	15-30	60
271	U District to Bellevue, Issaquah via SR-520, Lake Hills, Newport Way	5-10	15-30	30
550	Bellevue to Downtown Seattle via I-90, Mercer Island	6-10	15-30	30

Note: Although Routes 234 and 235 operate 30-minute headways individually, they are scheduled so that together they provide 15-minute headways between Bellevue and Kirkland all day.



**Figure 43** Spring 2012 Frequent Transit Network, reflecting all-day routes that operate headways of 15 minutes or better during the peak and 30 minutes or better off-peak.

**Figure 44** An assortment of major transit capital projects completed since the adoption of Bellevue’s 2003 Transit Plan.



**Bellevue Transit Center** (2003) - \$16 million



**Downtown Bellevue HOV Access** (2005) - \$144 million



**RapidRide B Line** (2011) - \$10 million



**Eastgate Park-and-Ride** (2004) - \$27 million



**Eastgate Direct Access Ramp** (2006) - \$19 million



**I-90 Two-Way Transit & HOV** (2009–2016) - \$188 million

## EXISTING TRANSIT LANDSCAPE (2003–2013)

The evaluation of existing conditions involved extensive use of geographic information systems, route performance data, market research, and travel demand model data to provide:

- An overview of the current bus network structure, services provided in terms of miles and hours, and ridership;
- An assessment of transit service availability and competitiveness in terms of service area coverage, frequency of service by day-of-week and time period, and travel times comparing buses and automobiles between major activity and neighborhood centers;
- An appraisal of route performance as measured by efficiency, effectiveness, and reliability;
- An understanding of demographic characteristics influencing transit performance;
- An understanding of public opinion regarding transit service in Bellevue.<sup>2</sup>



PHOTO BY John Tiscornia

**Figure 45** The RapidRide B Line provides frequent, all-day service between Downtown Bellevue and Redmond via Crossroads and Overlake, serving about 8,400 daily ons/off in Bellevue in Spring 2013.



PHOTO BY John Tiscornia

**Figure 46** Sound Transit Express Route 550 is the primary transit connection between Downtown Bellevue and Seattle. Service operates all day along much of the future East Link light rail corridor.



PHOTO BY John Tiscornia

**Figure 47** Route 245 is an all-day route that provides frequent service from Kirkland to Overlake, Crossroads, Bellevue College, Eastgate, and Factoria, serving about 5,000 daily ons/off in Bellevue in Spring 2013.

### Existing Services

As of the Spring 2012 service period, which serves as the baseline for the purposes of the Transit Master Plan, King County Metro and Sound Transit jointly operate 42 bus routes with at least one stop in Bellevue.<sup>3,4</sup> These can most generally be classified as one of two types of service: all-day or peak-only.<sup>5</sup> Seventeen routes comprise Bellevue’s all-day service network, which provide connections from morning through evening between areas of concentrated activity via highways, major arterials,

<sup>2</sup> For more information about these topics, refer to the *Existing and Future Conditions Report*, *Transit Network Profile Report*, and *Transit Improvement Survey Report*.

<sup>3</sup> Sound Transit contracts with King County Metro, Community Transit, and Pierce Transit to operate regional express buses in Bellevue.

<sup>4</sup> These do not include the routes that Metro operates for the Bellevue School District, which operate only one trip each in the AM and PM peak periods.

<sup>5</sup> Route 280 is the lone exception, which provides night owl service.

and neighborhood streets, serving a variety of travel needs and trip purposes (see Figure 50). The peak-only service network provides faster travel times and accommodates very high demand for travel to and from major employment centers and park-and-ride lots during morning (5–9 AM) and afternoon (3–6 PM) commuting periods (see Figure 51).

All routes in the all-day service network do not provide the same level of service. As shown in Table 2, the two primary qualities differentiating all-day services are frequency and span. The RapidRide B Line is the only route in Bellevue currently classified by Metro as “very frequent,” operating 15-minute headways or better all day. Six additional routes operate 30-minute headways or better all day with 15-minute frequency during peak hours, currently considered “frequent” by Metro. All other all-day routes were classified as “local” services in Spring 2012.<sup>6</sup> Twenty-four routes are weekday peak-only services, accounting for about 20 percent of the approximately 728,000 annual platform hours operated in Bellevue in 2012.<sup>7</sup>

Research suggests that 15-minute service is considered a significant threshold to making transit competitive with driving, particularly for commuters; less frequent services are generally considered to be unattractive to those with alternative means of travel available. Access to frequent service in Bellevue is currently most widespread during the peak periods. On weekdays during the AM peak (5–9 AM), 37 percent of Bellevue’s population has access to 15-minute service within a quarter-mile radius of a bus stop. Only 29 percent of Bellevue’s population



**Figure 48** Route 271 provides frequent all-day service between the University of Washington and Issaquah via BTC, Bellevue College, and Eastgate, serving about 6,700 daily ons/off in Bellevue in Spring 2013.



**Figure 49** Metro Route 235 provides all-day service between Downtown Bellevue and the Kingsgate Park-and-Ride via the South Kirkland Park-and-Ride and Downtown Kirkland. Although Routes 234 and 235 operate 30-minute headways individually, they are scheduled so that together they provide 15-minute headways between the downtowns of Bellevue and Kirkland.

**Table 2** Typical frequency, span, and days of operation by service family, as currently defined by Metro.

2012 Service Family	Frequency (Headway in min)			Span	Days of Service	
	Peak	Off-Peak	Night			
All-Day	Very Frequent	≤15	≤15	≤30	16-20 hrs	7 days
	Frequent	≤15	30	30	16-20 hrs	7 days
	Local	30	30-60	—*	12-16 hrs	5-7 days
	Hourly	≥60	≥60	—	8-12 hrs	5 days
Peak-Only	8 trips/day minimum	—	—	Peaks	5 days	

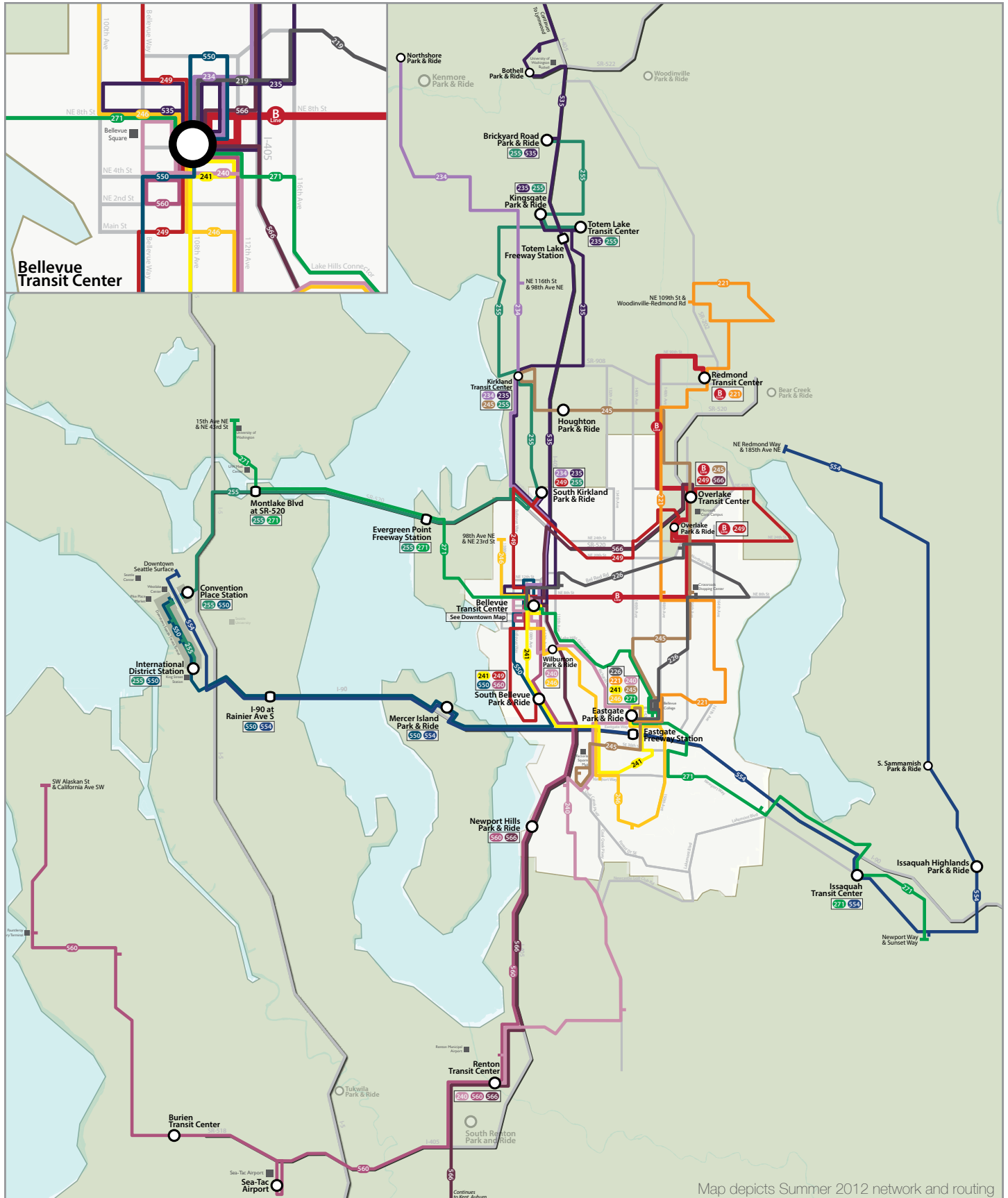
\*Night service on local corridors varies based on ridership and connections.

<sup>6</sup> Over the course of the two year TMP process, revisions were made to several routes following the establishment of the service planning baseline. For example, Route 246 is now classified as “hourly,” operating 60-minute headways all-day; Route 249 now operates 60-minute headways off-peak; Route 216 now serves Bellevue in the AM peak only; Route 566 has been divided into two separate routes—566 (all-day) and 567 (peak-only)—and both only provide service to Bellevue during peak hours.

<sup>7</sup> Peak-Only Route 219 was deleted in the Summer 2012 service change.

Figure 50 All-day service network, Spring 2012.

Includes the RapidRide B Line and Routes 221, 226, 234, 235, 240, 241, 245, 246, 249, 255, 271, 535, 550, 554, 560, and 566\*.

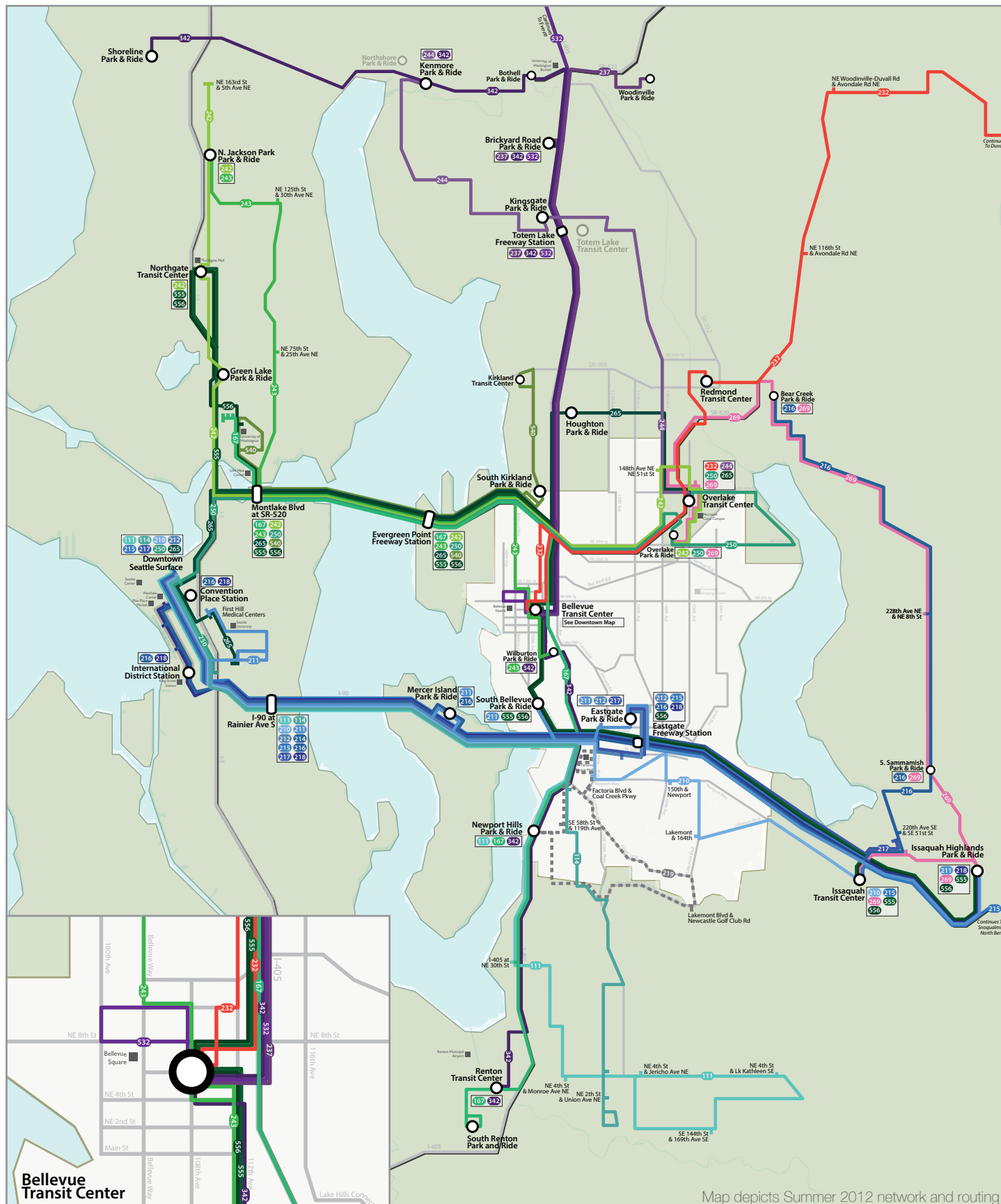


Map depicts Summer 2012 network and routing

\* Note: In 2013, Route 566 was divided into two separate routes. Route 566 (Auburn–Overlake) now serves Auburn, Kent, and Renton all-day and continues to Bellevue and Overlake only during peak periods. Route 567 (Kent–Bellevue–Overlake) is a peak-only “super express” service that makes no intermediate stops.

Figure 51 Peak-only service network, Spring 2012.

Includes Routes 111, 114, 167, 210, 211, 212, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 232, 237, 242, 243, 244, 250, 265, 269, 342, 532, 540, 555, 556.



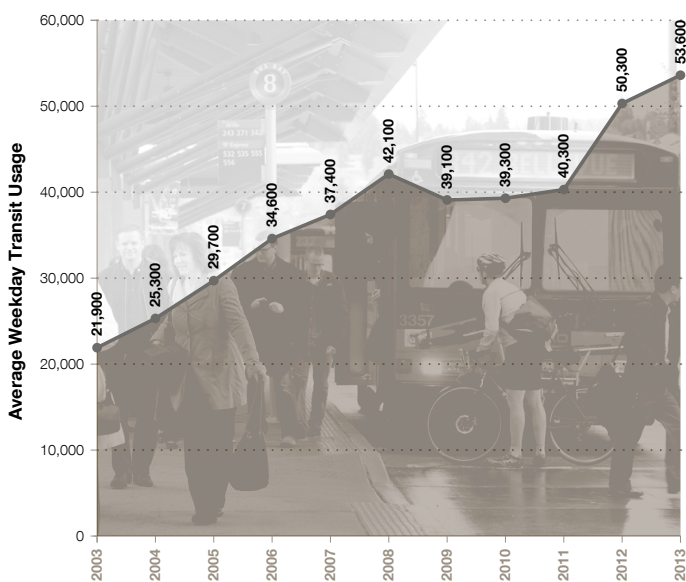
\*\* Note: Route 219 was deleted as part of the Summer 2012 service change.

enjoys such access mid-day (9 AM–3 PM), and the percentage declines further during evening hours (6–10 PM) to only 13 percent—those areas within one quarter-mile of RapidRide B Line stops. It should be noted that a quarter-mile of straight-line distance likely over-estimates accessibility, as the actual walking distance may be much longer than a quarter-mile.

## Service Performance

In Fall 2013, there were approximately 53,640 average weekday boardings and alightings (ons/off) in the city of Bellevue. Between 2003 and 2013, transit use in Bellevue grew by 144 percent, or an additional 31,700 daily ons/off.<sup>8</sup> The most significant growth during this period occurred in Downtown Bellevue (134% increase), Eastgate (348% increase), and Crossroads (118% increase).

While ridership on most Bellevue routes has grown since 2003, certain routes had much larger gains than others. High ridership corridors are typically those with frequent service that have strong anchors at both route ends—namely areas with higher population and/or employment density. Route 550, Route 245, and the RapidRide B Line are all examples of such corridors. These routes each had frequency increases to accommodate growing demand, and they show clearly that connecting the right population and employment markets with high quality, frequent transit service leads to improved ridership. By contrast, usage of coverage routes (e.g. Route 246) that broaden the geographical reach of transit with circuitous neighborhood routing have not increased as consistently as high frequency corridors. Balancing the needs of lower density areas with continued ridership growth in high density and growing corridors will be an on-going challenge.



**Figure 52** Daily boardings and alightings (ons/off) at bus stops in Bellevue, Fall 2003–2013.

<sup>8</sup> Ridership figures prior to Spring 2013 did not include data for routes operated by Community Transit (532, 535) or Pierce Transit (566), which account for about 5,350 daily ons/off in Fall 2013. If these routes are not considered, daily ons/off have increased by 120 percent since Fall 2003.



# FUTURE TRANSIT LANDSCAPE (2014–2030)

Consistent with direction provided by City Council, the Transit Master Plan aims to “determine where and how transit investments can deliver the greatest degree of mobility and access possible for all populations.”<sup>9</sup> To that end, the Transit Master Plan looks to the future and strives to be compatible with Bellevue’s land use and transportation plans and the challenges and opportunities of changing demographics, land use characteristics, and travel patterns. As with the assessment of existing conditions, consideration of future conditions included the use of geographic information systems and travel demand modeling to provide an evaluation of changing demographics, land use characteristics, and travel patterns that will affect future transit performance.

## Population & Employment Growth

Between 2010 and 2030, Bellevue is expected to increase in population by over 28,000 people. Downtown Bellevue is expected to double in size, reaching 19,000 residents by 2030 and comprising about 45 percent of the city’s projected population growth over the next twenty years (see Figure 53). Bel-Red is expected to accommodate about 7,500 additional residents—almost another third of the projected growth—and other mixed use areas will account for about 16 percent. The number of jobs in Bellevue is expected to increase by over 54,000 between 2010 and 2030 (see Figure 54). Downtown Bellevue is projected to capture over half of these additional jobs, Bel-Red about 18 percent, Eastgate almost 14 percent, and the SR-520 corridor nearly 5 percent. Other commercial and industrial lands in the city are expected to capture the remaining 12 percent of projected growth in employment.

<sup>9</sup> Refer to the Project Principles in Appendix 2.

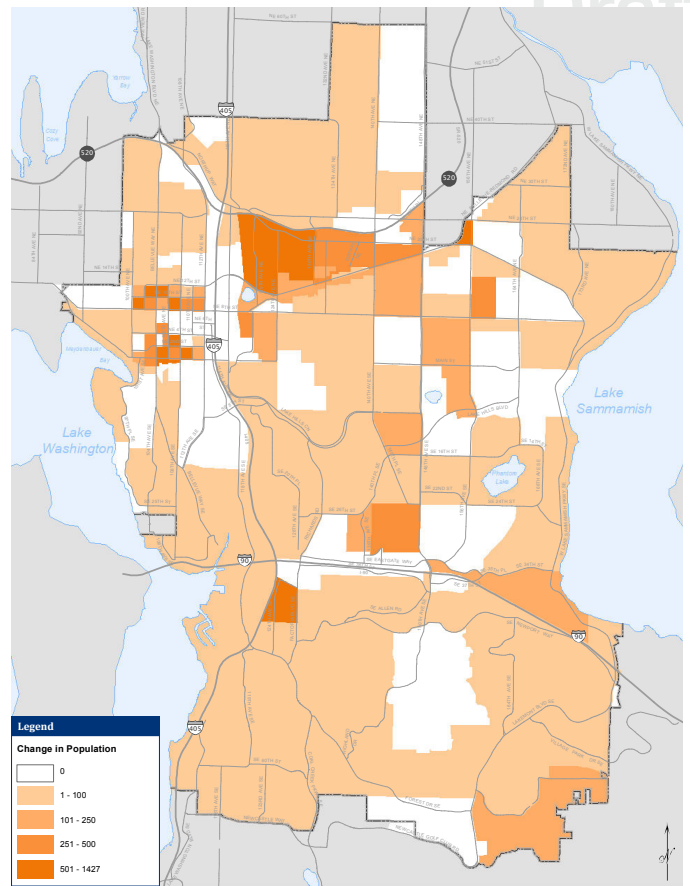


Figure 53 Population growth in Bellevue, 2010–2030.

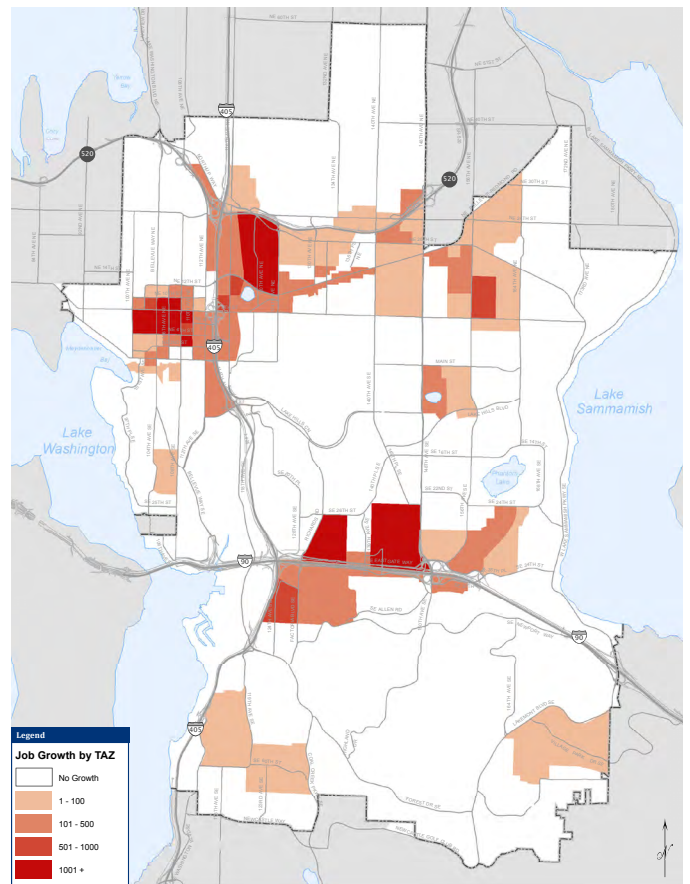


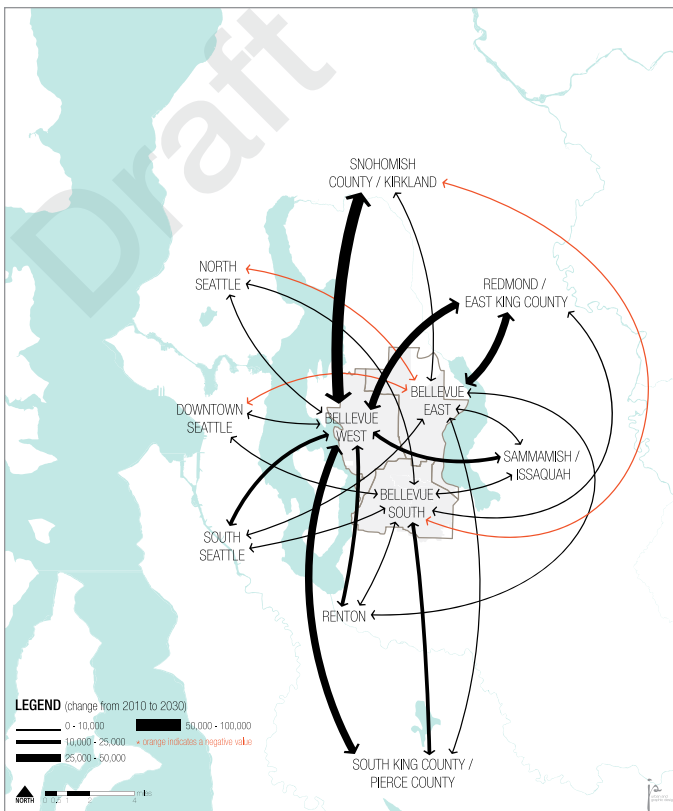
Figure 54 Employment growth in Bellevue, 2010–2030.

## Travel Demand Growth

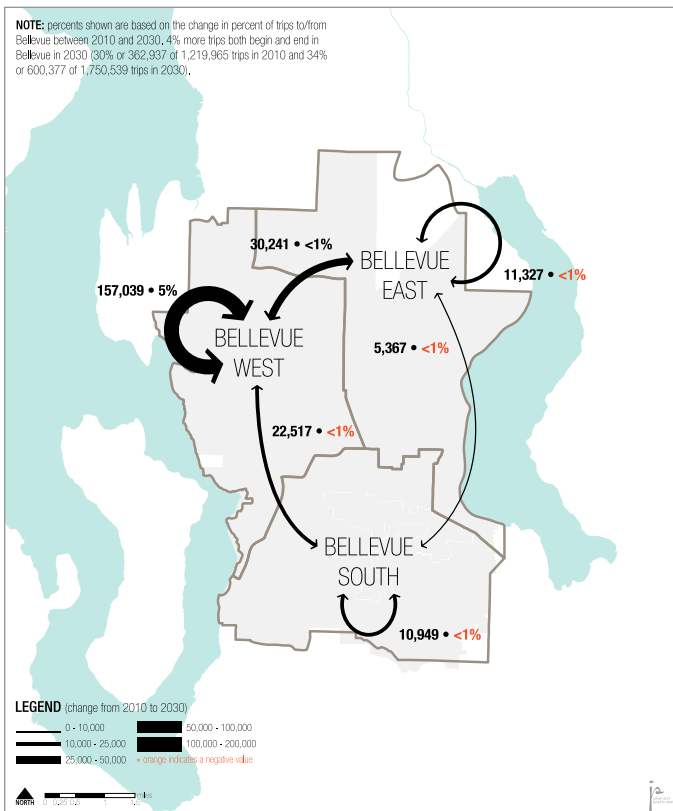
The City's Bellevue-Kirkland-Redmond (BKR) travel demand model was used to examine existing (2010) and future (2030) travel patterns. According to BKR model projections, the total number of daily person trips to/from or internal to Bellevue will increase from 1,220,000 in 2010 to 1,751,000 in 2030, a 43 percent increase. Approximately 43 percent of the projected increase in daily trips is regional travel to/from the Bellevue West area, which includes Downtown—the largest, production/attraction market for trips to/from Bellevue.<sup>10</sup>

The number of trips beginning or ending outside of Bellevue is projected to increase by over 260,000 trips. The largest increases are from the I-405 North Corridor, the SR-520 corridor to Redmond, and the I-405 South/SR-167 corridor markets (see Figure 55). Although the Seattle market is smaller than the close-in suburban markets in terms of total trips, due to the more transit supportive land uses in Seattle, the transit trip market between Bellevue and Seattle remains larger than any other regional transit market.

About 237,000 new daily trips are projected to occur entirely within Bellevue between 2010 and 2030 (see Figure 56). The Bellevue West area alone will serve an estimated 157,000 new trips daily—most of them non-work trips (144,000)—with the number of internal trips projected to more than double between 2010 and 2030. This reflects the growing importance of Downtown Bellevue as not just a job center, but also as both a thriving neighborhood and a regional destination. The non-work trip market, particularly in the densely populated and retail/entertainment-rich part of the Bellevue West area, represents the single-largest untapped market for transit in Bellevue.



**Figure 55** Change in regional travel demand, 2010–2030.



**Figure 56** Change in local travel demand, 2010–2030.

<sup>10</sup> Refer to the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* for additional flow maps and forecast data.

# Future Roadway Investment

Although transit infrastructure investments are primarily the focus of the Capital Element, it should be noted that existing plans are in place and conceptual design work is already funded for several roadway projects that will benefit bus transit operations in Bellevue.<sup>11</sup> Infrastructure investments that can improve the average speed of coaches on city streets will improve the travel time, schedule reliability, and cost efficiency of transit services, potentially improving its competitiveness with other modes and contributing to increased ridership. The service vision assumes that some of these projects will be completed in the coming years and will contribute to the successful implementation of the proposed mid- and long-term networks. More fundamentally, the increase in demand for transportation associated with the projected growth in population and employment could outpace available infrastructure capacity, so these projects help increase the overall performance of Bellevue's transportation system, not just that of transit operations.

Some of the investments detailed in the City's 2013–2024 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) include extensions of NE 4th St and NE 6th St, creation of a gridded street network in Bel-Red, and widening 120th Ave NE. These will improve mobility between Downtown Bellevue, Bel-Red, and Overlake, balancing circulation throughout the existing downtown grid by drawing traffic away from NE 8th St and other roadways accessing or crossing I-405. Other projects under consideration include redesigning Snoqualmie River Road adjacent to the west side of Bellevue College to accommodate high volumes of bus traffic and eliminate the existing service deviation through the campus and installing an HOV lane on Bellevue Way SE to I-90 to improve traffic flow.

<sup>11</sup> Refer to Appendix A of the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* for the complete project list from the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP).



**Figure 57** Artist rendering of East Link light rail integrated with the NE 6th St HOV Extension (TFP-211, CIP R-162), identified as Running Way Project L19 in the Transit Master Plan.



**Figure 58** Improvements to Snoqualmie River Rd would facilitate the restructuring of service between Bellevue College and the Eastgate Park-and-Ride. This existing project (TFP-252) has been refined by the Transit Master Plan, with the above conceptual renderings reflecting how planning for the project has advanced.

Draft

## East Link Light Rail

Approved by Puget Sound-area voters in 2008, Sound Transit’s East Link light rail will run between International District Station in Downtown Seattle and Overlake via I-90, Mercer Island, South Bellevue, Downtown Bellevue, and the Bel-Red corridor. Service is projected to open in 2023 and will serve six stations in Bellevue. Light rail transit (LRT) is expected to address the most significant transit ridership market for Bellevue: in 2012, four of the top ten highest-ridership bus routes (550, 255, 554, and 212) operating in Bellevue had a terminus in Downtown Seattle. By providing the cross-lake market with high capacity transit services, implementation of East Link represents a transformational opportunity to reimagine the current bus network in Bellevue.



**Figure 59** East Link will give transit users a fast, frequent, reliable connection between the Eastside’s biggest population and employment centers and Downtown Seattle.

Convenient transfers from light rail stations to the bus network can effectively extend the reach of the regional light rail transit system. Effective intermodal integration is required at East Link stations to ensure reliable connections and avoid unnecessary transfer delay. A primary emphasis of the future bus network will therefore be to provide connections to East Link light rail service. This will require the reduction or elimination of routes that duplicate services provided by East Link and the shifting of resources to routes that strengthen bus connectivity with LRT stations.

The BKR travel demand model estimates that 136,000 average weekday boardings and alightings will take place on transit in Bellevue in 2030.<sup>12</sup> Of these, an estimated 20 percent will take place at the six LRT stations in Bellevue. The majority of transit usage in 2030—nearly 80 percent of weekday boardings and alightings—is projected to take place on Bellevue’s bus network. This represents a 133 percent increase over Spring 2012 bus usage in Bellevue. By 2030,



**Figure 60** Bellevue will be served by six stations, including South Bellevue Station, three stations in and around Downtown, and two stations in Bel-Red.

<sup>12</sup> Calculated early in the TMP process, these figures are based on the transit routing and headway assumptions found in the 2010 East Link Bus/Rail Integration Plan. They have not been updated to reflect the 2030 networks in the *Transit Service Vision Report*.

approximately 20 percent of light rail patronage in Bellevue is expected to come from bus transfers.

In the *Transit Service Vision Report*, the 2030 scenarios all presume the opening of East Link light rail to its planned terminus at Overlake Transit Center. Consistent with direction from Sound Transit, the Transit Master Plan assumes that East Link will operate frequencies of every 8 minutes during the peak, every 10 minutes during the day, and every 15 minutes in the evening. Additionally, it is assumed that North Link to Lynnwood will be complete by 2030. Trains from East Link merge with those from the existing Central Link to run together through the Downtown Seattle Transit Tunnel. In addition, it is assumed that all of these trains continue north at least to Northgate. This implies extreme frequency along the core Seattle corridor extending from the International District to Northgate, specifically frequencies of every 4 minutes during the peak, every 5 minutes all day, and every 7.5 minutes in the evening.

That assumption has important consequences for the Eastside, especially for SR-520 bridge services. Frequencies at the University of Washington Station (open in 2016) will be so high that it will be easy to connect to Link to complete trips to/from many core Seattle destinations, including Downtown, the University District, Ravenna, and Northgate. As a result, fewer SR-520 services need to continue into Downtown Seattle, especially in lower-resource scenarios. While Link may not be faster to Downtown Seattle than a direct SR-520 bus, other considerations will have to be weighed, such as the limitations of street capacity for buses in Downtown Seattle. For these reasons, it is generally assumed that while SR-520 would continue to have peak-period services to Downtown Seattle, the all-day pattern would focus more on frequent cross-lake services to the University of Washington Station to take advantage of the extremely frequent light rail service available there.



**Figure 61** Bird's eye (top) and platform (bottom) views reflecting the 60% design of the station in Downtown Bellevue. The Bellevue Transit Center, where bus services will continue to operate, is immediately across 110th Ave NE to the north.



**Figure 62** The 60% design of the South Bellevue Station includes designated space for bus layover and on-site bus stops for routes traveling on Bellevue Way SE.





# SECTION 2: POLICY ELEMENT



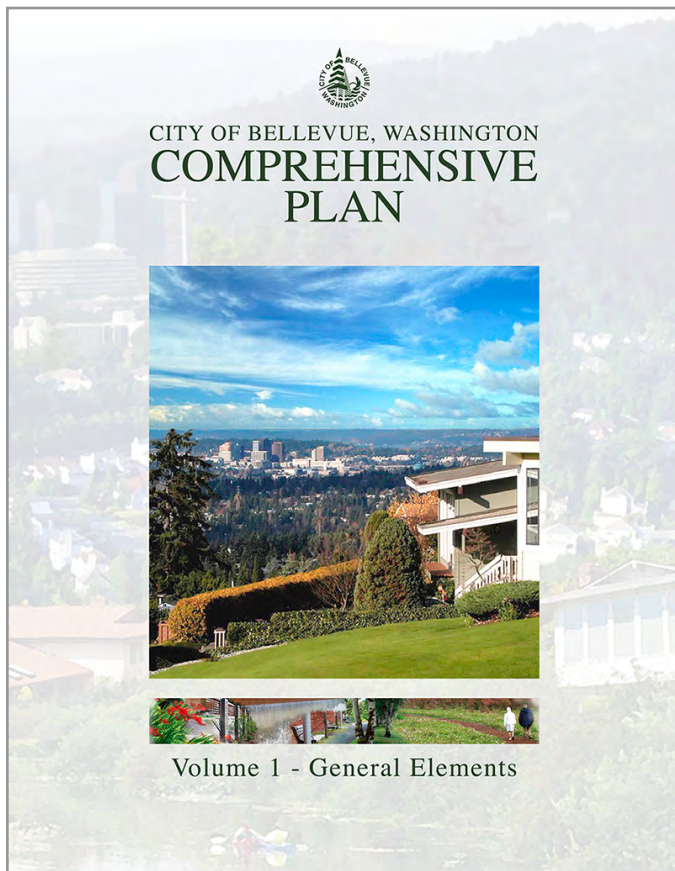
## TMP POLICY FRAMEWORK

Adopted by the Bellevue City Council on July 9, 2012, the Project Principles shown in Figure 64 represent the Council's priorities for directing development of the Transit Master Plan. The City Council envisions a fully integrated and user-friendly network of transit services for Bellevue that supports the city's growth, economic vitality, and livability.

Encouraging long-term ridership growth involves building capacity to meet future demand for transit service by: (i) providing service where there is anticipated to be high ridership, typically where there is some mix of: higher residential or commercial density; major activity centers; and, measures that discourage driving, such as limited parking; (ii) building and supporting pedestrian, bicycle, and park-and-ride facilities that help people access the transit system; (iii) improving the way people make transit connections so they can reach more destinations in less time; (iv) investing in speed and reliability enhancements like transit priority measures and BRT.

Given Metro's focus on creating a more efficient and productive transit system, the Bellevue Transit Master Plan has adopted strategies that align the City's interests and priorities with Metro's Strategic Plan and associated Service Guidelines. In this context, the Transit Master Plan seeks to make better use of the region's limited resources as efficiently and effectively as possible. To enhance transit performance in Bellevue, it will be critical to integrate the provision of increased transit supply with a supportive land use environment and land use mix, improved transit passenger and walking amenities, and transit-supportive infrastructure. These can be thought of as demand factors for transit, and they are closely related to and can mutually reinforce one another.

On the transit supply side, the overall vision is for transit service to increase over time to have a larger portion of Bellevue's population and jobs located



**Figure 63** Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan, currently undergoing its decennial update, includes a variety of policies that promote the improvement of the transit services operating in the city. These policies highlight the City's recognition that enabling people to substitute single occupancy vehicle trips for transit trips has the potential to convey multiple public benefits, including increased transportation options, reduced growth of traffic congestion, decreased air, water, and noise pollution, support for climate change emission reduction goals, and stimulation of the local economy.



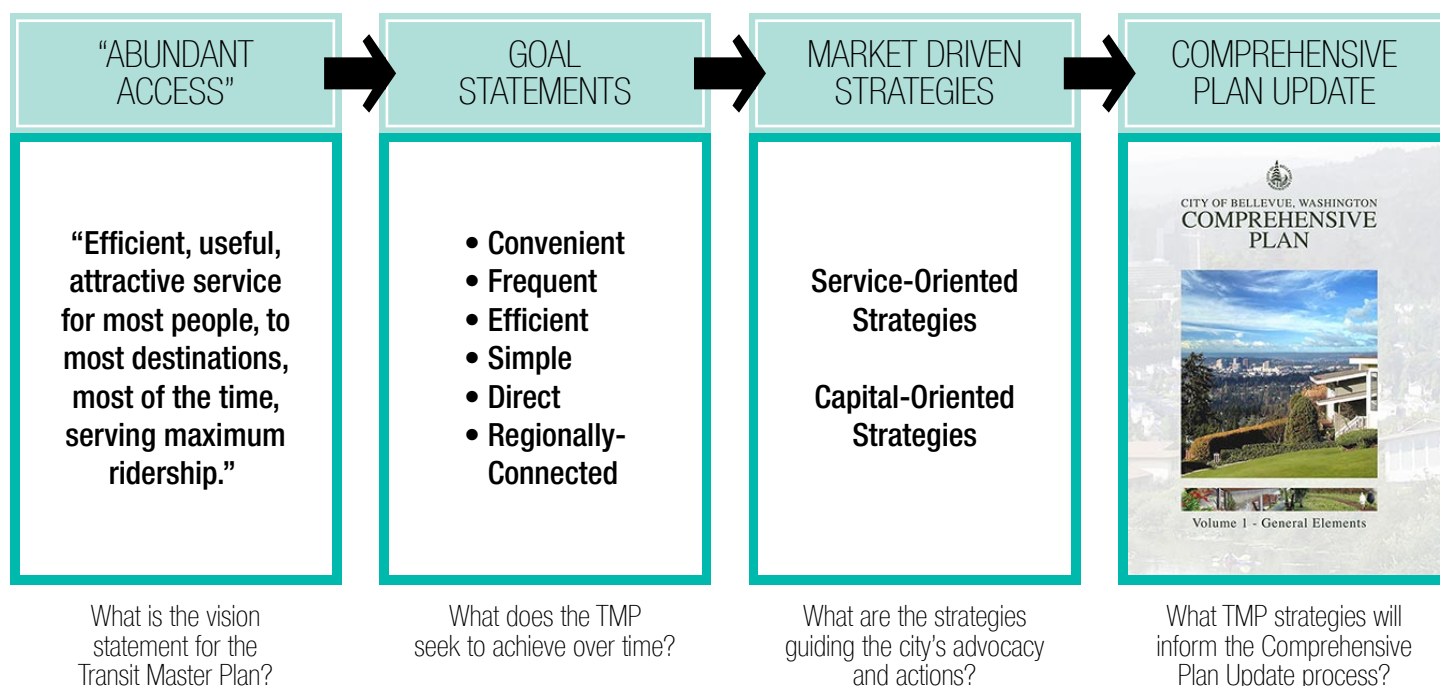
within walking distance of the network, as well as for its frequency and quality of service to improve as demand increases. In short: transit service in Bellevue should be designed to help more people reach more destinations in less time.

The Transit Master Plan vision statement arises from a consideration of competing transit service priorities. It is recognized that by moving toward one goal, the City is moving away from others that have some support, but these choices will lead to a network that provides abundant access and reflect the features of other successful urban transit systems in the United States and around the world. The following policy framework takes a fresh look at the current Comprehensive Plan policies, offering a new template based on extensive input from the community and board and commission members. In addition to shaping the development of the Transit Master Plan, the policies presented here will also help guide the updates being made to transit policies in Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan.

**Figure 64** Transit Master Plan Project Principles, approved by the Bellevue City Council, July 9, 2012.

1. Support planned growth and development in Bellevue with a bold transit vision that encourages long-term ridership growth.
2. Engage community stakeholders in setting the priorities for transit delivery.
3. Determine where and how transit investments can deliver the greatest degree of mobility and access possible for all populations.
4. Incorporate other transit-related efforts (both bus and light rail) underway in Bellevue and within the region.
5. Identify partnership opportunities to further extend transit service and infrastructure.
6. Develop measures of effectiveness to evaluate transit investments and to track plan progress.

**Figure 65** This graphic describes the structure of the Policy Element, with the “Abundant Access” vision statement and goals leading to Market-Driven Strategies that inform both the Service and Capital Visions and the Comprehensive Plan Update process.



# Vision Statement

*Support planned growth and development with a bold transit vision that provides efficient, useful, attractive service for most people, to most destinations, most of the time, serving maximum ridership.*

A number of important themes are embedded in this “Abundant Access” vision statement. First, the idea that the City should *“support planned growth and development with a bold transit vision”* emphasizes that Bellevue should plan, design, and build a community that increases transit’s appeal as the mode of choice for an increasing number of people who live, work, shop, and play in Bellevue. That transit service should be *“efficient, useful, attractive”* suggests it is meant to be useful to people in a wide range of situations, not just people who lack travel options. *“To most destinations, most of the time”* means that taking transit is not a niche activity only for commuters; rather, it is part of the overall urban framework and will be used by a broad range of people throughout the city. Finally, *“serving maximum ridership”* aligns Bellevue’s vision with the focus of King County Metro’s Service Guidelines on a transit system that results in high productivity (ridership per unit of cost).

## Goal Statements

Bellevue’s transit vision statement is supported by six overarching goals that articulate what the Bellevue Transit Master Plan seeks to achieve over time to meet this vision (see Figure 66). The City recognizes that achieving these goals necessitates making a series of choices among competing priorities.<sup>13</sup> After carefully evaluating these trade-offs, the TMP endorses the market driven strategies presented on the following pages as being in the best interest of the community.

<sup>13</sup> Refer to the *Market Driven Strategies Report* for details.

Figure 66 Transit Master Plan goal statements.



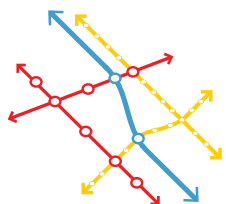
**CONVENIENT**, making it the logical choice for the largest possible share of trips.



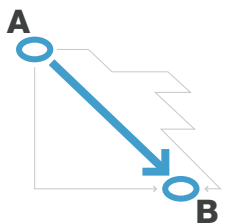
**FREQUENT**, to minimize waiting times and improve connections.



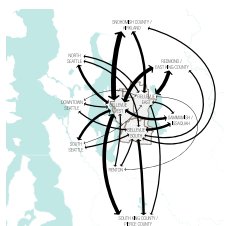
**EFFICIENT**, in terms of being designed for high ridership and cost-effective operations.



**SIMPLE**, with the fewest possible discrete lines, so that each can have the best possible frequency, speed, and duration without complicated redundancy.



**DIRECT** to major activity centers in Bellevue by minimizing the degree to which a route deviates from the shortest path between its start and end points.



**REGIONALLY CONNECTED**, with a complete network of regional links in all directions, with particular focus on abundant north-south service along I-405.

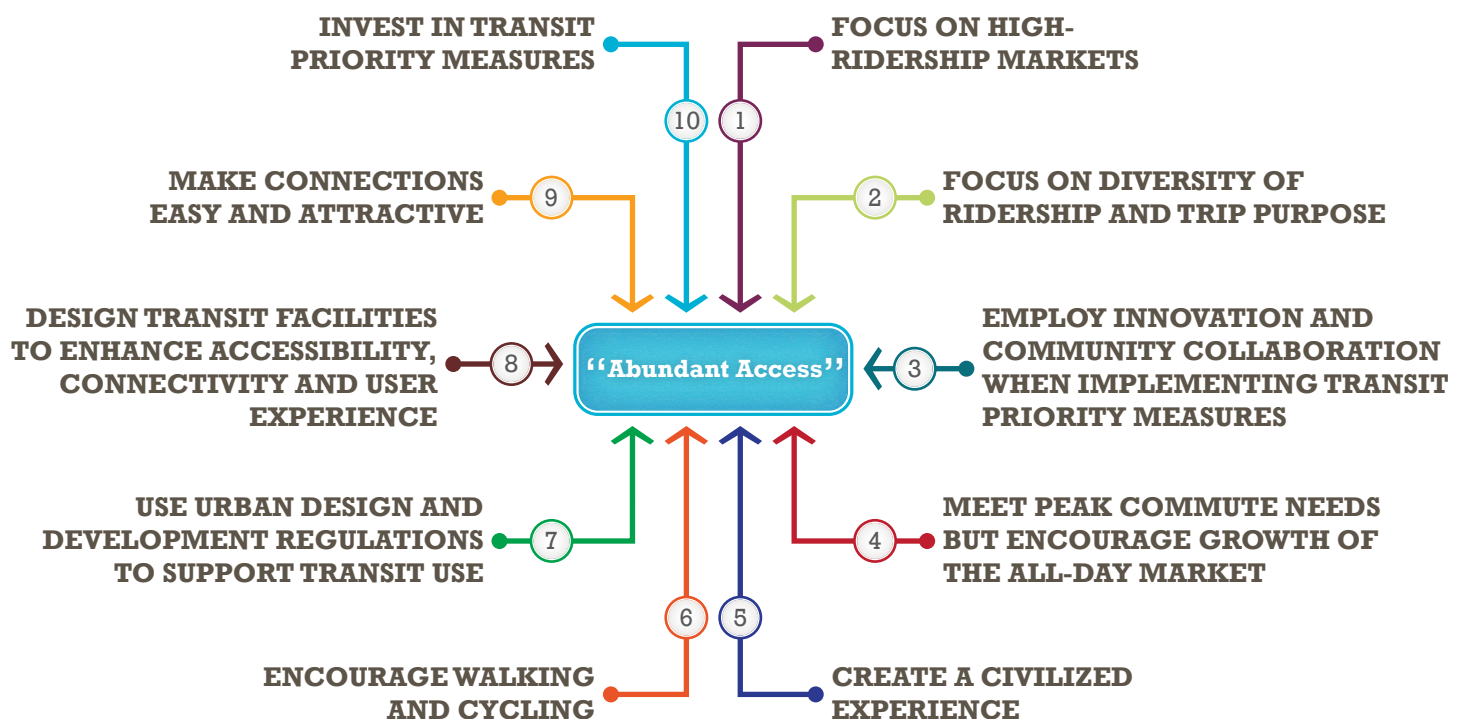
# Transit Strategies

Ten strategies guide the City’s actions toward realizing the “Abundant Access” vision statement. These strategies recognize that encouraging long-term ridership growth in Bellevue necessitates transit service enhancements that support existing and emerging travel patterns paired with the City’s commitment to a supportive land use environment, pedestrian and bicycle amenities, convenient and attractive service access facilities, and transit speed and reliability infrastructure. The result will be a more productive transit network that benefits both transit users and the transit agencies operating the service.

The desired end state of these market driven strategies is a Frequent Transit Network (FTN) where transit service and capital investments need to be focused to serve the most riders and provide the highest quality of service. The FTN supports Downtown growth, Bel-Red corridor redevelopment, and Bellevue’s other activity

centers with well-connected bus routes that seamlessly interface with East Link light rail. People traveling along FTN corridors can expect convenient, reliable, easy-to-use services that are frequent enough that they never need to refer to a schedule. The core characteristic of the FTN is that it provides all-day, frequent service, wherein the headway (the time between successive buses) of individual constituent routes is 8 minutes or better in peak hours, 10–12 minutes mid-day, and 15–30 minutes at night.

**Figure 67** Ten strategies guide the City’s actions toward realizing the “Abundant Access” vision statement.



# 1 Transit needs to maximize the return on investment on existing and anticipated public transportation projects by providing transit service where high ridership is anticipated, typically where there is some mix of higher residential or commercial density, major activity centers, and measures that discourage driving, such as limited parking.

Sometimes referred to as effectiveness, productivity is essentially the return-on-investment of a transit service. It is a measure of how much ridership a line attracts relative to the cost of providing the service. Today, two-thirds of transit patronage in Bellevue takes place in Downtown Bellevue, Factoria, Crossroads, and Eastgate—major activity centers for which traffic is managed and concurrency standards are established to help guide land development and transportation improvement decisions. As land use and travel patterns change, so does demand for transit. Looking to the future, the transit network should provide more frequent bus service to support: (1) population and employment growth in the rapidly developing areas of Downtown Bellevue and the Eastgate/I-90 corridor; (2) areas of redevelopment in the Bel-Red corridor that will require the introduction of completely new services; (3) the East Link light rail line that will require feeder bus connectivity to extend the reach of this transformational investment in public transportation. By making sure frequent bus service is directed to these productive activity centers, transit providers maximize the amount of service they can provide given limited funding. Thus, while coverage services should be provided to the extent possible within available resources, when trade-offs are required, places that foster more productive service should be prioritized.

**“I favor setting up high-ridership corridors for transit that serve high density areas.”**

– DALLAS EVANS, PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD

**“Some neighborhoods will always be difficult to serve... There is pressure on King County and Sound Transit to reduce unproductive service. To expect that service is going to grow in the short-term is unrealistic. For now we should maintain strong productivity on the transit service we have.”**

– KRIS LILJEBLAD, ARTS COMMISSION

**“There is a geographic coverage issue; that said, it’s not realistic to serve low-density single family areas with constant service. Until 2030, we’ll just keep getting denser around East Link nodes.... If parking is free, people will use it. If you don’t build the parking, and if you have good transit, people will use it.”**

– HAL FERRIS, BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION

## 2 Great transit networks arise from designing services that are useful to the broadest and most diverse possible spectrum of user groups and trip purposes.

For example, Route 240, which links Downtown Bellevue to Renton, is an example of a productive service (i.e., 22 boardings/platform hour and a cost/boarding of \$5.50) catering to workers, students, and other user groups. Given these diverse attributes, it is understandable why twelve more trips were added to this route in Spring 2012. This high performing route stands in stark contrast to Route 925, a former DART shuttle van operation serving Newport Hills, Newcastle, and Factoria. This highly specialized route lacked the appeal for a broad user group with diverse travel patterns. For this reason, in October 2011, Route 925 was eliminated due to poor performance (i.e., 1 boarding/platform hour and a cost/boarding of \$135). Except as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will resist designing specialized services for specialized user groups, and seek instead to design versatile services that many different people find useful for many kinds of trips.

## 3 Employ innovation and community collaboration when implementing transit priority measures along Frequent Transit Network corridors.

As the city grows in the future, decisions about how to use the city's streets in the most productive and efficient way possible will be an ongoing challenge. As such, the creation of transit-supportive communities necessitates staying current on changes in transit infrastructure design, speed and reliability tools, and facility types as they evolve. It is important to ensure that transit facilities are designed and built taking into consideration the overall characteristics of the street, the adjoining land use types, and other factors. This approach informs the project development process, from planning through design and finally construction.

**“With 19% of Bellevue residents being older adults and the numbers rapidly increasing in the coming years, the need for available, accessible and easy transit is vital. Transit provides active living such as entertainment, shopping, dining, doctor’s appointments, etc. for day, afternoon, and evening travel. Keeping seniors mobile will keep the money in Bellevue!”**

– HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

**“I would like to see more night time service on 234. If it existed I would use it to return home after shopping / dinner / drinks / a movie in Bellevue.”**

– JOHN, KIRKLAND RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“Make bus routes more accessible during the late evening. Most Bellevue bus routes end at around 10pm or 11pm. This makes it difficult for people to go to social gatherings in the late evening.”**

– JUAN, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“Bus priority of some kind is needed on NE 8th and on 148th where the bus has “pocket” pull-outs at some stops. No one will let the bus back into traffic. It’s a big loss of time for busses.”**

– PAT SHEFFELS, BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION

## 4 In addition to moving peak commuters, transit has an important role to play in improving the mobility of people who want to access family and friends, recreation, education, entertainment, health care, and the many activities that contribute to individual and community well-being.

This strategy speaks to the objective of developing a transit network that will appeal to many different people making a wide variety of trips. This means providing service at most hours of the day, in all directions. The existing network in Bellevue is not well designed to capture non-peak trips, as frequencies during the off-peak (with headways typically more than 15 minutes) are often insufficient. Increasing off-peak frequencies on services like Route 245 (that links Kirkland to Factoria via Overlake, Crossroads, Bellevue College, and Eastgate) has the potential to significantly improve the appeal of transit to a wide variety of trip purposes. In Fall 2011 Metro began operating 15-minute headways mid-day on Route 245. Today, this route is among the ten highest ridership routes operating in Bellevue and the most frequent Eastside route that serves neither the Bellevue Transit Center nor Seattle. Indeed, with the majority of its transit patronage occurring in the mid-day, Route 245 is an example of a route with consistent productivity all-day. The transit network should improve the all-day frequencies on routes like 245 that connect many major trip generators, since these destinations can justify better service along the entire corridor. Peak commuters, too, benefit from off-peak service, as today's complex jobs often require off-peak travel, and many people go to work without being sure exactly when they'll be able to come home.

**“I wish there were more evening/night buses.”**

– MICHAEL, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, FORMER TRANSIT USER

**“I need to get to work by 5:00 AM and no buses run early enough for me to get to work on time.”**

– MYRA, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, FORMER TRANSIT USER

**“The bus I use is only available during standard commuting times, and it would be better if it was offered later.”**

– LAURA, REDMOND RESIDENT AND CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“Transit in Bellevue primarily benefits the working commuter, especially those who work in downtown Bellevue.... Bellevue has changing demographics that need non-commute transit: more seniors, young singles that don't own cars, more minorities, more households without kids. These groups need short trip, more convenient, more predictable transit.”**

– PAT SHEFFELS, BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION

## **5 Transit should focus on creating an attractive product at an appropriate price point for the widest possible spectrum of the population.**

It is sometimes suggested that transit agencies should develop higher-quality services for high-end markets, possibly with lower crowding, particularly nice seating, and so on. Luxury services at high price points should generally be left to the private sector so that transit can focus on creating an attractive product at an appropriate price point for the widest possible spectrum of the population. The idea that everyone should have a seat during peak hours, for example, may be important for very long commutes but is not practical for shorter trips around Bellevue during busy times.

## **6 As the transit network moves towards attracting more patrons who take transit by choice, it will be increasingly important to factor in the pedestrian and bicycle experience as part of a more holistic ridership strategy so that transit can run more efficiently.**

The efficiency of the transit network is compromised when bus routes try to get too close to everyone's home. Integrating pedestrian and bicycle use with transit service is an effective means of attracting new riders by increasing the catchment areas of stations and stops. Since transit cannot provide universal door-to-door access, ensuring that stops are easily accessible to a large percentage of the public is important to enhancing ridership. Walking and bicycling are already the predominant methods by which people access transit; today only 16 percent of transit customers access public transportation at park-and-ride facilities in Bellevue. Transit's role is not to compete with walking or bicycling, but rather to compete with cars, so it must focus on faster services that are worth walking or bicycling to.

**“Streamline Metro routes such that there are minimal redundancies, like the RapidRide B Line has done. However, when reducing redundancies, please provide more frequent trips for the buses that run the route.”**

– JASON, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“Transit creates more active communities. People walk more (health benefits)... A good transportation system is fundamental to viability, the city will stagnate, and residents who want that will choose not to live here.”**

– HAL FERRIS, BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSION

**“A reliable transit system has sufficient frequency regardless of day of the week or time of day and is within walking distance from home.”**

– BARBARA, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“I would like for my children to start using a bus to get home from school, but there is no safe pedestrian connection from existing bus stops for them to be able to walk home alone.”**

– LANA, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, NON-TRANSIT USER

## 7 Use urban design and development regulations in Bellevue's major activity centers to support transit use.

While the transit system is designed to serve the City's land use vision it is also important that land use development provide for and encourage transit access and use. This strategy supports expanding transit-supportive urban design and development regulations beyond Downtown and the Bel-Red areas (where these tools are in place) to other major activity centers in Bellevue. This expansion should be coordinated internally with the Department of Planning and Community Development work and regional efforts being led by the Puget Sound Regional Council to develop model transit overlay ordinance language.

## 8 Design transit facilities to enhance accessibility, connectivity, and user experience.

The location and design of transit stops, centers, and park-and-ride facilities is an important factor in determining how far pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers must travel to reach transit services and the quality of the wait once they get there. These facilities are the most consistently visible image of a city's transit system. When stops, centers, and park-and-ride facilities are poorly designed, difficult to reach, or uncomfortable for users, it can negatively affect the image of a transit system and reduce opportunities for capturing choice ridership. When local governments partner with transit agencies—as is the case with work underway at the South Kirkland Park-and-Ride, a transit oriented development project that integrates housing within a transit hub—the transit facility environment will enhance connectivity between different modes of transportation and contribute to a positive community identity.

**“An important benefit of transit is that whenever a transit trip replaces a single auto trip it eases the congestion that hurts all businesses and all commuters. Bellevue could not reach its projected growth without transit. We can't just build roads to meet our growth.”**

– TOM TANAKA, BELLEVUE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**“Allow more commercial and residential density in nodes and corridors with true pedestrian orientation between buildings and transit stops.”**

– MIKE, KIRKLAND RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“For those of us who commute into downtown Seattle, it isn't very realistic to catch the bus from our neighborhoods and transfer. So we depend upon the park & rides. It is therefore crucial that adequate parking spaces be provided at the park & rides in order for Bellevue residents to use transit for commuting.”**

– SARAH, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“If the bus route came closer to where I live I wouldn't need to drive to the Park and Ride. So either the city should have a lot more Park and Ride spaces or have more bus routes in un-served parts of Bellevue.”**

– PAT, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER



## 9 The only way to efficiently serve multi-centered cities like Bellevue is with routes that are frequent and that make it easy to connect from one route to another at attractive and safe connection facilities.

A transit network is more than the sum of its parts. The usefulness of the network lies in the way all the parts work together, not just how they function individually. A single transit line may be useful for some trips, but it has more value when it is well-connected with all the other lines; a passenger can travel along one line but also to anywhere those connecting lines go. These improved connections contribute to greater coverage and more direct and shorter trips. The transit network should be managed to take into account how all the parts—Link light rail, RapidRide lines, and bus routes—work together to enable people to reach more destinations in less time.

## 10 Invest in transit priority measures along Frequent Transit Network corridors.

The development of transit requires investment. Prioritizing funding for long-term capital projects that improve transit speed, reliability, and capacity in FTN corridors will maximize transit efficiency. Since the adoption of the 2003 Transit Plan, hundreds of millions of dollars in projects have been completed in Bellevue in support of transit. The Transit Master Plan builds on the successes of the 2003 Transit Plan by positioning the City to leverage additional partnerships with regional transit agencies. To secure additional funding, the City may want to: (1) renew and seek new local funding sources to implement Transit Master Plan capital priorities; (2) work with partners to lobby for new transit funding mechanisms, such as tax increment financing, dedication of tolling revenues, and other locally- or regionally-based transit funding sources; (3) create partnerships and leverage private investment to help fund priority capital investments; (4) seek federal and state grants with other agencies.

**“In Paris and New York City, transit is how I did things. I didn’t know my way around, and in Paris couldn’t even speak the language, but I had my map so I could do it. If we had a bus system like that with a lot of easy transfers, I would use it.”**

– HOWARD KATZ, BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

**“When the East Link Light Rail is completed, sync bus schedule arrivals with train arrivals / departures so people can get off the bus and not have to wait any more than 5-10 minutes for the train and vice versa.”**

– TIMOTHY, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“The RapidRide B Line is impossibly slow once it gets close to downtown. That bus should have the right of way and traffic signal priority downtown because without it, cars cut it off in rush hour and it is much faster to walk.”**

– KRISTEN, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER

**“Increase HOV lanes for buses to use to get around rush hour traffic and prioritize signals to allow buses to move through congested areas faster.”**

– DARYL, BELLEVUE RESIDENT, CURRENT TRANSIT USER



PHOTO BY Guy de Gouville



SECTION 3:

# SERVICE ELEMENT



# SERVICE VISION

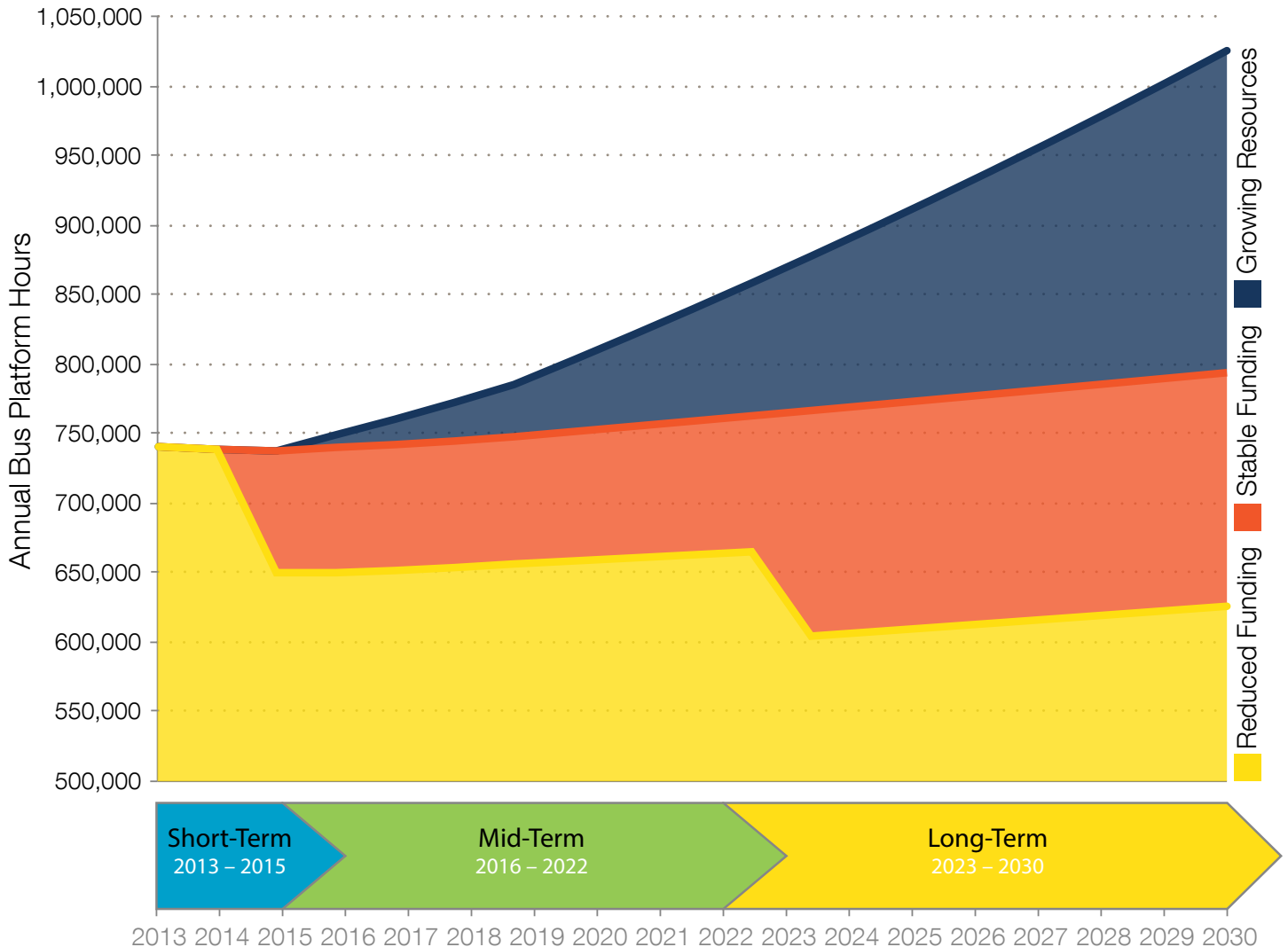
## CONTEXT

The service vision prepares for uncertainty by advancing a series of proposals to address the city's future transit needs and priorities, including route-level recommendations that are responsive to different financial scenarios (reduced, stable, and growing resources) and attune to different time horizons (short-, medium-, and long-term). The following paragraphs provide a synopsis of each scenario's intent. For additional details about their definition, refer to the *Funding Scenarios Report*.

### Metro Service Reductions

Twelve King County Metro routes currently operating in Bellevue are slated for deletion following the April 22, 2014 voter rejection of the King County Transportation District's proposal (Proposition 1) to fund transit and roads with an increased sales tax and an annual vehicle fee. Service reductions affect 27 of Bellevue's 33 Metro routes, accounting for approximately 35,000 daily weekday rides. Metro proposes to phase the reductions over the next four service changes starting in September 2014.

**Figure 69** Projected future bus service funding scenarios. With the defeat of Proposition 1 on April 22, 2014, the region is currently on the Reduced Funding trajectory.



## Time Horizons

Because of the many significant changes Bellevue will undergo in the coming years, including considerable growth, the emergence of new activity centers (e.g. Bel-Red), the start of East Link light rail operations, and the completion of other major regional transportation investments, it is important to consider both how transit will function when the system is fully operational in 2030 and the incremental steps that will need to be taken to bring that vision to fruition.

Planning for 2030 considers Bellevue's transit needs in the context of all of the developments noted above. Planning for 2022 addresses growth in demand through the final year in which buses constitute the only transit service operating in Bellevue. Finally, planning for 2015 considers what steps can be taken in the short-term to pursue the long-term vision in the context of uncertain transit funding and without the benefits of new infrastructure investments.

## Funding Scenarios

Since the elimination of the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) as a revenue source for local transit agencies in 1998, transit agencies have increasingly relied on unstable local sales tax revenue to support their operation, the only substantial source available. The vulnerability of this source of revenue to changing economic conditions makes it difficult to plan future transit services within reasonable fiscal constraints.

Because the state of transit funding cannot accurately be predicted for any given time, this plan considers three distinct funding scenarios for each time horizon to address the fullest range of potential outcomes. The proposals advanced by the TMP will therefore be more readily adaptable to changing circumstances over the course of the plan's twenty-year implementation period. As of April 2014, Bellevue is currently on the Reduced Funding trajectory.

### Short-Term: 2013–2015

*Planning for the next two years, including both minor adjustments that enable incremental steps toward the long-term service vision and potentially significant service reductions beginning in 2014.*

### Mid-Term: 2016–2022

*Includes planning for the impacts on traffic circulation and transit operations of the construction of East Link, SR-520, I-405, potential I-90 tolling, and land use developments in Bellevue.*

### Long-Term: 2023–2030

*Focuses on Bellevue's transit needs in the context of considerable growth, the emergence of new activity centers (e.g. Bel-Red), the start of East Link light rail operations, and completion of major regional transportation investments.*

### Reduced Funding:

*A financially-constrained outlook for the future of bus service in Bellevue, this scenario includes two one-time reductions in annual service. The first is a 17 percent decrease in Metro platform hours in 2014, consistent with Metro's projected funding shortfall absent new funding, followed by a 29 percent reduction in ST Express service in 2024, reflecting reallocation of resources from bus to East Link light rail.*

### Stable Funding:

*A continuation of the status quo with no significant reductions or expansions of bus platform hours. Annual increases of 0.5 percent are applied to account for schedule maintenance, and ST Express bus service is retained, albeit reconfigured, following the introduction of East Link light rail in 2023.*

### Growing Resources:

*The most significant departure from current transit operations in Bellevue. An growth rate of 2.25 percent is applied, reflecting the annual increment needed to reach PSRC projections that suggest a near doubling of demand for transit (and the resources expended to meet this demand) by 2040.*

## Cost Baseline

The budget constraint for each scenario, as defined in the *Funding Scenarios Report*, is based on the current universe of routes—both Metro and Sound Transit Express—that had at least one stop in the City of Bellevue in Spring 2012, which equates to 740,880 annual platform hours.<sup>14</sup> This budget includes extensive services that also operate in other cities, and should not be confused with any notion of “Bellevue’s share” of regional transit resources. The Bellevue Transit Master Plan does not intend to make strong recommendations about what the Kirkland and Redmond networks should look like. However, the three cities’ networks are highly interdependent and will eventually need to consist of a single design over the entire three-city area. At this stage, the appropriate position for a Bellevue TMP is to recommend a network that makes sense for Bellevue, that connects the three cities effectively, and that is broadly fair to all three cities in terms of resource distribution.

## Construction Mitigation

The service vision includes proposed network design scenarios for 2022, the year just before East Link opens. However, East Link construction impacts could not be studied in the context of this report, because Sound Transit was not yet able to provide sufficiently detailed and reliable descriptions of the likely impacts. Construction often requires temporary closures of important facilities such as connection points, park-and-rides, and travel lanes, the most serious of which are likely to be at the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride. These closures can impact transit’s speed, reliability, and general usefulness, and a mitigation plan is required to balance impacts between transit, motorists, bicycles, and pedestrians.

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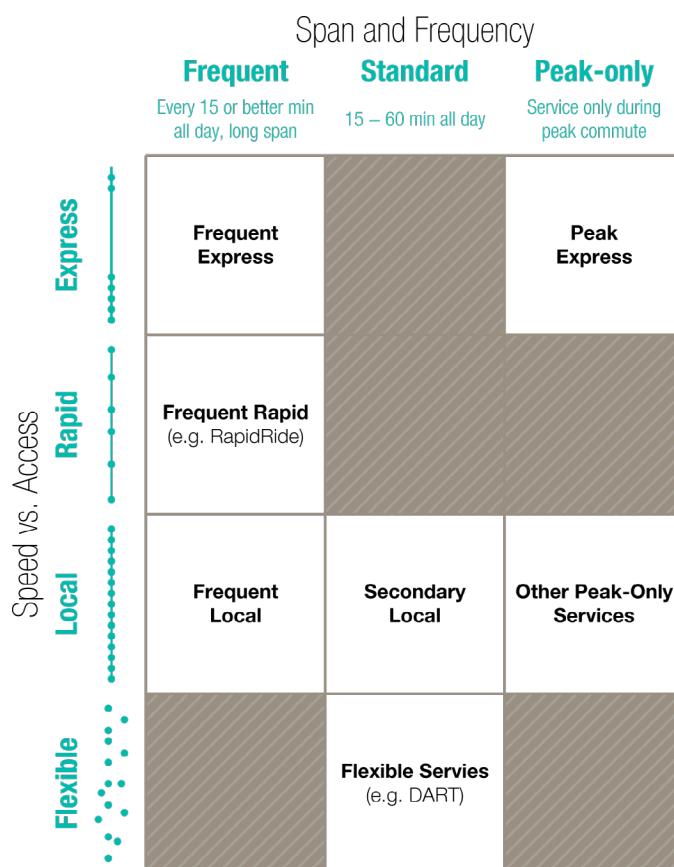
<sup>14</sup> Note that Routes 219 and 925 are excluded from the Spring 2012 Baseline Network. See the *Funding Scenarios Report* for details.

## Service Types

New service categories have been defined to more effectively communicate the distinctions between the service types included in these networks. The core idea used to define service categories is that transit’s usefulness is particularly tied to three features: frequency and span, the speed-access tradeoff, and reliability. Five of the categories depicted in Figure 70 appear in the proposed 2030 Growing Resources scenario.

- **Frequent Express** are similar to existing ST routes 550 (Bellevue-Seattle) and 545 (Redmond-Seattle). They run mainly on freeways and make widely spaced stops, with long non-stop segments along freeways. Average stop spacing exceeds 1 mile on freeway segments, and is kept around 1/2 mile when running on arterials unless there is a compelling need to stop more closely.
- **Frequent Rapid** is similar to RapidRide, running mostly on arterials with very high frequency. Stop spacing tends to be 1/4 to 1/2 mile, usually close enough to not require an underlying local service to stop more frequently, but wide enough to be notably faster and more reliable than a local.
- **Frequent Local** is standard local bus service at high frequency, with stops every 1/8 to 1/4 mile.

The above three categories are collectively called the Frequent Transit Network (FTN), which is the network of services most useful to most people. The two remaining service types are **Infrequent or Secondary Local** services, which serve the purpose of providing coverage where low ridership is expected, and **Peak Express**, which are expected to decline as a share of all services but will continue to be needed in corridors where a large surge in demand happens only during the peak commute.



**Figure 70** Types of transit service, as defined by frequency and span, the speed-access tradeoff, and service reliability.

## PROPOSED NETWORKS

Stemming from its consideration of multiple time horizons and funding scenarios, the service vision proposes a total of nine future transit networks. Figure 71 provides a matrix of the connection opportunities offered by each of the proposed future transit networks, as well as the service frequencies operated between each activity center in Bellevue and the surrounding region.

The 2030 Growing Resources network may be regarded as the ideal scenario, offering a comprehensive, well-connected grid network of very frequent all-day service, wide-reaching supplementary coverage service, and multi-modal integration wherein buses operate as frequently as East Link light rail to ensure short waiting times when transferring. All other scenarios are either incremental steps building toward that goal over time or a compromise attempting to provide the nearest approximation of that vision given constrained resources. Therefore, when comparing the three Growing Resources networks over the three time horizons, a clear progression toward greater connectivity and higher frequency can be identified with each subsequent phase. The same can generally be said for the progression of the Stable Funding networks, though the improvements are more incremental in nature. However, because the Reduced Funding scenario experiences a loss of resources with each subsequent period, the 2030 network represents a worst-case scenario in which all coverage service is eliminated in an effort to maintain some semblance of frequent service between major activity centers and coordination with the multi-billion dollar investment in regional light rail. This section presents each of the proposed future transit networks and briefly describes their defining characteristics.<sup>15,16</sup>

**Figure 71** (Opposite) These diagrams depict the connections and their associated frequencies offered by each of the nine proposed future transit networks.

<sup>15</sup> For more information, refer to the *Transit Service Vision Report*.

<sup>16</sup> Refer to Appendix 3 on page 108 for an overview of how the available resources of each of the 2030 scenarios are divided amongst the various service types in terms of annual platform hours and the percentage split.



2015 | Short-Term

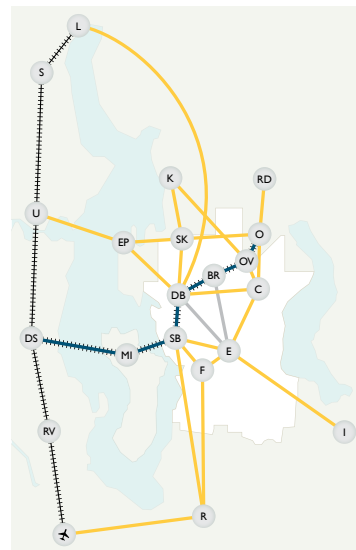
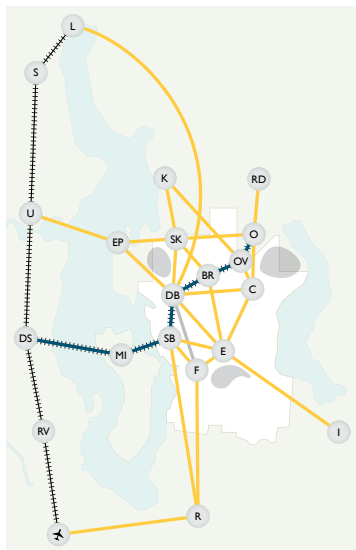
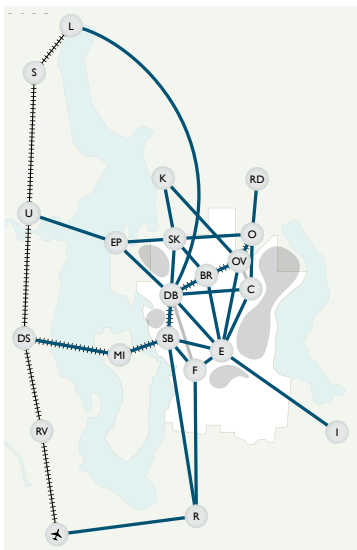
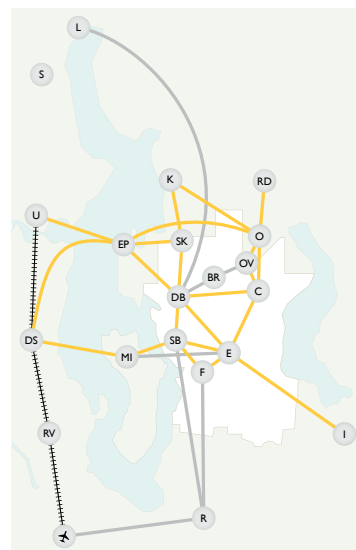
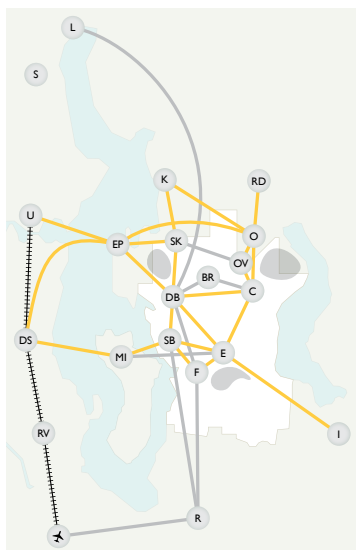
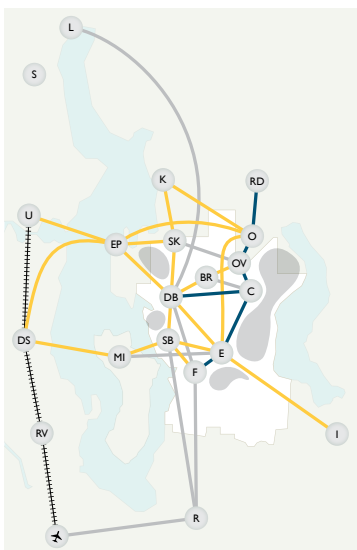
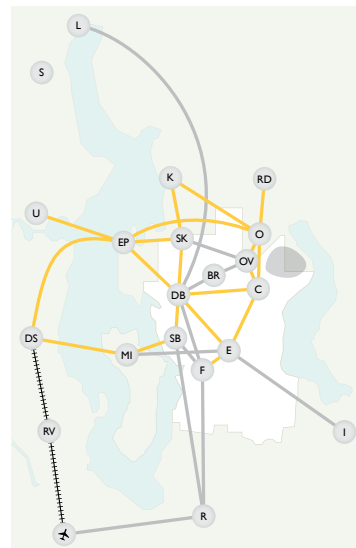
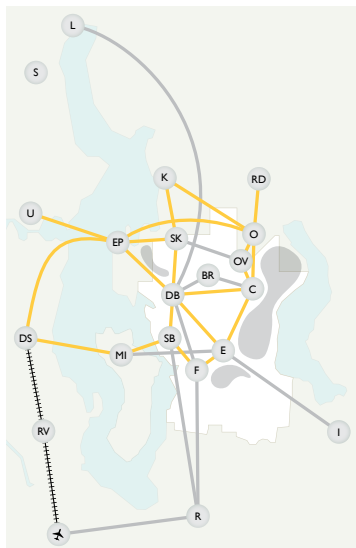
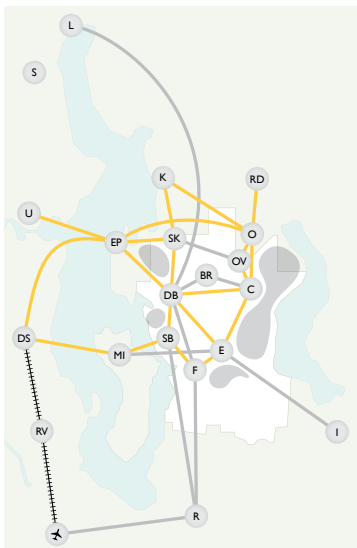
2022 | Mid-Term

2030 | Long-Term

Growing Resources

Stable Funding

Reduced Funding



2030

- BELLEVUE**
- BR** Bel-Red
- C** Crossroads
- DB** Downtown Bellevue
- E** Eastgate
- F** Factoria
- SB** South Bellevue Park & Ride

- REGION**
- DS** Downtown Seattle
- EP** Evergreen Point
- I** Issaquah Transit Center
- K** Kirkland Transit Center
- L** Lynnwood
- MI** Mercer Island
- O** Overlake Transit Center
- OV** Overlake Village

- R** Renton
- RD** Redmond Transit Center
- RV** Rainier Valley
- S** Shoreline
- SK** South Kirkland Park & Ride
- U** University District
- Sea Tac**

	Peak	Midday	Night	
<b>Very Frequent</b> (every train connection)	≤8	≤12	15-30	Note: numbers reflect approximate peak/midday/night frequencies.
<b>Frequent</b>	10-15	15	15-30	
<b>Infrequent</b>	30	15-30	30-60	+++++ <b>LRT</b>

## 2030 Service Vision

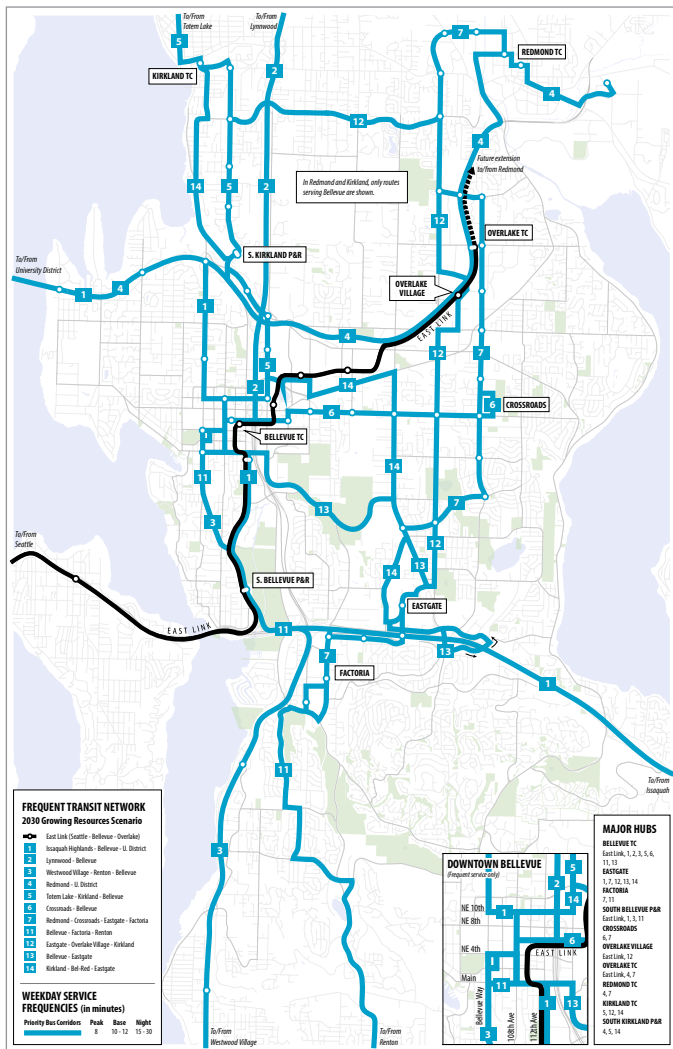
The three networks comprising the 2030 Service Vision represent the widest range of potential outcomes between the various funding scenarios. The Growing Resources scenario is the most optimistic considered by the TMP, while the Reduced Funding scenario is the most financially constrained of any of the nine networks proposed.

### 2030 Growing Resources

The 2030 Growing Resources scenario envisions a growth in total bus operating resources of 38 percent by 2030 from Spring 2012 service levels. The BKR travel demand model anticipates that transit demand will triple by this time, so even this growth in service—less than a doubling—will mean that average loads and average productivity (passenger boardings per hour of service) must also increase. This means that even in this most abundant scenario, it is important to focus on more efficient service deployment to ensure that there is adequate supply where demand is high.

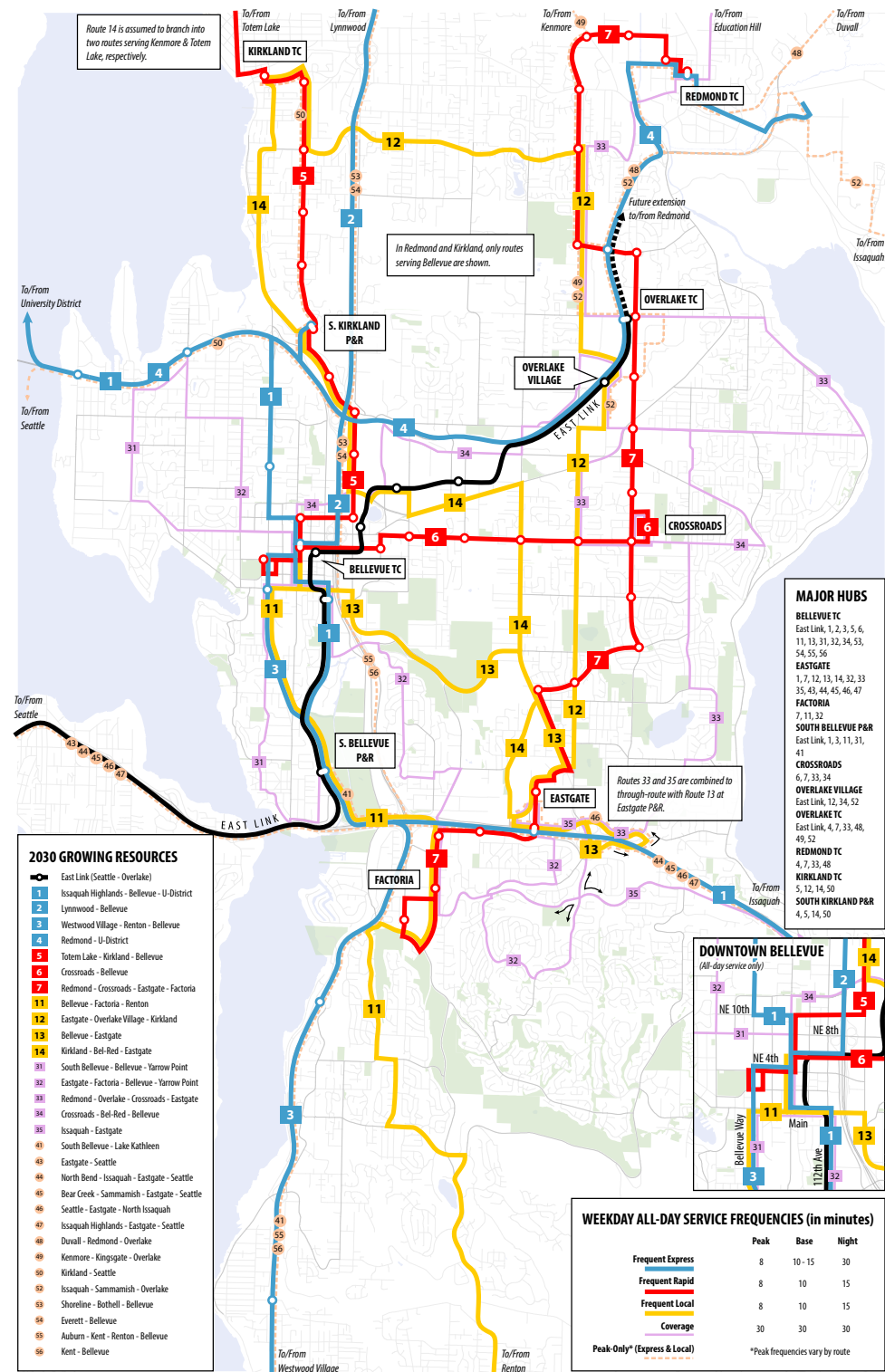
Buses will have to be larger and deployed with a priority to serving high demand corridors efficiently. This means that service duplication must be avoided, and as the network grows more frequent it will become more dependent on fast, reliable connections. The network will have to make maximum use of East Link’s high capacity by encouraging connections to Link rather than duplicating any part of it. The expectation of many commuters that they will have a single-seat ride from origin to destination will simply not be viable when this level of demand must be accommodated.

One notable improvement that is affordable only in the Growing Resources scenario is here referred to as “every-train connections,” provided by routes comprising the Frequent Transit Network (FTN) shown in Figure 72. East Link frequencies are expected to be every 8 minutes peak, every 10 minutes midday, and every 15 minutes in the evening. All Frequent Rapid and Frequent Local services will match this

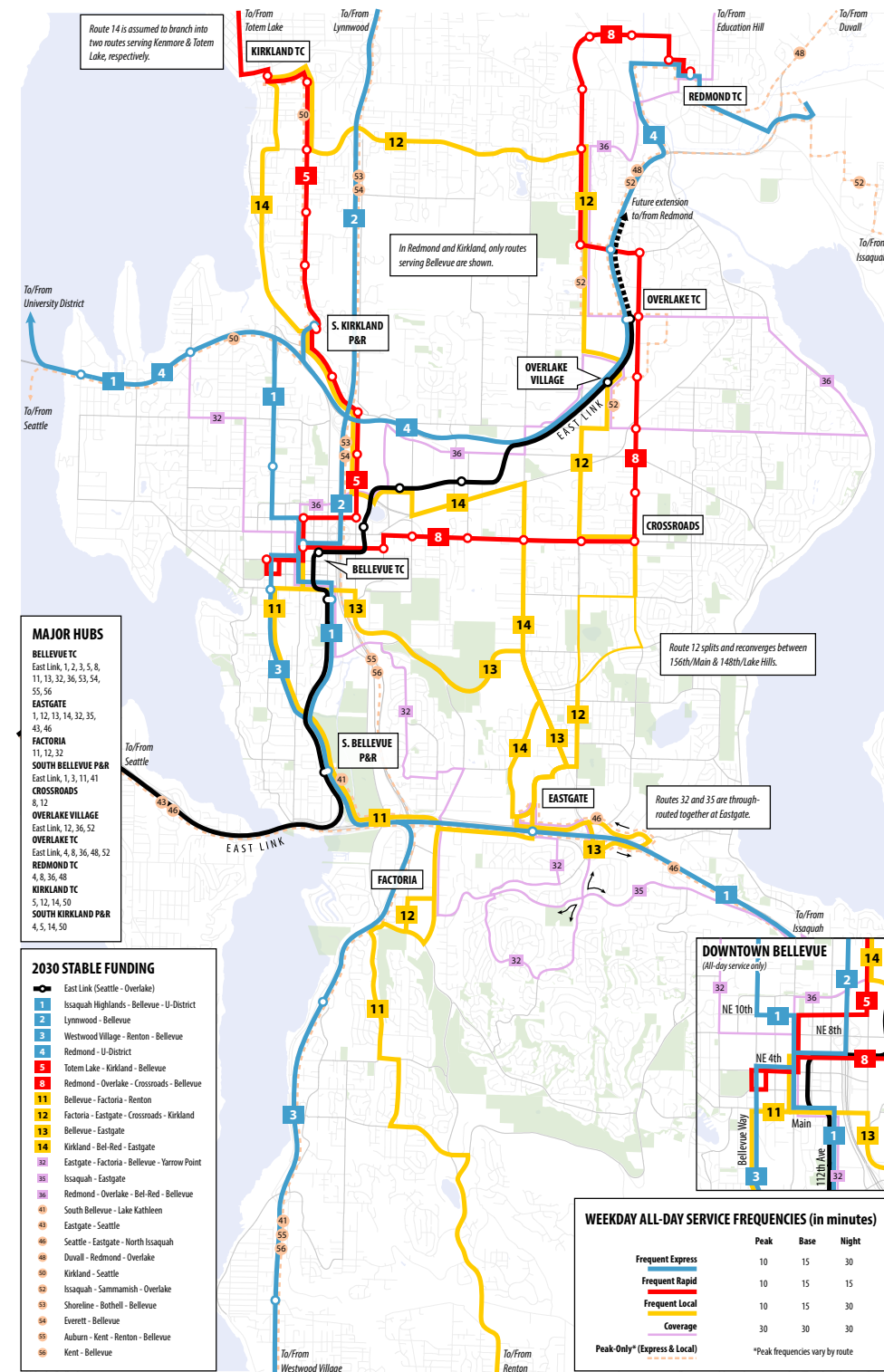


**Figure 72** The 2030 Frequent Transit Network (FTN), based on the Growing Resources Scenario, represents the core service vision being pursued by the Transit Master Plan.

### 2030 | Growing Resources



### 2030 | Stable Funding



### 2030 | Reduced Funding

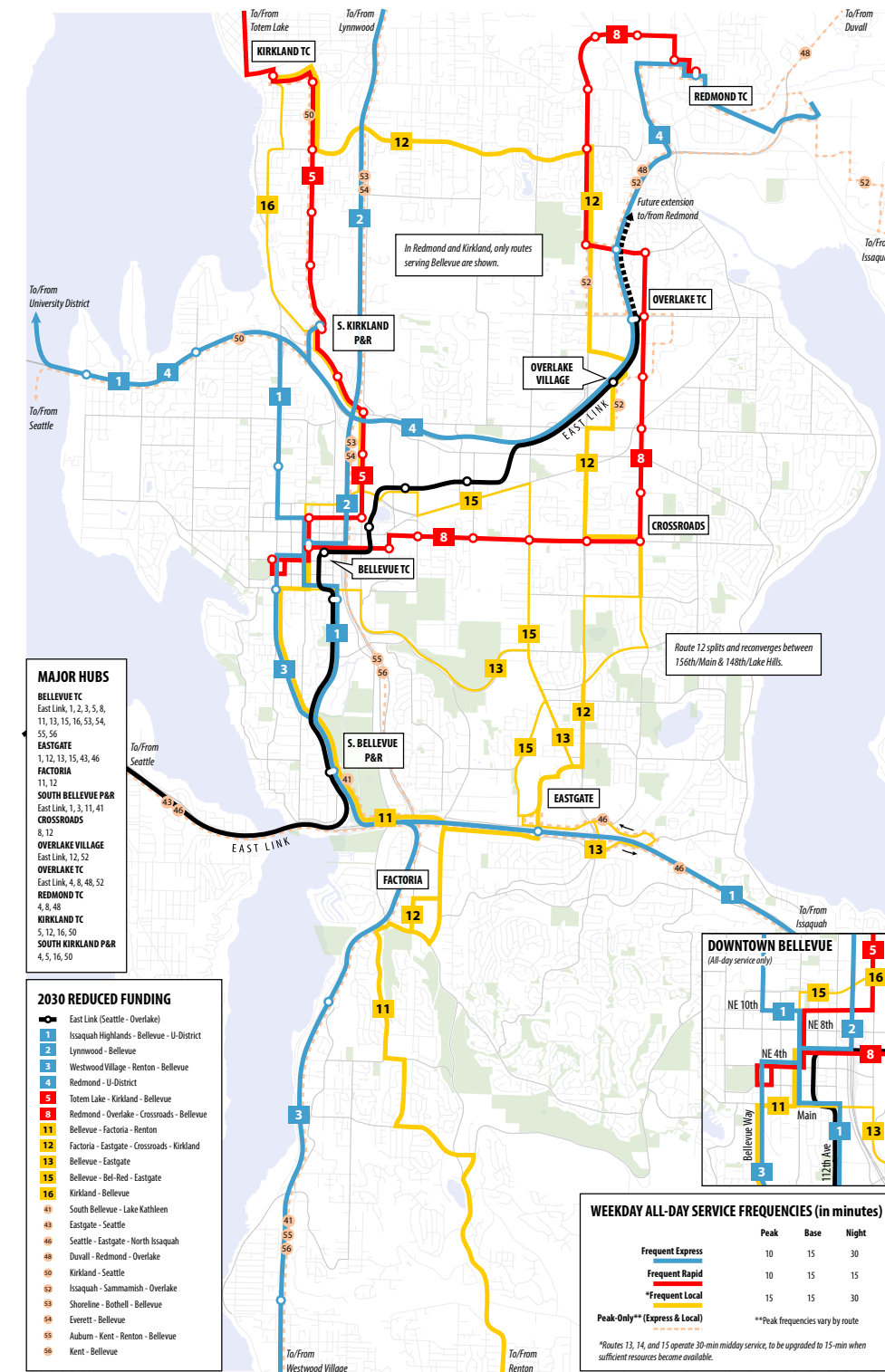


Figure 73 2030 Proposed Network Maps. Route-level details are available for each funding scenario in the *Transit Service Vision Report*.

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frequency during all times of the day, and Frequent Express services will match it during all times except in the evening. Thus, most FTN services throughout Bellevue will match East Link frequency so that every train trip has its own connecting bus trip. These may not always be waiting for the train, but they will come within a few minutes after each train arrives.

The need to support much higher demand has an impact on coverage services, where demand will be lowest and will grow most slowly. In the Growing Resources scenario, the current level of coverage deployed around Bellevue is assumed to remain. Coverage route frequencies are standardized at 30 minutes throughout the day and evening—much better than they currently offer. The coverage area is neither expanded nor reduced, despite low ridership on many of the coverage segments. The overall percentage of Bellevue residents and

jobs covered by transit improves by 2030, but not because coverage is expanded. Rather, this happens because the majority of new residents and jobs added to the city are located along the FTN.

Coverage services focus on low-density areas or areas with difficult street patterns where low ridership can be predicted regardless of the service provided. Coverage areas that are served typically have continuous but low-density development (entirely or almost entirely single-family) and often also have somewhat difficult but not impossible street patterns for transit. In the Growing Resources scenario, all of the existing coverage area is retained; however, some current routes are partly coverage and partly on the proposed FTN, so these are restructured so that they better complement the FTN without duplicating it.

Although the TMP envisions a greater emphasis on the core all-day network of transit services in



Bellevue, the accommodation of peak trips remains an important consideration in designing the long-term scenarios. To ensure that peak commute needs are being met, the peak networks assumed in the long-term scenarios are designed so that planned vehicle capacity in the cross-lake and I-405 corridors can accommodate any anticipated growth in future passenger loads. However, the robust Frequent Express network proposed for 2030, combined with East Link and North Link, changes the route structure of peak express services. Currently, these services often directly connect remote residential areas with large employment centers, creating many complex and overlapping route patterns. In the future, the much simpler Frequent Express and Link services will form a framework on which many of these trips can be routed. These trips may require a connection, unlike existing services, but very frequent FTN services will ensure short wait times, and this will allow for a much more efficient deployment of capacity and thus a higher-capacity and higher-ridership network overall.

One key focus is to ensure that if Link is useful for a portion of an existing peak express trip, that service is restructured to truncate at East Link or North Link so long as the total travel time is reasonable. This eliminates the need for direct services from the Eastside to Northgate or Ravenna and even some trips between the Eastside and Downtown Seattle on SR-520. As the most abundant scenario, the Growing Resources scenario is the most generous in retaining peak express services.

### **2030 Stable Funding**

The Stable Funding scenario presumes that service resources remain near the current level, growing only with a low level of inflation. In this scenario, the only moment when any significant growth in resources occurs comes with the opening of East Link in 2023, when the existing Route 550 is replaced by light rail and its resources can be reinvested elsewhere in the bus system. The Stable Resources scenario does

**Figure 74** (opposite) Transit services at the Eastgate Park-and-Ride and Eastgate Freeway Station in 2030 based on the Growing Resources network. Frequent connections are available to Bellevue College, Crossroads, Downtown Bellevue, Factoria, Issaquah, Overlake, Redmond, and Kirkland.

not mean “status quo” in any sense. In this scenario, Bellevue’s transit demand grows dramatically, yet resources do not increase accordingly to meet that growth. The only way to face this situation is to reduce the low-ridership Coverage services.

Coverage services are pared back to only those that serve higher concentrations of jobs or housing. An alternative approach would have been to retain all coverage routes but cut them to operate hourly at most times of day. This would have ensured very low ridership but retained the provision of lifeline access. The proposed Frequent Rapid service between Crossroads and Eastgate (Route 7) is deleted, leaving only Frequent Local Route 12 service along this segment. Frequencies operated by the FTN are reduced but remain at 15 minutes or better all-day, except in the evening. This is adequate capacity to handle projected crowding across the lake, but some overcrowding is likely even if high-capacity buses are used consistently. Finally, four low-performing peak-only routes are eliminated, including Routes 44, 45, 47, and 49, consistent with those identified by King County Metro in April 2013 as candidates for potential elimination.

### **2030 Reduced Funding**

In the Reduced Funding scenario for 2030, Bellevue’s overall transit demand more than doubles, but the resources available for bus service are 15 percent less than what they are today. East Link is added, but unlike in the higher resource scenarios, the bus service East Link replaces (primarily Route 550) is removed from the budgeted resources. In the context of a more than doubling of Bellevue’s transit demand, transit falls far behind the expectations of all cities in the region and severely disappoints most of its stakeholders. Transit inevitably competes less effectively with the car and loses market share, though some of this loss will be to walking, bicycling, car-sharing, and other non-SOV options. In this context, transit must narrow its focus to the highest-demand markets where the available resources can

achieve the most ridership—and thus the most regional mode shift—and those where there is no reasonable non-automobile alternative.

The FTN route structure is unchanged from the Stable Funding scenario, and Frequent Express and Frequent Rapid services are retained at the same frequencies. By contrast, the Frequent Local network—aimed at shorter trips that are more likely able to shift to walking or bicycling—must be cut substantially. Some of these (indicated by narrower lines on the map) will operate frequencies of only every 30 minutes midday, which are meant to be upgraded when sufficient resources become available. These markets, which make good use of transit’s high capacity and serve trips that are too long for most people to walk or bicycle, become the most important role a diminished transit system can serve in being relevant to the regional access and sustainability.

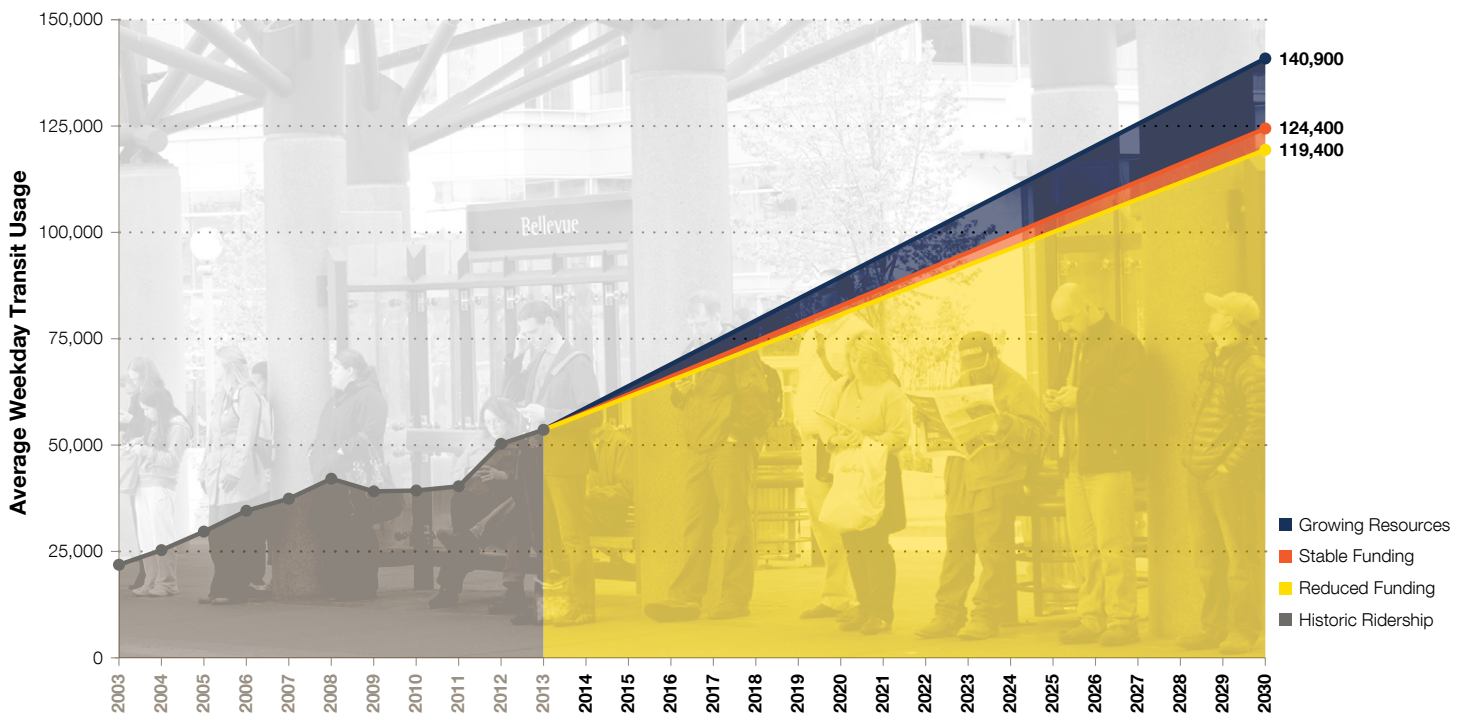
In such a financially starved scenario, Coverage services, which can expect consistently low ridership, must be eliminated entirely, as even operating hourly service would require too many resources to maintain these services without significantly affecting the FTN.

The urgency of meeting high-ridership needs and managing overcrowding would be the dominant regional transit concern, leaving no resources for low-ridership coverage areas. Because the Stable Funding scenario already reduces Peak Express services to the minimum amount deemed tolerable to ensure adequate capacity, no further cuts to these services are made in the Reduced Funding scenario.

### 2030 Projected Outcomes

Figure 75 shows how average daily ridership compares across the three 2030 scenarios and to the trend exhibited between 2003–2013. As indicated, ridership is projected to more than double regardless of which scenario is realized, but implementation of the Growing Resources scenario will result in a near-tripling of daily ridership. Because the lower-resource scenarios retain high-ridership FTN service to the extent possible, with most eliminations being targeted to lower-ridership Coverage and Peak services, the projected ridership is not impacted as significantly as it could be; however, the social service aspect of these networks is considerably reduced.

**Figure 75** Average daily ridership from Fall 2003–2030 in Bellevue, reflecting projected variation based on implementation of the Growing, Stable, and Reduced Funding scenarios.



## 2022 Service Vision

The three networks proposed for 2022 can be thought of as intermediary networks that are intended to move service in the direction of the long-term vision, anticipating the arrival of East Link light rail to the extent that available resources allow. Although the differences between the Growing Resources and Reduced Funding scenarios are less dramatic than in the 2030 networks, the implementation of these scenarios would have significantly different implications for the availability of transit service in Bellevue.

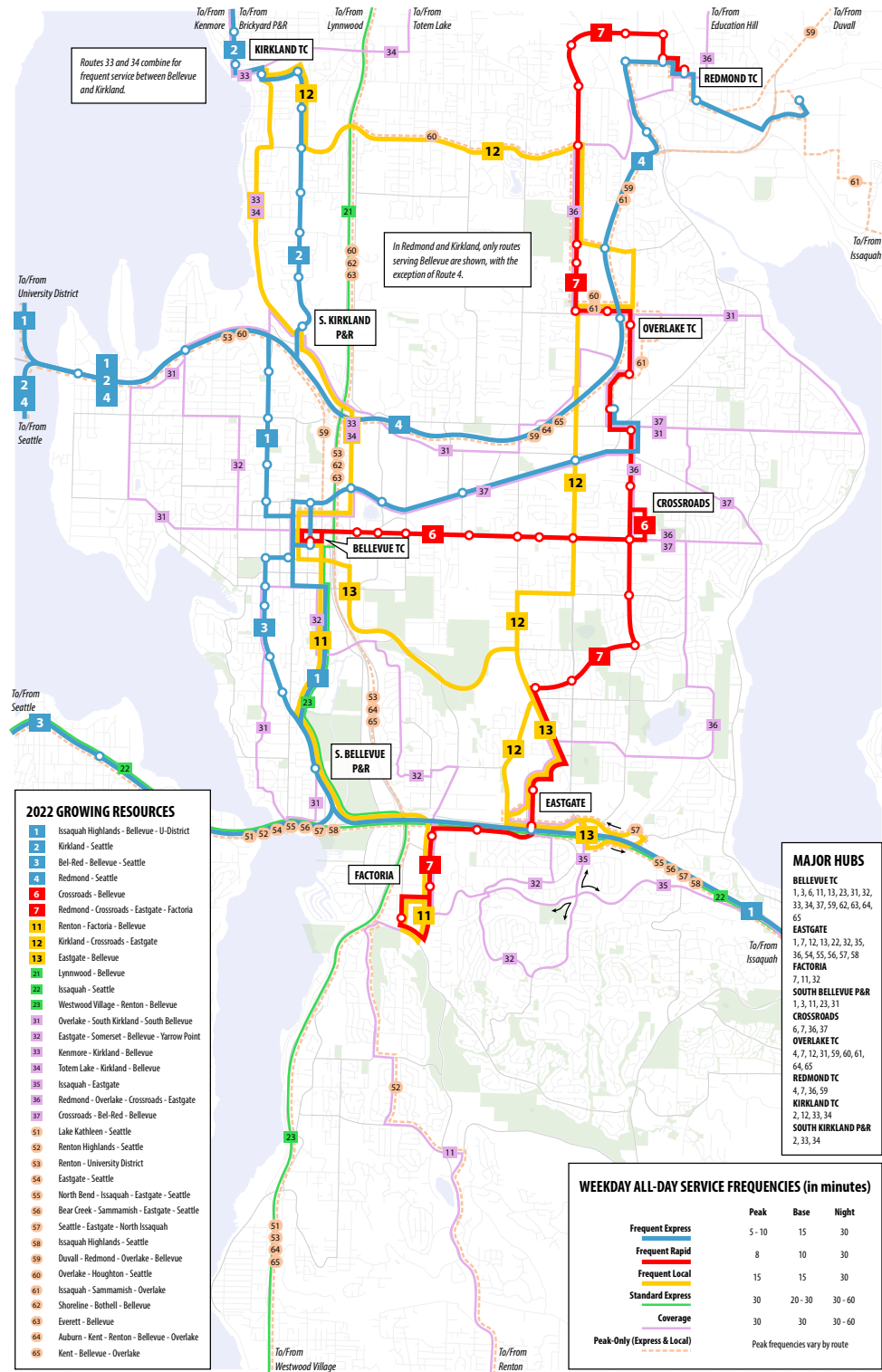
### 2022 Growing Resources

In the 2022 Growing Resources scenario, it is possible to implement many of the local and regional improvements envisioned in the 2030 Growing Resources scenario. This includes the development of a grid of high frequency service, composed . On the east side of Bellevue, separate north-south lines running at high frequency all day serve 148th Ave NE (Route 12) and 156th Ave NE (Route 7). Easy north-south travel on the east side of Bellevue means easier access to Bellevue and Redmond employers from growing areas to the south and from Issaquah. It also means easier access from these employers to Bellevue College, Eastgate employment areas, and Factoria. Coupled with these frequent north-south corridors in eastern Bellevue are frequent east-west services on Bel-Red Road (Route 1), NE 8th St (Route 6), and Lake Hills Connector (Route 13). The key feature of a high frequency grid is that travel is possible between any two points via a reasonably direct path, which allows the focus of transit to be on providing broadly useful service for a wide range of possible trips.

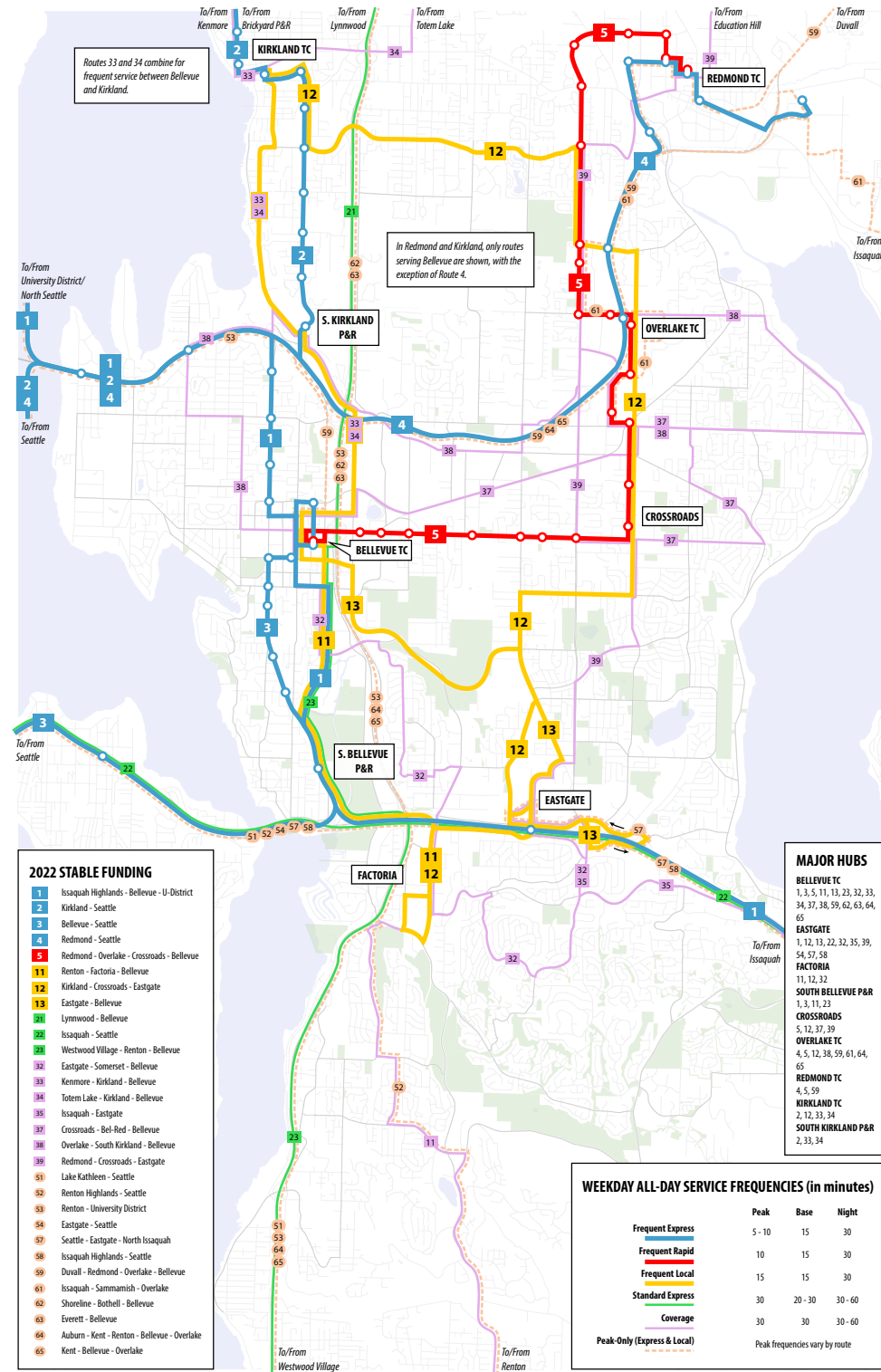
Another notable feature of the 2022 Growing Resources scenario is the extension of Frequent Express service to the future station areas in the Bel-Red corridor to Overlake Village to approximate the forthcoming East Link service. Existing Route 550,



### 2022 | Growing Resources



### 2022 | Stable Funding



### 2022 | Reduced Funding

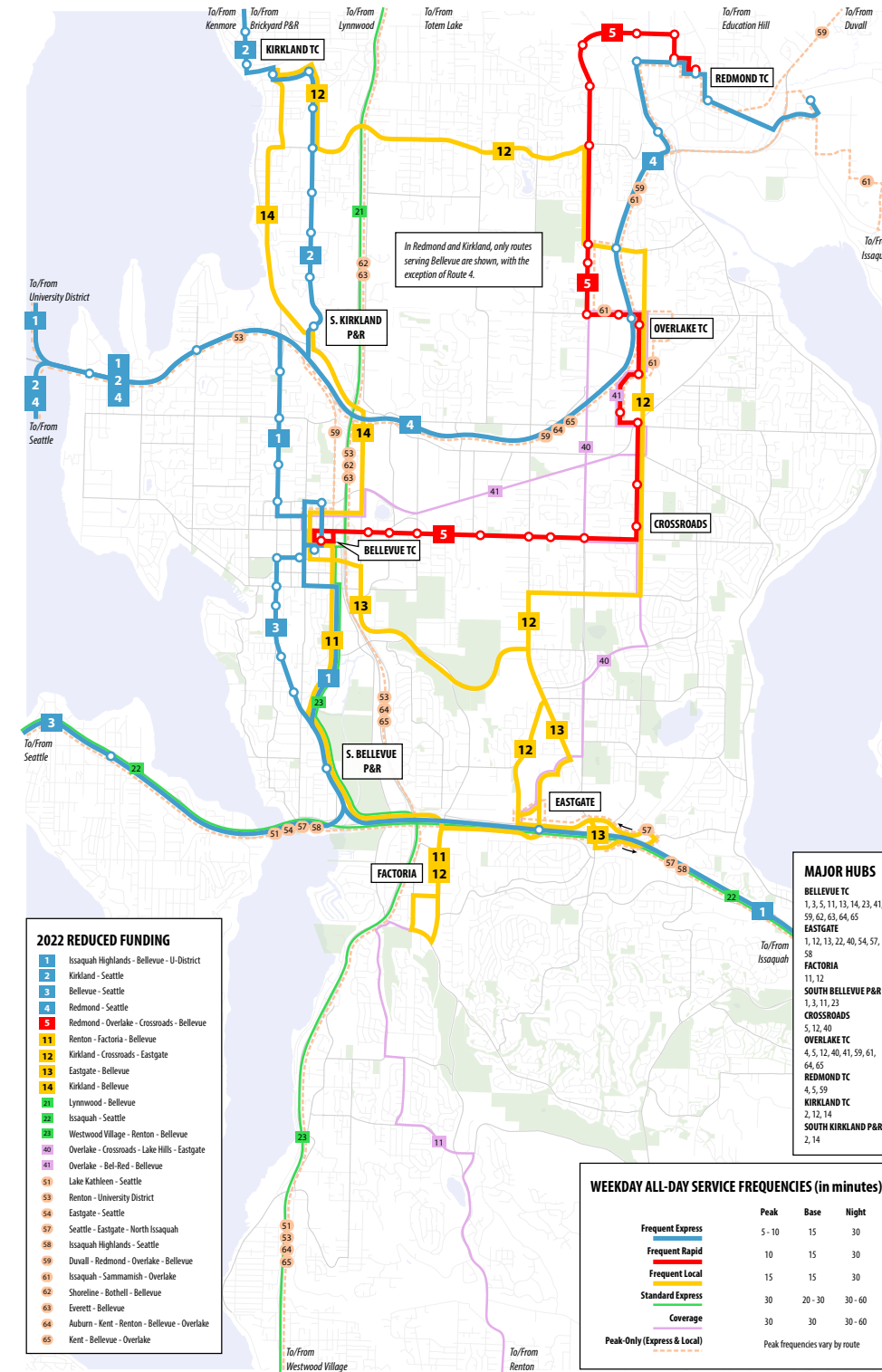


Figure 76 2022 Proposed Network Maps. Route-level details are available for each funding scenario in the Transit Service Vision Report.

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which currently ends in Downtown Bellevue, is here referred to as Route 3 and is extended eastward to Overlake Village via Bel-Red Road. This service could help form the basis for early wins in the redeveloping Bel-Red corridor by encouraging the development of transit-oriented employment prior to East Link's completion. Although this extension concept can only be afforded in the 2022 Growing Resources scenario, the possibility of a Bel-Red local improvement district—or other similar local revenue source—could be studied to help fund this temporary service

In the Growing Resources scenario, all areas currently served by transit would continue to be served by restructured Coverage services. Standard all-day express service, which would operate less frequently than Frequent Express services, is proposed along the north and south I-405 corridor and along I-90 between between Issaquah and Seattle. A generous Peak Express network is also retained in the Growing Resources scenario.

**2022 Stable Funding**

The 2022 Stable Funding scenario has only slightly more resources available than the current network, yet it must accommodate a growing demand for transit in Bellevue, particularly in the city's denser activity centers. As a result, coverage service must be reduced somewhat to ensure that adequate frequency can be retained where it will be heavily used and where the livability of transit-oriented development relies upon it. The following are some notable differences from the Growing scenario.

The Growing scenario's extension of existing Route 550 service into Bel-Red is not included in the Stable or Reduced Funding scenarios. However, as noted, the city may wish to consider other means of funding this temporary service if it is deemed important to the early redevelopment of the Bel-Red station areas. Frequent Rapid Route 7 connecting Redmond, Overlake, Crossroads, Eastgate and Factoria is also not affordable in the Stable Funding scenario, and is

replaced by a Frequent Local north-south line (Route 12), similar to existing Route 245. The Frequent Rapid network is thus limited to a single line (Route 5) that is identical to the existing RapidRide B Line. Additionally, it is not possible to provide frequent service with the available resources, so north-south access in east Bellevue and the high-frequency grid proposed in the Growing Resources scenario are not offered by the Stable or Reduced Funding scenarios.

Coverage service is reduced somewhat compared to that offered in the Growing Resources scenario, but the only areas that experience a total loss of coverage are the areas east of 156th Ave between I-90 and NE 8th St and portions of Clyde Hill and Medina along 84th Ave NE. Peak Express services are also trimmed, requiring some peak commuters to make connections while still ensuring adequate capacity for all regional and local commute trips.

## **2022 Reduced Funding**

The 2022 Reduced Funding scenario recommends how transit service should be allocated in a situation where limited resources require significant cuts at the same time that transit demand is growing and a larger share of Bellevue's economy relies on transit. In this dire situation, it is difficult to justify services that cannot generate high ridership and services that provide only marginal increases in convenience over other services that are also available. As a result, the cuts envisioned in the 2022 Reduced Funding scenario eliminate services devoted to covering low-density and no-growth areas. These are permanently low-ridership services, and retaining them in the face of so few resources would require cutting services that are much more important to the livability and economic competitiveness of Bellevue's growing dense areas. Peak express routes that duplicate other services are deleted, and while this will require connections for some riders, the urgent need in such an impoverished scenario is to retain regional mobility and adequate capacity.

## 2015 Service Vision

The 2015 Service Vision provides guidance for near-term actions that can begin moving Bellevue's transit network toward the long-term vision while remaining sensitive to the existing route structure and a desire to not alter it too radically too quickly. The Growing Resources and Stable Funding scenarios are almost identical because the resource expansion rate assumed under the Growing scenario has not had time to grow significantly by 2015, so the difference between these scenarios is only 1 percent.

The key issue distinguishing these two similar visions from the Reduced Funding scenario is whether or not a new source of operating funds is implemented to stabilize King County Metro's budget. Following the elimination of the MVET in 1998 and the recession in 2008–2009, King County Metro has encountered funding shortfalls on several occasions, which it has responded to by improving operational and administrative efficiency, raising fares, and other changes. Despite these efforts, the temporary Congestion Reduction Charge (CRC) implemented in 2012 will expire as scheduled in 2014, resulting in a 15.7% funding shortfall. In April 2014, King County voters rejected Proposition 1, which would have provided dedicated transportation funding to preserve current Metro service levels by levying a 0.1% sales and use tax and a \$60 vehicle fee, each for up to ten years.<sup>17</sup> Metro will therefore implement service reductions of 550,000 annual service hours system-wide between September 2014 to September 2015, so barring the implementation of a new source of funding in the coming months, Bellevue is currently on the trajectory of the Reduced Funding scenario. King County Metro's current proposed reductions are different in several areas from Bellevue's Reduced Funding scenario, so the City will work with Metro in an effort to reach a compromise reduction strategy.



**Figure 77** King County Metro Route 243 is one of twelve Bellevue routes slated for deletion following the April 22, 2014 rejection of King County Transportation District Proposition 1.

<sup>17</sup> Proposition 1 would have also established a low-income vehicle fee rebate of \$20 and provided funding for a low-income Metro transit fare.

### 2015 | Growing Resources

### 2015 | Stable Funding

### 2015 | Reduced Funding

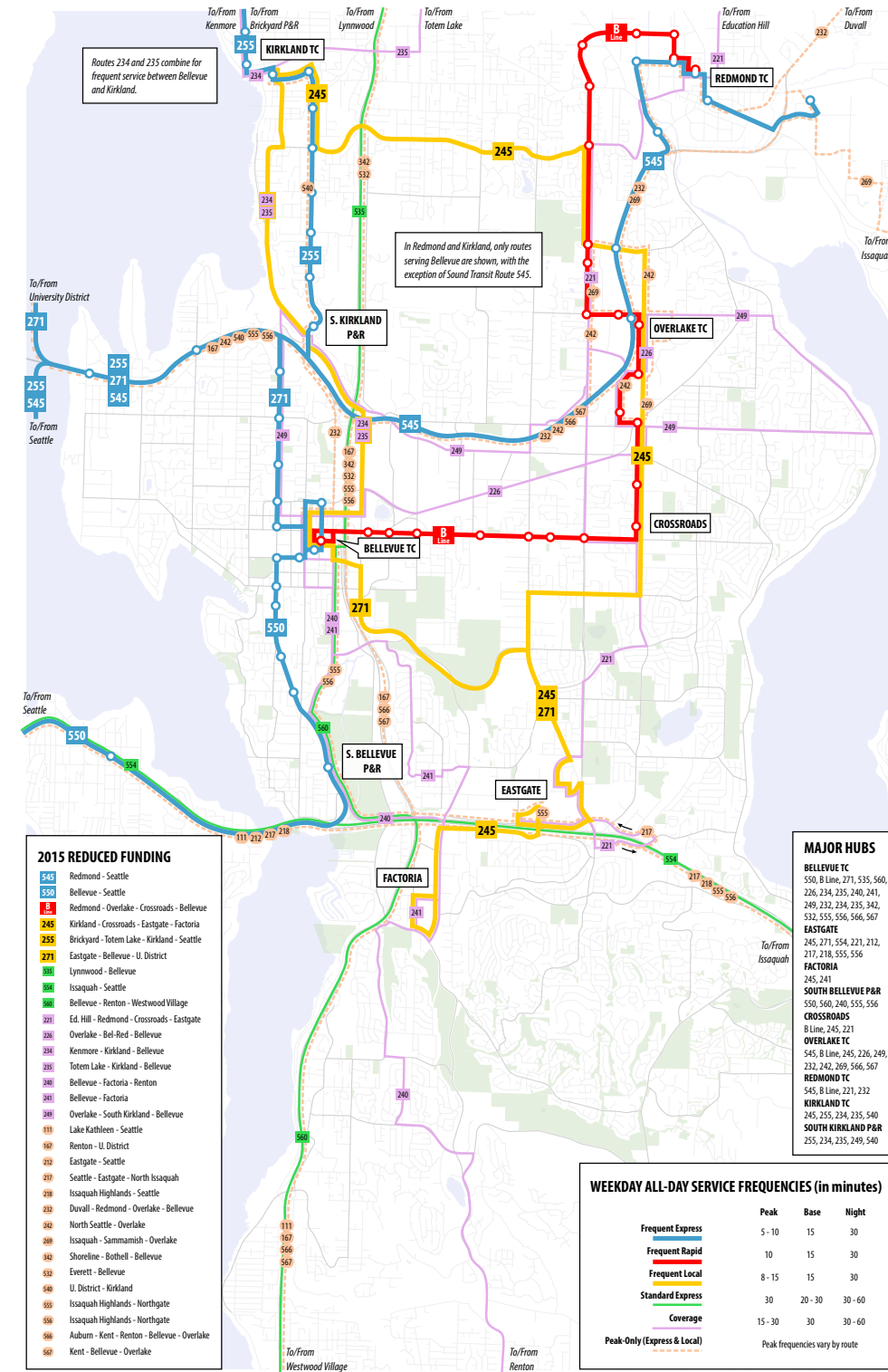
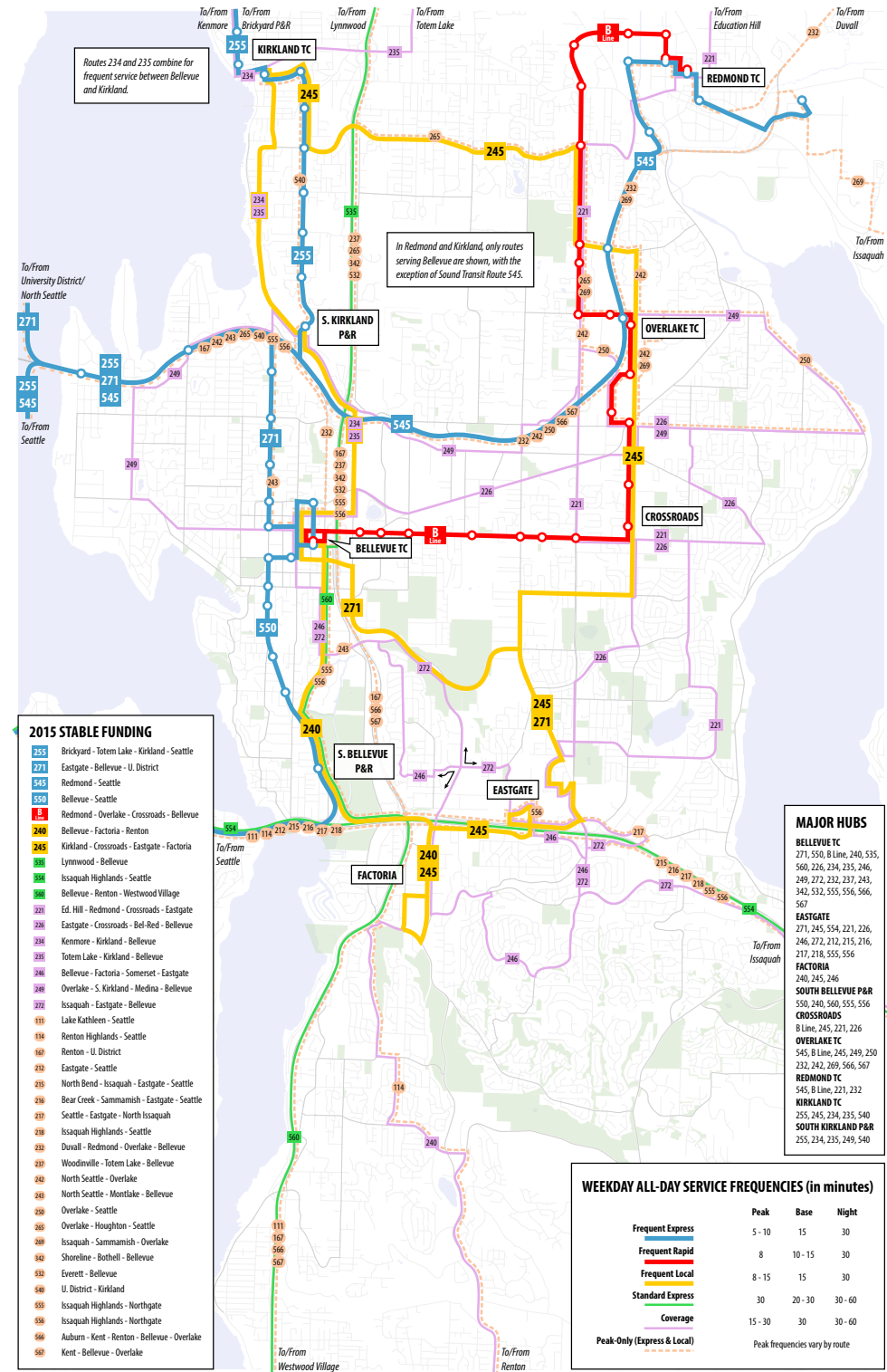
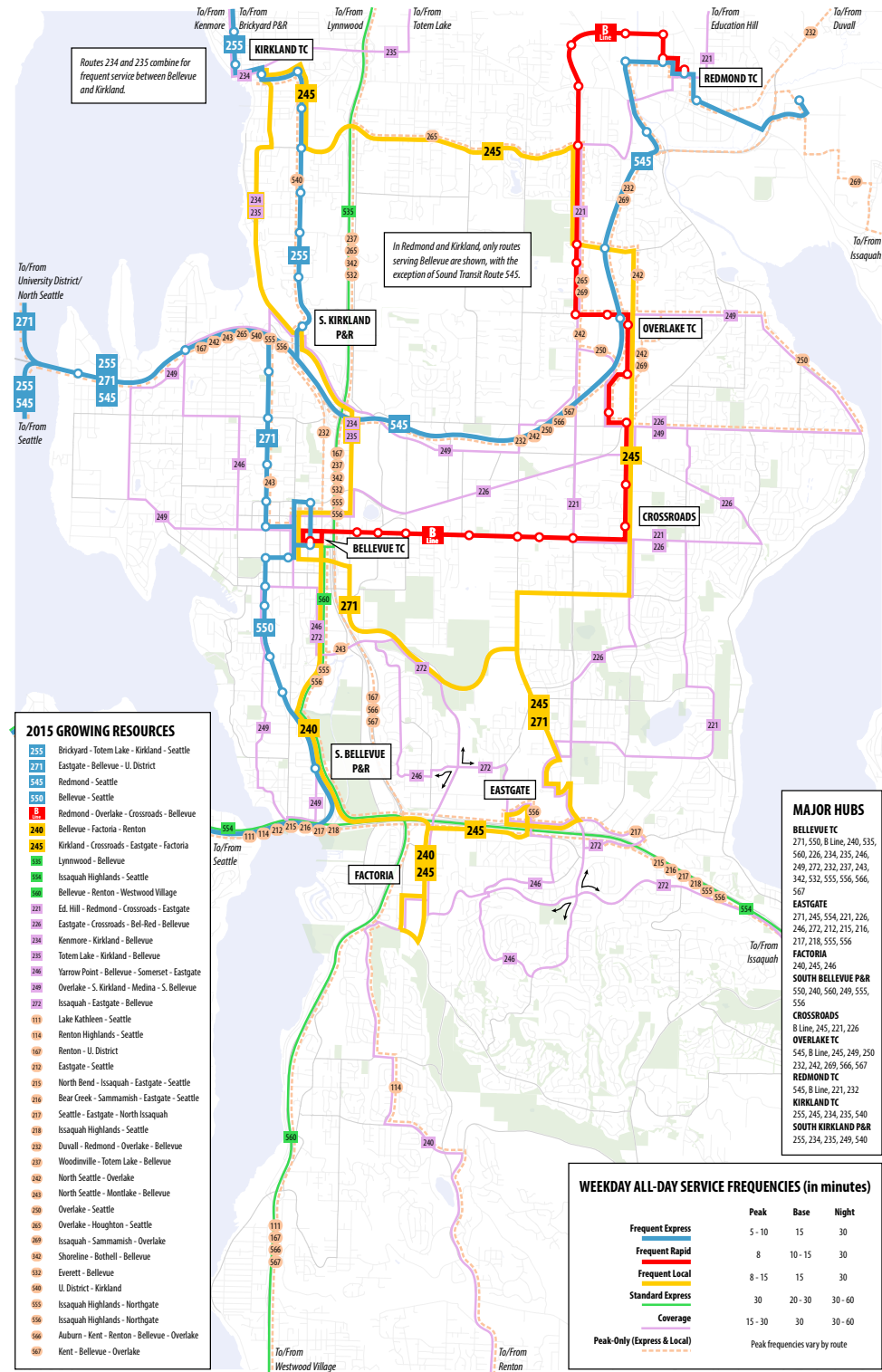


Figure 78 2015 Proposed Network Maps. Route-level details are available for each funding scenario in the Transit Service Vision Report.

Unfold for full-size map

### 2015 Growing Resources

In the 2015 Growing Resources scenario, existing service patterns are largely retained but some opportunities are taken to move the network toward a future in which frequent service connects all of Bellevue's major centers to each other and to the region. The 2015 Growing Resources scenario resembles existing service except for the following improvements.

The key missing link in Bellevue's frequent network is filled with the addition of frequent service between Downtown Bellevue and Factoria, provided by a revised Route 240. This service runs through South Bellevue so that it can also be used for all-day travel between Factoria and Seattle via a connection to Frequent Express 550 at South Bellevue Park-and-Ride. While the existing Route 240 serves Eastgate between Downtown Bellevue and Factoria, this deviation is eliminated in favor of less-circuitous routing. Easy connections to Eastgate and points farther northeast can be provided with timed transfers with Route 245 at Factoria.

Because SR-520 construction will move the Evergreen Point and Yarrow Point Freeway Stations to the center lanes, Route 271's routing is revised to access SR-520 via Bellevue Way NE, which allows for sufficient travel distance for buses to merge to the center lanes. Route 271 has been separated into two separate routes at Eastgate. Buses on the local infrequent routing from Issaquah proceed into Bellevue as Route 272 via the routing of existing Route 240. The loss of local service in Medina is mitigated by revising the segment of existing Route 249 between South Kirkland Park-and-Ride and Downtown Bellevue. It will replace the deleted Route 271 segment through Medina via SR-520, Yarrow Point, 84th Ave NE, NE 12th St, Lake Washington Blvd NE, NE 1st St, and NE 8th St.

Because of duplication and service overlap of existing Routes 241 and 246 in south Bellevue, both

routes are combined into a new Route 246, which is designed to provide service to all of the streets that are currently served. The northern terminus of the route in Clyde Hill is also extended farther north to the Yarrow Point Freeway Station, where connections can be made to frequent service on SR-520.

### **2015 Stable Funding**

As noted, this scenario is nearly identical to the Growing Resources scenario. The only differences from the Growing Resources scenario are in the extent of low-ridership coverage service provided. In the Stable Funding Scenario, low-ridership coverage in Enatai and on 100th Ave NW in northwest Bellevue is eliminated, and the simplification of routes through Somerset also reduces some coverage service there.

Both of these are minor reductions in coverage, because other services generally remain within a one-quarter mile walking distance and are never more than one-half mile away.

### **2015 Reduced Funding**

The Reduced Funding scenario envisions a 17 percent decrease in Metro operating resources, consistent with current projections absent a new source of funding. Sound Transit resources remain approximately constant, but the cumulative result is a substantial cut to transit service at a time when transit demand is rising. This scenario will be damaging to so many of the basic interests that transit serves that it requires extraordinarily difficult choices to be made.

In this scenario, the most urgent needs, based on the *Market Based Strategies*, are (i) not to damage long-term growing markets by cutting their service more than necessary because their demand is rising, and (ii) not to betray the promise of transit implied by the city's transit-oriented development, including all the major areas of intensification in the city. Bellevue is already encouraging high-density, mixed use development in certain key corridors. This kind of



**Figure 79** Following the April 22, 2014 voter rejection of the King County Transportation District Proposition 1, Metro is proposing to revise Route 271 off the Bellevue College campus on to 148th Ave NE. The proposal would impact general purpose traffic where buses will stop for transit passengers in-lane at frequent intervals along 148th—a major north-south arterial. For transit patrons, this proposal adds a half-mile walk from the 148th Ave bus stop to the campus, further exacerbating riders’ perceptions about the inconvenience of using transit. Furthermore, it would significantly limit access to campus among students and faculty with disabilities. Nearly a third of Bellevue College students ride transit as their primary mode of transportation.



**Figure 80** Unlike Route 271, King County Metro is retaining Route 245 service through the Bellevue College campus. Metro’s original service reduction proposal would have also shifted Route 245 to the periphery of the campus on to 148th Ave NE.

density requires frequent all-day service to be livable and functional, so cutting all-day frequencies that need to grow in the future undermines the livability and thus the viability of this growth. For this reason, it is recommended that all-day headways in high demand local and regional corridors—the future Frequent Transit Network—be protected.

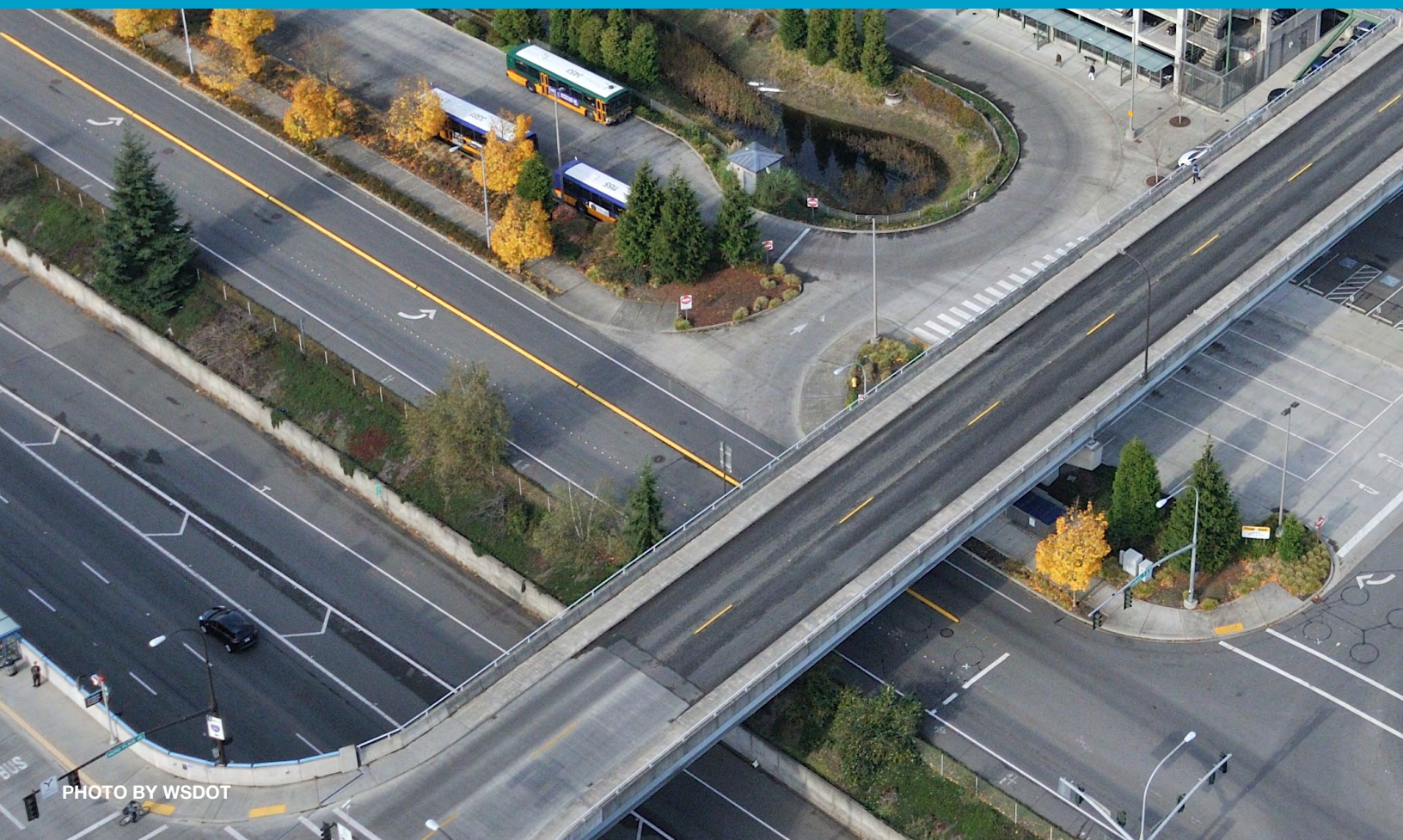
Instead, two types of cuts should be made relative to the existing system: (i) deleting peak-only routes that operate empty in the counter-flow direction, and (ii) deleting low-performing coverage routes. One-way peak express service is the most expensive kind of service for a transit agency to operate. Therefore, in a manner mostly consistent with Metro recommendations, this scenario eliminates secondary peak services so that peak resources can be devoted to simpler, frequent patterns focused on park-and-rides and transit connections rather than on driving around in lower-density neighborhoods. This scenario assumes that Metro and Sound Transit will continue to acquire and deploy higher capacity buses, but apart from this, the core assumption is that everyone is going to feel considerable pain from these cuts and that cuts to peak express service—because of its high operating cost—are an inevitable area of focus.

Permanently low-ridership coverage service, which exists for reasons other than ridership, must be trimmed in this scenario. Again, this is done where the alternative is to cut services on which the livability of dense mixed-use neighborhoods rely. While these cuts will be controversial and will involve significant impacts on small numbers of people, the alternative is to cut higher-ridership services that affect larger numbers. For this reason, coverage service is eliminated in this scenario in northwest Bellevue (west of Bellevue Way), Somerset, Enatai, and all areas east of 156th Avenue between NE 20th St and I-90. Local service is retained in areas that have somewhat stronger markets or are ‘on the way’ between major activity centers.



It is worth noting that in the Reduced scenarios of later years, coverage is cut much further. However, those years also have more restructuring that creates a more distinct separation between low-ridership coverage services and high-ridership services. The current network has many routes that mix these functions, making their service levels harder to set. Though to a lesser extent than later time horizons, the Growing and Stable scenarios in 2015 also improve the separation of functions. In future scenarios, where more restructuring is possible, stronger segments are assigned to FTN lines, allowing coverage elements to be more easily deleted in low-resource scenarios.

It is important to emphasize that the 2015 Reduced Funding scenario is a “share the pain” vision. Few people, if anyone, can be expected to like it. In transit, it is always impossible to share pain (or benefit) exactly equally. Some riders are simply much more expensive to serve than others, so when cutting service while trying to protect as much ridership as possible, cuts tend to fall more heavily on those more expensive-to-serve customers. Again, however, the balance of investments in ridership versus investments in low-ridership coverage is ultimately a value judgment. This scenario, like all the scenarios in this report, proposes a position on that decision based on the *Market Driven Strategies Report*, but other equally valid judgments could be made about the relative importance of coverage versus ridership goals.





SECTION 4  
**CAPITAL ELEMENT**



# CAPITAL VISION

## CONTEXT

The Capital Element seeks to address the variety of means through which the City can positively affect the operation and user experience of transit within Bellevue. While the City of Bellevue does not operate its own bus system, it must play a critical role in ensuring that high quality transit is available to keep Bellevue moving. Specifically, the City has the authority to:

- Manage street rights-of-way on which transit operates. By investing in state-of-the-art adaptive traffic signal systems with transit signal priority, Bellevue reduces transit vehicle delay, travel time, and the number of stops on city streets.
- Develop and manage sidewalks and bicycle facilities. By creating accessible communities that seamlessly integrate the pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks Bellevue increases the market demand for public transportation.
- Set land use policies. By creating vibrant concentrations of retail, office, service, residential, and recreational activity, Bellevue ensures that the greatest possible number of residents and employees have access to high quality transit.
- Use transit as a tool to support the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan. By adopting transit supportive policies, Bellevue has clarified its commitment to public transportation as part of a balanced strategy to improve mobility and meet sustainability and economic development goals.
- Advocate for Bellevue residents and businesses in regional forums. By working with residents and businesses to identify the City’s transit needs, Bellevue has been successful in identifying and attracting new transit investments.



**Figure 81** Transit signal priority helps to ensure that buses can move along a corridor with minimal delay incurred by red lights.

The Capital Vision addresses four topics based on the areas over which the City of Bellevue has influence on the attractiveness and performance of transit services locally. This includes influencing demand for transit by co-locating appropriate land uses to transit services, connecting pedestrians and bicyclists to the transit network, providing convenient, safe, and comfortable transit stops, and maintaining roadways, traffic signals, and other infrastructure that supports efficient and reliable operations. All aspects of the transit trip should be designed around the rider. These topics are organized in terms of both increasing specificity to transit operations and in the same order that they are experienced by transit users from the beginning of a transit trip. The following pages provide a brief review of each of the major issues addressed in each of the topics listed at right and shown in Figure 82 below. For additional information about each of these topics, refer to the Transit Capital Vision Report.

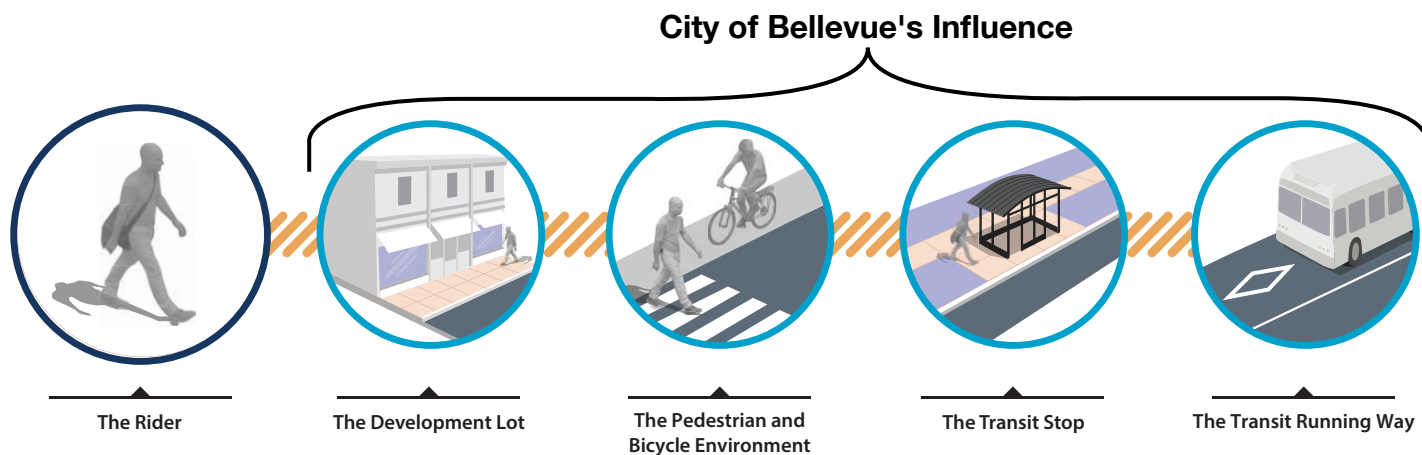
**The Development Lot** is where all transit trips begin. This section addresses the relationship between land use and transit services.

**The Pedestrian and Bicycle Environment** serves as the primary link between transit users' points of origin and transit services. More direct connections and hospitable facilities encourage greater use of transit.

**The Transit Stop** is the first point of contact between the passenger and the transit service. This is where pedestrians, bicyclists, and park-and-ride users transition from their mode of access to transit users.

**The Transit Running Way** encompasses the street rights-of-way on which transit services operate. While transit service providers define routes and schedules and operate the vehicles, the city builds and maintains roadway and traffic signal infrastructure, which significantly impact the speed and reliability of transit services.

**Figure 82** Areas related to transit capital facilities over which the City of Bellevue has influence.

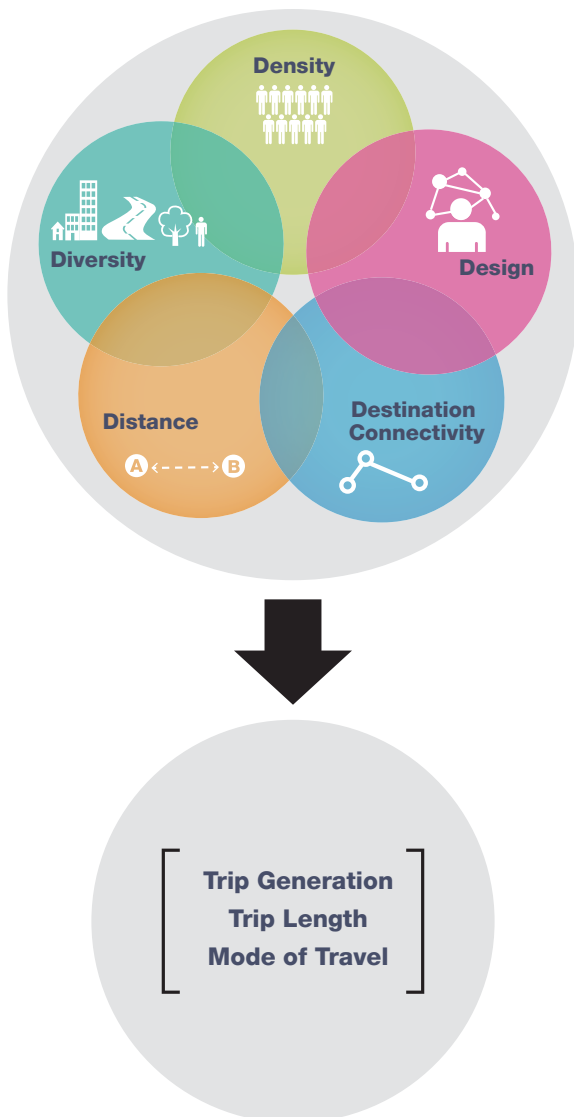


# THE DEVELOPMENT LOT

**"Better [integrate] land use and transportation, so that people have more choices in how they move around. This will require better pedestrian linkages for new and existing developments, and a density and mix of land uses that encourage walking and transit in appropriate locations."**

- Land Use Element, *City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan (2004: 35)*

**Figure 83** The "5 Ds" of the built environment that can encourage mode shift from single-occupant vehicles (SOVs) to alternatives like public transit.



The Five Ds of the built environment—*density*, land use *diversity*, pedestrian-oriented *design*, *destination* accessibility and connectivity, and *distance* to transit—are commonly cited as the built environment factors that can encourage mode shift from single-occupant vehicles (SOVs) to public transportation, walking, and bicycling. The development lot represents both the origin and destination of every transit trip and relates to the first three Ds. The development lot includes parcels of private property (e.g. housing, offices, commercial services) and public places (e.g. schools, community centers, parks). The density, diversity, and design of these places are influenced by the zoning and subdivision regulations designated in the Comprehensive Plan.

Bellevue is a city with substantial variety in land uses, development types, and urban form. Factors that differentiate development types include urban structure (the spatial layout of a city), density (in terms of residential and employment), and design (site configuration and the dimensions and design of elements in the public realm). All of these factors affect the performance of transit in a community. The city's diverse neighborhoods have developed over a period of many decades, each reflecting the prevailing trends and consumer preferences of their time. Residential areas range from low-density single-family subdivisions and equestrian lots to mid- and high-rise apartments and condominiums. Employment centers have developed in several parts of the city, ranging from auto-oriented retail and office park developments with large surface parking lots and building setbacks to the dense, mixed-use, increasingly walkable Downtown core.

Although the character of many areas will generally remain as they are today, particularly Bellevue's established single-family residential neighborhoods, other areas will realize significant changes in the

coming years. Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan—currently undergoing its decennial update—notes that a mix of employment and residential uses will continue to concentrate in Downtown, one of the major urban centers in King County. As the city center continues to grow, providing people with more transportation choices will be a key to realizing the viable, livable, memorable Downtown with a strong and diverse economy that the plan envisions. Additionally, the Bel-Red area, historically the city's warehouse and manufacturing district, is transitioning into an area of mid-rise mixed-use office, retail, and residential land uses, coinciding with the extension of Sound Transit's regional light rail network through the area.

While it is neither necessary nor recommended that all places look and function the same, it is important to recognize that some fundamental characteristics of urban form and site design increase the likelihood that an area will support access

**Figure 84** Bellevue is characterized by a wide variety of land use types, ranging from single-family residential neighborhoods to the dense, mixed-use Downtown core.



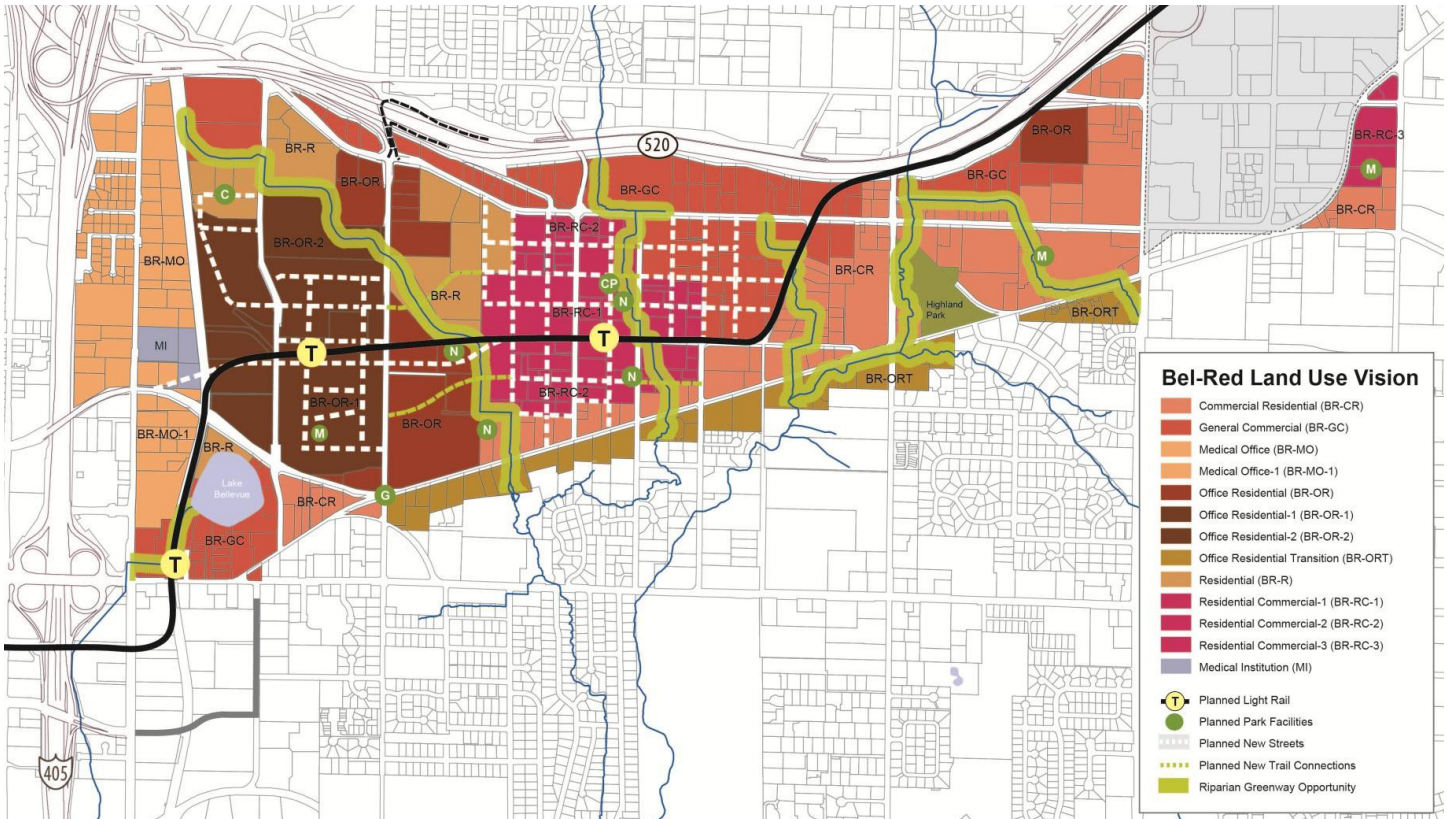
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to and the operation of transit. The Transit Master Plan “Abundant Access” vision statement aims to provide “efficient, useful, attractive service for the most people, to most destinations, most of the time, serving maximum ridership.” Thus, while coverage services will be provided to the extent possible with available resources, when trade-offs are required, places that foster productive service are prioritized. For additional information about the service-oriented strategies and future transit networks proposed by the Transit Master Plan, refer to the *Market-Driven Strategies Report* and *Transit Service Vision Report*.

Looking to the future, between 2010 and 2030 the City of Bellevue as a whole is expected to increase in population by over 28,000. Downtown is expected to accommodate about 45 percent of this projected growth, Bel-Red will accommodate almost another third of projected growth, and other mixed use areas about 16 percent. The number of jobs in Bellevue is expected to increase by over 54,000 between 2010 and 2030. Downtown Bellevue is projected to capture over half of these jobs, Bel-Red about 18

**Figure 85** Artist rendering of the future Bel-Red area—a transit-oriented, mixed-use neighborhood following the introduction of East Link light rail in 2023.

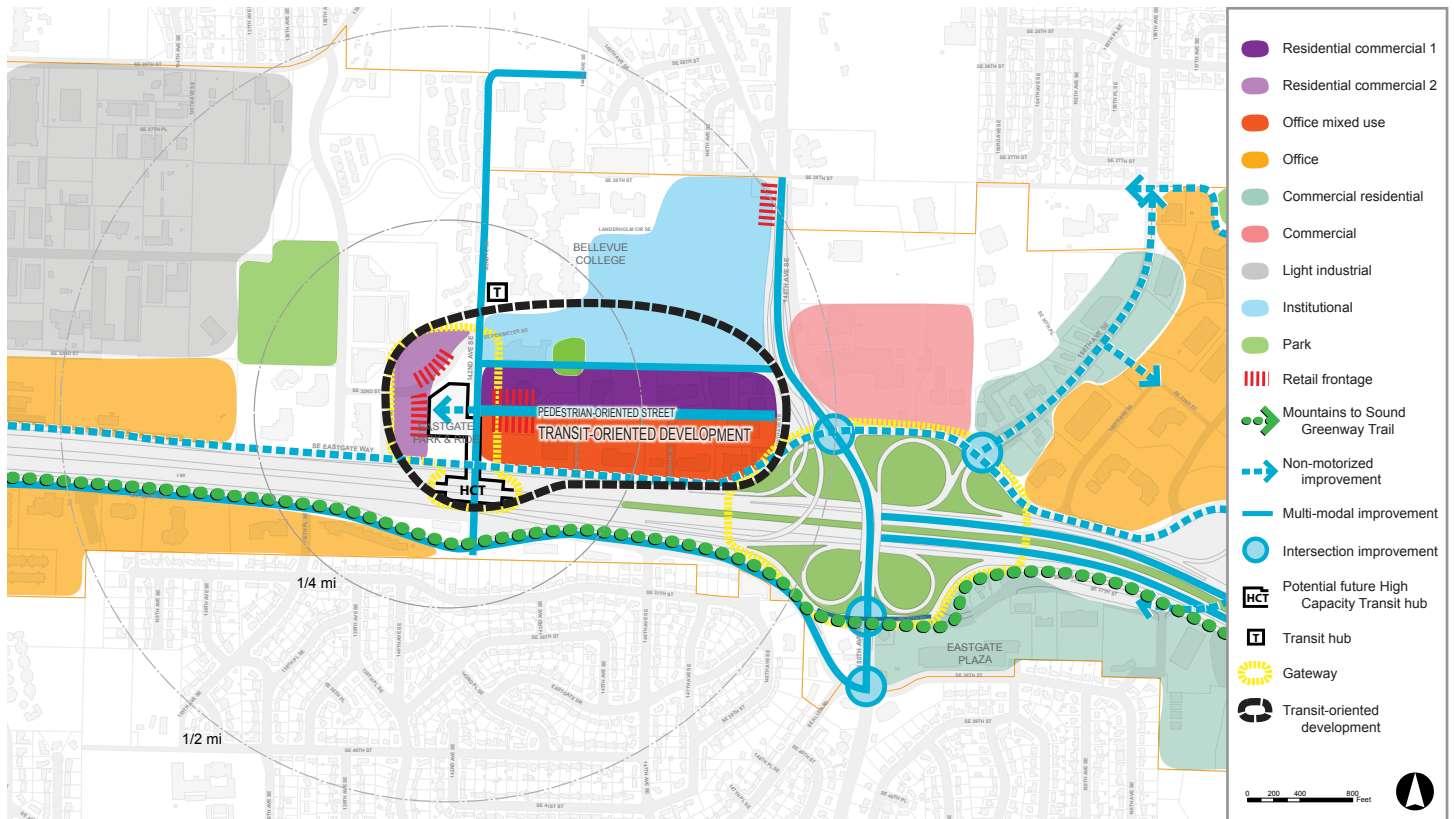




percent, and Eastgate almost 14 percent. Other commercial and industrial lands in the city will capture the remaining 12 percent of projected job growth. Focusing growth and development around these major transit stops allows more people to live near transit services, and makes more destinations accessible by transit.

To support this growth, it will be critical to integrate the provision of enhanced transit supply with a supportive land use mix, together with enhanced transit passenger and walking amenities, as well as transit supportive infrastructure. There are a number of promising trends that suggest the continued improvement of transit as a viable mobility option for Bellevue residents.

**Figure 86** The Bellevue College Connection Multimodal Transportation Corridor (Project L27) will contribute to the integration of a balanced transportation system in Eastgate that emphasizes transit and non-motorized connectivity with Bellevue College and a cluster of mixed-use residential, retail, and office buildings around a new pedestrian-friendly “main street” envisioned east of the park-and-ride, creating a vibrant urban neighborhood where people can live, work, shop, learn, and recreate. The map below is an excerpt from the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Report.



# THE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ENVIRONMENT

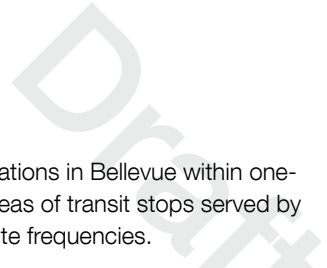
A transit system involves the superimposition of two networks: the access network, used by people to reach the system, and the service network provided by bus operators, with the bus stop serving as the point of connection between the two. All transit users are pedestrians for some part of their trip, so the provision of an accessible pedestrian network is an essential component of a useful transit system. If potential transit users are unable to reach a bus stop easily, quickly, and reasonably directly, they are more likely to consider alternative travel modes if any are available to them.

A preliminary assessment of access to the 2030 transit networks is provided by Figure 88. White areas on the maps are within one radial quarter-mile of a transit stop served by one or more FTN or Coverage routes in 2030.<sup>18</sup> Because population and job growth is anticipated primarily within Bellevue's mixed-use centers, all of the 2030 networks are expected to provide access to transit for larger shares of Bellevue's residents and jobs than enjoyed access in 2012.<sup>19</sup> For example, whereas 63 percent of jobs were within one radial quarter-mile of 15-minute transit service during the AM peak in 2012, 82 percent will have such access in 2030 regardless of funding scenario. Likewise, all funding scenarios will result in larger shares of households with access to 15-minute service in 2030 (approximately 58 percent for each) than in 2012 (42 percent). However, as shown in Table 3, access to 30-minute service is diminished in the Stable and Reduced Funding scenarios, corresponding to the reduction and elimination of Coverage service in these networks.

<sup>18</sup> The *Transit Service Vision Report* also presents access maps reflecting half-mile radii around FTN and Coverage service bus stops. Although further than many riders who choose to use transit may be willing to walk, a half-mile remains a reasonable service distance to provide for those who depend on transit for some or all of their personal mobility needs.  
<sup>19</sup> Refer to the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* for additional information about access to the 2012 transit network.



**Figure 87** The SE 28th PI stairs to 112th Ave NE dramatically reduce the network-based walking distance to the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride for portions of the Enatai neighborhood.



The Transit Master Plan considers existing pedestrian and bicycle projects proposed by other planning efforts and identifies which may specifically improve non-motorized access to transit. No new pedestrian or bicycle projects are proposed.<sup>20</sup> The assessment completed to date represents only an initial screening of the projects identified by the *2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Report* and the *Eastgate/I-90 Transportation Strategies Report*. Any project that has some portion within one quarter-mile of an FTN bus stop is identified as a priority for transit at this stage (see Figure 90).

The basic assessment summarized here does not assign any priority ranking to a project for which this has not already been done. The 2009 Ped-Bike Plan assigns priorities of high, medium, and low based on a variety of criteria, one of which is quarter-mile proximity to and stop-level ridership at a bus stop. However, transit considerations were only one part

**Table 3** Forecast (2030) populations in Bellevue within one-quarter and one-half mile radial areas of transit stops served by routes operating 15- and 30-minute frequencies.

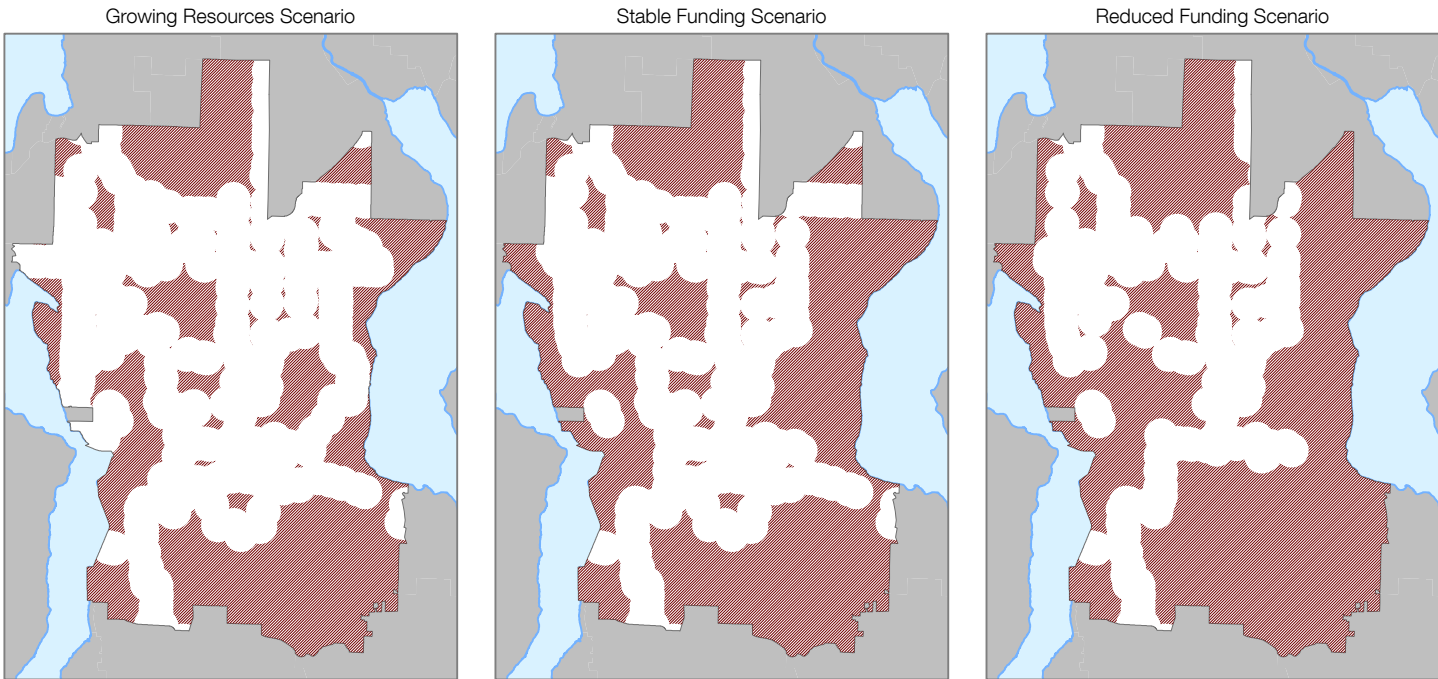
Funding Scenario	2030 Employment Projection				Total Jobs
	Quarter-Mile		Half-Mile		
	15-min	30-min	15-min	30-min	
Growing	82.2%	93.3%	95.2%	98.6%	184,300
Stable	82.2%	89.8%	95.2%	97.2%	
Reduced	82.2%	82.2%	95.2%	95.2%	

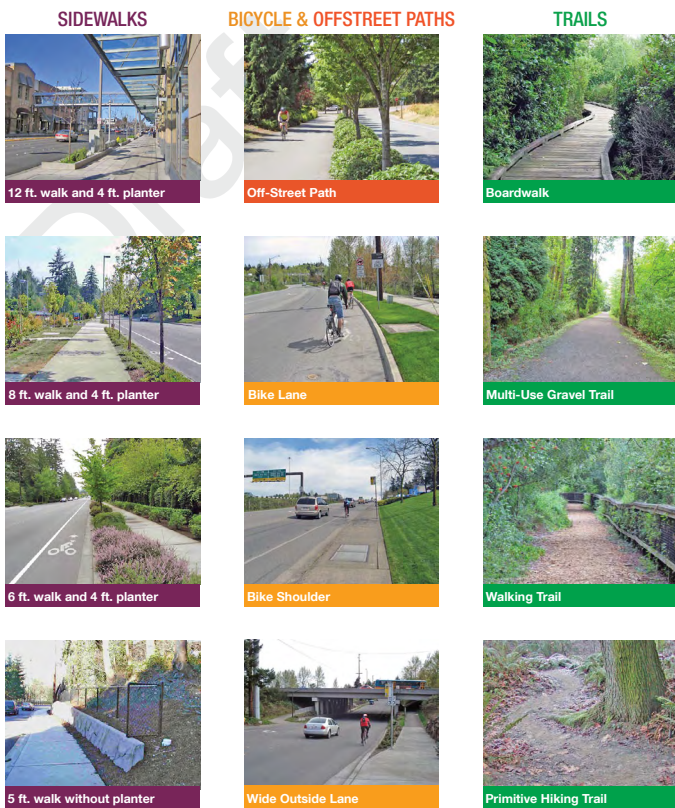
Funding Scenario	2030 Households Projection				Total HH
	Quarter-Mile		Half-Mile		
	15-min	30-min	15-min	30-min	
Growing	58.1%	76.6%	75.4%	91.3%	70,300
Stable	57.7%	68.5%	75.3%	85.4%	
Reduced	57.8%	57.8%	75.3%	75.5%	

Funding Scenario	2030 Population Projection				Total Pop
	Quarter-Mile		Half-Mile		
	15-min	30-min	15-min	30-min	
Growing	51.2%	72.6%	69.9%	89.3%	157,400
Stable	50.9%	63.2%	69.8%	82.1%	
Reduced	50.9%	51.0%	69.8%	70.0%	

<sup>20</sup> Two existing 2009 Ped-Bike Plan projects (S-464 and B-146) are modified to reflect the concepts identified by Running Way Project L27, the 142nd PI SE/Snoqualmie River Rd Multimodal Transportation Corridor. Refer to Appendix B1 of the Transit Capital Vision Report for details.

**Figure 88** Access to transit in Bellevue within one-quarter mile of 30-minute or better service on weekdays in 2030.





**Figure 89** Existing non-motorized transportation facility types, as identified by the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Report.

**Table 4** Preliminary screening of transit priority pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Project Type	High Priority*		Total Transit Priority Projects	
Sidewalk Projects	89	57.8%	154	45.0%
Bicycle Projects	48	40.7%	118	34.5%
Offstreet Path Projects	11	29.7%	37	10.8%
Trail Projects	18	62.1%	29	8.5%
Multimodal Intersections	0	0.0%	4	1.2%
<b>All Projects</b>	166	48.5%	<b>342</b>	

**Note:** Percentages in the center column reflect the number of each project type rated as High Priority. Percentages in the right column reflect the number of total projects of each type.

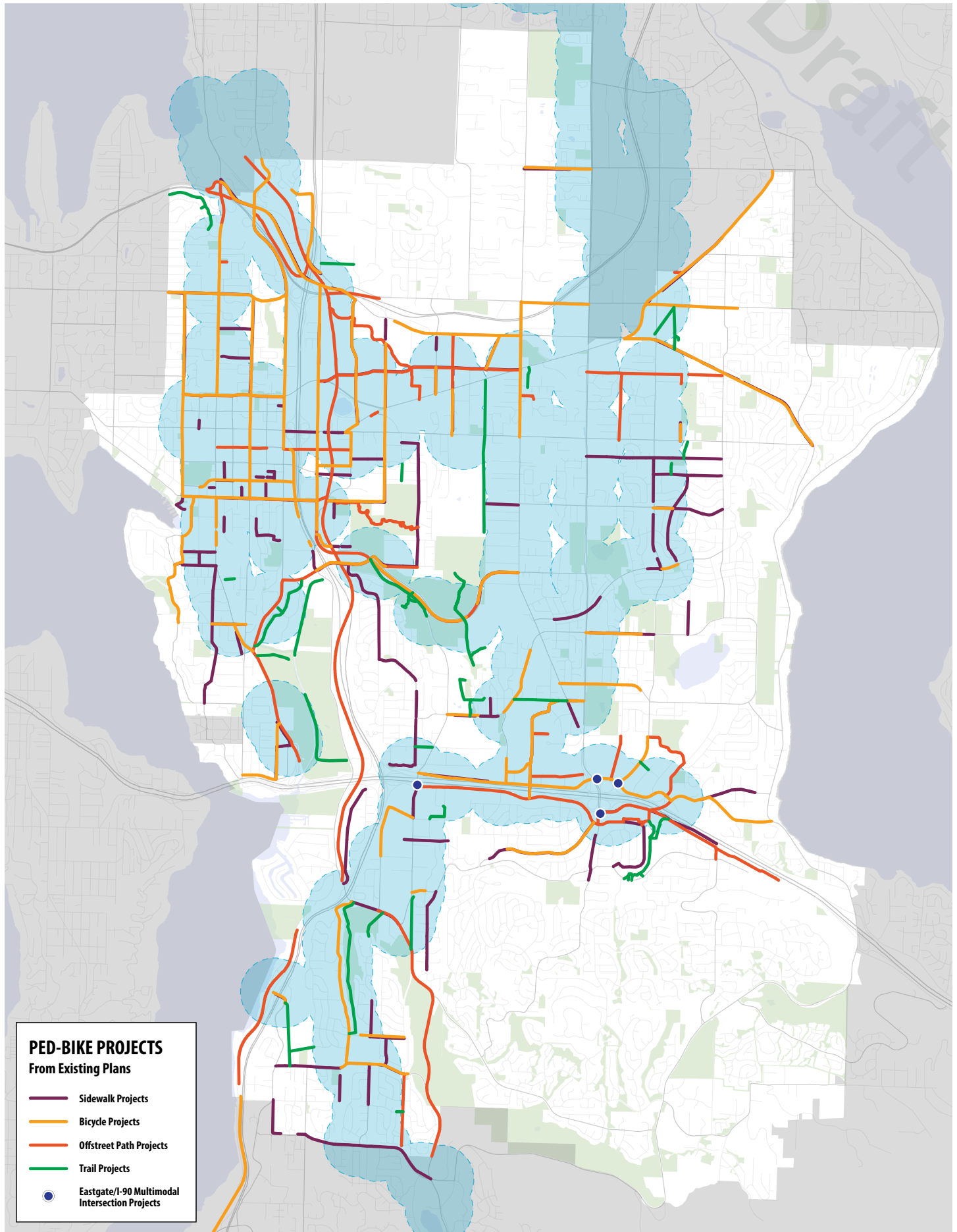
\*Projects rated High Priority by the 2009 Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan project prioritization process.

of the overall prioritization scheme used in the 2009 Ped-Bike Plan, as the emphasis of that plan was not on transit. For the purposes of this preliminary screening of transit priority pedestrian and bicycle projects, these priority rankings are considered and reported, but the more rigorous access analysis currently underway will assign new, transit-centric priority rankings according to other metrics. The Eastgate/I-90 Plan did not assign priority rankings to any of the projects that it identifies.

As shown in Table 4, a total of 342 projects are identified as being transit priority non-motorized projects. Nearly half of these are sidewalk projects, of which nearly 60 percent are considered High Priority by the 2009 Ped-Bike Plan. Of the various project types, sidewalk projects are generally the most evenly distributed throughout the city. Bicycle facilities and offstreet paths are somewhat less evenly dispersed throughout the city, with a particular abundance clearly identifiable in and around Downtown and Bel-Red. This is consistent with the more diffuse structure of the future bicycle network, except for the denser grids in these urban centers.

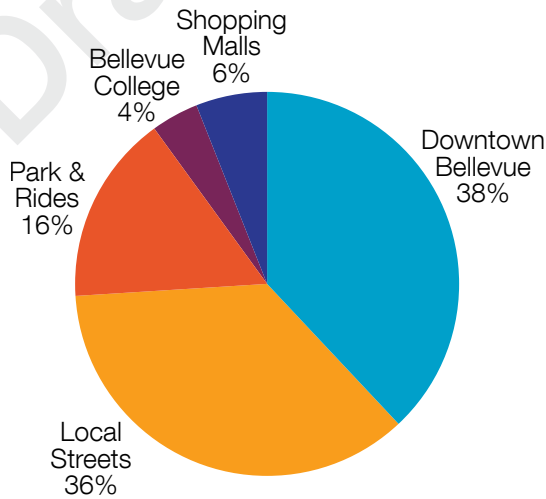
A more detailed analysis of access to transit is currently underway, which considers factors including network-based distance, travel time, route directness, and terrain grade. These factors will be used to assess the degree to which transit is accessible given current pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and the degree to which access would be improved by transit-priority non-motorized transportation projects. This ongoing analysis will provide a quantitative assessment of how easily people beginning at any given property in the city can reach their nearest transit stop, benefitting the implementation of the Transit Master Plan, future updates of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, and evaluation of the relationship between proposed route structures and land use designations.

**Figure 90** Preliminary transit priority pedestrian and bicycle projects.



# THE TRANSIT STOP

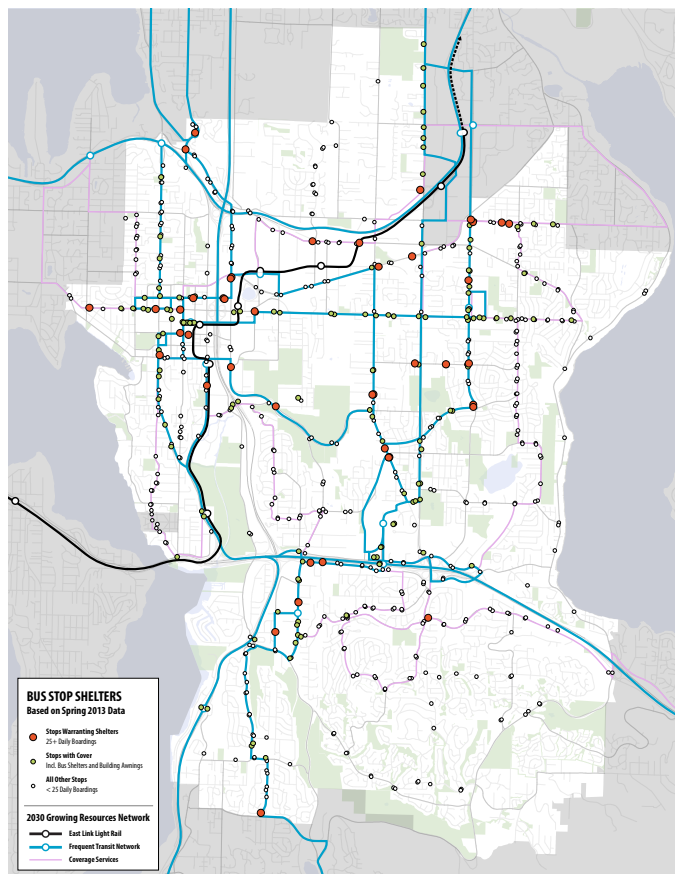
**Figure 92** Transit use patterns in Bellevue based on Fall 2011 boarding and alighting (on/off) data.



The transit stop is the first point of interaction between the transit user and the transit system. The efficient placement of bus stops near major destinations with well-connected pedestrian and bicycle facilities helps to provide communities with viable transportation choices by making the entire transit trip shorter and more pleasant. Also important to the ability of transit to attract ridership is the quality and comfort of the transit stop and its environment.

The Transit Master Plan (TMP) does not make specific recommendations about bus stop locations for the route networks being proposed beyond the general stop spacing guidelines identified for the various service types. Instead, this section focuses on three other subjects related to the transit stop: bus stop amenities, commuter parking, and bus layover needs. The first two of these subjects relate primarily to how transit users experience their first point of contact with the transit system, while the third deals with operational considerations.

**Figure 93** Bus stops warranting shelters based on Spring 2013 stop-level boardings and alightings (ons/off).



## Bus Stop Amenities

### Bus Shelters

As of Fall 2011, 84 percent of boardings and alightings in Bellevue took place outside of park-and-ride lots, with 36 percent at bus stops on local streets (see Figure 92). Waiting area amenities increase the convenience, comfort, safety, and usefulness of bus stops and influence the overall attractiveness of public transportation. Stop locations that are designed with paved waiting pads, shelters, benches, lighting, windbreaks, route information, trash bins, bicycle racks, and, in some cases, off-board pay stations and real-time arrival information make bus stops more hospitable places to be. The most fundamental of the various bus stop amenities is the bus shelter, which provides protection from the



elements and seating. Several factors influence the determination of need for various stop amenities. For stop shelters, the primary consideration is stop-level passenger activity. King County Metro's bus shelter warrant standard requires shelters to be installed at stops with 25 or more average daily boardings. Forty-three stops serve sufficient daily boardings to warrant a stop shelter but currently have no form of cover provided, as shown in Figure 93.

Other factors may also warrant installation of a bus shelter in the absence of high ridership. For example, stops with nearby healthcare facilities or services oriented toward older adults, rapidly growing areas, or areas that are particularly vulnerable to the elements, such as highway overpasses may indicate a need for targeted investment to improve passenger comfort and encourage additional transit use.

**Schedule Information**

When asked how the City should invest municipal resources to improve transit in Bellevue, 21 percent indicated that real-time bus arrival information should be provided at major stops, similar to that available at RapidRide B Line stations. Although King County Metro currently has no plans to implement this feature more broadly at standard bus stops throughout its service network, precedent exists for municipalities to pursue such investments on their own. For example, the Seattle Department of Transportation has installed digital monitors in downtown storefront windows adjacent to several high passenger activity bus stops that display real-time arrival data for all routes serving those stops (see Figure 96). Given sufficient community interest, available resources, and willing business property owners adjacent to transit stops, the opportunity exists for the City of Bellevue to consider pursuing such investments at costs many times less than most other transit infrastructure improvements.



**Figure 94** Stops served by RapidRide lines are distinguished from other services by the style and amenities at stations.



**Figure 95** A covered pedestrian walkway at the Totem Lake Freeway Station on I-405 in Kirkland. Similar improvements are envisioned for the Eastgate Park-and-Ride and Freeway Station.



**Figure 96** A digital signboard in Downtown Seattle, funded and installed by the Seattle DOT, displaying real-time arrival information from OneBusAway.

## Commuter Parking

Commuter parking facilities play an important role in concentrating transit rider demand, often in lower-density areas that would otherwise be unable to support frequent services. These facilities provide convenient access to transit via automobile or bicycle for people who do not live within convenient walking distance of a standard bus stop. By supporting the use of alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle, park-and-rides help to reduce the need for increasing roadway capacity as the region grows. Further, by concentrating transit boardings at a single point, a more frequent level of service can be supported.

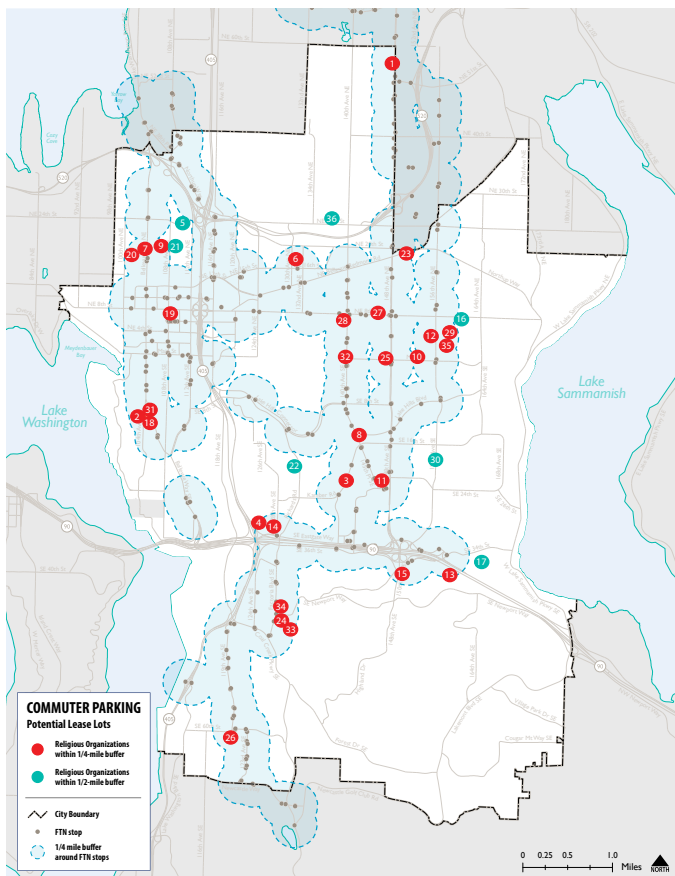
Park-and-ride usage in the Puget Sound region over the past ten years can be summarized by two trends. First, there is an uneven regional distribution of park-and-ride use. Several lots east of Bellevue and/or an inconvenient distance from the FTN are under-capacity, while several lots in western Bellevue such as the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride are over-capacity. This imbalance indicates that lot location in relationship to the FTN is an important factor to consider when siting new facilities. Second, there is a trend of increasing utilization of park-and-ride lots overall, with the two study corridors reflecting a 63 percent increase between 2000 and 2013.

A review of 2030 projected commuter parking demand for the I-405 and I-90 corridors, considered in light of existing parking facilities, determined that there would be an undersupply of parking stalls available along these corridors if the 2030 Growing Resource network is implemented as proposed. If an unlimited supply of parking were available along each of the corridors, the I-90 and I-405 corridors would be short by approximately 6,300 and 4,600 stalls, respectively. Unconstrained demand is approximately 200 percent greater than constrained demand, suggesting that new riders will likely begin using the system given increased parking availability.



**Figure 98** The South Bellevue Park-and-Ride is often over capacity, with many vehicles parked along the shoulders of the driveway (circled).

**Figure 99** Potential lease lots within one-quarter and one-half mile radial catchment areas of 2030 Frequent Transit Network stops.





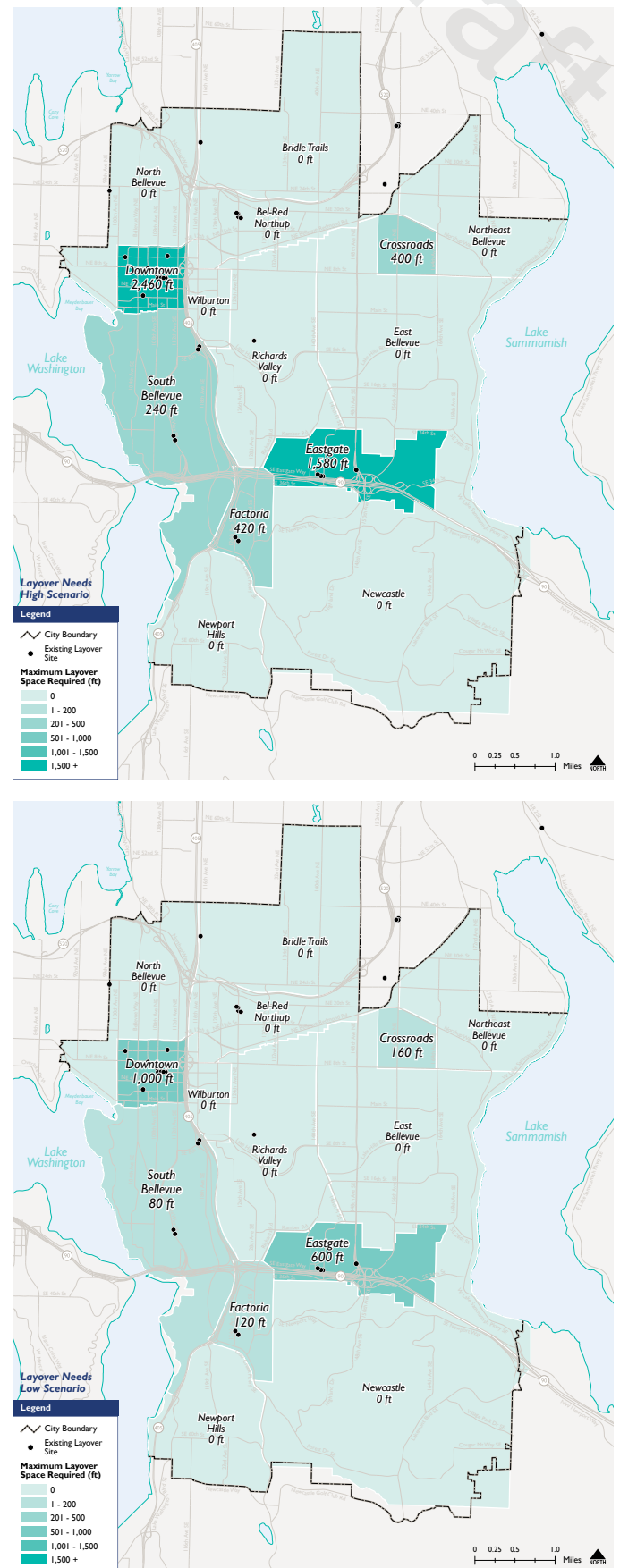
Leased lots—shared use park-and-ride lots—are offer a means to better serve low-density residential areas. If all churches within a quarter-mile walking distance of the FTN were to share their parking, more than 3,500 stalls would become available. Figure 99 provides a reference map showing the twenty-five church locations that fall within a quarter-mile radius of FTN stops, as well as the seven additional churches that are within a half mile walking distance.

## Bus Layover Needs

The layover, or amount of time between the end of one trip and the start of the next trip, requires that space be provided at transit facilities or designated along nearby streets or parking lots for transit vehicles to park while not in service. Inefficiencies result when vehicles must travel from their route terminal to reach the layover location. Understanding how much layover space will be required and where that space can most efficiently be accommodated can help to ensure that the scarce regional transit resources allocated to Bellevue are used to provide service to passengers, not lost to operational inefficiencies.

It is estimated that the maximum layover space required for the 2030 Growing Resources network will range from 3,560 to 8,480 feet, depending on the assumptions made. The two maps in Figure 100 depict the high and low layover need estimates by Mobility Management Area (MMA). It is estimated that approximately 7,000 feet of layover space currently exist in the study area that includes Bellevue and portions of other Eastside communities. While this total might be sufficient to accommodate the projected needs in aggregate, future proposed routes have different terminals than existing routes, so additional analysis will be required in the coming years to determine where these needs can be optimally accommodated.

**Figure 100** Bus layover needs in linear feet by Mobility Management Area (MMA): low estimate (top) and high estimate (bottom).



# THE TRANSIT RUNNING WAY

The Capital Vision identifies a total of 107 capital projects that would benefit transit speed and reliability. As shown in Table 5, these include 19 running way improvement projects, 39 spot improvement projects, 5 tracking and additional study projects, and 44 near-term transit signal priority (TSP) projects.

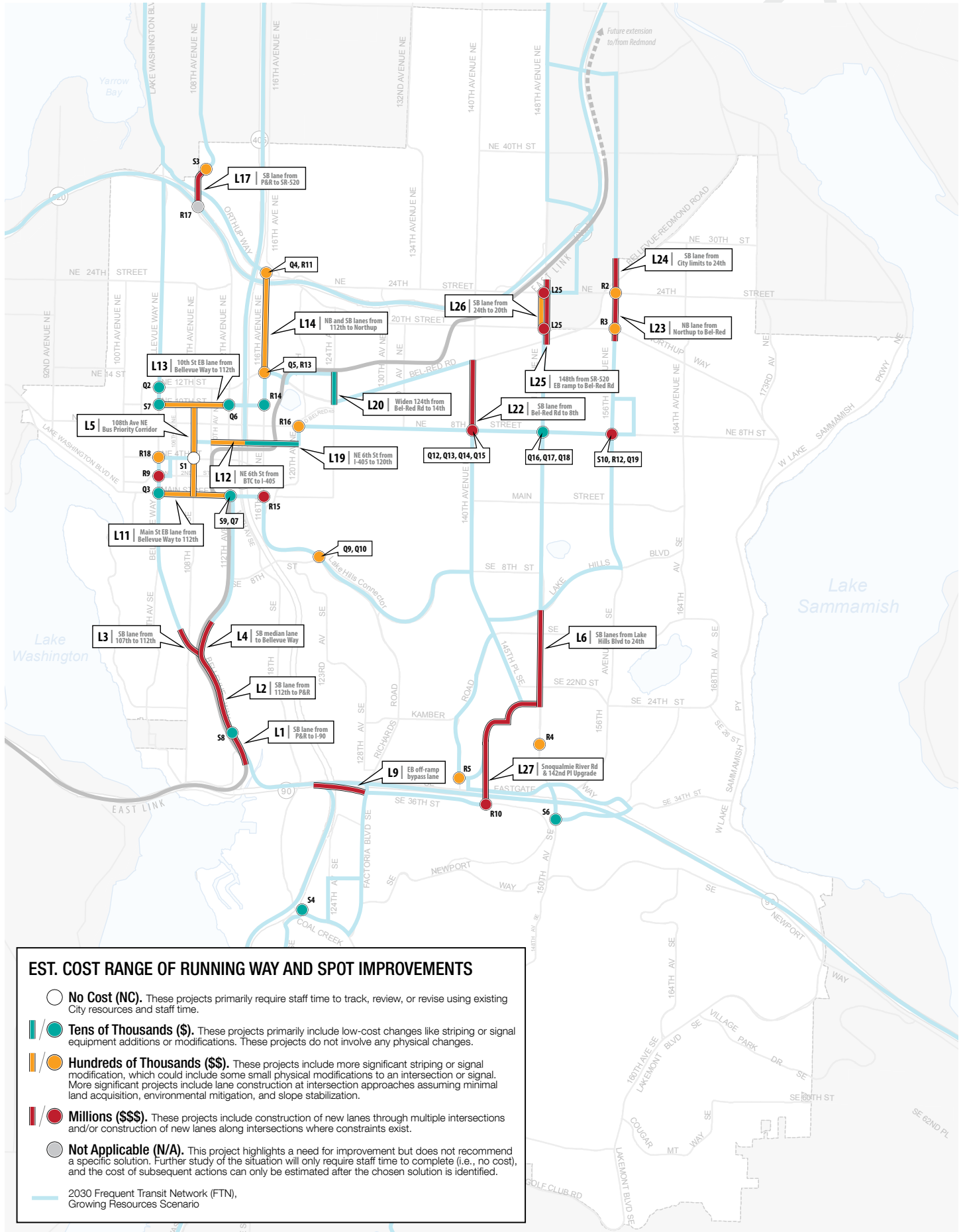
These include some existing projects already adopted in the Transportation Facility Plan (TFP) and/or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), previously proposed projects from past planning efforts (e.g. Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project, Downtown Transportation Plan Update), and numerous new projects conceived during the TMP Capital Element planning process. New projects were advanced through a multi-stage process that began with the development of a transit priority toolbox, was followed by a geographic information system- (GIS-) based issue identification analysis, and ultimately proceeded through several iterations of project feasibility screening. Travel demand modeling was used to provide some inputs into the issue identification analysis, and both travel demand and micro-simulation models were used to help assess the potential degree of benefit provided by certain subsets of the total project list.

General cost estimates were identified for each project; Figure 101 maps the location and estimated costs of all running way and spot improvement projects, as well as two location-specific tracking projects. Citywide tracking projects and TSP projects are not included in the map, the latter because they are too numerous to include in a single map together with the others.

**Table 5** Summary of speed and reliability projects by type.

Project Type	No. of Projects
Running Way Improvements	19
HOV Lanes	8
BAT Lanes	6
Roadway Construction	5
Spot Improvements	39
Queue Jump Lanes	16
Intersection and Roadway Improvements	13
Signalization Improvements	10
TSP Projects (Near-term)	44
Tracking & Additional Study	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>

**Figure 101** Transit running way and spot improvement projects by estimated cost range.

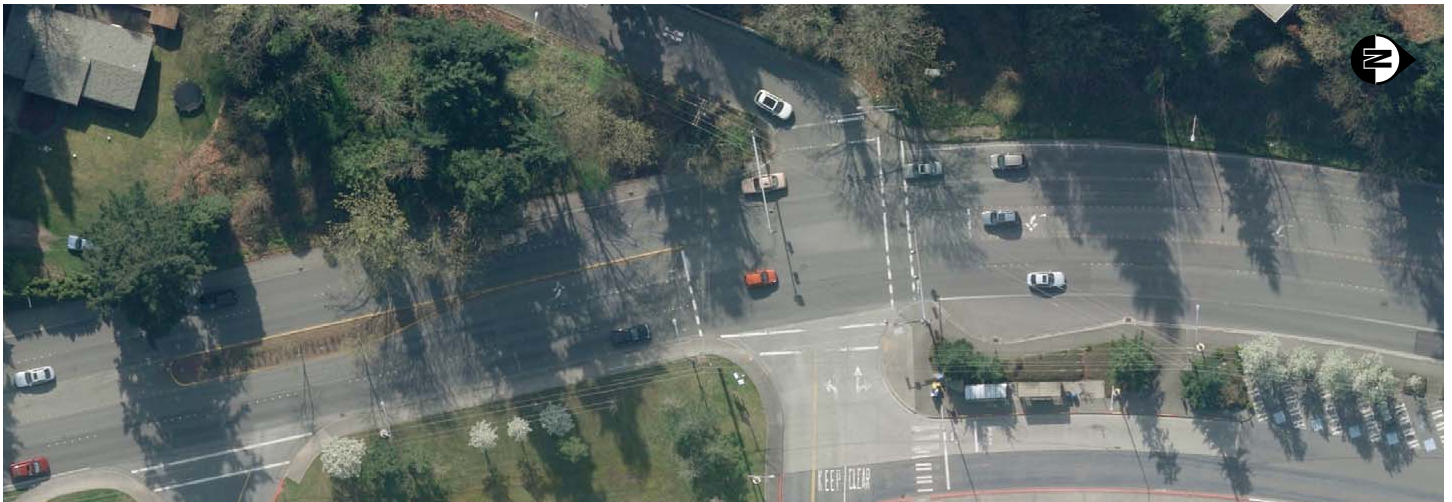


## Project Prioritization

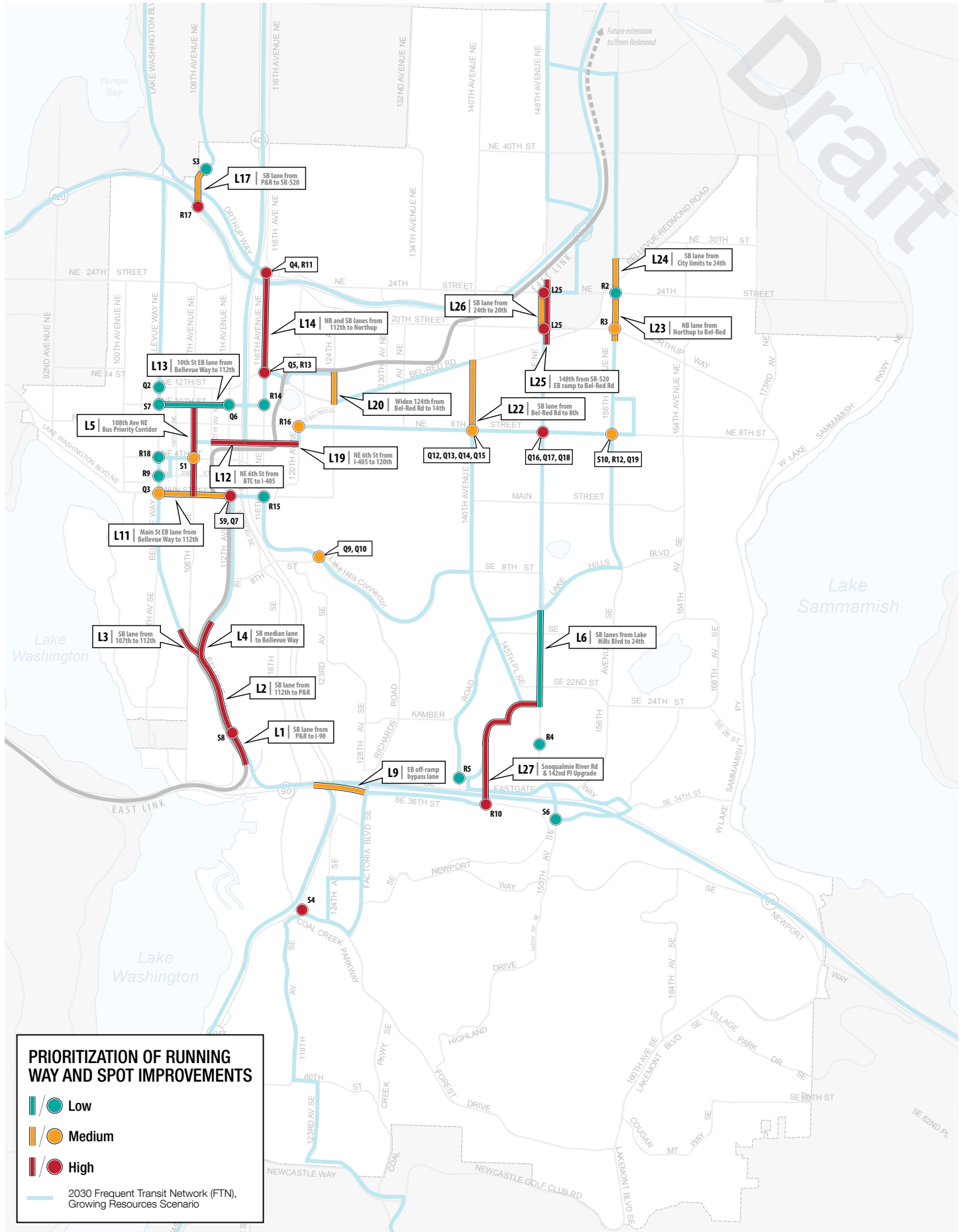
The Transportation Commission assigned priorities were assigned to each of the running way, spot improvement, and location-specific tracking projects presented in this report. The results of this prioritization are mapped in Figure 103. For a more thorough explanation of the project prioritization process, refer to the Running Way section of the Transit Capital Vision Report.

The purpose of prioritizing the proposed capital projects is to maximize the value to the Frequent Transit Network (FTN). Thus, the FTN's long-term composite scores serve as the primary means of identifying a project's priority. These initial priority assignments were then refined according to three separate considerations: (1) the existing inclusion of a proposed project in the Transportation Facilities

**Figure 102** Running Way Improvement Project L1: A southbound median HOV lane will be constructed on Bellevue Way SE between the South Bellevue Park-and-Ride and I-90 by Sound Transit as part of the East Link light rail extension project. This will be achieved by constructing a new lane, thereby maintaining all existing general purpose lanes. Aerial images depict roadway striping before and after construction.



**Figure 103** Prioritization of the proposed transit running way and spot improvement projects.





Plan (TFP) or Capital Investment Program (CIP), (2) the necessity of a project in order to implement the 2030 FTN route structure, and (3) specific guidance provided by the Transportation Commission during the Capital Element planning process.

The Bellevue College Connection (Project L27; see Figure 104 and Figure 105) provides an instructive example of a project affected by several of the refinement considerations. Though its base priority is Low because much of the 142nd PI SE/Snoqualmie River Rd corridor is not affected by general purpose traffic, the project's final prioritization is High because it has an associated TFP project (TFP-252), is necessary to restructuring service between Eastgate and Bellevue College, and was identified by the Transportation Commission as being of specific interest to pursue as soon as possible. During the course of the Capital Element planning process, Sound Transit added this project to its long-range plan, making the project eligible for potential inclusion in future Sound Transit funding programs, such as the forthcoming ST3.



Other high-priority projects include four HOV lane projects (L1, L2, L3, and L4) that would be added to the right-of-way along Bellevue Way SE and 112th Ave SE (see Figure 102), a queue jump project (Q5) on 116th Ave NE for northbound buses turning west onto Northup Way (see Figure 106), and the NE 6th St HOV Extension (Project L19), which will extend the existing NE 6th St HOV direct access ramp bridge from the center of I-405 east to 120th Ave NE. Running Way Project L23 and L24 provides an example of a project that is ranked medium priority in the long-term but high-priority in the short-term (see Figure 107). Although the long-term project prioritization will serve as the primary means by which potential projects are advanced for consideration for inclusion in the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) and Capital Investment Program (CIP) over the twenty-year implementation period of the Transit Master Plan,

**Figure 104** (top) Brochure for the Bellevue College Connection: 142nd PI SE/Snoqualmie River Rd Multimodal Transportation Corridor (Project L27).

**Figure 105** (bottom) Before and after aerial views of a new multimodal western gateway into Bellevue College on Snoqualmie River Rd. Improvements include reconstructed roadways to accommodate frequent bus service, new bus stops with shelters, and an off-street path facility for pedestrians and bicyclists.

projects have also been assigned supplemental short-term priorities to assist with the identification of projects in the current budget cycle, which would advance projects for implementation in the short-term based on available city resources and grant funding eligibility.

For additional information about individual projects being proposed, as well as the long-term and supplemental short-term prioritization processes, refer to the Transit Capital Vision Report.



**Figure 106** Spot Improvement Project Q5: Queue jump lane on NE 116th St for left turning, northeast-bound traffic at Northrup Way. Aerial images depict roadway striping before and after lane reconfiguration. This concept maintains all general purpose travel lanes and requires no new lane construction—both suitable qualities for a potential 'quick win' project.

**Figure 107** Running Way Improvement Projects L23 and L24: BAT lanes would be constructed on 156th Ave NE northbound from Northrup Way to NE 24th St and southbound from city limits to NE 24th St, respectively. Aerial images depict roadway striping before and after lane reconfiguration. These concepts both maintain all existing general purpose travel lanes.







**SECTION 5:**  
**APPENDICES**



# Draft

## APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY

<b>Alight</b>	Exiting a transit vehicle.
<b>All-Day Service</b>	Refers to transit service provided throughout the day, from morning through evening. King County Metro additionally specifies that all-day service provides connections between designated regional growth centers, manufacturing/industrial centers, and other areas of concentrated activity, and that it serves a variety of travel needs and trip purposes.
<b>Automatic Passenger Count (APC)</b>	An automated system that counts the number of passengers boarding and alighting a transit vehicle. The data collected from such a system is most commonly used by transit service planners to determine such things as ridership, typical vehicle loads, and the relative use of individual bus stops.
<b>Average Daily Ridership</b>	The average number of daily rides of a particular revenue service, typically extrapolated from sample passenger counts obtained from APC equipment.
<b>Boarding</b>	To get on/into a transit vehicle.
<b>Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)</b>	A bus rapid transit (BRT) system is a category of bus system design and operation that provides an enhanced quality of service more often associated with rail transit modes while retaining the flexibility and lower costs afforded by buses. The specific features required for a system to be considered a BRT service have not been officially defined by state or federal agencies; however, features generally considered to be central to such service include grade-separated right-of-ways, implementation of transit signal priority, peak-hour headways of less than 10 minutes, off-board fare payment, and high-quality, high capacity vehicles.
<b>Bus Shelter</b>	A structure or building constructed at a transit stop for the purpose of providing protection from the weather for passengers waiting for transit service. Bus shelters often also provide seating and/or schedule information for the passenger's comfort and convenience.
<b>Bus Stop</b>	Designated areas where passengers wait for, board, alight, and transfer between transit vehicles. Bus stops are indicated by specific signage and by curb and/or pavement markings, and they sometimes provide bus shelters.
<b>Commute</b>	Regular travel between home and a fixed location, such as work or school.
<b>Cost Efficiency</b>	The cost of providing a transit service compared to the amount of service provided. In this document, cost efficiency is expressed either as cost per platform mile or as cost per vehicle revenue hour.
<b>Dial-a-Ride-Transit (DART)</b>	King County Metro's Dial-a-Ride-Transit (DART) offers variable routing in certain defined service areas in King County. DART uses vans instead of standard buses to provide service off of regular fixed routes, allowing passengers to arrange a pick-up or drop-off closer to their home or destination. This provides greater flexibility to users while maintaining an appropriate level of transit service for areas not able to support regular fixed-route service by standard-size buses.
<b>Deadhead (Miles or Hours)</b>	The miles or hours traveled by a vehicle while not providing revenue service. This includes non-revenue travel to and from a garage, between routes, and scheduled time allocated for bus operator breaks.
<b>Dwell Time</b>	The amount of time that a transit vehicle spends stationary at a stop or station. Factors affecting dwell time include the time it takes for passengers to board and alight, pay fares, and a vehicle's schedule adherence, among other things.

<b>Fixed Route</b>	Transit service provided on a repetitive basis along a specific route according to a specified stops and time schedules.
<b>Flyer Stop</b>	See Freeway Station.
<b>Freeway Station</b>	Bus stops located on limited-access highways throughout King County that provide efficient service along major thoroughfares without requiring transit vehicles to fully exit a highway. Freeway stations are most common in suburban areas and are frequently paired with Park & Ride lots.
<b>Frequency</b>	How often a transit service operates, most precisely expressed by the number of trips per hour but commonly discussed in terms of headway. Higher service frequency (trips/hour) reflects better service, with buses coming more often and reducing waiting time.
<b>Frequent Service</b>	Service that operates every 15 minutes or better, seven days a week.
<b>Headway</b>	The scheduled time interval between any two revenue vehicles operating in the same direction on the same route. For example, a bus with a headway of 15 minutes is scheduled to arrive at a given stop every 15 minutes.
<b>Interline</b>	The transfer of a vehicle that is in operation from one route to another, generally for the purpose of improving staff or vehicle assignment efficiency. When this occurs where the termini of the routes meet, it is referred to as through routing, which provides benefits to users who would otherwise need to transfer between the two routes in addition to the operating efficiency benefits.
<b>Load (Average or Maximum)</b>	The number of passengers on-board a transit vehicle at any given time. Average load is a measure of how many passengers are typically on a transit vehicle during its revenue service. Maximum load is a measure of the greatest number of passengers observed on a transit vehicle over a given period of time. For the purposes of this document, maximum load actually refers to the average maximum load—that is, the average of the greatest number of passengers observed on a transit vehicle over a given period of time.
<b>Manufacturing/Industrial Center</b>	An area of intensive manufacturing and/or industrial activity. Defined by the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040 plan.
<b>Mobility Management Area (MMA)</b>	Mobility Management Areas (MMAs) are geographic areas for which traffic is managed and congestion standards are established to help guide land development and transportation improvement decisions.
<b>Off-board Payment</b>	A payment system where passengers pay fares at designated ticket vending machines or smart card readers prior to boarding transit vehicles. Off-board payment systems are typically used to reduce vehicle dwell time due to slow passenger boarding and fare payment.
<b>On-time Performance</b>	For fixed-route service, the percentage of departures from scheduled time points that are five minutes late or better.
<b>ORCA Card</b>	A contactless, stored value smart card used for payment of public transport fares in the Puget Sound region. The card's name is an acronym for "One Regional Card for All," as the card is accepted as a method of payment on buses, light rail, ferries, trains, and streetcars operated by numerous regional transit agencies including King County Metro, Sound Transit, Community Transit, Pierce Transit, Kitsap Transit, Everett Transit, and Washington State Ferries.

<b>Park-and-Ride</b>	A parking area for automobile drivers and bicycle riders who then board transit vehicles, shuttles or carpools from these locations to reach their destinations. Park & Ride lots are designated by King County Metro and may be either expressly constructed for this purpose or loaned from other organizations or businesses, most commonly churches, that have excess parking capacity available.
<b>Passenger Miles</b>	A measure of service utilization that represents the cumulative sum of the distances traveled on-board a transit vehicle by each passenger using a given service.
<b>Peak Service</b>	Service provided during the periods of the morning (6:00-9:00) and afternoon/evening (3:00-6:00) when demand for transportation is heaviest.
<b>Platform Hours (or Miles)</b>	The total scheduled time (or distance) that a transit vehicle spends between leaving from and returning to base, including both revenue service and deadhead time. Platform hours and miles are used as indicators of service efficiency or utilization through such metrics as rides per platform hour and passenger miles per platform mile.
<b>Productivity</b>	A measure of service efficiency comparing passengers carried to service operated. King County Metro considers productivity to be determined by two measures: rides per platform hour and passenger miles per platform mile. More generally, it is a ratio of transit service output (e.g. annual rides) to units of service input (e.g. annual platform hours).
<b>Revenue Hour</b>	The number of hours during which a transit vehicle is in operation and providing revenue service, including layover and recovery time but excluding deadhead time.
<b>Revenue Mile</b>	The number of miles operated by a transit vehicle providing revenue service, including that traveled during layover and recovery time but excluding deadhead miles.
<b>Rides per Platform Hour</b>	A measure of the total number of people who board a transit vehicle relative to the total number of hours that vehicle operates, including both revenue and deadhead hours. This is one of two measures considered by Metro to evaluate individual route productivity. Routes with many riders boarding the bus during each trip tend to perform well on this measure.
<b>Service Span</b>	The time period over which a route provides revenue service on a given day of the week. This is sometimes referred to in this document as Hours of Service.
<b>Transfer (aka Connection)</b>	(1) The process of a passenger changing from one transit vehicle to another, often without need for additional payment. (2) The slip of paper issued by a King County Metro vehicle operators to a passenger for the purpose of allowing the passenger to change from one transit vehicle to another without need for additional payment. Sound Transit no longer issues paper transfers, but both agencies allow passengers to use an ORCA card to transfer.
<b>Transit Center</b>	A transit station that functions as the convergence point for multiple routes, lines, or modes of transportation. Such facilities are designed to facilitate the flow of transit vehicles and the boarding, alighting, and transferring of passengers between those vehicles and the services they provide.
<b>Trip</b>	A one-way movement of an individual or vehicle between two points. The most common type, called an “unlinked passenger trip,” further specifies that each time an individual transfers between vehicles or reaches an intermediary destination (e.g. stopping at a day care center en route to work), an additional unlinked trip has been made.

# APPENDIX 2: TMP PROJECT PRINCIPLES

## Approved by the Bellevue City Council, July 9, 2012.

The City Council envisions a fully integrated and user-friendly network of transit services for Bellevue that supports the city’s growth, economic vitality, and enhanced livability, and has developed the following set of project principles to direct development of the Transit Master Plan.

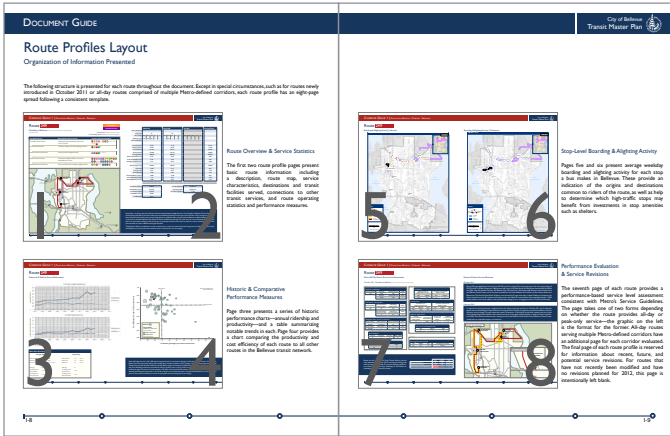
- 1. Support planned growth and development in Bellevue with a bold transit vision that encourages long-term ridership growth.** The dynamic nature of Bellevue’s economic expansion requires a bold transit vision supported by practical, achievable strategies in the near term that set a solid foundation for longer term improvements through 2030. The Transit Master Plan should identify, evaluate, and prioritize transit investments that are responsive to a range of financial scenarios (cuts/status-quo/aspirational) and attune to different time horizons (near/mid/long term).
- 2. Engage community stakeholders in setting the priorities for transit delivery.** A comprehensive public engagement strategy should result in meaningful input on transit services and facilities from a range of stakeholders including residents, businesses, major institutions, neighboring cities, transportation agencies, and others (e.g., community associations, Network on Aging, Bellevue School District, Bellevue College, Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association). Special attention will be required to enlist the participation of “under-represented” communities such as immigrants, low-income and non-native English speakers.
- 3. Determine where and how transit investments can deliver the greatest degree of mobility and access possible for all populations.** The Transit Master Plan should look to the future and be compatible with Bellevue’s land use and transportation plans and the challenges and opportunities of changing demographics, land use characteristics, and travel patterns. Following consultations with the community, demand forecasting, and a review of industry best practices and emerging technologies, this initiative will identify the steps required to create a public transportation system that is easy to use by all people in Bellevue for trips within Bellevue and to regional destinations.
- 4. Incorporate other transit-related efforts (both bus and light rail) underway in Bellevue and within the region.** The Transit Master Plan should incorporate local and regional transportation projects and plans that have been approved and/or implemented since the Bellevue Transit Plan was adopted in 2003. Transportation system changes include East Link, SR 520 expansion and tolling, and improvements to I-90 and I-405. Planning changes include the updated Bel-Red Subarea Plan, the Wilburton Subarea Plan and the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project. Through coordination with local and regional transportation plans, the Transit Master Plan should outline a strategy to leverage the investment in public transportation projects to the benefit of Bellevue residents and businesses.
- 5. Identify partnership opportunities to further extend transit service and infrastructure.** While transit infrastructure is typically funded through large capital funding programs, other less traditional funding mechanisms can be utilized to pay for improvements vital to support transit communities and/or achieve higher transit ridership. The Transit Master Plan should undertake an analysis of partnership opportunities that the City might want to consider with other government organizations (e.g., Bellevue School District, Bellevue College, Metro, Sound Transit), human service agencies, and private corporations, to improve transit service delivery in Bellevue. This analysis will explore alternatives to traditional transit service delivery.
- 6. Develop measures of effectiveness to evaluate transit investments and to track plan progress.** The Bellevue Comprehensive Plan presently includes the following metrics/benchmarks related to transit: (i) mode split targets within each of the City’s Mobility Management Areas [Table TR.1 – Area Mobility Targets]; (2) transit service frequency improvement targets between Downtown, Overlake, Crossroads, Eastgate, and Factoria [TR.8 – 10 Year Transit Vision]; and, (3) guidance found in 44 transit-supportive policies. The Transit Master Plan will revisit these metrics, and where necessary, propose modifications to better reflect present and future conditions.

# APPENDIX 3: TRANSIT MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT LIBRARY

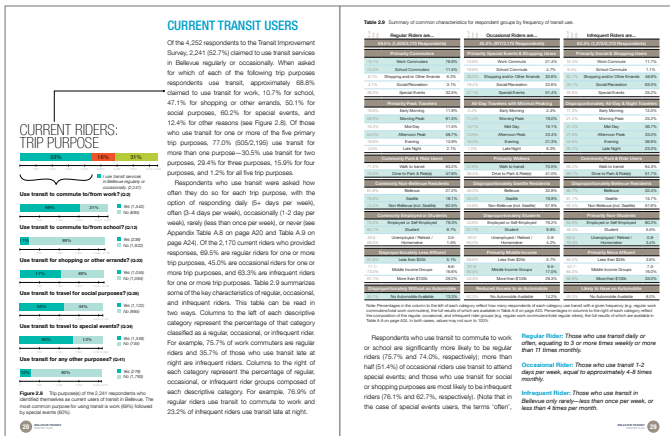
## Service Element Documents

**Bellevue Transit Network Profile** – This volume comprehensively documents all bus routes that served Bellevue between Fall 2010 and Fall 2011, which are examined both individually and in relation to the overall network operated. Each route profile includes route descriptions, connection opportunities, Fall 2010 performance measures, Metro’s service level assessment results, recent and planned future route revisions, and route maps color-coded according to the destinations served to facilitate future analysis. This document serves as the baseline for considering transit performance in Bellevue, reflecting the system as it operated prior to and immediately following King County Metro’s major Eastside service restructure in October 2011.

**Transit Improvement Survey Summary Report** – The Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey (TIS) was administered online between February and March of 2012, during which time it was completed by more than 4,200 respondents. The *TIS Summary Report* summarizes the results obtained, profiling Bellevue’s current transit market, the perceptions of transit service in Bellevue by the public, and the priorities of the public for improving service and addressing potential future budget shortfalls. The document provides a comprehensive examination of multiple choice responses by user type (current-, former-, and non-riders), trip purpose (work, school, shopping, social/recreation, and special events), and various demographic characteristics, and also categorizes the several thousand write-in responses that were submitted by theme.



**Figure 108** These pages from the *Bellevue Transit Network Profile* depict the layout of each route profile contained in the document.



**Figure 109** These pages from the *TIS Summary Report* describe common characteristics of current users of transit in Bellevue.

Phase 1 Outreach Report: Technical Appendix –

This document serves as the technical appendix to the TIS Summary Report, presenting the complete results of the Transit Improvement Survey exactly as submitted by survey respondents without analysis, categorization, or any potential source of bias.

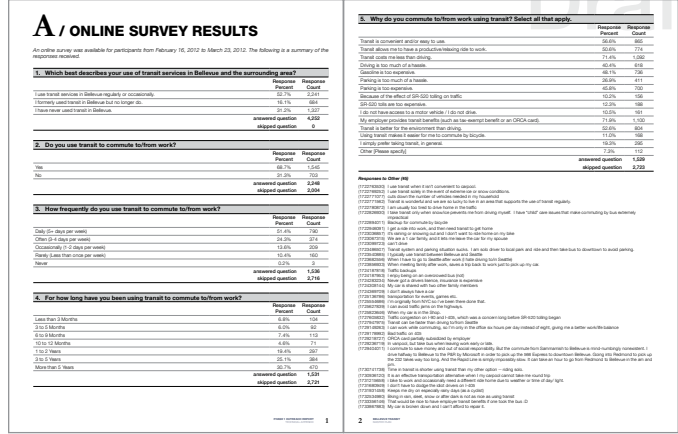


Figure 110 These pages from the Outreach Report: Technical Appendix show the multiple-choice results and write-in responses to questions 1 through 5 of the Transit Improvement Survey.

Transit Master Plan Forum Report –

The Transit Master Plan Forum was an outreach event held on September 18, 2012. This document summarizes the major themes expressed by Mayor Conrad Lee, Councilmember Kevin Wallace, and the twenty-four members of the Transportation, Planning, Arts, and Human Services Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board who were in attendance. All of Bellevue’s board and commission members were invited to the event for the purposes of broadening the TMP’s outreach and refining Council’s adopted Project Principles into actionable priorities to guide development of the transit service vision.

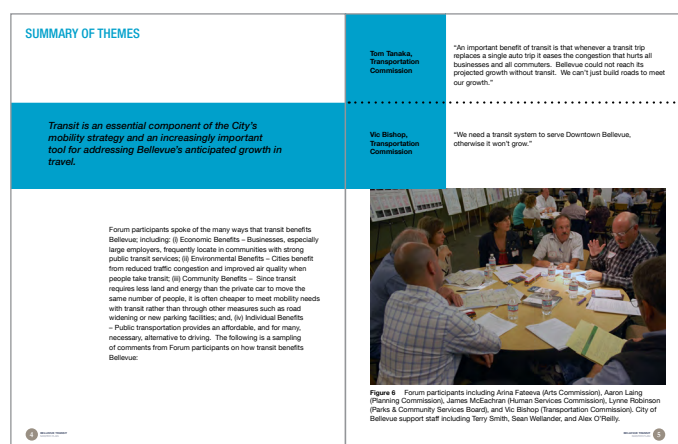


Figure 111 One of the themes expressed by TMP Forum participants: "Transit is an essential component of the City’s mobility strategy..."

Bellevue Transit Status Report –

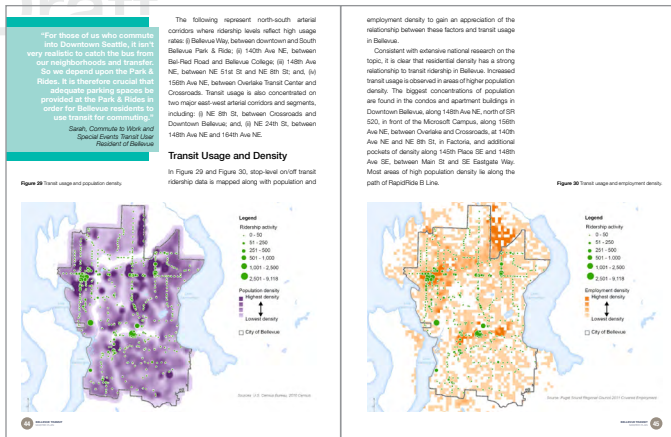
This report details the service and infrastructure improvements completed since the adoption of the 2003 Bellevue Transit Plan and highlights transit usage levels and unmet needs in Bellevue that will be taken into account in the TMP process. The document serves as a brief precursor to the more comprehensive Existing and Future Conditions Report.

Transit Network Profile: 2011-12 Update –

An update to the Bellevue Transit Network Profile, this volume comprehensively documents all bus routes that served Bellevue between Fall 2011 and Spring 2012. Performance statistics are presented for both service periods to facilitate consideration of how transit performance changed in the months following the October 2011 service restructure. This update also introduced the segmentation of route performance statistics by time of day.

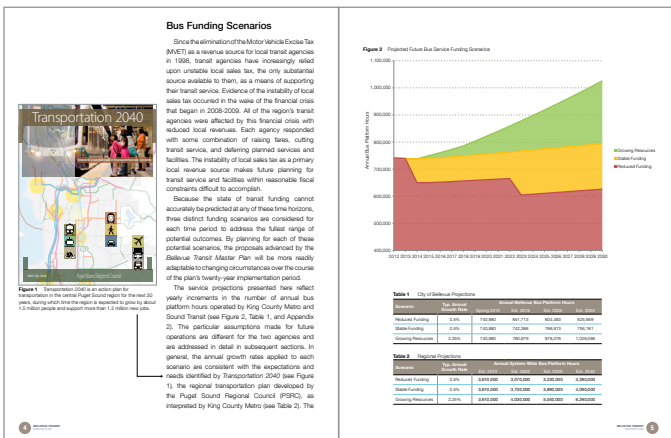


Figure 112 These pages from the Transit Status Report describe infrastructure improvements made since adoption of the 2003 Bellevue Transit Plan.



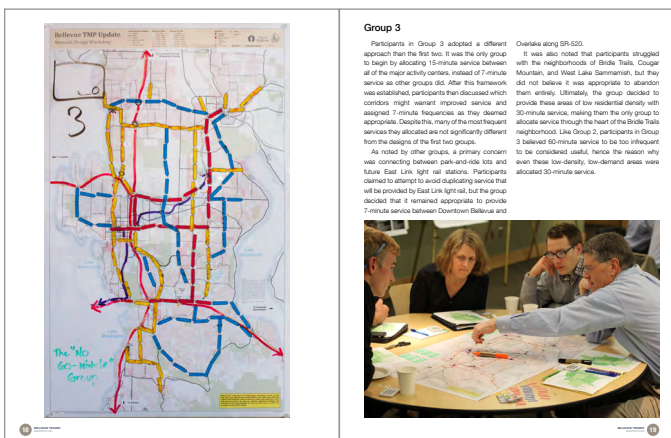
**Figure 115** These maps from the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* show how transit ridership relates to population and employment density in Bellevue.

**Existing and Future Conditions Report** – Drawing from several of the reports noted above, the *Existing and Future Conditions Report* summarizes the major findings related to current transit operations and performance, priorities expressed by the public about this network, projected growth in population, employment, and ridership, and anticipated changes resulting from the introduction of East Link light rail and various planned and potential investments in local street and transit infrastructure.



**Figure 113** These pages from the *Funding Scenarios Report* depict the projected number of annual platform hours operated under each of the three funding scenarios between 2012 and 2030.

**Funding Scenarios Report** – Developed through informal conversations with officials from King County Metro and Sound Transit and consultation of published reports by these agencies and the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Transportation 2040, the *Funding Scenarios Report* describes the three bus funding scenarios that are considered in the TMP and defines the assumptions that were made to arrive at these results.

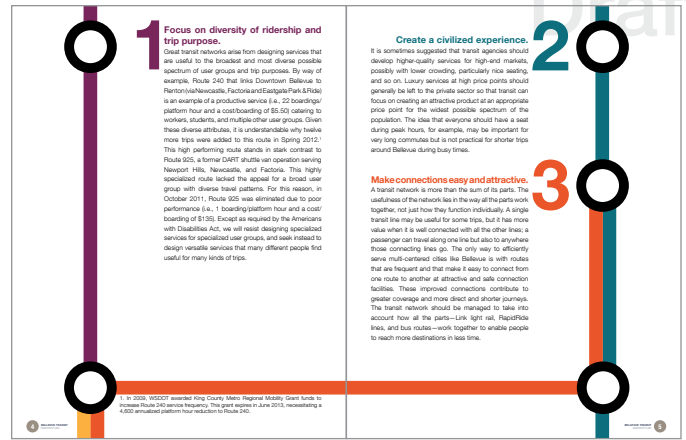


**Figure 114** One of six networks developed at the Transit Network Design Workshop, this one by Group 3 attempts to balance frequent high-ridership and infrequent coverage services.

**Transit Network Design Workshop Report** – The Transit Network Design Workshop was an outreach event held on January 31, 2013. Various transit officials, board and commission members, and other local stakeholders were invited to take part in the workshop, where they were asked to further articulate priorities for transit services in and around Bellevue, and to brainstorm what corridors should be prioritized in the 2030 network and what frequency of service should be allocated to each. This report documents the six networks created by workshop participants, a summary of the common themes and notable differences identified by project consultant Jarrett Walker, and the service priorities identified by participants during audience polling.

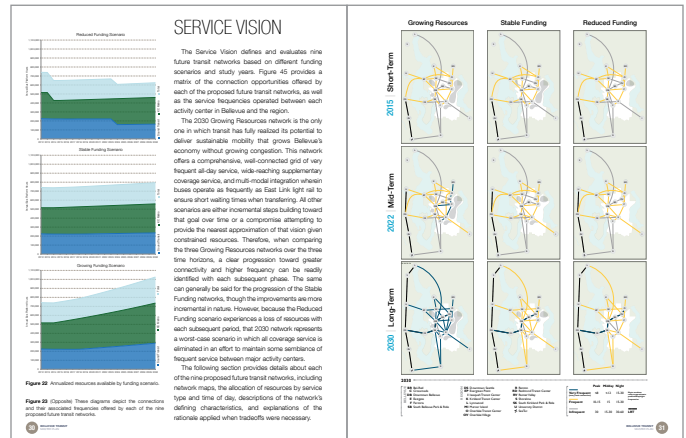


**Market Driven Strategies Report** – This report identifies the framework within which the transit service vision was ultimately developed, including six essential qualities embodied in the service vision—known as “Abundant Access”—and the six market-driven strategies endorsed by the TMP to achieve this vision. These strategies represent the course advocated when confronted with the various fundamental tradeoffs inherent in the provision of transit service, which were developed by reflecting to the extent possible the body of input and assortment of guidance obtained through the various efforts described in the aforementioned reports.



**Figure 116** These pages from the *Market Driven Strategies Report* explain three of the six strategies advanced by the “Abundant Access” service vision.

**Transit Service Vision Report** – This report represents the culmination of the Service Element planning process. In addition to summarizing the service planning process, which was based on guidance obtained from the City Council, the public, local transit service providers, and other stakeholders, this document presents route-level recommendations that are responsive to three financial scenarios (reduced, stable, and growing resources) and attune to three time horizons (2015, 2022, and 2030). The 2030 Frequent Transit Network (FTN), comprised of the core services included in the most abundant scenario (2030 Growing Resources), will serve the vast majority of all ridership in Bellevue. The FTN is therefore used as the basis for the transit-supportive infrastructure planning completed in the Capital Element.



**Figure 117** These pages from the *Transit Service Vision Report* present the nine future transit networks proposed for Bellevue, consistent with the three funding scenarios depicted in the charts on the left and the three time horizons considered by the TMP (2015, 2022, and 2030).

# Draft

## APPENDIX 4: SERVICE VISION RESOURCE ALLOCATION

**Table 6** Allocation of resources in 2030 by service type and funding scenario.

Service Type	2030 Growing		2030 Stable		2030 Reduced	
	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%
Frequent Express	261,050	26%	228,011	29%	228,368	37%
Frequent Rapid	169,605	17%	95,243	12%	91,377	15%
Frequent Local	272,817	27%	220,585	28%	183,283	30%
Coverage (Standard Local)	171,940	17%	124,879	16%	0	0%
Peak-only	145,715	14%	116,632	15%	116,632	19%
Contingency reserve	4,939	0.5%	8,812	1.4%	5,479	0.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,021,127</b>		<b>785,349</b>		<b>619,660</b>	

**Table 7** Allocation of resources in 2022 by service type and funding scenario

Service Type	2022 Growing		2022 Stable		2022 Reduced	
	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%
Frequent Express	213,324	25%	197,847	26%	197,847	31%
Frequent Rapid	88,332	10%	57,199	8%	57,199	9%
Frequent Local	115,197	14%	117,364	16%	120,855	19%
Infrequent Express	94,292	11%	94,292	13%	94,292	15%
Infreq. Local (Future Frequent)	44,472	5%	44,933	6%	16,531	3%
Infreq. Local (Coverage)	147,632	18%	120,456	16%	42,641	7%
Peak-only	140,202	17%	120,238	16%	115,954	18%
Contingency reserve	15,303		10,768		19,877	
<b>Total</b>	<b>843,451</b>		<b>752,329</b>		<b>645,318</b>	

**Table 8** Allocation of resources in 2015 by service type and funding scenario

Service Type	2015 Growing		2015 Stable		2015 Reduced	
	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%	Plat Hrs	%
Frequent Express	145,989	20%	145,989	20%	80,979	13%
Frequent Rapid	67,933	9%	67,933	9%	55,236	9%
Frequent Local	79,499	11%	79,499	11%	130,882	20%
Infreq. Express	92,430	12%	92,430	13%	92,430	14%
Infreq. Local (Future Frequent)	45,975	6%	45,975	6%	55,882	9%
Infreq. Local (Coverage)	138,167	19%	128,556	18%	88,737	14%
Peak Express	173,541	23%	173,541	24%	142,217	22%
Contingency reserve						
<b>Total</b>	<b>743,535</b>		<b>733,924</b>		<b>646,362</b>	

## APPENDIX 5: MEASURES OF EFFECTIVENESS (MOEs)

Measures of effectiveness (MOEs) can be used to help identify and prioritize potential projects that advance the "Abundant Access" service vision and realize the 2030 Frequent Transit Network. MOEs are qualitative and quantitative metrics that provide information about the performance of individual projects and/or the progress in implementation of the Bellevue Transit Master Plan (TMP).

To achieve a comprehensive understanding of the extent to which a project or plan is successful, the measures of effectiveness used should relate to a variety of different qualities associated with transit operation and service that may be affected by the proposed projects. Further, although being considered in the context of a transit plan, it is important that the MOEs used consider the impacts to every mode of travel, as projects that benefit one mode often do so at the expense of others. MOEs should therefore consider four types of travel modes—transit, private vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists—and this plan additionally proposes the consideration of people generally, regardless of their mode of travel. MOEs can also describe outcomes geographically: at a specific intersection or location, along a corridor, or for mobility management areas (MMAs) or the city as a whole.

Draft

## Existing Metrics

King County Metro uses a variety of metrics to track the performance of the routes that it operates. The following is a brief review of the metrics established in Metro's Service Guidelines, adopted in July 2011 in conjunction with the agency's Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021. Metro's purpose in establishing these guidelines is to provide an all-day and peak-hour network that supports regional growth plans, responds to existing ridership demand, provides productive and efficient service, ensures social equity, and provides geographic value through a network of connections between major urban and activity centers.

The performance measures established follow from these goals and are applied to different service types and at different scales as deemed appropriate. Thus, not every measure is considered for every route or at every scale; for example, some measures are considered only for corridors that serve all-day needs, while peak-only services are assessed using different measures. The Guidelines establish three distinct analytical processes for assessing route performance: the first addresses route productivity by considering the measures rides per platform hour and passenger miles per platform mile, the second addresses service quality by examining passenger loads and schedule reliability, and the third assesses the level of service provided by individual routes according to the type of service they provide—all-day or peak-only.

The analysis process for all-day routes follows three distinct steps to determine the appropriate level of service for each route. The process begins by examining three performance categories—land use, social equity, and geographic value—and their respective performance measures, including household and job density, the percentage of a corridor's population that is classified as low-income



**Figure 119** The King County Metro *Strategic Plan for Public Transportation 2011-2021* and *2013 Service Guidelines Report*.

or minority, and whether the corridor provides the primary connection between designated centers. Points are awarded based on an established scale, with the total providing the initial suggested level of service for peak, off-peak, and night-time hours. The second stage of the assessment examines the load, cost recovery, and demand for late-night service at the suggested level of service. Adjustments to the initial suggested levels of service are assigned based on the figures obtained in this step, thereby providing the final suggested service levels. The existing and final levels of service are then compared to determine whether corridors are currently over- or under-served.

Metro’s service level assessment process is corridor-based, not route-based, so only those corridors categorized as serving an all-day need are assessed in the way described above. Peak-only routes, which comprise more than half of the routes currently operating in Bellevue, are assessed by only two measures: whether they are at least 20 percent faster and if they serve at least 90 percent as much ridership compared with their all-day alternatives.

The *Transit Network Profile Report* published in April 2012 as part of the TMP Service Element presents these metrics for all Bellevue-serving routes. While Bellevue will continue to monitor Metro's assessment of these measures, it should be noted that these measures relate exclusively to the allocation of transit service.

**Table 9** Metro guidelines for service adjustment.

Guideline	Measures
Productivity	Rides per platform hour Passenger miles per platform mile
Passenger Loads	Load factor
Schedule Reliability	On-time performance Headway adherence Lateness
All-Day and Peak Networks	Current service relative to All-Day and Peak Networks

King County Metro uses the above guidelines when adding or reducing service and in the ongoing development and management of transit service.

# PROPOSED MEASURES

The Transportation Commission prepared the following four measures of effectiveness (MOE) on October 17, 2013 for monitoring progress in achieving Bellevue's transit service vision:

1. Measure service availability on Bellevue's Frequent Transit Network corridors.
2. Measure transit usage in Bellevue's Mobility Management Areas.
3. Measure person throughput by mode on Bellevue's Frequent Transit Network corridors.
4. Measure travel time savings resulting from speed and reliability improvements on Bellevue's Frequent Transit Network corridors.

By providing a sense of the quality of transit service in Bellevue, these metrics can serve as a tool for communicating the City's need for transit service delivery and capital improvements to the public, King County Metro, Sound Transit, and other elected leaders. These measures can be organized into the following performance categories:

- **Service Availability:** ease of use for various kinds of transit trips;
- **Transit Usage:** passenger satisfaction with the quality of transit service provided;
- **Person Throughput:** transit's role in managing roadway capacity and operations; and,
- **Travel Time:** how long it takes to make a trip by transit in comparison with another mode.

With the exception of the transit usage MOE, which will be reported twice annually, the other metrics will be produced on a five-year reporting cycle. In the intervening years, Bellevue staff will monitor King County Metro's Strategic Plan and Service Guidelines, which established a system of operations performance standards and network evaluation based on measures of productivity, social equity, and geographic value.

## Service Availability

The first MOE—“measure service availability on Bellevue’s Frequent Transit Network corridors”—will help the Transportation Department determine whether transit service is a viable option for a given trip in Bellevue. Where, how often, and when transit service is provided are all important factors in one’s decision to use transit. In transit planning terms, these qualities are known as accessibility (or service coverage), service frequency, and service span, respectively. From the user’s perspective, service frequency determines how many times per hour a user has access to transit at a given location, assuming that location is within an acceptable walking distance (measured by service coverage) and service is provided at the times the user wishes to travel (measured by service span). The following spatial and temporal attributes—when considered together—provide an assessment of transit service availability.

### Route Frequency

Transit frequency is the number of transit vehicles scheduled to serve a given stop during one hour. Frequency was reported as the top factor influencing overall trip satisfaction in the *Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey*. The more frequent the transit service, the shorter the wait time when a bus is missed or when the exact schedule is not known before arriving at a bus stop, and the greater the flexibility that customers have in selecting travel times. The longer the service headway (the time between successive buses), the more inconvenient transit becomes, both because passengers have to plan their trip around bus schedules and because they incur more unproductive time during their trip.

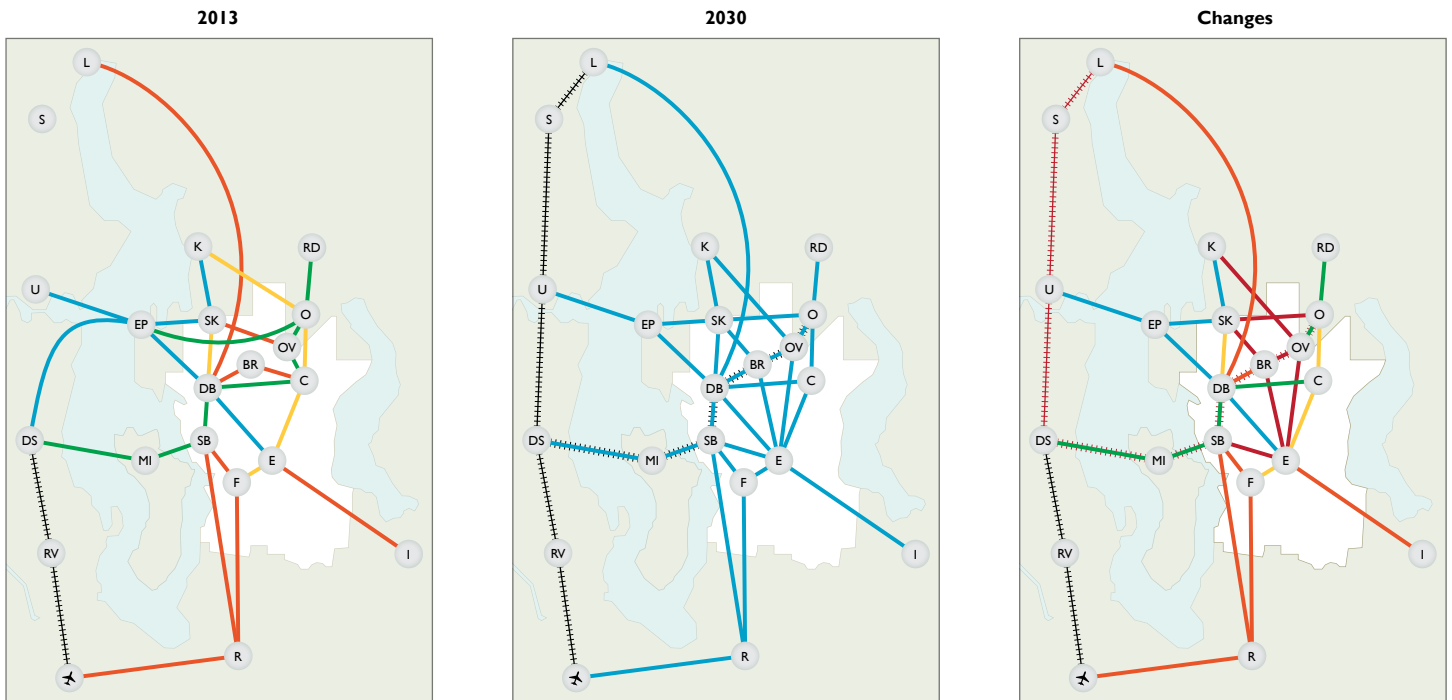
Research suggests that 30-minute service frequency is considered to be unattractive to discretionary riders—those with access to an automobile who choose to use transit—while

15-minute service in the peak periods is considered a significant threshold to making transit a competitive alternative to driving. This threshold mainly relates to the amount of time people are willing to wait if they just miss a bus. With a 30-minute wait until the next bus, most people with a car available will not risk having to wait that long and will thus not attempt to take the bus at all.

Assessing route frequency involves determining whether each portion of the FTN achieves the headway thresholds for frequent service defined in the *Transit Service Vision Report*. Staff will develop a table and map reflecting the percentage of FTN corridor segments operating at these target headways. Figure 121 reflects the route segments

along 2030 FTN corridors and the upgrades in service headways required to achieve 2030 target frequencies. *Route segment* refers to a portion of an FTN route that is bounded by an intersection with another route on both sides. This method avoids consideration of the transit network in terms of the block-by-block approach promoted by the *Highway Capacity Manual*. Figure 120 reflects the connections between major local and regional centers served by FTN routes and indicates which require upgrades to achieve 2030 FTN-level service. Both figures depict only those segments and connections operated by FTN routes—infrequent all-day services are not shown.

**Figure 120** Progress toward 2030 FTN by frequency of service connections between major centers.



**Legend**

- |                 |                                   |                                  |                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>BELLEVUE</b> | <b>BR</b> Bel-Red                 | <b>DS</b> Downtown Seattle       | <b>R</b> Renton                   |
|                 | <b>C</b> Crossroads               | <b>EP</b> Evergreen Point        | <b>RD</b> Redmond Transit Center  |
|                 | <b>DB</b> Downtown Bellevue       | <b>I</b> Issaquah Transit Center | <b>RV</b> Rainier Valley          |
|                 | <b>E</b> Eastgate                 | <b>K</b> Kirkland Transit Center | <b>S</b> Shoreline                |
|                 | <b>F</b> Factoria                 | <b>L</b> Lynnwood                | <b>SK</b> S. Kirkland Park & Ride |
|                 | <b>SB</b> S. Bellevue Park & Ride | <b>MI</b> Mercer Island          | <b>U</b> University District      |
|                 |                                   | <b>O</b> Overlake Transit Center | <b>SeaTac</b> SeaTac              |
|                 |                                   | <b>OV</b> Overlake Village       |                                   |

	Peak	Midday	Night
<b>Very Frequent</b> (every train connection)	≤8	≤12	15-30
<b>Infrequent</b>	30	15-30	30-60
<b>LRT</b>			

Note: numbers reflect approximate peak/midday/night frequencies.

2013 - 2030 FTN Upgrades Required	
<b>8</b>	No Upgrade Needed - 2030 FTN-Level Service
<b>10</b>	Upgrade by 2 min. - Existing Very Frequent Service
<b>15</b>	Upgrade by 7 min. - Existing Frequent Service
<b>30</b>	Upgrade by 20+ minutes - Existing All-Day Service
<b>N</b>	New Service - No Existing Service at any Frequency
<b>---</b>	Existing Frequent Service Reduced/Eliminated



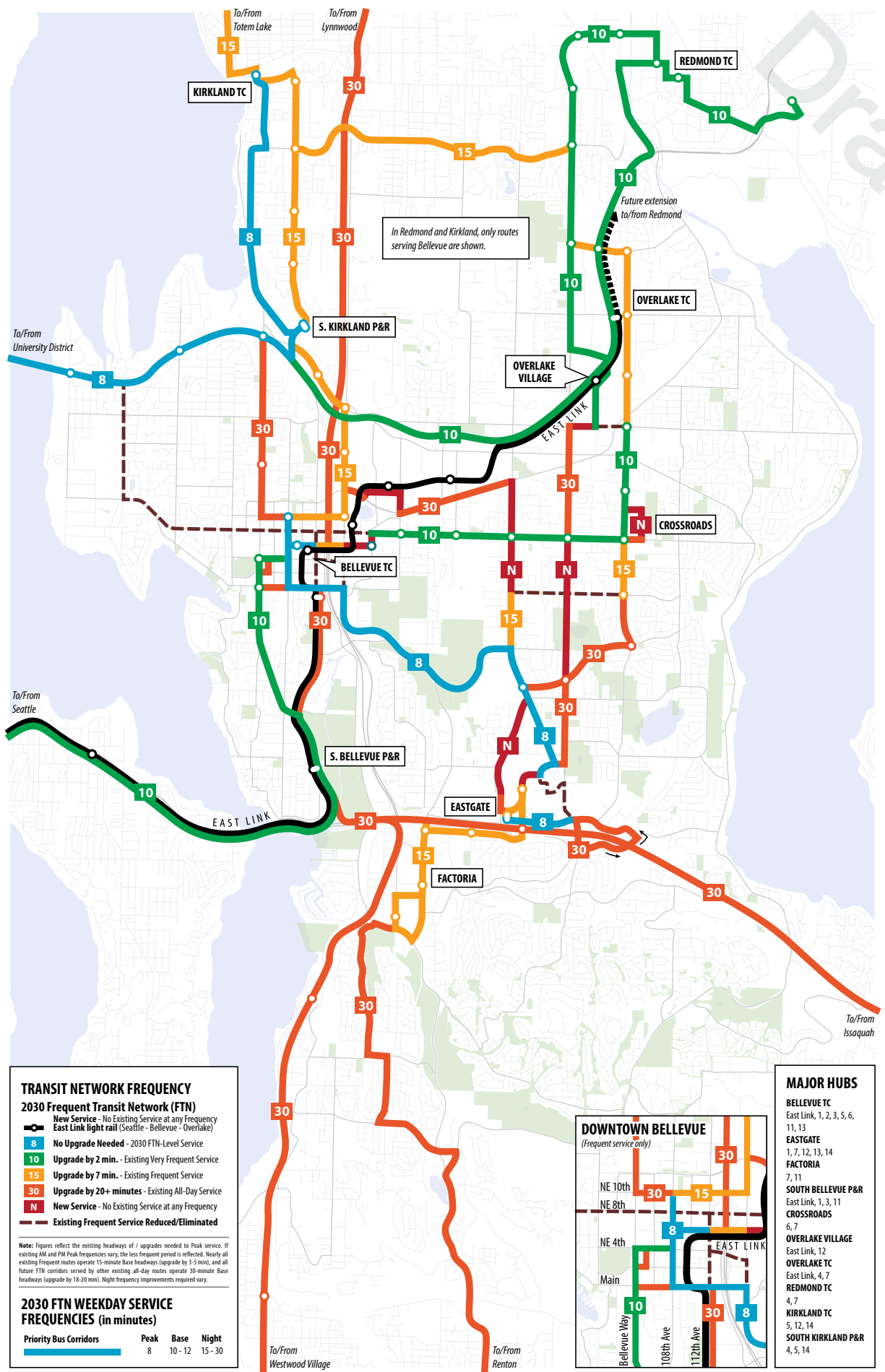


Figure 121 Headway upgrades required from 2013 network to achieve the 2030 Frequent Transit Network.

## Route Coverage

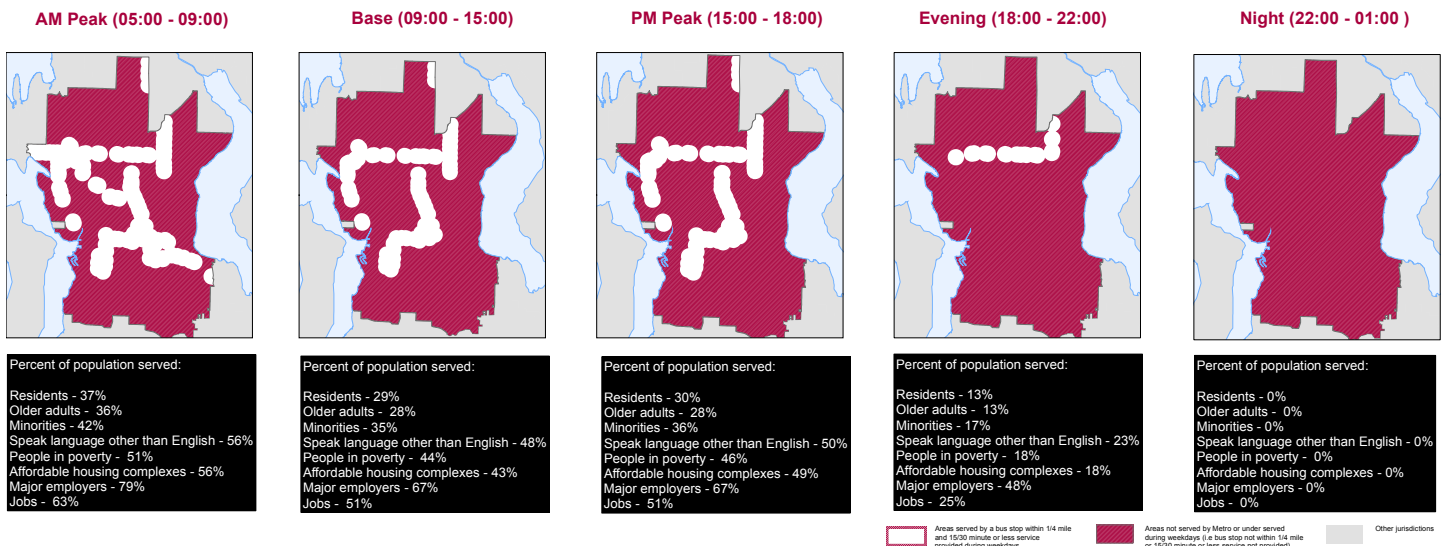
The presence or absence of transit service near one's origin and destination is a key factor in one's choice to use transit. Route coverage is a measure of the area within a reasonable walking distance of transit service. When combined with service frequency and span data, route coverage helps identify the number of opportunities people have to access transit from different locations.

The calculation of the transit route coverage area is performed through the use of a geographic information system (GIS) using the following data: (i) bus stop locations from King County Metro's GIS database, and (ii) demographic data (population and jobs) from the U.S. Census Bureau. Bellevue's GIS software buffering feature is then used to outline on a map all of the area within one-quarter mile of an FTN bus stop. The one-quarter mile buffer is consistent with industry literature that most passengers (75 to 80% on average) walk one-quarter mile or less to bus stops. At an average walking speed of 3 mph, this is equivalent to a maximum walking time of 5 minutes.

In conducting this analysis, Transportation Department staff will assess how many Bellevue residents and employees are provided frequent bus service by day of week (weekday and weekend) and time of day (AM peak, base, PM peak, evening, and night). Broadening the route coverage analysis to consider service span helps to refine this assessment of service availability to potential users. If transit service is not provided at the time of day a potential passenger needs to take a trip, it does not matter where (coverage) or how often (frequency) transit service is provided to the rest of the day. Some potential transit riders choose not to use transit services because particular services are unavailable for their anticipated return trips or because they cannot be certain about the time of their return trips and need to be certain that they do not get stranded. Figure 122 reflect areas in Bellevue lacking 15-minute bus service on weekdays and weekends, respectively, based on Fall 2011 data.

**Figure 122** Weekday level of service coverage, Fall 2011.

### Areas in Bellevue lacking 15 min or Less Bus Service on Weekdays (Fall 2011)



## **Transit Usage**

The second MOE—“measure transit usage in Bellevue’s Mobility Management Areas”—will help the Transportation Department track passenger satisfaction with the quality of transit service provided in Bellevue. The transit usage calculation is performed with a geographic information system (GIS) using the following data: (i) average weekday stop-level usage data (ons/off) on bus routes operating in Bellevue, and (ii) Bellevue’s GIS shapefile of the 14 Mobility Management Areas (MMA) of the city. Tracking transit usage occurs twice annually, reflecting average weekday stop-level on/off data from the Spring and Fall service changes.

Increased usage of transit is correlated to the numerous service and capital investments that have been made over this period to improve travel options in Bellevue. Public transportation ridership in Bellevue has grown steadily since the adoption of the 2003 Transit Plan; average weekday transit ridership in Bellevue rose from 25,300 (in 2004) to 50,300 (in 2012)—a 99 percent increase.

## **Person Throughput**

The third MOE—“measure person throughput by mode on Bellevue’s Frequent Transit Network corridors”—will assist the Transportation Department in tracking transit’s contributions to improved mobility on Bellevue’s street network. Historically, arterial street performance has been based mostly on outcomes for vehicles rather than people. In classical highway engineering, the goal is maximizing “vehicle throughput”, expressed by letter grades that reflect an intersection’s level of service (LOS). Vehicle throughput is based on the volume-to-capacity (V/C) ratio, which divides the total number of vehicles at a given intersection by the capacity of that intersection to handle cars. The V/C ratio regards each vehicle as equally important regardless of how many people it carries.

There is a growing recognition in the transportation industry that metrics that focus solely on vehicle

throughput are unable to adequately capture the human and social costs of lost time and money. That is, vehicles do not lose time, but people do. In order to improve automobile LOS at a given intersection, for example, traffic engineers may inadvertently favor a reliance on vehicle-oriented solutions that unintentionally limit other investment choices. The result of these actions may be that the intersection can handle more vehicles but fewer people. In the long-term, as the city grows, managing the transportation system with an exclusive focus on auto congestion paradoxically results in more auto congestion than an approach that considers all modes.

The Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual Third Edition defines person capacity as: “The maximum number of people that can be carried past a given location during a given time period under specified operating conditions; without unreasonable delay, hazard, or restriction; and with reasonable certainty.” Person throughput—a function of the mix of vehicles in the traffic stream, including the number and occupancy of each type of vehicle—recognizes the difference between a single bus containing 40 people and a pair of cars that occupy the same space but contain only 2 people. A commitment to measure person throughput is found at every level of government in Washington State. Because transportation impacts do not stop at local boundaries, coordination between jurisdictions is important—indeed, it is recognized by Bellevue’s *Comprehensive Plan* as being “absolutely necessary”. It is therefore instructive to consider how state and regional entities address the subject of person throughput.

Bellevue’s person throughput calculation is performed with the Bellevue-Kirkland-Redmond (BKR) travel demand model. Inputs to the four-step model used in travel demand forecasting are current land use, the current transportation system, forecast changes in households, employment, and transportation system improvements, and the fraction

of trips made during the peak period. The travel demand model compares demand for travel to the supply of the roadway system within the project area. Travel demand is derived from population and employment, while the supply side of the equation is the roadway system on which travel occurs.

The BKR model produces Peak-Period Person Throughput (PPPT) by mode for the corridor segments that comprise the Frequent Transit Network (FTN) defined in the *Transit Service Vision Report*. The PPPT metric takes into account average vehicle occupancy of personal vehicles and public transportation. By measuring performance during peak periods, PPPT focuses attention on the time period when the transportation system is most stressed. The public easily understands peak-period performance, as it impacts many travelers through the daily commute, and improvements to system performance during peak periods are visible and appreciated.

As reflected in Figure 123, BKR model data facilitates a comparison of PPPT values for both transit and personal vehicles along FTN corridor segments. In the case of Bellevue Way SE between SE 8th Street and 113th Avenue SE, the 2030 projected PPPT on transit is 44 percent of all person trips. When considered from a vehicle throughput perspective, transit represents only 1.1 percent of all vehicle trips along this FTN corridor segment. Clearly, bus service is projected to make efficient use of the roadway capacity in this corridor.

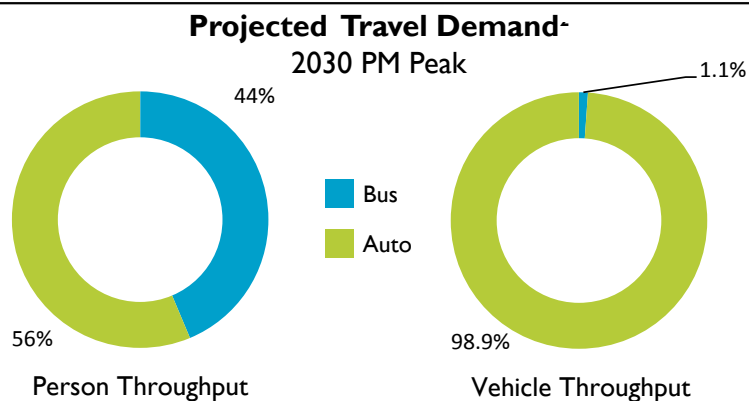
Although the example provided is for projected 2030 conditions, BKR travel demand model outputs can also be generated for current conditions. Bellevue is able to aggregate prior year annual bus ridership data for each of the FTN corridors. This data is then compared to auto volume and person trips found in the base year model.

**Figure 123** 2030 PM peak projected travel demand along Bellevue Way SE between SE 8th St and 113th Ave SE.



### Bellevue Way SE SE 8th St to 113th Ave SE

Buses <sup>1</sup>	36
Total Vehicles <sup>1</sup>	3,230
Percent Transit <sup>1</sup>	1.1%
Person Trips – Transit <sup>1</sup>	3,363
Person Trips – Total <sup>1</sup>	7,705
Percent Transit <sup>1</sup>	44%



<sup>1</sup> Based on City of Bellevue 2030 PM Peak Hour BKR Model (MP30R6.2).

## Travel Time

The fourth MOE—“measure travel time savings resulting from speed and reliability improvements on Bellevue’s Frequent Transit Network corridors”—will assist the Transportation Department in tracking the improvements realized by transit priority investments and help identify FTN service connections where ridership gains and operating cost savings might be realized from proposed transit priority measures. The Transit Capacity and Quality of Service Manual Third Edition notes that travel time is a useful metric for assessing transit performance because “travel time directly impacts the number of transit vehicles needed to operate on a route at a given headway and the impact of location-specific transit preferential treatments and operational strategies will typically be expressed as a travel time saved per location,” and also because “ridership elasticity factors... exist for average speed, allowing the impact of speed improvements on ridership to be estimated.”

According to respondents of the *Bellevue Transit Improvement Survey*, improving bus speed and reliability by investing in roadway and traffic signal infrastructure is the highest priority for municipal investment in transit. Attracting ridership is of course important to transit operators, but speed also impacts the cost of operating a route. The number of transit vehicles required to operate a service at a given frequency depends on the route’s cycle time (the time required to make a round-trip on the route), plus driver layover time, and any additional schedule recovery time required beyond layover time. The cycle time (in minutes) divided by the headway (in minutes per vehicle) gives the required number of vehicles to serve the route. If a route’s cycle time can be reduced sufficiently to reduce the required number of vehicles, cost savings result. Alternatively, the saved vehicle can be used to increase frequency on this or another route with no net change in operating costs.

Bellevue’s travel time MOE is considered in terms

of two metrics: one assesses operating speeds in absolute terms and compares observed speeds to service vision targets, and the other expresses transit travel time in relative terms compared to automobile travel time. Together, these two measures provide a comprehensive understanding of the degree of mobility offered by transit service as it relates both to operations and users. The first metric calculates the average operating speed of all routes comprising each FTN service type—Frequent Express (FX), Frequent Rapid (FR), and Frequent Local (FL)—for each period of the day. These values are then compared to the target operating speeds established in the *Transit Service Vision Report* for 2022 and 2030. Congestion on local roads is projected to worsen as time progresses, hence the estimated operating speeds for FR and FL services are expected to decline between 2022 and 2030. By contrast, the average speeds of Express services increase by 2030 because Route 550—currently the slowest of the Express services—will be discontinued after it is replaced by East Link light rail. Although the general trend is toward declining speeds over time, observed operating speeds in 2012 are not uniformly faster than the estimated speeds for future years. For example, Rapid service is estimated to be 10% faster than Local service in future years per guidance received from Metro, but Bellevue’s only existing Rapid route (B Line) does not presently achieve such a speed premium over the average of all local all-day services. If observed speeds in 2022 and 2030 are ultimately found to be slower than the estimated targets, this may have implications for the amount of transit service operated in Bellevue.

Stated simply: time is money. Slower service means less service unless Bellevue can secure additional resources (in terms of annual platform hours operated within the city) from local transit agencies. This is because slower operating speeds result in longer

cycle times, which if sufficiently longer than planned will require additional vehicles to provide the same level of service. If additional resources cannot be secured to offset the difference, service frequency or span may need to be reduced to remain within the annual platform hour budget. The importance of achieving the targeted operating speeds therefore cannot be overstated, as these estimates play a central role in determining how much service can be operated given a particular budget.

**Potential sources for travel time data:**

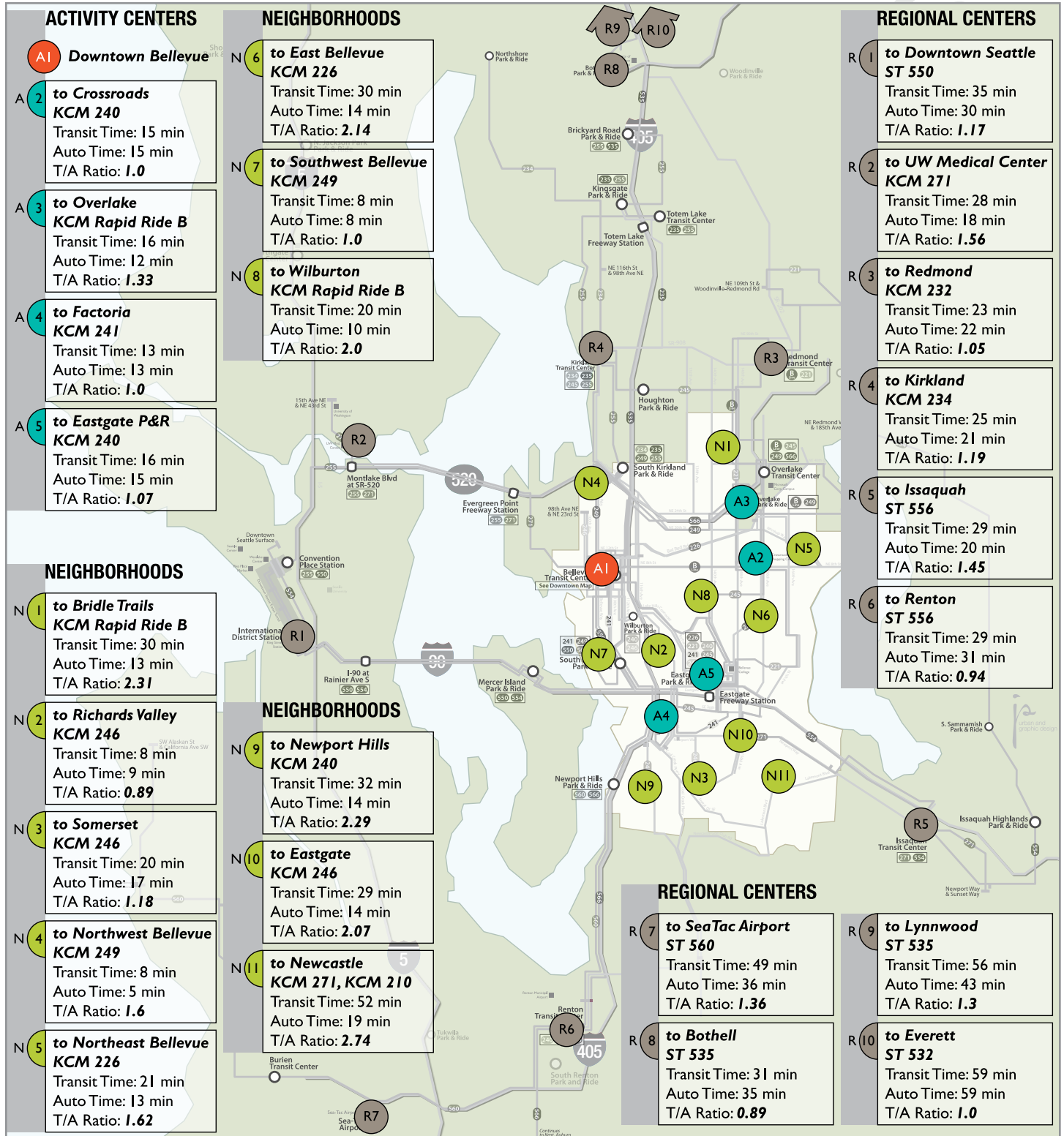
- Field data, from auto travel time runs and transit automatic vehicle location (AVL) data;
- Estimates of auto and transit speeds from the Highway Capacity Manual or simulation;
- Online mapping tools like Google Maps, that can provide estimates of auto and transit travel times, including the effects of recurring traffic congestion; or
- BKR travel demand model, for origin-destination trips.

The second measure assessing travel time is a ratio obtained by dividing transit travel time by auto travel time. A Transit/Auto (T/A) ratio greater than 1.0 reflects transit travel times that exceed auto travel times. As a general rule of thumb, T/A ratios of 2.0 or above are considered not competitive to trips by auto and are therefore less likely to attract ridership. Figure 124 reflects PM peak transit travel times, auto times, and T/A ratios from Downtown Bellevue to various local and regional destinations. Additional details about this methodology—derived from manually tabulating travel times using Google Maps—are reflected in the Bellevue Transit/Auto Travel Time Analysis Report, in which transit travel times were compared to the time it would take to reach the same destination at the same time of day by car.

Travel times used to calculate the T/A ratio on Bellevue’s FTN corridors can be obtained from a variety of sources, including those shown at left. Whichever source is selected, it should be used as the basis for both transit and auto travel times. When travel times are estimated, rather than measured directly, a sample of estimates should be compared against existing conditions to verify the reasonableness of the estimates and, if necessary, develop correction factors for them.



Figure 124 Weekday level of service coverage, Fall 2011.





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**Other Stakeholders and Regional Partners**

Bill Bryant (City of Seattle), Chester Knapp (City of Redmond), Deric Gruen (Bellevue College), David Godfrey (City of Kirkland), Jim Stanton (Microsoft), Jon Morrison Winters (Hopelink), Lincoln Vander Veen, (Bellevue Chamber of Commerce), Mark Hazen (Bellevue School District), Paulo Nunes-Uneo (Seattle Children’s Hospital), Ray White (Bellevue College), Steve Kasner (East Bellevue Community Council), Terry Parker (Bellevue School District), Thang Nguyen, (City of Kirkland), Tony Mazzella (City of Seattle)

*Without the support of the citizens of Bellevue, completion of this plan would not have been possible.*