



May 14, 2009

The Honorable Dave Reichert
United States House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Reichert,

The Bellevue City Council supports and submits a request for \$20,000,000 in High Priority Project funding in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization legislation for:

- **NE 15th Street from 116th Avenue to 124th Avenue NE – Bellevue**

The following are additional details about the project:

1. Project merits: This project will construct a new multi-modal corridor that will be the centerpiece of the transportation strategy supporting significant land use changes and compact development in the Bel-Red area, which connects the Downtown Bellevue regional growth center in the west to the Redmond/Overlake/Microsoft urban centers to the east. This new corridor will integrate light rail, a major east-west bicycle connection, auto access and “green street” urban pedestrian amenities, with a focus on transit oriented development. The project also utilizes best practices to minimize the on-going impacts on the environment, including opening stream corridors, creating open space and greenways and using natural drainage practices.

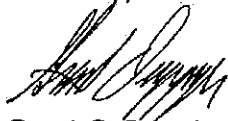
2. Public Engagement: The City recently completed a comprehensive multi-year (2005-2009) planning effort to envision a new future for the Bel-Red Corridor. The plan identified key infrastructure that would be needed, including this project - NE 15th Street - to serve as the spine of the new infrastructure and support the alignment of light rail. The public engagement included a formal public hearing held May 28, 2008; a Citywide open house on May 15, 2008 attended by 190 people; targeted public meetings with businesses; and numerous other meetings open to the public, including the City Council and the City’s boards and commissions. The City has retained an extensive log of the comments and correspondence submitted by the public. Comments made during the public hearing and the environmental review process are posted on the web as well.

3. Additional sources of funding to complete this project: The City is committed to the remaining estimated cost of this project, \$56 million, through its recently adopted Mobility and Infrastructure Initiative Finance Plan, which utilizes a combination of property tax and developer impact fee increases, grants and the formation of a local improvement district to support this high priority project.

4. How this request meets the 80% cost requirement: The total estimated cost of the project is \$76 million. The City is requesting \$20 million in federal funding for this project. The requested funding will be combined with the City's Mobility and Infrastructure Finance Plan funding, estimated to be \$56 million, to fully fund this project.

Please let me know if I can provide you or your staff with any additional information regarding this project request. You can contact the Mayor's Office at (425) 452-7810 or Intergovernmental Relations Director Diane Carlson at (425) 452-4225 if there is anything you need.

Sincerely,



Grant S. Degginger
Mayor

cc: Bellevue Council



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DAVE REICHERT (WA-08)

CONGRESSIONAL SITE VISIT CERTIFICATION

In the interests of accountability and transparency, we require that either the Congressman or a member of the Congressman's professional staff visit each project site requesting federal funding. This will enable our office to more thoroughly assess the merits of each project and ensure that limited taxpayer funds are invested wisely.

Upon completion of the congressional site visit, please complete this form and have a representative from the organization (not a representative from a lobbying firm) sign it. The Congressional Staff Member visiting the site will be responsible for collecting the form at the time of the visit.

I hereby certify that on April 30, 2009, 2009 Congressman Dave Reichert/a professional staff member from Congressman Dave Reichert's office visited our organization/project for the purposes of reviewing our request for federal funding.

PROJECT NAME: NE 15TH Street from 116th Avenue NE to 124th Avenue NE

DATE OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT: 04-30-09

NAME OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Diane Carlson

TITLE OF PERSON CERTIFYING: Director of Intergovernmental Relations

LEGAL NAME OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: City of Bellevue

LEGAL ADDRESS OF ENTITY MAKING REQUEST: PO Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 5/1/09

MEMBER/CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER: Thomas Young

SIGNATURE: 

DATE: 5.7.09