

December 12, 2022

To: City of Bellevue, Council Members

Fr: Craig Spiezle

Re: Draft Curb Management Program

Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Council Members,

My name is Craig Spiezle. I live in the Lochleven Community and have been a resident of Bellevue for the past 8 years. I am speaking tonight regarding the status of the Curb Management Plan (CMP) and concerns regarding the proposed “curb pricing” and its impact to our residential neighborhoods.

Frist I would like to acknowledge and thank the Transportation and Planning Departments and Transportation Commission for their work in developing this plan. As they identified, online shopping, ride hailing, employee shuttles and delivery services as well as “micro mobility” providers all compete for limited curb space and public frontages. Today the lack of designated loading zones creates confusion and traffic congestion.

While the CMP acknowledges the aggregated impact of these uses, it is unclear how “curb pricing” will solve or mitigate them. In the current public draft, the CMP does not appear to address unintended consequences including spill-over traffic and parking in adjacent Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs). Second it is unclear how curb pricing may shift demand and to existing of free neighborhood parks which are often at capacity.

While the Comprehensive Plan, section on Transportation acknowledges the need for these Neighborhood Protections (TR141 - TR149), today few if any of the recommendations have been codified or provided resources for protection or proactive enforcement.¹

Further as acknowledged by the Transportation Department, the pricing analysis need further review. As stated in the documents provided to Council in October, “These estimates are very high level since a specific parking and curb management program proposal is outside the scope of the Curb Management Plan effort”.²

I encourage the Commission and Traffic departments to refine the planning and forecasts to account for these issues and related costs including daily RPZ parking enforcement. Second, I suggest the need for further exploration into the creation of ride-share drop off zones as well as designated delivery hours for merchants and restaurants, to help reduce traffic congestion. Third, I request more granular data be provided to the community to review.

I look forward to working with the Transportation Department, Transportation Commission and other stakeholders towards the goals enhancing the livability and vibrancy of the city and its neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Craig Spiezle
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¹ Bellevue Comprehensive Plan – Transportation, https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2022/Transportation%20December%202021.pdf Page 204

² <https://bellevue.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11289933&GUID=88EB8F7E-F6AC-46CF-88B9-BFB1F0795FF3>