

April 17, 2023

To: Bellevue City Council

Cc: Planning Department and Transportation Commission

Re: Draft Curb Management Plan – Impact of Paid Parking to Adjacent Neighborhoods

Fr: Craig Spiezele, on behalf of a coalition of concerned Bellevue residents

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Good evening, Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor and Council members. My name is Craig Spiezele. I live in the Lochleven neighborhood of Bellevue and am speaking on behalf of a coalition of residents regarding the draft Curb Management Plan, (CMP). Overall the plan does an excellent job of identifying the competing demands for curb usage. Yet some of the strategies risk introducing unintended consequences and equity issues, which require a more robust and objective financial and equity analysis be completed. Specifically we are concerned on the impact to residential neighborhoods if paid metered parking is implemented in the downtown core. As you may recall, I raised these concerns to Council and the Planning Department on Dec 12, 2022 and to-date remain unaddressed.

Authors of the plan have acknowledged that if paid parking is implemented, there will likely be a spill over impact to adjacent neighborhoods. Further the suggestion that Residential Parking Zone (RPZ) permit holders pay to cover the cost of enforcement, is alarming.<sup>i</sup> Concerning it appears portions of the plan conflicts with the Comprehensive Transportation plan including but not limited to TR-149 through TR-157.<sup>ii</sup>

RPZs were created to address overflow parking. Today they help to protect the safety and character of 14 of Bellevue's neighborhoods.<sup>iii</sup> By and large the program is well received. Paid metered parking in downtown will only increase the very issues RPZ were designed to address, while introducing added traffic and pedestrian safety risks to our neighborhoods.

Proposing residents pay for RPZ permits in reality would expand the geographic scope of paid parking nearly 4-fold forcing over 1,300 tax payers and 2,300 permit holders to pay to park in front of their homes.<sup>iv</sup>

We are asking Council to address the following shortcomings by

1. Directing the planning department to update its guiding principles to "Proactively mitigate, monitor and enforce any spill over impact from paid parking and traffic into residential parking zones (RPZs) at no cost to RPZ holders.

2. Expand the geography of urban core parking enforcement to include RPZs in adjacent neighborhoods seven days a week.
3. Increase the fines for RPZ violators to cover the cost of RPZ enforcement.
4. Fund an independent financial and equity analysis evaluating a comprehensive impact of the proposed metered parking in the downtown core, including the net impact to retail and restaurant revenues.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to these issues. We look forward to working with Council, the Transportation Commission and the Planning Department. While I will be unable to attend the May 11<sup>th</sup> Transportation Commission meeting, I am asking for these comments be included in the public record for that meeting.



Craig Spiegle

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on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Bellevue including

Residents of 99<sup>th</sup> Ave NE

Bellecrest Neighborhood Association

Surrey Downs Community Club Board

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<sup>i</sup> See page Appendix A – Curbside Practices Guide A16 & A17.

<sup>ii</sup> [https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2023/Bellevue\\_CMP\\_AppendixA.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2023/Bellevue_CMP_AppendixA.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> City of Bellevue Transportation Comprehensive Plan

[https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2022/Transportation%202022\\_4.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2022/Transportation%202022_4.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> City of Bellevue Residential Parking Zones (RPSz) [https://bellevuewa.gov/city-](https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/safety-and-maintenance/traffic-safety/residential-parking-management)

[government/departments/transportation/safety-and-maintenance/traffic-safety/residential-parking-management](https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/transportation/safety-and-maintenance/traffic-safety/residential-parking-management)

<sup>iv</sup> COB RPZ 4/17/23 analysis, including 1,327 households, 934 residential permits and 1,462 permits for a total of 2,396 permits.