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Media contact: Patrick Bannon
425-453-3113
patrick@bellevuedowntown.org

Bellevue Downtown Association Endorses Sound Transit Expansion Plan

BELLEVUE, WA (Oct. 21, 2008) – The Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) Board of Directors today announced its endorsement of the Sound Transit Mass Transit Expansion Plan (Proposition 1). The BDA supports the ballot measure as a necessary step in providing near and long-term transit solutions for the fast-growing number of Downtown Bellevue workers, residents, and visitors.

"Our ability to grow and thrive as an urban center is linked to accessibility," said BDA Board Chair Jill Ostrem. "We approached this decision asking, 'What's best for Downtown Bellevue?' Connecting downtown with the region through safe and reliable mass transit is essential to our community's future success."

The measure will expand regional bus express service on I-405 (2009) and deliver light rail transit to Downtown Bellevue (2020) and Overlake Transit Center (2021). Additional plan details are available at: <http://future.soundtransit.org/>.

Ostrem added, "With this endorsement, the BDA pledges to work with Sound Transit, the City of Bellevue and the downtown community to ensure effective and efficient implementation of these investments. In addition, we will continue to engage at the local and regional level on high priority congestion relief projects and transit solutions."

Established in 1974, the Bellevue Downtown Association is a nonprofit, membership organization charged with leading the continuing evolution of Downtown Bellevue as the economic and cultural heart of the Eastside region. The BDA advocates for a shared vision of Downtown Bellevue, cultivates economic vitality, fosters a dynamic civic and cultural community and creates an open forum for Downtown constituents.

The Bellevue Downtown Association also keeps downtown moving through its TransManage service, a resource for downtown businesses and residents seeking assistance with transportation choices and employee commute benefit packages.

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