

REDMOND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK & BUDGETING BY PRIORITIES 2012



3/30/2012

Final Report

A summary of community involvement and input.

CITY OF REDMOND

Redmond Neighborhood Network & Budgeting By Priorities 2012



FINAL REPORT

Redmond's vision is to realize our future as a city with vibrant urban centers in Downtown and Overlake, improved neighborhood connections, and high quality services delivered in partnership with an engaged community. Strong connections and engagement are an outcome of a local government that responds to and anticipates the changing needs of the community. Having multiple opportunities for the community to actively participate in a variety of ways helps City officials and staff incorporate the community's perspective in programs and projects so that Redmond continues to be a desirable and thriving community.

The 2012 Redmond Neighborhood Network and Budgeting By Priorities activities helped implement and strengthen these community connections and citywide participation with Redmond's future clearly in mind.

OVERVIEW 2012

This year, the City focused Redmond's annual Neighborhood Network series to seek community input for development of the City's 2013-2014 Biennial Budget. City officials and staff met with the Redmond community at three events:

- February 23 for the Downtown and Overlake neighborhoods
- March 1 for the Bear Creek, Education Hill, North Redmond, and SE Redmond neighborhoods
- March 7 for the Grass Lawn, Idylwood, Sammamish Valley, and Willows/Rose Hill neighborhoods

Approximately 70 community members participated in the three events. A companion online questionnaire was completed by 110 people. To date, one paper-version of the questionnaire was completed and returned.

Information obtained through the meetings and the questionnaire have been provided to Budgeting By Priorities participants and the community with the goal to ensure Redmond's programs and projects reflect the interests and concerns of the community.

EVENT

The series provided opportunities for casual conversation with City officials and staff as well as facilitated conversation regarding each of Redmond's ten neighborhoods. The first hour included an open house. Participants addressed questions asked by staff representatives from many City programs. Tailored questions helped participants describe their interest in Budgeting By Priorities priority areas in addition to concerns specific to respective programs for the next one to two years. *Exhibit 1* includes thoughts shared by participants during the open house portion. Staff asked similar questions during the facilitated discussion groups to learn the community's interests and concerns regarding the next six years and the next twelve years: "What are your primary concerns or suggestions for Redmond in the near-term {1 to 6 years} and mid-term {6 to 12 years}? Where would you like the City to focus its investment? Where would you like the City to plan for future investments?" *Exhibit 2* through *Exhibit 5* include lists of priorities for the near-term and mid-term voted on by participants during the facilitated discussions and associated lists created by participants as part of a brainstorming exercise. These lists are organized by the BP priority most closely associated with the comment.

In addition to the discussions, participants received an event brochure {*Exhibit 6*} including Redmond's Vision, a brief description of Redmond's Budgeting By Priorities process, and a frequent contact list. The brochure also included a paper version of the online questionnaire and an event-related comment form.

SUMMARY FINDINGS

The majority of community comments primarily involved aspects of the Infrastructure and Growth priority regarding the near-term (1 to 6 years). For the mid-term (6 to 12 years), priorities primarily involved Infrastructure and Growth along with interest in the Clean and Green and the Business Community priorities.

For the near-term (1 to 6 years), a clear majority of the priorities included aspects of transportation: completing connections, enhancing walkable and bikable networks throughout the City, and traffic calming techniques. The mid-term interests (6 to 12 years) included infrastructure and planning for future light rail along with its relationship to vicinity residents and the current transportation system.

Throughout the series, themes included interest and support for the following (not in priority order):

- Increased enhancements to promote walkability and bikability
- Additional commuting and transit services
- Mitigation for traffic volumes and speeds in residential areas
- Public safety as a priority
- Support for Downtown's economic vitality
- Support for sustainability and the natural environment
- Community gardens

High preference in the near-term (1 to 6 years) was indicated to:

- Continue implementation of the Downtown vision including landscaping and beautification; community events; pedestrian connections and wayfinding; light rail and other transit services and amenities; incentives for businesses (especially independently owned); housing choices and affordability; preservation of historic structures; along with the addition of a community garden
- Support recreational services including those at the Redmond Senior Center and completion of the Central Connector
- Address high vehicular speeds and provide crosswalks along 166th Avenue NE
- Enhance safety related to traffic flow along NE 97th Street and along NE 104th Street at Horace Mann Elementary
- Design and provide for future construction of infrastructure improvements along the 148th Avenue NE corridor
- Support alternative travel modes in the Overlake neighborhood including walking, biking, and transit
- Install a signal and crosswalk at Avondale Road and NE 85th Street or NE 88th Street
- Extend 180th Avenue NE to the east in the Bear Creek neighborhood
- Complete improvements along NE 116th Street including continuous sidewalks and bike lanes, traffic calming, transit shelters, and landscaping
- Support community gathering at Fire Station 17 including an interior meeting space and/or outside gathering facility
- Provide a sidewalk along Redmond Way/NE 85th Street between 140th and 148th Avenues NE
- Address low visibility related to vegetation and utility poles at 140th Avenue NE & NE 80th Street and at 154th Avenue NE & Old Redmond Road
- Improve West Lake Sammamish Parkway to support multiple modes of travel and to provide calming techniques for all modes
- Plow local streets during winter storms particularly near 180th Avenue NE and Audubon Elementary
- Mitigate traffic volumes along Redmond Way/NE 85th Street – the southern boundary of the Willows / Rose Hill neighborhood
- Create pedestrian connections between Downtown and the Willows / Rose Hill neighborhood as well as along 132nd Avenue NE in the Willows / Rose Hill neighborhood
- Provide a transit shuttle to connect Redmond's neighborhoods to the Downtown during daytime hours
- Support Redmond's arts and culture, particularly during the City's Centennial and through relationships with theaters such as Second Story Repertory
- Encourage the completion and approval of FEMA's recent floodplain re-mapping

High preference in the long-term (6 to 12 years) was indicated to:

- Create a separated pathway along Avondale Road for pedestrians and bicycles that also connects to vicinity parks including Perrigo Park
- Provide community gardens for residents of the multi-family residential area of Bear Creek neighborhood
- Support the continuation of light rail service to the Downtown
- Provide parking facilities at light rail stations
- Offer concessions at Grass Lawn Park to provide limited refreshments and to help support maintenance of the park

Participants of the companion online questionnaire emphasized non-motorized connections, all other transportation, and public safety. Figure 1 below categorizes the aspects participants ranked as their highest priority for the near-term (1 to 6 years). Exhibit 7 includes the actual responses to the complete questionnaire.

**Community Interest
Highest Priority
(1 to 6 years)**

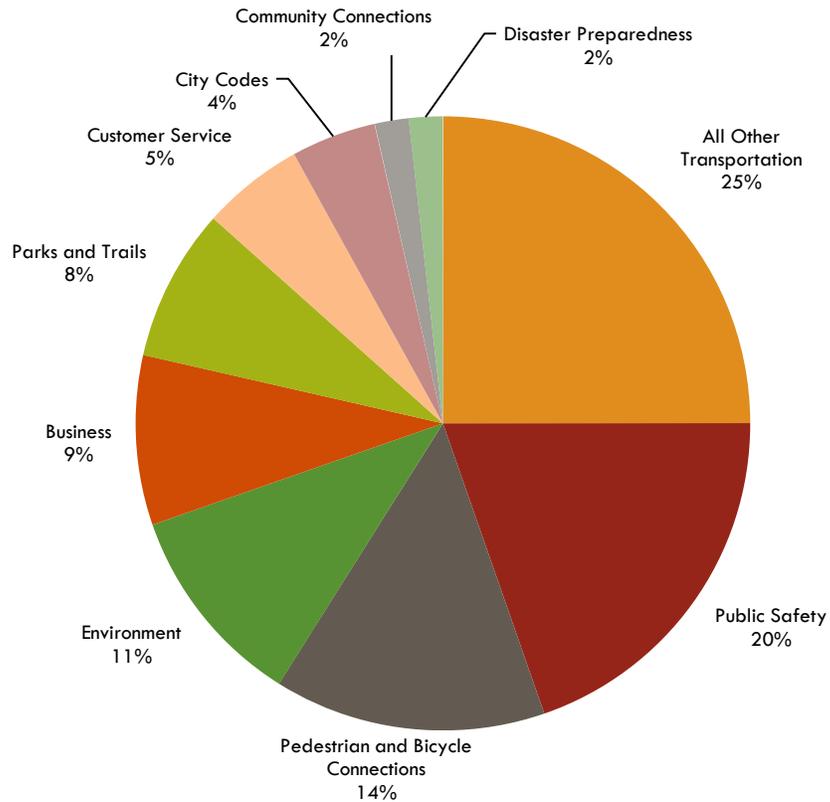


FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF COMMUNITY INTEREST BY GENERAL TOPIC

REDMOND NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK AND BUDGETING BY PRIORITIES

The Redmond Neighborhood Network is a formal, annual communication channel between the City and the Redmond community. The program was piloted in 2010 and officially implemented in 2011 to help:

- Maintain connections with residents
- Provide opportunity for check-in regarding neighborhood plans
- Hear from residents
- Complement existing communication opportunities

Comprehensive Plan policy calls for an annual check-in as a way for City officials and staff to remain aware of interests, concerns, and new ideas from the community at the neighborhood-scale. Information learned during the annual meeting helps streamline subsequent neighborhood planning processes including six-year plan refinements and twelve-year plan updates, if needed.

The Redmond Neighborhood Network complements other community outreach efforts. Notably, the series works in conjunction with and as a complement to the Redmond Citizen Academy, National Night Out, and Derby Days.

The Redmond Neighborhood Network joined with the Budgeting By Priorities process for 2012. Partnering the two distinct programs provided an opportunity to implement community perspective regarding more effective approaches to seeking community input, to enhance process efficiency through strategic combining of Redmond's ten neighborhoods, and to help review and address community input through the entire array of citywide programs.



PROMOTION AND PARTICIPATION

To ensure community-wide invitation and awareness, staff used a wide variety of communication techniques regarding the 2012 series. Communication included the following:

- City of Redmond webpages
- Social media sites including Facebook, blogs, and Twitter
- FOCUS and digital newsletters
- City and local area media
- Direct Mail via 9,300 postcards {Exhibit 8}
- Other outreach including Redmond's Boards and Commissions, direct phone calls, King County Library, Redmond Chamber of Commerce, Redmond Rotary, Microsoft, Lake Washington School District, the local faith-based community, condo and apartment managers, Neighborhood Watch captains, and the Redmond Citizen Academy

Following the February 23rd meeting, staff sought additional participation using the local media, social media, digital newsletters, and direct phone calls.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To receive additional information regarding the event series, please contact Kimberly Dietz, (425) 556-2415, kdietz@redmond.gov or Malisa Files, (425) 556-2166, mfiles@redmond.gov.

EXHIBITS

1. *Community thoughts and questions during open house portion of event series – as provided to staff representatives of the City's work programs*
2. *Short-term (1 to 6 years) priorities – voted on by participants during facilitated discussion*
3. *Long-term (6 to 12 years) priorities - voted on by participants during facilitated discussion*
4. *Short-term (1 to 6 years) list – generated by participants during brainstorming exercise based on “What are your primary concerns or suggestions for Redmond in the near-term {1 to 6 years}? Where would you like the City to focus its investment?”*
5. *Long-term (6 to 12 years) list - generated by participants during brainstorming exercise based on “What are your primary concerns or suggestions for Redmond in the mid-term {6 to 12 years}? Where would you like the City to focus its investment?”*
6. *Event brochure including questionnaire*
7. *Community responses to online questionnaire*
8. *Series invitation*