

**[NOTE this is Part Two of the session and resumes after a break → add 1:23:26 to all timings.]**

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:00:03](#)):

Alright, everybody rested and refreshed and ready to go. I think communication, I appreciate it. Think it's been a good conversation so far. We've got a couple more just, and we've touched on a lot of these and we don't probably need to get into the nitty gritty on all of these, but just a couple more just to kind of wrap this initiative conversation up. It sounds like obviously we're going to have a lot more conversation on community engagement. I don't want to go all the way with that conversation now. Sounds like we need to have a bigger conversation. So we'll kind of work towards wrapping this one up and then we'll move towards kind of what the other two or three initiatives, two rather than three initiatives that council really got a priority. I want to spend a little time kind of diving into those. We obviously don't have as robust a presentation because that was more of a, we wanted to hear from you guys before we go into that stuff. But do you want to go through the last couple slides and we can have a quick conversation on those pieces?

Asst City Mgr: Kevin O'Neill ([00:00:57](#)):

Yeah, so I and I spoke just during the break we had discussion about frequency and resources. I think we've heard a lot there. So we wanted to move on to what is council's top policy concerns that should be put out to the public that we should engage on. We've heard a little bit of it in terms of AXS and GMA, but maybe if we have some kind of conversation around that just so we can understand what's really important for us folks on and maybe what's not.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:01:32](#)):

I think we could go out to, we talked about surveys taking a long time and I know they will, but there's what we want to tell the public, but that's not necessarily what the public wants to know. So I think there's two questions there. There's what council thinks that the public wants to hear, but if we can get a little bit more understanding and maybe this is where we can just call the people to come to one more meeting, to email us and say what are the things that matter to you? Because we can talk to all you want, but that doesn't mean we're right. But I like to see from the other side of the mirror because we live in this little bubble of council, we're not necessarily seeing what other people see. So if we can get a little more inside of that, if

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:02:13](#)):

I think one of the big areas that we need to do some proactive engagement on is housing policy, the GMA, our comp plan and kind of the bills that have come down from in the last couple of years it was really clear that Affordable Housing Symposium said the difference between successful communities and building up affordable housing and those who weren't successful was how much community engagement they did. How were they able to bring the community along with them to understand both the needs, the requirements that we have, some things we can do and some things we can't do legally. And so what is that we need to be just able to inform people and answer questions in an honest way. And I think there has been a lot of rapid change in that area, particularly in the last couple of years that we might be aware of, but the general public isn't.

([00:03:15](#)):

So getting out there and spending some time informing people about where we are right now, not necessarily that we are any take undertaking any particular action necessarily, but this is where we are and this is what it will look like going forward. This is why. And then we have an opportunity of getting public feedback about what they want in their community given the landscape as is.

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:03:45](#)):

So I agree that I would like to see us focus on some of the impacts of the bills that have passed. So for example, there was a huge amount of disinformation put out there about we were going to rezone and kick and it is not true but it's really easy for those wildfires of lies. It just circle and then all of a sudden everybody's against stuff and they're not realizing that we basically were given bad choices and we have to make the least bad choice that impacts us.

([00:04:22](#)):

I think also around transportation, we're going to have some pretty significant traffic issues that we're facing as a community. I think they should know that we're proactively doing what we can to mitigate that, but that's, we're going to go through some growing pains and how we can work as a communicator around that think we should also educate people about the pieces of our infrastructure that we control and those that we don't that never have in our state, the state and we really have to work with them on that because I don't think how we realizes how much of our road infrastructure we don't control. So those are two of the areas and I member on afford housing. We don't want to see something happen have care, not that we're going to be block land that we would be actively doing that with, but we want to make sure that the community knows we're trying to have workforce housing, we're trying to meet the demand so that we can have a private business community here. The people at all stage of life care, that kind stuff is really important as well.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:05:38](#)):

You kind of touched on what we heard this morning is

([00:05:43](#)):

We have to understand all the industry of the different levels of government and how they play together as an example, but the average community person doesn't know slash doesn't care and they don't meet. It's not their job to, they're trying to live their life worried about who's responsible for that pothole and that road is irrelevant as long as the potholes fixed. And so how do we talk about that in a way that makes sense but also at some point they just don't care whether it is somebody else's problem or not. It there's a problem that's affecting their life. So we got to think about how we're going to talk about that kind of stuff.

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:06:26](#)):

I see it differently too. We're elected to represent people and people pretty much know what they want and they're telling us what they want and what they don't want and so they read about it in the news, they know what's happening in the state and they want us to represent and they want us to prevent bad things from happening within our city. So as a role of pushing the group into and trying to convince people, I think that's where you get pure disconnect in the communities. So I think what we have to do is answer your questions when they have questions, but I'm not sure our role is to take regional and state issues and tell people what it means to them.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:07:24](#)):

Yeah, that's just thinking

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:07:25](#)):

About

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:07:26](#)):

It kind of town we can't ignore just if something only has been decided, even if we're advocating it, pull one voice and if we're not successful doing that and it's handed down, we don't have the option of not implementing that rule or that law came up with. So whether it's growth management stuff's a great example, we can't be saying we're not going to grow. That's not an option. So how do we explain that in a way that makes sense to the community, right? It wasn't our decision but we can't just say, oh sorry, I guess we could, but

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:08:06](#)):

We've had communities go to the Supreme Court over decisions that were made and the community collected together and went and we have another community outside the city that's kind of doing the same different account. So we have to support

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:08:26](#)):

Resident. Yeah, it's an interesting, how do we balance that, right? Pushing against, there may be some options where we can push back against some of that stuff or alternatively and I don't know which is the right answer, this is your guys' to make decision. Alternatively we figure out how to implement that stuff and this is when we talk to folks like why we push back against these issues that override local patrol. It's like, okay, give us growth financial stuff, great example. Give us the number we're slow to get and then let us figure out a that makes sense for us locally and that resonates with some of the legislators down Olympia, but certainly not all of 'em. But that's kind right in that fence between we know we're going to have to do something but we want to do it in a way that makes sense for us in response to what we're hearing from the community as opposed to some of this more obviously obscene kind legislation where it's like no, everything's got to be this right and that decisions out of our hands completely in Olympia so I don't look right answer, but I think there's going to be some of that where we're going to have, we can't fight everything.

([00:09:30](#)):

Even if the community is upset about something, we know we can't fight every single thing that's coming out because that ends up, I think I had lots of conversations with some of our staff about it. Ultimately that creates more pushback on and the legislation gets even worse than subsequent. So don't want to see us on the wrong side of the public. I heard a lot about that from people that I worked with. So who lived there

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:09:58](#)):

And I think it gets back to most of the public doesn't understand the GMA hammer that can come with it. We lose our sales taxes, Olympia comes rezones our city. Those are the hammers that we don't comply

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:10:13](#)):

And we're seeing more of that with subsequent.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:10:16](#)):

And that's my point is that 10 years ago, local controls seem to be kind of what came out of Olympia. That doesn't seem to be what's coming out of Olympia any longer. So there are ramifications for not meeting. So we've adopted a strategic vision of growing downtown and preserving our neighborhoods, but some of the stuff that's coming out of the neighborhoods is don't grow at all. And those two things don't work through.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:10:46](#)):

And the reason we've seen a lot of this legislation that's getting more severe, severe where they're just saying, no, the city can do this, right? The two units for law or whatever, that is a result in a lot of cases of cities don't know we're going to push back on that stuff and ultimately holds the hammer on this stuff. And of course it's got to go through the election process, all that kind of stuff. But right now they have pushed back on cities and at one point Woodinville was in that bucket. I don't think it is at this point, but where the city going over for people in here, we're going to do what we want do here and not even making a good faith effort to try to address some of those issues that Lincoln is trying to address. And as a result we get Lincoln pushes back with the ultimate hammer that they have and just says, pass these laws that I don't care about local jurisdiction and controlling, it's just going to be this everywhere. So we have to not contribute to that building problem.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:11:39](#)):

And I agree, we already have a community, what it called community priority survey. I don't remember how robust it was, but it talks about some of these things already. So I don't know that we have to completely reinvent the wheel on this. It talks about quality of life, add new parks, trails, these are the top priorities that came out of it. Add new parks, trails and recreation, access to kayak launches, access to trails and connectivity to the town center to enhance, add new parks and trails. Top three economic priorities or support small businesses diversify the Woodinville economy under the built infrastructure environment, infrastructure enhance pedestrian and cyclist transportation infrastructure, enhance infrastructure access and exit wood mill planning through upcoming growth, growth, health and wellbeing has enhanced affordable housing, increased community events. We talked a little bit about that. Promote Woodinville businesses, promote wood mills a place to live. Then it talked about social media and different community engagement stuff. So we have some of this, we have a strategic plan, so I don't necessarily know we have to reinvent the wheel, but the community has to know we were down in Olympia and there was a lot of talk of the Kenmore bill. We don't want the Woodinville bill. So we have to bring the public along with we're doing this and here's why. Right?

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:13:10](#)):

Yeah. I think walking the fence between these two, there's going to be where we need to advocate for woodinville's interests and that's captured by what you guys are hearing from the community and the citizen. But there's also inevitably going to be those issues where we have to go, I hear you, but that's not what Olympia is saying right now or mandated right now. And we may not agree with it, but that's what the is right now we're not have to go with that because we're not going to be able to do the supreme Court fight on every single thing. And that has just engendered what we see today where it's getting more and more severe legislation going down.

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:13:54](#)):

And I'm going to add that it's according to inform of the public what is coming out from, because if our community is really opposed to something, then they should activate. But we're not the people that they need to talk to. So I think it is keeping 'em informed so that if a we is really not representing them, then there's a mechanism for that to be addressed. It's just not in our council meeting. And so I think we do need to inform 'em and make our community doesn't want to come along and then there's other actions that come out of that, but we have a responsibility to,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:14:44](#)):

It's really important when we go down and talking to Oly and even federal for us to be able to straight, we're doing our part to help address these major concerns that I can be able to say we're trying to do X, Y, and Z with affordable housing if that's their main priority down there as opposed to no, we're not going to do affordable housing and we're go or make something that I can't straight they say is a real effort of trying to do something with that as an example. So I think we need to be making efforts but we need to be also pushing back on, we're making efforts in our own way to meet your overall goals, but let us figure out how that works locally.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:15:25](#)):

I want to consider because I think people still want to know our structure of government is and won't we control. So I think going back and having a basic preference, this is what city of Woodinville does this and I think part of what the community thinks is that when they want to talk to Olympia, they think they go to us and sometimes it's our responsibility to tell the legislators like hey, we share the state constituents and there'd be dragons and this is a problem if what woodville's telling you isn't going through and it's not getting through to you, it's going to be a problem for Woodinville. But I think just a basic understanding of what we control and going back and telling people, look these are the things that we can control. These are the things that the county controls. This is what the state controls.

([00:16:04](#)):

We don't have any say over the state other than when we vote or something like that. But I think that it informs the public too into who they complain to. It doesn't feel any good to yell at us about state parking policy. We get it. But I think it's important too that people know where to put the efforts for the programs that they do and don't want. There's no need to talk about the minimum density lots with us. We all get it. We can point them in that direction. And I think that part of this too is taking some of the stuff that's on our plate that we think is our responsibility. Pointing people and saying, look, we hear you. We understand that we're doing our part, but also you can do your part by doing next. So perhaps some of this is maybe going back to the drawing board and starting people who are younger don't necessarily understand the council manager versus the strong government that other cities have. Even that basic understanding is going to then build on what people are then going to understand. Oh, Woodinville really doesn't have the power to fight the county Orly and that I think it is an important starting point for people so that we're all starting with a baseline level of understanding what we do and then from there we can start getting policy directives because then that's not a policy that we control. This is a state policy

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:17:19](#)):

And even the super elementary example like the pothole intersection out here, people don't want to hear that outside anything that's a safe street and they got to fix it. They want the pothole fixed, but I also can't go out there and just throw stuff in there or I get in trouble with state, right? So how do we educate that piece of it too?

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) (00:17:39):

But part of that too is what happens if, okay, so let's say in the state argument here, what if you were to go out there, kill a pot will state find you, but what are the natural solution then if X and Y, right? What does it mean that we don't control true tip that it's a state route. What does that mean? We can't lie. It means we can't do any construction on there without wash shot approval. Things like that I think will go a long way. And how many people understand why we're a really complicated little city and I think that is something that's missing right now is there's an assumption that people know how our

(00:18:14):

Government is structured when they don't.

(00:18:17):

But once they understand that maybe this policy stuff will make more sense because we really don't

(00:18:21):

Control all that much.

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) (00:18:24):

Well I think back to last year when we went down the group went down to Olympia and really pushed back against hospital 1110 that was going to require a minimum of our four anywhere, our park, which would've significantly impacted our city and being able to push back on that and showcase this is just not feasible from an infrastructure perspective and it would put a huge burden on people. I think people in the city knowing that we're taking that point and we are doing our part to advocate as much as we can. We're vote. It's up to we can't go against have control, but we certainly do our part ahead of time to spot things and say no, we are going to push back and not that we're going to go back in time to do that, but that's an example of I think where people could have seen how hard the city was working to make sure that our local interests were being reselected in the legislation that eventually passed but at least passed without.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan (00:19:36):

Yeah

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) (00:19:36):

It was right. And those are the sorts of things that I think people need to understand but also these other things that did pass. We haven't until the end of this calendar year to get rezoning that whether do we want to or not. And if we don't do it, they will come in and do it for us and to have people come yelling at us and saying that it is true,

Al Taylor (Councilmember) (00:19:57):

No, it isn't true. We're meeting our goals for we have the 1110 stuff, we have to be clients with code

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) (00:20:07):

And they will come in and done that. So if we don't

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan (00:20:09):

Do it, that's, we've seen a lot of the legislation, the stuff that's going through right now. What do

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) (00:20:15):

You mean it's not true? Some

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan (00:20:16):

Of the stuff that's going

(00:20:17):

Through right now,

(00:20:19):

Cities Haven amended their code to adopt those provisions by X date six months after whatever the comp plan update, then the state's model ordinance automatically goes into effect. That's logistics going right now. But we don't have to add more housing if we're meeting our GMA, they don't have to redo our zoning to up zone. So there's a whole lot of nuance in all of it. We have to hit that affordable housing stuff, which we don't right now. We have to have provisions figured out for that. Whatever that looks like. Whether that's rezoning or change zoning somewhere else, we have to have that. That's one example. So we have to have seven implement for us.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) (00:21:02):

I mean this we're the needs. I understood that this is complicated and there are a lot of things going on here, but we're talking about, I'm just trying to write back to public engagement on these things. What is it that we control? What is it that the state controls and what are we required to do when the state says X, we have to do X city has control over these things. I think it's important to understand what buckets and city controls and that the people understand what those buckets are. And again, I think this goes back just to the structure of what our government is and then once we have that we've identified what the boundaries are, then we can start talking about policy in those different areas. I think you have to give people a starting point of knowledge and then build on it. You can't just throw 'em in and say, we're going to talk about GMA and housing. You're just going to lose people because they read these papers and they have an opinion and they have an idea. But until we can tell them what part of that we control, I don't think that we would be useful and we wouldn't be providing any more information other than confusion. So if we just have this,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan (00:22:04):

What do we do? This is a great example. If we're not even on the same page about what this issue is, then we, and we're supposed to, if anybody is we're supposed to be, then how are we expect the public to know what's going on with this kind of stuff? So it starts from here and then we've got to go there.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) (00:22:27):

I just think it's important to understand too, some of the public is always going to disagree with anything we say. So whatever we push out there are going to be people who disagree with us. Is the dress blue or is it white? That sort of thing. You're always going to have people who have different opinions than us and I don't think our role here is to make sure that everybody agrees with us. That's not the case. I just think we need to be able to present and say we're doing the best we can for the following reasons. We're structurally required to do this. We can't touch this. State controls this. Once we have those parameters in place, it gives people a little bit more understanding of why we're making the decisions we're making. I think more than the what's the why are we doing this?

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:23:05](#)):

And it gets back to some of the objectives of this overall strategy, this plan we're talking about. We know we're not going to be able to get everybody understanding all the intricacies of how intergovernmental Miami, I've got kids, there's the one I can argue with all day long and tell him this guy is little he'll argue all day long and then it's not. Inevitably there's going to be that we're not going to get in there and we have to acknowledge that and be okay with it. But that's part of our strategy. There's going to be that we're not going to be able to get there with some of them, but how are we trying to get as much information out there to the public so they can do what they have. We may not convince 'em, but this we provided the information.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:23:48](#)):

This exchange right here highlights exactly what we're talking about. Public engagement. Yes, theoretically the council could decide to say no, there's severe ramifications to that and those have to be made known to the public. So if we have one council member we're saying, just say no, that's not really a good option in my opinion. I don't think it's a good option in the majority of the council. And that right there shows why we need more public engagement. Because if the majority of public just came back to the tele council say we want you to say no after they understand what the ramifications of losing sales taxes and rezoning by Olympia and the majority of the public says, yeah, go ahead and say no anyway, which I don't think would happen. But that highlights just that this exchange right here highlights even more of why we need to have more public engagement, why we're doing what we're doing.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:24:52](#)):

Yeah, and I think one thing we've talked about quite a bit in this is making, I keep coming back to accessibility piece, but that also means making sure that the information is digestible, right? The majority of what all this super nuance stuff that you guys talk about at regular meetings or we're talking about today is a little bit like it is not something the average citizen is going to stop and take three hours or a day to figure out all those nuances. They're not going to be, they want know certain amount. We could try to talk about GML and stuff, but even that, no, we have to get growth and here's what we're going to do about it. We've got to boil down to the easy to digest stuff because the majority of people will have digitalized and they're not worried about figuring out all those nuances.

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:25:35](#)):

So we can certainly share what the requirements are, but we shouldn't be saying that this is the solution. It is a solution. It is not the only solution available. That's what we have to come up with. So we share the requirements educate, right? These are the requirements that are coming down from Olympia, but that doesn't mean we have to do a certain thing. We don't just back in and justify our action based on,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:26:08](#)):

But at some point you guys do have to make a decision about how we're going to react to that. And then once that decision is there, that's the decision. An individual counselor may not agree with it, but if the consensus is that's where we've got to, this is how we're going to address this problem, then that's what the decision makers in the city have said and that's what we're going to go with, right? At some point we have to just explain why we're doing



Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:26:29](#)):

That. What is the Delta assessment though? So here are the requirements. Where do we stand the Delta assessment, are we good for the next 20 years? Are we set yet? Where are

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:26:42](#)):

We not set toward policy? But that's a debate that you guys have at the policy level amongst yourselves. That's not necessarily one we have out in the court of public opinion. Well, the public knows they pretty much know geo A, right? I don't disagreement that minor are very familiar

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:27:05](#)):

Talking about GMA that's a specific policy. But going back to what we're talking about is our job is to inform. It's not to change minds. And I think I want to be clear that with this policy engagement, it should be this is what your council is done. It doesn't need to have a spin on it. We don't need to say and if you believe otherwise you are wrong. It needs to be agnostic of who is saying it. It is a factual statement of the council voted X. And that's what for me, engaging the public means a book report. It is exactly what happened, what we did, what the solution is and why we took the steps we did and for further edification on what we've done. If somebody wants to dive into GM A on their own time or whatever they can, but our job is to tell people what we've done.

([00:27:50](#)):

It's not to tell 'em when we're right. It's not to tell 'em when they're wrong. It's to tell the fact and the simple truth of what the council decided. And when the public inevitably disagrees with us, that addresses in indeed clue, then perhaps we need to reengage and say, oh, were we wrong or do we need to take something else into effect? But it's got to be simple and without prejudice against people who do have different opinions than what the council will say, you don't want to alienate the public by engage 'em and say, by the way, we decided this because you guys were all wrong. That's not being protected. The city should take either. So we have to be careful the message that we're sending, it's simple. This is what we've done and this is why we did it.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:28:35](#)):

I agree.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:28:36](#)):

That's what I'm hoping for. We can argue about the other GMA stuff. I'm trying to get it us here by noon. I think that's important,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:28:45](#)):

Right? You can and you should, right? That's what this forum is for normally. But then once that is side, I agree a thousand percent. Here's what we've decided and here's why. And you may not agree with it, but that's why we did it, right? We had to make a decision, right? And there's always going to be something, somebody that disagrees with everything we do, but we've explained why we've done it and that's what it's why is important,

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:29:15](#)):

Just the why is important there. Because otherwise you just say, if you only say this, would the action we undertook without the why behind it, then you're just opening a vacuum for anyone to fill in their own action.

James Randolph (Councilmember) ([00:29:29](#)):

But the why probably is so that those are questions and decision is or what we're talking about in terms of examples, this is what we did. Why long is a different place because all of us might have a

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:29:50](#)):

Different opinion as why, except the facts, the factual why, but the opinion based why I agree with you. Yeah.

James Randolph (Councilmember) ([00:29:57](#)):

I'm trying to separate those two. Ms. Bad.

([00:30:00](#)):

Yes.

([00:30:01](#)):

My question would be for staff, have we answered

([00:30:04](#)):

The question of what

([00:30:05](#)):

I talked about policy concern require public engagement definitively it says GA at the top of that list.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:30:12](#)):

Yeah, I think we know growth and development and all those activities that we hear you guys hear about, we hear about too through you and through the community directly is we're aware of that it is growth and development GMA and stuff and those are things we're going to have to hit even sooner than before we come up with this bound strategic communication communication. And I know we're working on that in some of the regards, but this is basically what we probably assumed already on those topics. Okay,

Asst City Mgr: Kevin O'Neill ([00:30:51](#)):

So excuse me, we didn't have one more question, although I think we've really covered it. And Brandon, did you want to go ahead and move on

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:31:00](#)):

To Yeah, I think I said we're going to have to come back to community engagement and with a lot more conversation in the future, but I think for purpose today we probably,

Asst City Mgr: Kevin O'Neill ([00:31:12](#)):

Yeah, so I think we talked at the beginning of this presentation about some of the other initiatives that maybe we want to spend some time. We have about an hour left, 50 minutes. So we heard econ development, we heard road the Road Safety and we heard Parks and Wreck. Brandon,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:31:40](#)):

I'm trying to think. We're going to do a little bit of as we here, hopefully that, but look at the parks and Wreck and number two, improve mobility and road safety control. To me those both are, and we're going to obviously have more conversation about both of those as we get into CIP as part as a bunch of conversation because those both are obviously CIP related issues. But I think maybe safe extent we can have a conversation on. I've obviously been lot now that I've seen different iterations of that CFE and where the focus areas are. We've gone from a lot in years where it was a lot about a lot of money towards parks. We bare minimum along roads and all the way to the other end of it where it's all about roads and parks. I'd like to get your guys' feedback and of course right now the sky's dumb and it won't be when we actually get these conversations. But as far as priorities in the CIP P, right, noncommittal on anything, but just trying to get a from you guys, is this upcoming CIP where we're going to start working in some parts projects or what does that look like or is it still focused on growth primarily? I think that's kind of a piece I'd like to get an understanding for you guys and the council collective on priorities and how you break those priorities into the CIP conversation

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:32:56](#)):

I think in the next couple of years, if we're just looking at short term, I think that as the road congestion increases for the construction that they're going to have downtown and along the ator routes that allowing people more ways of getting around the city is going to be really important and ensuring they're safety in doing that. So if it takes me 20 minutes to drive off my hill and not saving any time or walking off my, if I could do that and it's better for the environment, it's better for me. So better for all these things as long as it's safe to do so. So I think for me some of the transportation pieces are infrastructure that we need to put in place in and rather than later, yes, I really would like to spend more money on neighborhood parks throughout our city because I think it fundamentally goes back to that same issue of preventing people having to get in their car and drive 20 minutes downtown to Mont Gateway.

([00:34:08](#)):

If you have a park nearby, council member Evans and I were just talking about an incident in our neighborhood. There's a feral group of older elementary school boys who there's no sidewalk, they can't walk anywhere, there's no playgrounds, there's no anything. So they're taking up throwing rocks into the road as they're this hobby. So it's like we as a city need to provide this infrastructure in different parts of our city that allow people to access it. And I think that if we are continuously driving people to our downtown or we're trying to continuously drive people to our downtown, we need to make it possible for them to get here. And for me that looks at strategically where do we need to add multimodal infrastructure coming out off the West Ridge, coming from Woodinville Duvall road down in, we need to beef up some safety at some of our intersections so that when people are walking they feel safe and we don't have any major incidents.

([00:35:22](#)):

I also think that looking at this from our short term perspective right now there's a lot of funding available for multimodal projects, for complete street projects, for pedestrian safety projects. And so some of that is just an cost of start full of irons hot, talk about this now, have a plan now so that as people are sitting in traffic we can say we know this is bad and this is what we're doing right now to help you have a different route to plan for the future. So for me that's kind of where I would be.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:36:01](#)):

I think it's important too, we put a lot of focus on development downtown and people view that as we are only focusing on downtown. So the roads in a lot of the communities I know that are we up to there was that trend where we got all the roads had to be up to at least that base level. So we reached that and now we're sort of in maintenance on that. But in terms of making people who don't live downtown feel like we remember that we also don't have people who don't live in downtown focusing projects in those different areas that at least brings it up to a certain level. Olympia likes to talk about walkability and buses. We don't have buses, but we can do our part to make sure that the environments also can get downtown as well. So I'd like to see a focus on maybe making woodinville not look so shabby in some spots.

[\(00:36:45\)](#):

It's just a beautiful city, but there's parts like yeah, looking a little spread bear there. We need to improve this. I'd like to see a focus on schools getting to and from schools, preventing people from having to drive their kids to school. That is probably the biggest stressor of my parents is that you're sitting and waiting in line of drop off and then you're sitting in line and waiting a pickup and that's an hour of your time on either pole of the day. If you have a safe route to all of the major schools in the area, that saves parents a lot of time. And we've talked about this too, it saves a lot of carbon admissions. I'd like to see a lot more focus on that to and from schools. It's a mile radius that you have because of the school district. I'd like to see us really look at that mile and say, okay then what can we do for the kids within those miles? And these are the projects that I like to focus on. People are always going to be moving near to younger kids, so why don't we get ahead of that? I'm not getting any younger but my neighbors are and they're coming in with kids. So I'd like to start hitting that now. So when we inevitably have this turnover, we can handle that infrastructure

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:37:48](#)):

And I actually qualify the whole CIP. So we're going to spend a lot more time buying about this throughout the very of the year. But comparatively, I think I would argue all long, we're very good spot with our CIP. We are in a spot where we've been very aggressive and have been able to be very aggressive with our where other jurisdictions, even jurisdictions I've worked for in the past, there was simply no money to even do the maintenance. But we're not there. We've got to spot that tenable. I think for even a lot of our neighboring jurisdictions, we've done a really, to your point, we've set a goal, go through that stuff. We spent a couple years just hammering maintenance and paving projects and with the thought of at some point in the future and we're right on the cusp of that. Now I think where we're going to have to shift from that because we're pretty well caught up in that for a couple of years to these capacity projects and a lot of those now we've got obligations to the different developments and that kind of stuff, but those aren't capacity products. That's why they exist in the first place. And on the par stuff, it is been a couple years since we've done a big project, but we know we're on the cusp of a big project with our TRO and we're going to get the RAISE grant this year. And so we're going to be in the middle of that this time next year. We're going to be in some pretty, if that goes

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:39:08](#)):

find a Piece would and knock on

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:39:09](#)):

It, we we're going to be right in the predictive, the communication for a three day exciting park and transportation project. That's a multimodal transportation project. But if for some reason the powers that b NBC can't see the light, we'll have a conversation throughout the budget CIP process of do we

need to start putting some money towards that so we can start down on road for that particular project. And I started whole, we're not going to talk about specific project, but as an example, that's kind what that can kind of flip both roads where it's a park project but it's also transportation project,

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:39:42](#)):

Right? But we're not planning right now of how to get people out of their neighborhoods down to, and we're going to have this big beautiful park with all these amenities and everyone's going to sit in traffic if they get there and have where to park once they get there. And so I think it is a planning for leader success. Yeah,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:40:06](#)):

I think you guys talk about a good point. We've been very focused on a lot of efforts downtown and that's been to focus our growth downtown in the name of Preserving Our Neighborhood. But somewhere in that translation that got lost that when we are doing that, that means we're going to have to spend a couple of years and periods of really focusing on our investment downtown and there won't be as much there because we're focusing growth downtown to preserve these neighborhoods. That connection has got lost I think a little bit. It just comes back community engagement piece of this a little bit. But that's not to say that we shouldn't, to your point, we shouldn't be doing anything outside of we absolutely should, but we've got to figure out what that means.

David Edwards (Councilmember) ([00:40:46](#)):

Your initial question. For me, mobility is definitely the priority when that is that discussion has to happen next, what's that project look, which projects are the focus? Where do we need to focus that effort? But to summarize it, mobility and road is I think the focus for

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:40:59](#)):

Ship. Yeah. As we're getting into the transportation plan and hopefully moving towards wrapping data, one thing that you guys have seen in that, I don't know that anything been around, I wasn't around maybe the last 20,009. This one includes the multi mobility stuff that has not been in our plan as in the past. I think it's always been about just how can we get a car through town as fast as possible, but this plan includes bikes and pedestrian, all the other mobility types. So we're moving that direction and I think we're going to see some stuff coming at, I know we talked about some transportation we up in March or April, March 19th. We're going to look at transportation plan, look at those projects a little more in depth. So we'll certainly get into that as we're moving

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:41:42](#)):

Along here.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:41:45](#)):

So

([00:41:47](#)):

To pig back on that east rail you mentioned it's multimodal bikes, pedestrians, it was mentioned several times about getting people out our neighborhoods safely into, so the east rail is going to be like our spying that runs from the north into town and south or south to the north Chicago go. But when I'm looking at this stuff, I look at how many boxes does it check? So it is a transportation box. We have

opportunities over here to add parking angle parking lot so people can park and access. We have our recreational opportunities that we can add. We have beautification. The whole area where we pulled up the rail is just kind of a blade linear stretch that we can make it a beautiful park and we can incorporate art and landscaping and recreational stuff. So the stuff that checks a lot of boxes is what I look for when we're doing that. That's one example. But as council member RN said, we have to figure out ways of getting all of our neighborhoods safely into that and then we also have to have people that are going to park to be able to do that. So check all.

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:43:04](#)):

Yeah, I agree. So with the investments when we get the raise grant, yeah, I think that that will be a really exciting project and I think it goes back to our first initiative discussion. It's going to be really important to bring the community along because it's not going to happen immediately. But helping them understand what this is going to mean and why it takes time to plan and how we're thinking about getting all of our neighborhoods to be able to have access. I think it's really important that as we tackle the big initiatives that we are bringing the community along with us.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:43:45](#)):

I'm sorry,

Sarah Arndt (Councilmember) ([00:43:45](#)):

Go. I was just going to say, I think it is really important to tie the work that we're doing on a lot of these other things into that community engagement so that we can follow the story of these are five ways that you can get to this place now. You know, could walk to celebrate oneill from this place. Did you know that this is a way you can access this resource in a different way? Yeah, traffic is really bad and parking is tight right now, but you could do this. So I think having that story and being proactive about informing people and getting people to think about transportation in the city in a new way is going to be a big key.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:44:29](#)):

So as we're talking about, there's a lot of, ideally the projects we do, and again not the project level, but the projects we do are going to be the multipurpose projects. They're parks and transportation or some, there's multi benefits to it, which before you say a little Dover and that's verbal, that hasn't always been the case. We spent a good number of years. It is just about maintenance for asphalt. We're not worried about sidewalks. We do those products. We're not worried about, we're just repaving these streets. And so it is informative to hear that we're looking for not just that, but something else. So it doesn't sound like it's super helpful we're talking about, but it is, and I just wanted to reaffirm that piece.

([00:45:10](#)):

Okay, we've got about 35 minutes. I want to make sure we have time to talk about, this is the conclusion on any of these conversations, but I want to make sure we talk about, I think we talked about the economic one little, about the organizational past one, but I want to dive into the economic one and see what the council discussion on that particular one is, the organizational stuff, a big part of that is me taking all this in and pushing back what does that likely mean for organizational classes? So that conversation will certainly come as well. But for now, I want to spend a little bit of time picking your guys' brains about this. The economic resiliency and strength. I dunno, did that end when you guys came up with it? So we're handing out the roadmap as part of our economic build plan. I'll stick this up on the

easel as well just for reference, but kind of understanding what we're talking about when we're talking about we want to make some efforts in that area. I think I'd like to hear from you guys.

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:46:08](#)):

Well, I mean if we look at our initiative dashboard that we have there big, no, no, no, no. We have the plan and nothing has happened. And so I think this just goes to the fact that there's not resource to really focus here. Wes, a lot of other important things. But if we take our eye off the ball of our economic development and if we aren't intentional about diversifying, strengthening and showcasing that Woodinville is a great place for business, we are really putting ourselves at risk for our sales tax base. And so I would like to see us have a person or consulting firm or something who comes in here and gets a really solid strategy with action steps behind each of these areas. And we need to know what do we need to invest in this? If we want to strengthen and the drop on wheels tourism industry, that probably means investment. That probably means us doing things like going to trade shows and having IP tours and that kind of stuff. But that takes a lot of effort and that takes importation with Woodinville wine country and with the Chamber and with other people as well. And so we need to know how do we start activating this client that we've put in place.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:47:28](#)):

I think you probably had a lot of conversations the chamber and worked with that group quite a bit. One thing we've heard talking like Adam and Chamber, Adam at Wine Country and Chamber is this tourism industry that we for a lot of years haven't had a whole lot into but have benefited obviously immensely from it as a community and as an organization. Sales tax and otherwise is facing some challenges that it hasn't in ever for decades. And so us taking for granted, there's just going to be this endless demand for more tasting rooms and tours activity. There's starting some holes in that narrative,

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:48:08](#)):

Right? Adam has tons of data. So Adam and I have sat down and taking a look at his tracking data that he has, his Advertis data that he has. And also in just conversations with winery owners and other small business owners, people are really struggling. They're struggling because people have a hard time getting there because we've been caught a lot of regional transportation. So people have to drive and then when they drive, they're not enough parking, they're having a hard time getting employees to work here because again, it's hard to get here. It costs a lot of money to look around here and it's sort of this snowball. And if we don't get somebody who has their eyes solidly on this, it's going to be very difficult. And I know many of the wineries that have put in here recently are significantly struggling. You're seeing 'em cut their hours, you're seeing them go down to skeleton staff because they're not seeing the sales and it's basically not pencil out, but they're losing money even here.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([00:49:11](#)):

I guess one of the things that we had talked about with this plan was affordable spaces for rent. So with all three development, we were talking about minimum standards for affordability, for living, but we need to be able to get back the tiny teriyaki joints that everybody wants. So I think we double our efforts in terms of, I don't know if we want to codify it, if it's something that we have another plan for it, but requirements for affordable retail space. I think that's the type of business that's going to be sustainable. No one is going to go to marketing draw 10 nights a month, you're going to go to the local joints first. So I'd like to see a little bit more focus on that affordability component and making it so that

businesses can make it pencil out because you're not paying 70% of your profits or your net towards rent.

[\(00:49:58\)](#):

So I think to me, that's why we're seeing only chains coming in. Only chains can afford this price. So I look at other communities and you've got one off restaurants, little mom and pop places, waffles, a lot of 'em. And it's not because bon's more desirable, it's because Bob's more affordable. So finding a way to make it affordable for businesses. Restaurants have such a tiny margin of profit anyways. Finding ways to make that margin go a little bit farther. And I don't know what we can do to encourage if it's something that we say to find a development agreement, but once you develop, you're going to displace the business for X number of months. How do we engage and bring people back? So this is where we need people who are farmer educated than us in terms of economic development and how to draw a particular type of business.

[\(00:50:47\)](#):

I think we should have more unique business here because I 2 cents, but it shouldn't be four chain restaurants and a chain store. It needs to be, oh hey, there's this unique, unique store. We used to have one called, it's called ax, something that's quirky in different, how do we encourage that development? I'd like to see that as part of this diversification. There's wine, yes, we reach people wine, that's fact. But we also need to think about, okay, well then what is the next step? So people still want to come here for still board's a place to visit. So how do we make people understand that we're more than just wine? And that's not to cut out the wine industry, it's the wine industry. Plus a lot of people in the next generations don't drink as much. It's an opportunity to find some sort. I know they sell without the PCC, which dunno why people would drink this.

[\(00:51:34\)](#):

It tastes like wine or not the alcohol, but something of the non-alcoholic spirits. Do we want to try and encourage that? So whether there's specific types of businesses that we want to encourage that we're seeing. And again, this all has to go with this incubator mentality that we have. We've got these, we've still got warehouse districts where we can house these businesses and they can be more affordable. But if we could do it at downtown, I'd like to see what options we have for that. But the rents here are really high. Not just for rent, for housing, but for businesses. So again, whether we have someone in house, I have a sense that we wouldn't be able to afford in-house the type of expertise that we would need to do this work. I don't think we hire, we would be able to move forward an mba a

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan [\(00:52:23\)](#):

Yeah. And we got to be very specific about what it is, what we're talking about, about it doesn't any sense just to hire someone, say, okay, go do economic government. What does that action mean? We've got a plan. We still need to put specifics on all this.

James Randolph (Councilmember) [\(00:52:38\)](#):

That's where I want to jump in. My thoughts are what's our urgency? I know that Adam has his data on this. I would want to see that data to understand what our urgency is. We're in danger. We do depend on that. Economic resiliency a lot. Also

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) [\(00:52:54\)](#):

Set the time for the rest. He's got

[\(00:52:56\)](#):



About two hours worth of data.

James Randolph (Councilmember) ([00:52:58](#)):

So that would be fantastic to just have that off hand to understand how much major is the city in if there was a downturn. We have resiliency through covid, but I don't know if we can count on that recently received through a recession. And that would be my primary concern. One of the things that Mike missed when he was talking about the fits in the check boxes for is the opportunity for a startup obvious industry along that. That's something that we put in place over here in the parks. But I want to see that because I think in terms of food trucks, alternative business is business. Just want to get shot at a low volume, low effort kind of way. I think those are the opportunities that would bring in businesses in terms of incubator. And another thing is getting some of those really small. I can rent this out and inc. Create to a small, small thing, small overhead and try to move that forward. Use

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:54:08](#)):

Some of our jurisdictions, and I'm not saying again, these are right or wrong answers, but I know Kenmore has their incubator space, but there's a resource that operates and does that off, has a little independent little, right? They converted small businesses. I don't know if that's the right answer or not, but the point being, there's things we can try and do. And I think trying and do is a really interesting idea, but there has to be a resource behind that. So not just a resource, but define what we want that resource to be.

James Randolph (Councilmember) ([00:54:39](#)):

I think understanding the cost is a starting point. How is our wine industry doing? How much does support, how can we actually filter up and fill the gaps in case that industry runs into problems? So we have a very diverse economic statements.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([00:54:59](#)):

We had a discussion a year ago or something about BIA and I don't know if that's appropriate at this point to bring back up, but it's an interesting concept to support local businesses and the small tax that the businesses would support. So that could be a funding source for that. And also when we talk about community engagement, when we're having this conversation, whatever the council decides, part of that discussion is going to be why we're doing it. So the public doesn't understand, not all the public, some of the public doesn't understand that we get a robust sales tax for city our size. That means that we haven't had to raise property taxes for seven years since 2017, I think was the last time. So supporting our businesses and our sales tax is supporting local residents by keeping your city portion of your property taxes low.

([00:55:53](#)):

And also supporting businesses. Gives Woodinville residents interesting things to come see and do and spend their money and recreation and time on. And the East Rail deputy mayor was talking about if we do it right, there's going to be possibility for food trucks or some recreation for people to come. And instead of throwing rocks out in the street, you can have kids come down and play pickleball or a splashback for the younger kids or ride, whatever the case might be. So the economic development, we need to explore it and also my opinion is we need to be proactive. We don't wait for it just to collapse. We have to support it proactively and nurture it way that Woodinville probably hasn't done done.

Michelle Evans (Councilmember) ([00:56:43](#)):

I agree. So I have started having conversations with the chamber about and with low wine country about bis, but what we ran into, because when Leslie was still on council, him and I were working on this with the chamber and know we had you and Lane come and we were taking a look at stuff, but the truth is it needs somebody who really can dive into the details. It's too much in theory. Yes. A lot of those are very much up for, but what does that mean? Does that mean they have to change? There's just a lot that goes into this and they needs to take somebody who's really, really dedicated and has their eye on this and it's not brain who already has a full-time job and doesn't need have a full-time job on top. Sorry.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:57:34](#)):

No, you're fine.

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:57:37](#)):

I look at this when we're looking at the availability of affordable business and residents and we want a long-term plan strategy instead of a tactic. We tend to work a lot on tactics. Where are we going with the idea of moving across the border and expanding our city limits? It would solve so many issues that we're dealing with here.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:58:10](#)):

I know the has come up, we done anything. We're right. Council, council discussion. There's a whole lot there. It brings some opportunities. Also brings some interesting challenges that we have to think through. Now we're crossing in the county line and there's service providers that operate in this county versus sheriffs to an example. What does that look like in the future? If we're in two counties and we're contract with one, do law enforcement, I don't know. Right. Things we have to think through and talk to.

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:58:40](#)):

It's a long-term strategy. We don't start mapping it out and identifying what it gives us and how we get there. It's going to give us the land, it's going to give us affordable land. Obviously the jurisdiction across

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([00:58:59](#)):

Having not done it in Washington state, that would be a new piece for me I think probably for all of us. But we'd have to think through. And again, figuring that out is going to take some dedicated resource and equity too because it's not just, we don't just file a piece of paper, we're going to have a loan file, a piece of paper with somebody's kind. Okay, we're this project, there's whole process, county management board, all those. I don't even know what those steps are. Somebody's got to figure that out and then we have to figure out how do we get through those things, right. Well

Al Taylor (Councilmember) ([00:59:27](#)):

Let's look at that. Let's look at the annexing between the tourist district and the KFC, that little section of 2 0 2. Let's look at the options. What can we do to expand and get more real estate? Because anytime we continue to grow downtown, it just adds more value and it just makes that a tougher solution. If we want affordability, it's very difficult to put it in a downtown for

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:00:04](#)):

Can we get a breakdown of the sales tax by industry? I know that we've seen some of it regionally, but in terms of what percentage of what we're bringing in comes from the tourism dollar, what comes from

restaurants, what comes from sort of the sustaining activities of go to the grocery store and Target and things like that. If we have an idea of what that is and use what those trends are being, we know that wine is on the wing, but what else is suffering because of that or secondarily to that and this is information that we need to gather and I think we should probably have a meeting about this when we get to hear from blank venture but also local businesses. What are the things that impact you, what that means for our bottom line and also what then we can take to the consultant moving forward. But I think understanding where we are now with property tax and sales tax versus what we think is going to be the trend. I think that will be sobering information. But I think it would also be how we present information to the consultant

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:01:04](#)):

And we have I think a lot of those pieces kind of compelling. But I think this comes back to Michelle's point about is there something that's focusing on this piece? We have how much the different industries generate and we have, this goes back to 2016 maybe when we did the incubator but turn into the tourism study, identify they ask those businesses what's your biggest challenge? Stuff like parking and that kind of stuff. So that information, a lot of it's out there but in one spot and then interpreting that for action items is a missing step I think for

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:01:40](#)):

Us. No, I think it's also important too for the public to understand we have to development plan. I can name exactly zero people, we downloaded this plan, but if we can make the case to the public and say, okay, we are going to go out and engage in this study because this is the trend that we see, then the public has a better understanding of why we doing what we're doing. This goes back I guess to the public engagement part of it, but if we have this information synthesized in a digestible form for everybody to understand where we're at, I think there's going to be a little bit more urgency on the part of the public to support what we have going forward. So as much data as we can have from the different industries that are going to be affected is necessary because otherwise we're just whistling and hoping that whatever we decide is going to make a difference.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:02:39](#)):

Okay. We've got about 15, 20 minutes left. Any other thoughts on economic development or do we want to talk more about any of the other pieces? I don't know that we missed a lot of those. I think you guys won't be surprised. Not going to be specifics on the number that Mike mentioned, the organizational capacity, but obviously that's something that runs wrong. We're talking about all of these examples but it's great for us to talk about at this level, talk about it, but ultimately somebody's got to do something with it. And I think we hit that point. We talked about staff can just do this one more thing, one more thing. We've done that a lot the time. So I think we're out of of one more thing or getting close at this point. So we're going to have to have, and this isn't a precursor to I need X amount of staff positions that may be part of competition that may not. But just generally where it's for capacity on both that if we want to do our stuff, we're going to have that capacity or if we're not going to have more capacity, what are we going to limit? And it's a two-sided conversation. We're going to have that actually be in place with that.

Mike Millman (Councilmember) ([01:03:43](#)):

Well I think from my standpoint when we could all these great ideas, your job is to say reign back and say that's a great idea or may not, but I just don't have the capacity to accomplish that, whether it's

staffing or budgetary. And that's kind of the conversation that I think we should have as far as when we get deeper into this and have a better understanding of the priorities and the CIP and the budget, then our decision will be, okay, these are our priorities then can you accomplish that? And if not, what you need to accomplish that. And if what you need to accomplish that is too much, then we have to decide how we fund that or if we fund it or we dial back our expectations. Does that make

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:04:34](#)):

Sense? Yeah. I'll share with and Al, you and I have been here about the same amount of time on behalf of the city council role. When I first came on in 2016 when we talked about priorities, it was a different conversation about priorities. It was a okay instead of this is high, even low was this is high, this is extra high and this is super high priority and everything was a priority that we weren't going to be able to accomplish everything at one time. And I think this council is in a much better spot where acknowledging and understanding that we can't do everything in one time and maybe we have to take some stuff off the list or stuff has to move further out in the future list. So that's I think going to very much be a part of the conversation. We get the budget and have that whole conversation with you. Sure we want to do a lot of stuff but whether it is time, money, resources, political will, whatever, there's going to be constraints on that stuff that we're going to have to prioritize what is actually going to get done and when.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:05:34](#)):

Go ahead.

([01:05:36](#)):

I was just going to say I'd like to know from you what can be accomplished with consultants so we don't have to add staff and pay staff once we add staff. Do we necessarily need economic development company six times a year with a presentation? Probably not. So to see where we need staff capacity and where we need consultant capacity and I'd like to see what are the projects that we're talking about are only need one versus the other. I know that the staff is already at 110% so that's understood. But I'd like to know from what we've got, what is it that can be done? Where would we add and how would we added? I think those two things are critically important in terms of talking about our budget. If we're talking about adding a consultant that takes some staff time, which is true or we pay someone full time, but is it in the financial interest of the city? Continue paying someone that we would only touch four times in a biennium

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:06:30](#)):

And it is so dependent on what you're trying to accomplish and that will change over time. It may make sense we hired help us with the environmental development plan but then at some point it this group decide may be helpful. Have somebody on staff implementing those pieces at the same time you and I have had these conversations over the years, the last thing I want to do is ask that at some point financially we're not going to be able to retain and I got to sit across from that because that's my job and say Sorry you're out of the club. I don't want to be in that position more than anybody here this. So we're very cognizant of that.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:07:04](#)):

Yeah, that's the point is that we don't want you to be in the position of having to lay someone off profit because they're not doing their job because money and we are limited by money. It is not our money, it's our money for your city and we have to make these tough decisions and sometimes it historically the

city has relied heavily on consultants because we run lead and that's why we're able to have budget surpluses for all these years. So I think we need to be mindful of how we got to the financial position we're in and continue thinking about yes it would be nice to have someone but nice versus necessary. I want to be able to delineate those two. So when we come up with our grant ideas and we will have a lot of mature for budget, it doesn't make sense for us to hire staff or consultants to do the work. I like to that take staff time to understand and digest, but making a decision based on that and having that information upfront I think is going to be important. So it's not just how much does the project cost, but how much does the project cost to become a project and implement the project.

James Randolph (Councilmember) ([01:08:08](#)):

And that is actually a piece of my point because I think we all place some value on impact because we want the best for our citizens and we want the best project to come out the end of this or we can't have the best of all the projects. So I think as a follow up to a session like this, we should have one for staff to sit down, brainstorm and go, hey, here's the most that we could do. Here's the lease we could do and here's what that costs is do. So we can actually come to the justification, bring that back to council and say you get to decide on how much we're going to actually put into this at this level of require staff at this level we need get something done. But just being aware of what it won't be, the official vision that he might have. So it's about clarifying what we want with the actual outcomes that are likely.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:09:04](#)):

Well I think unless we think that's a great kind of segue to kind of wrapping up closing, that's the point of this conversation and the subsequent conversations we're going to have on this topic is helping me understand as we start working into our budget and eventually not the next, but one of the steps down the road is I present to you guys my proposed budget and I can't do that unless I have this understanding what I'm drafting those proposals. So this has I think been very helpful. It is certainly not the end of this conversation on any of these topics. I think if nothing else, we acknowledge that we need to talk a lot more about a lot more things and so we'll have those conversations in the future. Obviously we get the budget whether they're part of budget or they're independent, things like this community engagement plan. I think some interests and ideas and topics and conversation today, we can end early listen to these. But I really do appreciate you guys taking your Saturday morning coming here. This has been very helpful for me and staff. So thank you.

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:10:07](#)):

One more question. So we have on our agenda for Tuesday, we're going to talk about strategic plan

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:10:12](#)):

Community Engagement,

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) ([01:10:13](#)):

Right? Okay, so are we going to start from the starting point of where we are today and we're going to continue the conversation on Tuesday. So the ideas that we had, is staff going to come back and us with details or is it just going to be,

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan ([01:10:26](#)):

To me it's trying to come up with what, and I don't know what they are yet. I need to spend a little time and talk with these guys between now and then and all that time. Kind of what some potential action

items for you guys. Maybe not take action on 'em but to discuss and help coalesce around some potential future reaction items. And one we talked about, and I know this has come up as a subcommittee and to me it makes more sense to have this format, but if we have consult help with this piece, that makes sense to me. But I think that's what we can talk about Tuesday. If that sounds kind of in the right direction. There's not going to be action on tomorrow. Here's a contract we approved for the consultant by Tuesday. But the conversation could be one of main, it could be like, yes, we're interested, why don't you

[\(01:11:12\)](#):

Guys go right up the scope and bring it back to us so we can continue to talk about this and eventually we're going to get Alright,

Rachel Best-Campbell (Councilmember) [\(01:11:21\)](#):

motion to ajorn.

City Manager: Brandon Buchanan [\(01:11:23\)](#):

Thank you guys. Appreciate won't be, that's truly the least I could do and I didn't look hard.