April 2, 2014

The Honorable Larry Phillips

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Phillips:

This letter transmits an ordinance authorizing the King County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellevue. This agreement allows the City of Bellevue to request road-related services from the King County Department of Transportation’s Road Services Division (RSD), as authorized by the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Revised Code of Washington Chapter 39.34). The agreement specifies the process for making such requests and outlines the roles and responsibilities of each jurisdiction.

The Interlocal Cooperation Act became state law in 1967 to “permit local governmental units to make the most efficient use of their powers by enabling them to cooperate with other localities on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities.” Under this authority, the RSD maintains agreements with cities to provide road-related services on a contract basis. King County’s partnerships with other jurisdictions promote regional relationships that benefit the citizens and taxpayers of King County and aim to carry out several key elements of the King County Strategic Plan. Key among these is a Financial Stewardship strategy that states, “Work with cities to identify opportunities to provide services more efficiently, such as contracting.”

By working together to provide certain services, RSD and city public works departments are able to serve the public more efficiently and cost effectively. In general, the County directly benefits from city contract work, which generates revenues to support both field crews and administrative staff. In many instances, King County’s partnerships also benefit those in King County by:

* Supporting RSD’s specialized and technical expertise and allowing flexibility in staffing levels.
* Supporting King County’s road-related emergency services response by making it possible for more crews to be on-hand during emergencies.
* Realizing economies of scale by spreading the capital cost of equipment and sharing of other resources and support costs among customer cities.

The City of Bellevue’s approval of the attached interlocal agreement illustrates the cooperation and collaboration between our jurisdictions in the delivery of road-related services. The King County Council’s approval of the attached ordinance will allow the County to provide road maintenance services to the City of Bellevue. I recommend the King County Council approve this ordinance.

If you have any questions regarding this ordinance, please contact Rey Sugui, Project Program Manager III, at 206-477-3637.

Sincerely,

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Michael Woywod, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Carrie S. Cihak, Director, Policy and Strategic Initiatives, King County

Executive Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Harold S. Taniguchi, Director, Department of Transportation (DOT)

Brenda Bauer, Director, Road Services Division (RSD), DOT

Rey Sugui, Project/Program Manager III, RSD, DOT