



**For Immediate Release**

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***Citizens for Responsible Transit forms to address Common Issues, Concerns***

*New group to promote conversation, advocacy on local and regional transportation issues*

BELLEVUE, Wash. – March 18, 2010 – Residents, businesses and other interested organizations from around the Eastside have joined together to form a new organization, Citizens for Responsible Transit (CRT). The mission of CRT is to promote conversation, provide information and advocate for effective transportation solutions at the local and regional level.

“There are an increasing number of people who want to be involved in the transit conversation and have concerns on how current decisions will impact Bellevue residents as well as those who work and live in the area,” said Michael Marchand, CRT member and Bellevue resident. “CRT will provide a round table for such dialogue and a voice for those concerns so that they may be heard by transit decision-makers.”

Transportation issues will shape the future of the Eastside. CRT is involved with the community to act as an advocate on behalf of residents, homeowners’ associations, businesses, environmental organizations and other interested parties before local government and regional agencies.

“With more than 500 members in our neighborhood association, we believed it was necessary to create a forum where our residents could join with other neighborhoods, discuss transit issues affecting us, and explore ways to have our voices heard,” said Jannine McDonald, president of the Mercer Slough Neighborhood Association. “We look forward to working together as a group to promote sound transit practices and, ultimately, arrive at the best solutions for everyone involved.”

CRT is a product of ongoing efforts in Bellevue related to Sound Transit’s East Link project and route selection for the B, C, and D segments. The group supports a light rail option that increases East Link’s quality, accessibility, and ridership and cost effectiveness while minimizing potential adverse environmental, construction and operational impacts, design and community risk factors, and conflicts with regional and local planning. CRT also endorses principles related to “Open Government” and an environment of transparency, participation and collaboration in governments’ effort to be efficient and effective.

Bellevue’s Downtown, Enatai, Factoria, Mercer Slough and Somerset neighborhoods are among the growing list of members represented. CRT also has received the support from residents in surrounding communities including Beaux Arts, Mercer Island and Newcastle. The group currently is open to any resident of Bellevue and surrounding communities.

For more information on CRT, please visit Facebook page at [Citizens for Responsible Transit](#).

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