

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

City-Initiated Proposals for 2021 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

DIRECTION

Provide direction on the staff recommendations to initiate, per LUC 20.30I.130.B.1, Transportation Element policy amendments related to multimodal concurrency and to repeal the Comprehensive Transportation Project List (CTPL) from the Comprehensive Plan as part of the 2021 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) work program.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to initiate CPA proposals into the 2021 CPA work program under LUC 20.30I.B.1 to incorporate policies in the Transportation Element related to multimodal concurrency, and to repeal the Comprehensive Transportation Project List (adding these projects to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program).

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

Consideration of proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan may be done no more frequently than once every year under the state Growth Management Act (GMA). Also, pursuant to the GMA, the Bellevue City Code at Part 20.30I LUC permits the City Council to initiate CPAs at any time and provides a one-step process for review by the Planning Commission and approval by Council once incorporated into the annual CPA work program.

2021 Proposed City-Initiated Transportation Amendments:

The Mobility Implementation Plan - Multimodal Concurrency

On January 4, the City Council approved a consultant contract and scope of work for the Mobility Implementation Plan (MIP). The MIP is envisioned as a document that will articulate a safe, equitable, and sustainable multimodal approach to mobility in Bellevue. The MIP will broaden the City's vehicle-focused transportation concurrency standards to include a multimodal approach and will embed transportation performance metrics for all modes into long-range planning. A new multimodal approach to concurrency that staff recommends would match the "demand" for mobility from new development with the "supply" of transportation facilities, thereby ensuring that projects for all modes are identified, prioritized and implemented to accommodate and support planned growth. A Comprehensive Plan

amendment for 2021 to embed multimodal concurrency in the Transportation Element is a component of the Transportation Commission work on the MIP (see background in Attachment A).

Transportation Concurrency Policy – Amendments

Washington state law, through the GMA, requires local jurisdictions to ensure the transportation system will accommodate planned land use. Rather than prescribe a universal approach, the GMA allows jurisdictions to describe and establish the performance metrics and standards.

In the Transportation Element of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan, policies provide direction on transportation concurrency as well as define the metrics and standards the City uses. Existing policy describes a vehicular approach to define the performance of the transportation system. A multimodal approach would expand the performance of the system to also describe how it accommodates people walking, riding a bicycle, or taking transit.

The Comprehensive Transportation Project List

The Comprehensive Transportation Project List (CTPL) was developed by the Transportation Commission as part of the 2015 update to the Comprehensive Plan. The six transportation facility plans and projects in several subarea plans that had been scattered within the Comprehensive Plan cumulatively contained 781 projects, many of which were completed, outdated, redundant, or conflicting with one another. Subsequent planning work, for example, the Downtown Transportation Plan and the Eastgate Transportation Study, added new projects to the CTPL through amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Initially, the consolidation of these project lists made it possible to repeal completed or outdated projects, and to eliminate redundancies and conflicts that existed between the project descriptions in different plans. Now that all the projects have been consolidated and the CTPL is up to date, this project list may be moved outside of the Comprehensive Plan to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list for which an annual update keeps the TIP current (see Attachment A for additional background on the CTPL and Transportation Improvement Program).

The six-year TIP serves as an inventory of projects and a draft work plan for the development of the local transportation system. The primary importance of the local TIP to Bellevue is that, in most instances, projects must be included to be eligible for state and federal grants.

The TIP update essentially duplicates the CTPL; however, it is more responsive to changing circumstances because it is required to be updated annually. In contrast, the process to update the CTPL requires an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan – a process that may be done annually, but the process requires several additional steps, including initiation by the City Council and study sessions, public hearing and recommendation from the Planning Commission.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Pursuant to the GMA, the Bellevue City Code at Part 20.30I LUC permits City Council to initiate CPAs at any time. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the Great Neighborhoods CPAs for Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue in April – July 2021 and will be brought to Council in the fall along with the privately-initiated amendments that have met threshold review criteria.

The proposed transportation related amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are both related to the Mobility Implementation Plan but involve different parts of the Comprehensive Plan.

For multimodal concurrency, policies, maps and narrative in the Transportation Element would be added, amended or repealed to incorporate a recommendation from the Transportation Commission. Multimodal concurrency would expand the approach to transportation system performance to include the performance monitoring for all modes. The Transportation Commission is studying a staff recommendation for multimodal concurrency and is expected to craft a final recommendation in Q2 or Q3 of 2021. On March 11, the Commission unanimously approved a set of fundamental principles for multimodal concurrency. Associated policy recommendations would be incorporated into the final recommendation that would then be forwarded to the Planning Commission for their review, to hold a formal public hearing and provide a recommendation to the City Council.

For the Comprehensive Transportation Project List in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan, staff recommends repealing this project list from the Comprehensive Plan and replacing it in its entirety in the 2022 update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is updated annually and is recommended to be the document into which new projects that are developed through long-range planning (subarea plans or transportation corridor plans) are placed to potentially advance to the Transportation Facilities Plan and the Capital Investment Program Plan for funding and implementation.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the Annual CPA work program.

OPTIONS

1. Initiate CPA proposals into the 2021 CPA work program under LUC 20.30I.B.1 to incorporate policies in the Transportation Element related to multimodal concurrency, and to repeal the Comprehensive Transportation Project List (adding these projects to the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program).
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

- A. Background on Transportation-related amendments

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A