

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Ordinance adopting a Complete Streets policy framework for the City of Bellevue to scope, plan, design, implement, operate, and maintain street corridors and networks in Bellevue that provide safe mobility options and access for everyone; adding a new section 14.60.191 to the Bellevue City Code; and directing the Transportation Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan to determine if any updates or additional policies are warranted in consideration of this Complete Streets policy framework.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of this action. However, by adopting this ordinance, the City becomes eligible to be nominated by established nominating partners under the Complete Streets Award program, which is a new funding program administered by the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB).

STAFF CONTACTS

David Berg, Director, 452-6468

Paula Stevens, Assistant Director, 452-2802

Kevin McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner, 452-4558

Transportation Department

POLICY CONSIDERATION

The Transportation Commission recommends a Complete Streets ordinance to establish a Complete Streets policy framework for Bellevue. A Complete Streets ethic is currently embedded in the Comprehensive Plan with 31 policies that address multimodal mobility, and support the scoping, planning, designing, building, maintaining and operating the transportation system in Bellevue. Policies express the commitment in Bellevue to provide safe and reliable mobility options for people wherever they need to go throughout the city, whether they are walking, riding a bicycle, taking transit or driving a car. Through this Ordinance, Council directs the Transportation Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan to determine if any updates or additional policies are warranted to incorporate a Complete Streets policy framework.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

- Action
- Discussion
- Information

BACKGROUND

Complete Streets is a national movement intended to inspire communities to consider all modes of travel in the planning, designing, implementing, maintaining, and operating the transportation system. The Washington state legislature enacted complete streets legislation in 2011, with expressed intent as follows:

“Urban main streets should be designed to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and public transportation users. Context sensitive design and engineering principles allow for flexible solutions depending on a community’s needs, and result in many positive outcomes for cities and towns, including improving the health and safety of a community. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage street designs that safely meet the needs of all users and also protect and preserve a community’s environment and character.”

State Legislation

Going further, in 2015 the legislature directed the Transportation Improvement Board to create a “Complete Streets Grant Program” - **RCW 47.04.320** - to encourage local governments to adopt urban arterial retrofit street ordinances designed to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and public transportation users, with the goals of:

- (a) Promoting healthy communities by encouraging walking, bicycling, and using public transportation;
- (b) Improving safety by designing major arterials to include features such as wider sidewalks, dedicated bicycle facilities, medians, and pedestrian streetscape features, including trees where appropriate;
- (c) Protecting the environment and reducing congestion by providing safe alternatives to single-occupancy driving; and
- (d) Preserving community character by involving local citizens and stakeholders to participate in planning and design decisions.

In May of 2016, the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) introduced the [Complete Streets Award Program](#). To be eligible for a Complete Streets Award, a jurisdiction must have a system-wide complete streets policy. In Washington, 65 cities and one county (as of September 12) meet this eligibility requirement (Bellevue is not one of the 65 cities). While Bellevue has policies, plans and projects that integrate a complete streets ethic (components of which are itemized in the box below), that is not enough to satisfy the eligibility requirement.

- Comprehensive plan/complete streets integration
- Strategic plan/complete streets integration
- Specific modal plans for freight, bicycles and pedestrian
- ADA transition plan adoption
- Community engagement regarding design for all users
- Performance data and statistics about users
- Operational preparedness for all users and all modes
 - Maintenance
 - Sweeping
 - Striping
 - Landscape management
- Staff training in complete streets design
- Standards that allow responsiveness to users
- Budget prioritization of complete streets elements
- Evidence of past implementation
 - Clearly apparent integration of complete streets elements
 - History of compliant projects
 - Multimodal level of service standards
 - History of actively implementing modal plans
 - Presence of programs and enforcement of modal access
 - Controlling traffic and speed
 - Pedestrian scale lighting

Request from Transportation Director

Transportation Director Dave Berg has requested that Bellevue attain eligibility for the Complete Streets Award Program at the earliest possible opportunity. According to the TIB staff, Bellevue must have a complete streets ordinance adopted prior to October 1, 2016 to be eligible for the current award cycle. Of course, substantial funding opportunities are to be gained, as is an overall policy framework for organizing the many complete streets–type policies that Bellevue has currently embedded in the Comprehensive Plan and in modal plans – Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, and Transit Master Plan.

Crafting a Complete Streets Ordinance

A special Transportation Commission committee on Complete Streets (Cliff Chirls, Scott Lampe, and Chair, Janice Zahn) together with staff, reviewed existing Bellevue policies and practices related to scoping, planning, designing, implementing, maintaining and operating a transportation system for all modes and for all users. Bellevue has 31 adopted policies in the Comprehensive Plan related to one or more components of a complete streets transportation system - multimodal

transportation system, pedestrians and bicyclists, transit riders, freight mobility, design, and operating/maintaining the system.

The Complete Streets committee (with the review and concurrence of the City Attorney's Office) crafted a draft ordinance intended to: 1) establish the legislative intent, background and context through a series of "Whereas" statements; 2) amend the regulatory language of the Transportation Development Code, Chapter 14.60 to include the Complete Streets policy framework; and 3) direct the Transportation Commission to determine if additional or amended policies are needed to advance a complete streets ethic in Bellevue and to recommend any Comprehensive Plan amendments to the City Council for consideration in 2017.

On September 8, 2016, the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the draft Complete Streets Ordinance to the Council for consideration. In Study Session on September 12, the City Council reviewed the Transportation Commission's recommendation then directed staff to bring the draft Complete Streets Ordinance for approval during the Regular Session on September 19.

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Ordinance becomes effective on September 29, 2016.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt Ordinance to establish a Complete Streets policy framework, as recommended by the Transportation Commission, amending Chapter 14.60 of the City Code, and providing direction to the Transportation Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan and determine if additional or amended policies are needed to advance a complete streets ethic in Bellevue and to recommend any Comprehensive Plan amendments to the City Council for consideration in 2017.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

MOTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6308 adopting a Complete Streets policy framework for the City of Bellevue to scope, plan, design, implement, operate, and maintain street corridors and networks in Bellevue that provide safe mobility options and access for everyone; adding a new section 14.60.191 to the Bellevue City Code; and directing the Transportation Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan to determine if any updates or additional policies are warranted in consideration of this Complete Streets policy framework.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Ordinance No. 6308

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A