

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: 6/25/2020
TO: Chair Lei Wu and Members of the Transportation Commission
FROM: Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, 452-6129
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SUBJECT: Environmental Stewardship Plan update

DIRECTION REQUESTED

This material is for information and discussion only at the June 25, 2020 meeting.

Staff are requesting input from the Transportation Commission on the draft mobility strategies for the Environmental Stewardship Plan, which is currently in development and will be released as a draft plan this summer, for Council review and adoption in the fall.

Action

Discussion

Information

PROJECT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Purpose of the Project**

Based on direction from the City Council, staff have initiated the process to update the Environmental Stewardship Plan for adoption by Council. The Environmental Stewardship Plan is an inter-departmental environmental sustainability action plan, coordinated by the Community Development department which will include actions related to mobility and land use, energy, climate change, materials management and waste, and natural systems.

- **Council Direction**

On November 12, 2019 the City Council directed staff to engage with the Boards and Commissions to seek input on the strategies and actions to achieve the goals in the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan. No formal action is requested from the Boards and Commissions during this process.

Staff presented to the Transportation Commission on January 23, 2020, to provide an overview of the plan update process and the draft goals and targets for the mobility section of the plan. .

- **Options Being Considered**

Attachment 1 outlines the proposed suite of actions in development for the draft Environmental Stewardship Plan, anticipated to be released this summer. Staff worked with the Cascadia Consulting team to develop this list of recommended actions, following an extensive analysis and outreach process outlined below. Staff are seeking input from the Transportation Commission on this list of actions.

BACKGROUND

At the January 23, 2020 Transportation Commission presentation, staff presented on the background, timeline, and approach for updating the Environmental Stewardship Plan. This presentation also included recommendations for environmental goals and targets for the plan along with a summary of progress to date on these performance metrics.

The memo for the January 23 presentation includes a discussion of the background and context for the plan, along with the recommended goals and targets. For more information, go to: [January 23, 2020 Transportation Commission Agenda and Minutes](#).

Input from the Transportation Commission from January 2020 presentation

Attachment 2, Responses to Transportation Commission Input from January 23, 2020 Presentation includes a summary of the input received during the presentation along with email questions and input from the Commissioners after the presentation. Staff have sought to incorporate Transportation Commission responses into the process and draft list of actions, and have provided a more thorough response to Commissioner comments in Attachment 2.

INFORMATION

Process for Developing Actions

In collaboration with the consulting team supporting the update of the Environmental Stewardship Plan, city staff and the consultants developed a master list of potential actions for the plan for each of the five focus areas (Mobility & Land Use, Climate Change, Energy, Natural Systems, and Waste) for both city operational actions and communitywide strategies. This master list of actions was developed by looking at existing policies, programs, and plans along with best practices from around the U.S. and the region, along with input from city staff experts.

The consultant team then performed a multi-criteria analysis of the actions, to evaluate the impact, benefits, costs, and equity outcomes. This shorter list was then reviewed and discussed during a city staff workshop in December 2019, which included approximately 50 city staff from a variety of departments, including the Transportation department.

The core team of staff and consultants used this input from the staff workshops to develop a list of actions for Phase 2 public outreach and engagement, which is described below. Using input from Phase 2 public outreach and further city staff review and vetting, the team sought input from the Transportation Commission on the draft list of actions included in Attachment 1.

Staff now requests input from the Transportation Commission, which will then be reviewed and addressed as feasible, and will then develop a draft of the Environmental Stewardship Plan for public comment, in Phase 3 of the outreach plan.

Proposed Mobility and Land Use Actions to Achieve Goals

The following actions listed below are being considered for the Environmental Stewardship Plan Mobility and Land Use focus area. The majority of these actions build on existing transportation and land use policies and programs, designed to expand mobility options and encourage transit oriented development. The mobility focus area also includes actions to encourage the transition to cleaner fuels and cleaner vehicles.

The actions outlined in Attachment 1 and listed below comprise a mix of both transportation and land use actions to provide the full picture, due to the interrelated nature of these strategies:

- Multimodal Transportation impact fees
- Mobility implementation plan
- Ambitious transportation strategy study
- Accelerate implementation of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan
- Commute Trip Reduction
- Growth Center Parking Study
- Leverage Frequent Transit Network Service
- EV Readiness
- EV Infrastructure
- Clean Fuel Standard

The consultant team also performed an analysis of the impact of strategies toward achieving 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50% and our 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goal of 80%. In order to achieve these targets, a portfolio of strategies related to reducing energy use in buildings, using cleaner energy, reducing vehicle trips, using cleaner fuels, and increasing the percent of cleaner vehicles is needed. The consultant team analyzed the costs, benefits, impact, and equity aspects of each strategy to develop the short-list of actions.

Outreach Summary

The second phase of public outreach and engagement is summarized in Attachment 3, Phase 2 Outreach and Engagement Summary, which focused on feedback on a short-list of actions for the plan. The same short-list of actions was used for the March 3rd Open House and for the online survey, which received over 600 responses. Residents were generally very supportive of expanding transportation options and accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles. One of the key themes heard during outreach related to a desire for accelerated action (more action, less studies), however in discussion with residents some explanation was provided for the need for more comprehensive planning for major capital investments, such as with transportation projects. Survey respondents were asked to select their top five priority actions for the plan,

out of the list of about 30 actions across the five focus areas, and the Multimodal Implementation Plan (referred to as the Transportation Master Plan in the survey) ranked second in terms of the list of priorities, after banning single-use plastics.

At the March 3 Open House, many residents did not understand the intent of the “parking study” action, to assess the market demand for parking after the opening of light-rail, and similar comments were received through the survey, that this strategy would eliminate parking. The wording of the action has been reframed to better describe the intent and benefits around assessing parking minimums and using more market-driven strategies to determine parking needs in new construction. Further analysis of the survey responses, open house comments, and comments from the survey can be found in Attachment 3.

Considerations

The city has been working on Environmental Stewardship strategies to increase local sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the past 13 years. This plan is an opportunity to review and update the city’s environmental goals and develop a set of strategies for implementation over the next five years. The city’s work over the past 13 years has laid a solid foundation for progress, and these mobility efforts will continue to build on that foundation over the next five years. Future updates of the Environmental Stewardship plan will build on this foundation and focus on bringing solutions to scale.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic struck in the middle of this plan update, which has had a significant short-term impact on mobility patterns and will likely continue to impact people’s mobility choices and patterns for the next several years. The development of the actions for the plan has taken the economic recovery into account, and this will continue to be a consideration moving into implementation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff are recommending the draft actions in Attachment 1 and seeking input from the Transportation Commission on these actions, and any other considerations for the plan.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will review and address feedback from the Transportation Commission and other boards and commissions and will aim to release a draft Environmental Stewardship Plan later this summer. Staff will summarize input from the Transportation Commission and other boards and commissions and include that in the transmittal of the draft plan to Council later in 2020.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Mobility & Land Use Actions
2. Responses to Transportation Commission Input from January 23, 2020 Presentation
3. Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Phase 2 Outreach Summary

REFERENCE MATERIALS

1. [Recommended Goals and Targets report](#)
2. [Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Phase 1 Outreach Summary](#)
3. [2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan](#)
4. [ESI Strategic Plan Progress Report](#)