

City of
Bellevue



Transportation Commission Study Session

DATE: April 14, 2022

TO: Chair Marciante and Members of the Transportation Commission

FROM: Chris Iverson, PE, Senior Transportation Engineer, 425-452-6461
civerson@bellevuewa.gov

SUBJECT: Curb Management – Comprehensive Plan Policy Amendments

DIRECTION REQUESTED

Action

Discussion/Direction

Information

Discussion: This memo describes a set of curb management policies – amended, repealed, and new – that are recommended to be embedded into the Transportation Element and Downtown Subarea sections of the Comprehensive Plan. Additional study sessions will lead to a final recommendation from the Transportation Commission on or before May 12, 2022. After that, the Planning Commission will process the Comprehensive Plan amendment for approval in 2022.

INFORMATION

City staff and the Nelson\Nygaard consulting team have been collaborating on the Curb Management Plan effort since late 2021. The project team presented an introduction of the initiative to Transportation Commission on January 13, 2022. The Transportation Commission received a project update and curb management policy concepts on March 10, 2022. At future meetings, the project team will present concepts and staff recommendations regarding curb typologies and curb pricing and program approaches for Commission consideration.

Policy 101

In 2021, the Transportation Commission prepared recommendations for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan that supported multimodal concurrency and content within the Mobility Implementation Plan. In 2022, the Transportation Commission is tasked with recommending policies to support concepts and recommendations within the Curb Management Plan.

Policies in the Comprehensive Plan provide the basis for city regulations, programs, and services. Policies stop short of prescribing detailed courses of action, but rather provide a rationale, framework, and support for action. Narrative, graphics, and other components of the Comprehensive Plan are typically drafted after recommended policy language is final, and they draw from the background studies and Commission deliberations. Detailed maps and recommendations that relate to curb management policies will be contained in the Curb Management Plan. Refer to **Attachment 2** for more background on the Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Policy Amendment

On February 14, 2022, the City Council directed the Transportation Commission and Planning Commission to develop policies in support of curb management as part of the city-initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment annual update. The Transportation Commission is directed to develop policy recommendations, while the Planning Commission is responsible for transmitting all Comprehensive Plan amendments to the City Council. The Transportation Commission will prepare a recommendation to retain, amend, or repeal existing policies, and to add new policies. These recommendations will be transmitted to the Planning Commission for consideration. This approach to the policy amendment process will aim to follow a similar cadence as the recent 2021 effort that amended policies in support of multimodal concurrency.

Initial staff-recommended policies are included in this memo. Recommendations for amended, repealed, and new policies are based on feedback received during various recent public engagement activities, including targeted focus groups, public questionnaire, and the recent Curb Summit event held on March 29, 2022. Recommendations also reflect national best practices in curb management planning, and address concepts such as on-street parking, curb use prioritization, placemaking strategies, and other curb-related approaches.

Amend/Repeal Existing Policies for 2022

Several policies that refer to on-street parking and curb management are currently adopted in the Downtown Subarea Plan and Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The last major update to the comp plan occurred in 2015. Circumstances have changed since Council adopted these policies, as new mobility options have been expanded and Bellevue's growth has accelerated in recent years. Staff recommends amending and repealing several policies to provide alignment with the Curb Management Plan, as well as issue guidance to a broader geography.

New Policies for 2022

Staff recommends several new policies to support curb management best practices and approaches. Some new staff-recommended policies also provide a direct tie to the Curb Management Plan, which will ensure that plan recommendations and policy guidance are compatible and actionable long-term.

Curb Management Policy Staff Recommendations

Refer to **Attachment 1** for a spreadsheet that documents the staff recommendation and rationale for curb management-related policy amendments.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will incorporate Commission direction to refine the draft curb management policies for discussion/concurrence at the next Study Session planned for April 28. Please feel free to contact myself prior to the meeting if you have questions about the agenda materials. Feel free to contact both myself and Kevin McDonald if you have questions about the process for annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.