



Bellevue Planning Commission

July 28, 2021

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Final Review Public Hearing on the two Transportation Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Transportation Element policy amendments to embed multimodal concurrency and a repeal of the Comprehensive Transportation Project List.

STAFF CONTACTS

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Transportation Department

Emil King AICP, Assistant Director, 452-7223

Thara Johnson, Comprehensive Planning Manager, 452-4087

Community Development Department

POLICY ISSUES

Staff recommends approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendments to the Transportation Element to incorporate policy that supports a multimodal approach to transportation concurrency, and to repeal the Comprehensive Transportation Project List (using instead the Transportation Improvement Program as the one citywide inventory of transportation projects).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>
Request	Summary Guidance	
1. Conduct a Final Review public hearing for the proposed amendment	Direct staff to first review and present the staff recommendation, then open the public hearing and accept public testimony. Close the public hearing.	
2. Conduct a study session following the public hearing to make a recommendation	Review the application, staff recommendation, public record, and testimony. Ask questions of staff, applicants or persons giving testimony; review the proposed resolution.	
3. Take action on a recommendation	The Commission uses a resolution to the City Council for the recommendation action. Direct staff on resolution content.	

City Council-initiated policy amendments to the Transportation Element address the intent to implement a multimodal approach to transportation concurrency to replace the existing vehicle-only concurrency standard. The repeal of the Comprehensive Transportation Project List from Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan would eliminate the need for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to remove a project that has been built, to modify a project description after further analysis, and to add a project developed through a subarea planning process or an corridor plan. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is updated annually and would be the one up-to-date citywide project inventory.

Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposals are reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon by the City Council through the Final Review process set forth in the Land Use Code at [LUC 20.30I](#). Final Review evaluates the merits of proposed amendments included in the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment work program. Final Review evaluation and decision includes staff review, a Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation by resolution, and City Council action by ordinance. The

Planning Commission holds Final Review public hearings and makes recommendations. The City Council's subsequent action on those recommendations—conveyed by resolution—amends the Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The Final Review Decision Criteria for a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment are set forth in the Land Use Code in Section [20.30I.150](#). Based on a review and application of the criteria, and using a process as described in 2020 study sessions before the Planning Commission, Transportation Department staff developed Final Review recommendations.

Staff recommendation for the proposed amendments are in the Summary Recommendation (below.) The Transportation Element policy recommendations are included in Attachment B: Transportation Element Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet. The full report is available [online](#) and in detail in the report materials provided to Commissioners along with the July 1, 2021, notice of Final Review public hearings. Such materials may also be requested in print.

Summary Recommendation

Staff recommends approving both recommended Comprehensive Plan Amendments. Each application satisfies all Land Use Code decision criteria for Final Review of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment (LUC 20.30I.150.) See Attachment A: Staff Report.

1. The Transportation Commission prepared policy amendments that would embed a multimodal approach to transportation concurrency in the Transportation Element. Existing policies related to the vehicle-only concurrency standard are recommended to be repealed or amended, and two new policies are recommended. See Attachment B: Transportation Element Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet.
2. The Transportation Department staff recommends repealing the Comprehensive Transportation Project List from the Comprehensive Plan and to use the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project list as the one citywide inventory of transportation projects.

Policy Development and Review

Transportation Commission

- The Transportation Commission received direction from the City Council to develop a Mobility Implementation Plan on January 4, 2021.
- The Transportation Commission received direction from the City Council to prepare a policy recommendation to embed multimodal concurrency in the Transportation Element on April 5, 2021.
- The Transportation Commission held study sessions on the Mobility Implementation Plan on January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8 and 22, May 13 and 27, June 10 and 24, and July 8 and 22, 2021

Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission received a briefing on April 14 and June 23 regarding the recommended transportation amendments: Transportation Element policy amendments to embed multimodal concurrency and repeal of the Comprehensive Transportation Project List.
- Public Hearings with the Commission on the 2021 transportation amendments are scheduled for July 28.

Other Outreach

- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee June 11, 2021

- Joint Bellevue Downtown Association/ Bellevue Chamber of Chamber Transportation Committee meeting June 23, 2021
- East Bellevue Community Council courtesy hearing July 8, 2021
- Mobility Implementation Plan web site, live January 2021 and frequently updated.

Public Comment

Public comments directed to the Transportation Commission during study sessions in the Spring of 2021 highlighted the disparate visions for mobility in Bellevue. To accommodate growth, some community members expressed the importance relying on a decades-old vehicle-only approach to measure transportation concurrency, while others noted that an increasingly diverse city should comprehensively integrate all modes of travel into a new multimodal concurrency standard.

Public comments during the Final Review process have been forwarded to the Planning Commission and are included on the [Comprehensive Plan Amendment website](#).

Planning Commission Comment

Planning Commission comments at the July 23, 2021 study session were highly appreciative of the Transportation Commission's work to develop the policy recommendations for multimodal concurrency and were broadly supportive of the recommended policies. The Planning Commission noted that the repeal of the Comprehensive Transportation Project List makes sense.

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Notice of the Application was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on June 10, 2021 and mailed and posted as required by LUC 20.35.420. Notice of the July 28, 2021, Final Review Public Hearing before the Planning Commission was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on July 1, 2021, and included notice sent to parties of record. Written comments are included in the public record and are posted on the [Comprehensive Plan amendments web site](#).

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Staff Recommendation
- B. Transportation Element Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet
- C. Planning Commission Resolution for the Transportation Element
- D. Planning Commission Resolution for the Comprehensive Transportation Project List