

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Presentation and discussion of the Transportation Commission's 2022-2033 Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) Preliminary Project List.

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DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

DIRECTION

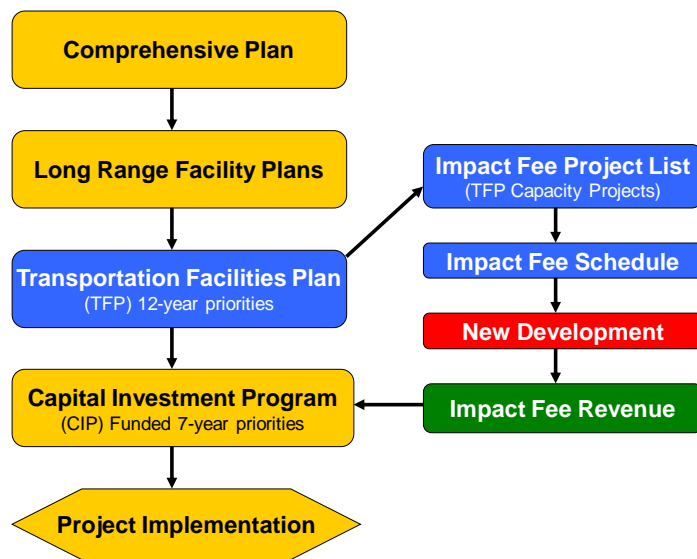
The Transportation Commission and Transportation Department staff seek Council review and feedback on the Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List before proceeding to the next steps in the TFP update process. These next steps are an environmental analysis, consistent with requirements under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and preparation of an updated Transportation Impact Fee Program Report. The Transportation Commission will review the outcomes of these analyses and prepare the final 2022-2033 TFP for Council review and adoption later in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Transportation Commission and staff to proceed with the TFP process and undertake any required environmental analysis based on the project list included with the Transportation Commission transmittal memo dated October 28, 2021.

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The TFP serves as the City's 12-year, or intermediate-range, transportation capital facility planning document. It includes a listing of projects balanced to projected revenue over the 12-year plan period. The TFP functions as a bridge between the long-range facility plans and modal plans (e.g. Downtown Transportation Plan, Bel-Red Corridor Plan, Eastgate/I-90 Plan, Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, Transit Master Plan) and the funded projects in the adopted 7-year Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan (see diagram on next page). The TFP provides the first level of Citywide prioritization of transportation facility projects recommended by the long-range transportation studies.



2022-2033 TFP Update Process

The Transportation Commission and Transportation Department staff began the process to update the TFP in September 2020. The Commission reviewed the status of projects listed in the current 2019-2030 TFP, identified other sources of candidate projects, reviewed project evaluation criteria, and developed a process for public outreach. A pool of candidate projects, drawn primarily from existing long-range facility plans was developed. The Commission also considered candidate projects to address emerging needs and mobility opportunities, identified by staff or through the public outreach process. Candidate roadway-intersection projects were scored and ranked according to evaluation criteria that included safety, vehicular level of service needs, transit access & mobility, pedestrian & bicycle system improvements and competitiveness for outside grant funding.

Pedestrian and bicycle projects were then integrated into the score-ranked list of projects and adjustments made using additional, primarily qualitative considerations, including:

- Prior investments in project development through the adopted 2021-2027 CIP Plan period;
- Leveraging opportunities with other projects (such as WSDOT projects and planned or permitted land use development along key transportation corridors);
- Project cost estimates and projections of unconstrained transportation revenue available for the out years of the plan period (2028-2033, i.e., beyond the current CIP); and
- Public input received in the TFP update process as well as the public concerns and preferences regarding transportation captured in the City's [2020 Budget Survey](#).

Following initial development of the preliminary proposed project list in May 2021, staff proposed, and the Commission agreed, to pause the TFP process to evaluate the preliminary proposed project list according to the new performance metrics under development for the Mobility Implementation Plan (MIP). The Commission reviewed the results of the analysis at meetings on October 14 and 28. At their meeting on October 28, the Transportation Commission approved on a 6-0 vote their recommendations

for the Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP project list and funding allocations. Attachment A includes the Commission's transmittal memorandum, their Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List, and a map illustrating the 71 project locations.

Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List Recommendation

The Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List includes funding allocations to the various projects. Sixteen of the projects are fully funded in the current 2021-2027 CIP and thus are carried into the 2022-2033 by default; these projects appear at the top of the list and are distinguished with gray fill. Starting on page 3 of the project list are 55 additional projects recommended by the Commission for inclusion in the 2022-2033 TFP. Each project includes a recommended funding allocation, ranging from full funding needed to implement a project to lesser levels that support one or more phases of project development that is short of actual construction (e.g., project scoping/development, design, right of way acquisition). Twenty-one of the projects in the Project List have a modest level of funding allocated (typically \$300,000) as a "Placeholder" to indicate the City's interest in advancing the project if and when there is opportunity to do so.

The Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List also includes unallocated funding "buckets" for three categories:

- Future congestion reduction projects that will be identified and prioritized via ongoing work related to the Neighborhood Congestion element of the transportation levy (see salmon-colored row);
- Future sidewalk projects that will be prioritized via the ongoing Neighborhood Sidewalks program, which is funded through a combination of regular CIP resources and the transportation levy (see aqua-colored row); and
- Transit Connections Reserve for projects that support transit movement along key origin-destination pairs, identified in the Transit Master Plan (see peach-colored row).

The transmittal memo from the Commission includes additional discussion of the projects and how they fit into categories that mesh with City priorities.

TFP Environmental Analysis

The City will review the Preliminary TFP Project List for potential environmental impacts, consistent with requirements under SEPA. TFP project staff are preparing a SEPA checklist for consideration by the City's Environmental Coordinator, who will issue a SEPA threshold determination. Past TFP cycles have often involved preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that provides environmental analysis, at a programmatic level, of the impacts of implementing the proposed TFP (Action alternative) or not implementing the proposed TFP (No Action alternative), assuming the anticipated growth in land use and transportation demand in the 12-year period of the TFP. The threshold determination process will evaluate the potential environmental consequences of this nonproject proposal and determine whether it is likely to result in any significant adverse environmental impacts that would require the preparation of an SEIS.

Transportation Impact Fee Program

Chapter 22.16 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) constitutes the City's Transportation Impact Fee Program and is enacted pursuant to Chapter 82.02 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The City collects impact fees from developers to partially offset the cost of facilities needed to serve new growth and development. Per BCC Chapter 22.16, the impact fee project list consists of the transportation improvements in the TFP needed to provide capacity on City roadways, where the capacity needs are reasonably related in part or in whole to new development. Projects that meet these criteria for the Impact Fee Program are identified in the project list included with the memo from the Transportation Commission. The impact fee project list is adopted by the Council when it adopts the TFP.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Comprehensive Plan:

Policy CF-1 of the Capital Facilities Element and policies TR-22, TR-34, TR-35, TR-129, and TR-132 of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan provide a framework for the City's compliance with the requirements of the Growth Management Act and the Traffic Standards Code.

Bellevue City Code:

BCC 22.16.050 directs that "Every two years or as otherwise directed by Council, the Transportation Commission shall review and as necessary present an update of the Transportation Facilities Plan to the City Council for consideration."

BCC 22.16, the Transportation Impact Fee Program, designates the TFP as the long-term transportation plan for identifying improvements to meet future development needs. The list of projects to which impact fees are applied is derived from the TFP and represents the roadway and intersection (vehicular) capacity projects that will serve growth-related traffic impacts.

Fiscal Impact

The Preliminary TFP Project List will be evaluated for environmental impacts, consistent with requirements under SEPA. If the Environmental Coordinator determines that the proposal is likely to result in significant, adverse environmental impacts and, as a result, preparation of an SEIS is required, then environmental consultant assistance may be sought. Cost for such assistance is likely to be below the threshold for Council action and would be covered by available resources for professional services in the 2022 Transportation General Fund budget.

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the TFP. A subset of the projects included within the TFP Preliminary Project List constitutes the prospective transportation impact fee project list. The adopted 2021-2027 CIP Plan includes impact fee revenue projections based on the adopted fee schedule, which is supported by the impact fee projects identified in the TFP.

OPTIONS

1. Direct the Transportation Commission and staff to proceed with the TFP process and undertake any required environmental analysis based on the project list included with the Transportation Commission transmittal memo dated October 28, 2021.
2. Provide alternative direction to the Transportation Commission and staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Transportation Commission Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List Transmittal Memo
- B. Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project List
- C. Preliminary 2022-2033 TFP Project Map

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

2022-2033 TFP Public Involvement Report