

City of  
Bellevue



# Transportation Commission Study Session

**DATE:** JUNE 9, 2022

**TO:** Chair Marciante and Members of the Transportation Commission

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**SUBJECT:** **Traffic Standards Code Amendment** (Multimodal Concurrency Code)

## DIRECTION REQUESTED

☒ Action

☐ Discussion/Direction

☐ Information

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Purpose of the Project**

To recommend amendments to Chapter 14.10 of the Bellevue City Code (Traffic Standards Code) to allow implementation of multimodal concurrency consistent with new policy.

- **Council Direction and Transportation Commission Review and Feedback**

On April 11 the City Council directed the Transportation Commission and staff to prepare a recommendation for amendments to the Traffic Standards Code to implement a new multimodal transportation concurrency system in Bellevue consistent with the 2021 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Mobility Implementation Plan. Staff presented the draft Multimodal Concurrency Code to the Commission on April 28. Two primary questions were raised which have been addressed below.

- **Public Outreach**

On May 3 a virtual open house was held to gather comments on the proposed draft code. Based on feedback received and further review of the code provisions, one substantive change to the draft code presented at the April 28 Transportation Commission meeting is proposed.

- **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Transportation Commission transmit the draft code to Council for consideration at their June 27 Study Session. A draft transmittal memo is attached for your consideration.

## **BACKGROUND**

The 2021 policy amendments to the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan and adoption of the Mobility Implementation Plan in April 2022 established the framework to implement a multimodal concurrency system in Bellevue. Specifically, Transportation Element policy TR- 28 directs the City to *“Employ a citywide multimodal level-of-service concurrency standard that provides facilities that meet the demand from new development.”* Consistent with policy direction, the Transportation Commission recommended a “plan-based” multimodal approach to concurrency in the [Mobility Implementation Plan \(Chapter 7\)](#).

## **INFORMATION**

Per direction from City Council, staff have prepared a recommendation for amendments to Chapter 14.10 of the Bellevue City Code, which once adopted, will fulfill a near decade long vision and process for multimodal mobility.

At the April 28 Transportation Commission meeting, staff presented the proposed Multimodal Concurrency code and explained how it fulfills the policy guidance in the Comprehensive Plan and the MIP. Staff also described the process to receive public input on the proposal and how the program will be implemented. At the June 9, meeting, staff will provide a summary of the now completed outreach process and will be available to further address questions that arose at the previous Commission meeting, including:

1. *Can the six-year requirement for facilities to be in place to determine concurrency be reduced to four years?*

The Growth Management Act (“GMA”) requires that transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate development impacts need to be made concurrently with land development. “Concurrent with the development” is defined by the GMA to mean that any needed “improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is in place to complete the improvements or strategies within six years.” [RCW 36.70A.070\(6\)\(b\)](#). The code should use the six-year time frame for consistency with the GMA.

2. *How is the impact of regional traffic growth accounted for in the concurrency program requirements?*

The previous concurrency model was based on an intersection congestion level of service standard, which captured both trips created by growth within Bellevue and outside the city limits. The new concurrency model is based on system completeness and a supply and demand model, where the demand is related to development projects in Bellevue. Regional vehicular traffic will be considered in determining what projects to fund in the City's Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan that make up the complete system consistent with the performance measures outlined in the recently adopted MIP.

After further review of the code, staff recommends one substantive change to the draft that was presented. Language was added to Section 14.10.040.A that proposals submitted for concurrency testing must be consistent with the City's land use regulations. This is to clarify that speculative proposals cannot reserve Mobility Units if they are unable to be approved from a land use perspective.

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

A virtual open house was held May 3 to present the proposed code, facilitate discussion and answer questions, and obtain written comments on the code amendment. This open house was advertised to the community through the April 28 Transportation Commission meeting, a press release, the Multimodal Concurrency project website, direct emails to the development community, and the Neighborhood News publication. Registration included 28 individuals, and three individuals asked questions after the staff presentation. The questions focused on the change to the concurrency system, and the only code related comment was about whether the new system establishes a standard. Staff explained that a new standard is established, per 14.10.030 of the proposed code. There were also questions and discussion regarding elements that will be contained in the Implementation Guide, and as a result staff now plans to meet with the traffic engineering community after Council adopts the new code to gather additional input on those specific elements. Two of the speakers expressed support of the new code direction and move toward a system completeness based multimodal concurrency system.

One letter was received by the May 17 deadline for written comments. In this letter the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce expressed support for Multimodal Concurrency and for the draft code to move forward for City Council consideration.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Based on discussion at the April 28 Transportation Commission meeting, as well as the input received from the virtual open house and written comment, staff recommends approving the draft code amendment with one minor change from the version provided at the April 28 meeting as explained above.

Staff also recommends approving the attached Traffic Standards Code amendment transmittal letter to the City Council, with adjustments to who is listed as Chair and Vice Chair as needed based on your elections for those positions on June 9.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Council is scheduled to receive the Transportation Commission transmittal and discuss the Traffic Standards Code amendment in a study session on June 27. Staff will seek Council direction to bring back an ordinance to adopt the code amendment soon thereafter.

The draft code amendment allows for the Transportation Director to adopt rules for the administration of multimodal concurrency (i.e. the Implementation Guide), provided a public hearing is first held before the Transportation Commission. This public hearing is currently scheduled for the September 8 Transportation Commission meeting. The Commission will facilitate the public hearing to allow the collection of public comments. The Director will review all comments and make modifications as necessary prior to approving the Implementation Guide administratively.

The Traffic Standards Code amendment will become effective 30 days after the Transportation Director approves the Implementation Guide. This will allow time for staff to transition to the new multimodal concurrency system.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Draft Multimodal Concurrency Code
2. Letter of Support from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
3. Draft Transmittal Letter to City Council