



Bellevue Planning Commission

July 13, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Summary of how 2021-2022 HB 1099 *"Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework"* proposed requirements relate to ongoing planning work at the City of Bellevue

STAFF CONTACT(S)

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POLICY ISSUES

Overview of the City's approach to addressing provisions within HB 1099 *"Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework"* as part of ongoing policy initiatives including the Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update, Mobility Implementation Plan, Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI).

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION

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DIRECTION

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INFORMATION ONLY

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BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

In the spring of 2022, the Washington State Legislature considered HB 1099 regarding the improvement "of the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework." This bill passed both the House and the Senate but was not passed once it came out of conference committee for reconciling the differences between the two approved versions.

While this bill did not pass, many jurisdictions have used the bill's intentions as a model for at least part of their Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. The City of Bellevue has been active in climate action well before the introduction of HB 1099, particularly through the City's ESI. This initiative led the adoption of the City's Sustainable Bellevue: Environmental Stewardship Plan in December of 2020. This plan provides implementation guidelines and goals that support many of the goals found within HB 1099.

HB 1099 included requirements for Commerce to develop both a model Comprehensive Plan Element focused on Climate and Resiliency and a list of potential actions that jurisdictions could consider to support the requirements set forth in the bill. Because the bill did not pass, these documents have not been developed. The City's Environmental Stewardship Plan and Periodic Update scope include many of the actions and policies that may have been included under this analysis. In addition, the following specific requirements were listed in the bill.

- **New climate change element:** The City does not plan to introduce a new element due to the interconnected nature of climate change issues with other elements of the plan. The City has an existing Environment Element which have several policies in support of addressing climate change goals, in addition to policies that exist in several other elements (Land Use, Transportation and Utilities among others). Also, the adopted ESI Plan, which serves as the City's climate action plan incorporates goals addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation, reduced emissions, and reduced per capita VMT throughout the plan in alignment with the intent of the new element requirement in HB 1099.

- Environmental justice and environmental health disparities: The City is including an equity analysis in the Periodic Update which includes studying disparate impacts of environmental conditions on various populations. For example, the City is working on a study regarding health impacts of air quality and where those risks exist across the city along with a climate vulnerability assessment, which will use an equity lens to assess climate risks and resiliency strategies. This will be incorporated into the Land Use and Environment Elements.
- VMT reduction and active transportation: An important aspect of the Transportation Element and related work in the Comprehensive Plan relates to offering a broad multimodal approach in order to increase active transportation uses and decrease vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per resident. Bellevue's ESI Plan includes a goal to reduce per capita VMT, mirroring the state goal and requirements in HB 1099, which will be incorporated into the Transportation Element.
- Resiliency including wildfire risk: The City will complete a climate vulnerability assessment that will analyze the risks related to climate change and determine potential steps to mitigate those risks. Social and community resiliency, such as creating community connections that bond community members together in difficult times, will also be incorporated into areas of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Protection of natural areas: As a core goal of growth management, this is embedded in the way the City plans and leads to growth being focused within developed areas. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is central to the Periodic Update workplan will also look at impacts on the natural environment across the city.
- Multimodal transportation and alternative traffic LOS: The recently adopted Mobility Implementation Plan and Multimodal Concurrency Code together address the intent behind these portions of HB 1099. The Periodic Update will continue emphasizing the importance of this approach.
- Greenhouse gas emissions reductions: The ESI Plan includes targeted emissions reductions goals that will align with state targets. An essential theme of the Periodic Update will be focused around sustainability, including how to continue to reduce emissions. The ESI Plan includes specific actions in areas required by 1099 such as the link between transportation and land use and VMT reductions.
- Middle housing types: The version of HB 1099 that emerged from the conference committee added in a new section on middle housing types. This section was not included in the original bill and was added after similar middle housing bills failed to pass the legislature. While the City is looking at ways to incorporate more middle housing types across the city, staff are still looking at a variety of methods for doing so and have not used the language in this amended section as specific guidance.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None