



Bellevue Planning Commission

September 14, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Final Review Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Curb Management policy amendments to enhance curb management practices for the City of Bellevue.

STAFF CONTACTS

Chris Iverson, Senior Transportation Engineer, 452-6461

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 and Downtown Subarea Plan to incorporate policies that support enhanced approaches to curb management.

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. Approve the resolution or direct staff on revisions to the resolution content.	

City Council-initiated policy amendments to the Transportation Element and Downtown Subarea Plan address the intent to enhance city approaches to curb management practices. Recommended policy direction will address significantly changed conditions within the new mobility landscape and built environment.

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, Transportation Department staff developed Final Review recommendations.

Transportation Commission recommendation for the proposed amendments are in the Summary Recommendation below. Specific curb management-related policy recommendations are included in Attachment B: Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet. The full report is available [online](#) and in the report materials provided to Commissioners along with the August 25 2022, notice of Final Review public hearings. Such materials may also be requested in print.

Summary Recommendation

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

The Transportation Commission prepared recommended policy amendments that would enhance curb management practices within the City of Bellevue. Existing policies provide an ad hoc approach to curb management issues and do not respond to present day challenges. Policies also refer to the forthcoming Curb Management Plan being prepared by the Transportation Commission, which will provide a long-term roadmap for implementing curb management strategies within the city. See Attachment B: Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet.

Policy Development and Review

On November 15, 2021, the City Council approved a consultant contract and scope of work for the Curb Management Plan (CMP). This CMP effort seeks to establish more deliberate policies, practice, and guidance on how curb areas should be designed, maintained, and operated over time.

Transportation Commission

- The Transportation Commission received direction from the City Council to develop a Curb Management Plan and to initiate an associated 2022 Comprehensive Plan Amendment workplan on February 14, 2022.
- The Transportation Commission held study sessions on the Curb Management Plan and curb management policies on January 13, March 10, April 28, May 12, June 9, and July 14, 2022.
- The Transportation Commission recommended policy amendments on June 9, 2022.

Planning Commission

- The Planning Commission received a briefing on March 9, 2022 discussing the 2022 CPA workplan.
- At the June 22, 2022 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed Transportation Commission-recommended curb management policies.
- At the June 22, 2022 meeting, the Planning Commission set a Public Hearing date for September 14, 2022 to review the Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Curb Management policy amendments.

Other Outreach

- Curb Management Plan website, live January 2022 and frequently updated.
- Curb Management Plan questionnaire, live February through April 2022.
- Curb Summit public event, held virtually on March 29, 2022.

- Bellevue Downtown Association Transportation Committee meetings:
 - February 16, April 20, May 25, 2022
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee meetings:
 - March 2, May 5, 2022

Public Comment

Public comments directed to the Transportation Commission during study sessions throughout 2022 highlighted the need for improved curb management practices, including augmented curbside parking enforcement, broader deployment of technology solutions, and consideration of tradeoffs between transportation and placemaking functionality.

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 Comments

Planning Commission comments at the June 22, 2022 study session were appreciative of the Transportation Commission’s work to develop the policy recommendations for curb management and were supportive of the recommended policies.

The Planning Commission also requested to review a draft of the Curb Management Plan under development by the Transportation Commission as it relates to proposed policy amendments. Transportation staff have created a “skeleton” outline of the Curb Management Plan which highlights the structure and high-level considerations within the plan itself. This outline will be transmitted to members of the Planning Commission prior to the meeting on September 14. As directed by City Council, the Transportation Commission will continue developing the plan with anticipated final recommendation occurring in early 2023.

AMENDMENT NOTICE

Notice of the Application was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on April 21, 2022, and mailed and posted as required by LUC 20.35.420. Notice of the September 14, 2022 Final Review Public Hearing before the Planning Commission was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on August 25, 2022, 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.

Notice of the staff recommendation, September 14 Final Review public hearing before the Planning Commission was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on [August 25](#) and emailed to parties of record. The Washington State Department of Commerce was notified of the City’s intent to adopt the proposed CPA on August 30. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Threshold Determination was also issued and published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on [September 8](#).

DIRECTION

The Commission will conduct a Final Review public hearing and will, thereafter, make a recommendation to the City Council through a resolution.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Staff Recommendation
- B. Policy Recommendation Spreadsheet
- C. Planning Commission Resolution for the CPA relating to Curb Management

D. Curb Management Plan outline (forthcoming)