

April 27, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Review of the recommended Comprehensive Plan update.

STAFF CONTACT

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POLICY FOUNDATION

The *Bellevue Comprehensive Plan* is the foundational policy document that sets overall City policy direction on a wide range of topics, from growth and development to transportation, parks, utilities, economic development, human services, and other topics. The update responds to the state Growth Management Act requirement to periodically update the plan and address local needs, to ensure that the plan remains relevant and responsive to community values. The state deadline for adoption is June 2015.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information

The Planning Commission's recommendation for updating the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan was presented at the April 6, 2015, Study Session, where the Council heard from the chair persons of all six boards and commissions that participated in the update. This Study Session will continue the Council's review of individual plan elements that began at the meeting on April 20. Additional Study Sessions are scheduled for May 11 and June 1, and action is tentatively scheduled for June 15. In addition to the continuing the April 20 review of topics, this Study Session presents information about the Citizen Engagement, Land Use, Housing, Transportation, and Urban Design and the Arts elements. Information about the Parks Element is included if the Council wishes to spend additional time reviewing it.

Please bring your copies of the recommended Comprehensive Plan to the meeting.

BACKGROUND

The Comprehensive Plan captures the community's vision for the future of Bellevue, sets foundational policy that directs City actions and decisions, and helps guide capital investments. Every seven to ten years Bellevue is required to update its Comprehensive Plan to ensure continued compliance with the state Growth Management Act and, just as important, to ensure it reflects the dynamic changes and trends that affect the growth of the community. More than meeting a state requirement, Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan has been a fundamental part of the

community's vision for the future since the beginning of the City. The last major update of the Comprehensive Plan was in 2004.

Project Objectives

At initiation of the project, the City Council provided direction on the update to ensure that it:

- Fully captures the community's long range vision for the future
- Remains relevant to the community, decision makers and staff
- Comprehensively addresses long-term needs of the community, economy and environment
- Provides a strong policy foundation for City decisions and actions, especially related to infrastructure investments, neighborhoods, land use, environment and economic development
- Includes up to date information about the community
- Is consistent with state law, regional plans and court decisions.

Some of the components of the existing plan are relatively current and needed minimal updates. Other components were found to be significantly out of date and a number of changes are recommended. A key objective of the update is to make the whole plan more accessible and usable so that it remains an effective tool to guide growth.

Review of Board and Commission Recommendations

The Comprehensive Plan includes fourteen elements (or chapters) that categorize the vision and policies of the plan in Volume 1. Volume 2 includes a limited set of amendments to the City's subarea plans to implement the Eastgate/I-90 project, to adjust the Downtown boundary, and to include a change to support the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. Volume 2 also includes a number of transportation facility plans that are recommended to be consolidated into a single long-range transportation facility project list.

At the April 6 Study Session, the Council heard from the chair persons of the Planning, Human Services, Environmental Services, Arts, and Transportation Commissions and the Parks and Community Services Board, where each chair summarized the review that they conducted and their commission's recommendation to the Council. During the update the boards and commissions systematically reviewed every element in the plan and each policy line by line.

This Study Session follows from the April 20 meeting when the City Council began element-by-element review of the recommended plan. At the April 20 Study Session, Council reviewed the Neighborhoods and Economic Development Elements, and information about the Parks and Community Services Element was presented. The City Council required more time to review the proposed new neighborhood boundaries, and time did not allow for review of the Urban Design and the Arts Element. The summary of both the **Urban Design and the Arts** and the **Parks and Community Services** elements are included to allow the Council to continue review of those sections at tonight's meeting. More detailed information and discussion of proposed neighborhood/subarea boundary changes will be presented at an upcoming Study Session.

New for this April 27 Study Session, summaries of the **Citizen Engagement, Land Use, Housing, and Transportation** elements are attached. The summaries point to the significant changes recommended in the update and key issues that were identified and addressed during the process.

As Council reviews the recommended policies you may wish to consider these questions:

- Any questions about what is recommended for change?
- Any additional information needed on this topic?
- Any gaps or concerns on which staff should follow up?

Issues and questions identified during the Council's review will be brought back for additional review at the June 1 Study Session or at interim Study Sessions as time permits.

NEXT STEPS

Study Sessions are proposed to provide Council the ability to review each individual chapter of the plan. The following draft schedule organizes the topics of the Comprehensive Plan. The schedule could be adjusted as necessary.

Draft Review Schedule

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| April 6 | Presentation of the boards and commissions of the recommended Comprehensive Plan update |
| April 20 | Neighborhoods; Parks, Recreation and Open Space; Urban Design and the Arts; Economic Development (time did not allow for presentation of the Urban Design and the Arts Element) |
| April 27 | Continuation of April 20 topics; Citizen Engagement; Land Use; Housing; Transportation |
| May 11 | Human Services; Utilities; Capital Facilities; Environment; Subareas/Eastgate; neighborhood mapping |
| June 1 | Recap and issue follow up; Integration of annual amendments |
| June 15 | Tentative adoption action |

ATTACHMENTS

1. Citizen Engagement Element Summary
2. Land Use Element Summary
3. Housing Element Summary
4. Transportation Element Summary
5. Parks and Community Services Element Summary
6. Urban Design and the Arts Element Summary

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

1. Draft Comprehensive Plan – Planning Commission Recommendation
2. Planning Commission Transmittal dated March 25, 2015
3. Letters and memos from the individual boards and commissions are attached to the Planning Commission transmittal.
4. Project Public Engagement Report
5. Public Review Draft Comments
6. Policy review tables