

June 1, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Review of the recommended Comprehensive Plan update.

STAFF CONTACT

Chris Salomone, PCD Director, 452-6191

Dan Stroh, Planning Director, 452-5255

Paul Inghram, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager, 452-4070

Planning and Community Development Department

POLICY FOUNDATION

Comprehensive Plan

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.

State Growth Management Act

The update responds to the state Growth Management Act requirement to periodically update the plan, and addresses local needs to ensure that the plan remains relevant and responsive to community values. The state deadline for adoption is June 30, 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 by the City's boards and commissions on April 6, 2015. This Study Session is intended to complete the broad overview of the individual plan elements and provide an opportunity for Councilmember questions. Additional Study Sessions are currently scheduled for June 8, 15 and 22 to provide a "Round 2" and wrap-up opportunity for Councilmembers to further discuss and provide direction to staff on each of the elements for inclusion in the Ordinance tentatively scheduled for adoption on July 20. Additional Study Session time may be scheduled as needed.

For the Council's convenience, this Study Session item provides summaries of the remaining sections for the Council's review: the Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Environment, Human Services, and Urban Design and the Arts elements, and Volume 2.

Please bring your copies of the recommended Comprehensive Plan to the meeting. The Council may also want to bring your hard copies of the "policy review tables" (strike-drafts showing policy evolution), also available in your electronic document library.

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 (GMA) 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 include 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.

The current process allows for Council to review each chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and to identify questions and issues for greater exploration. Study Sessions are being divided into two groups.

- Round 1 – Study Sessions are introducing the draft updates and identifying questions and issues that warrant further review.
- Round 2 – Study Sessions will review those identified issues in greater detail and further consider specific changes to the plan.

As Council reviews the recommended elements and policies during Round 1 you may wish to consider these questions:

- Any questions about what is recommended for change?
- Any additional information needed on this topic?
- Direction on specific changes/refinements to the draft policies?

Council discussion of the Comprehensive Plan on April 20 and 27 and May 11 covered an initial review of the Citizen Engagement; Land Use, Neighborhoods; Economic Development; Parks, Recreation and Open Space; and Housing elements. Review of a portion of the Transportation Element occurred on May 11. See Attachment 1 for a table that summarizes the current review progress.

NEXT STEPS

These ongoing Study Sessions are an opportunity for the Council to review each individual chapter of the plan. The Study Sessions review schedule will be adjusted as needed to ensure appropriate review of the draft Comprehensive Plan. If needed, the adoption date will be extended to allow additional time for Council review.

Next meeting: June 8 is scheduled to begin a follow-up discussion of items identified by Council. It may also continue element reviews that are not completed at this Study Session.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Comprehensive Plan Council Review Process and Schedule
2. Transportation Element Summary
3. Capital Facilities Element Summary
4. Utilities Element Summary
5. Environment Element Summary
6. Human Services Element Summary
7. Urban Design and the Arts Element Summary
8. Volume 2 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