

June 15, 2015

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Review of the recommended Comprehensive Plan update.

STAFF CONTACT

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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.

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

This Study Session begins Round 2 of the Council's review of the recommended update to the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission's recommendation was presented on April 6, 2015, followed by several 'Round 1' Study Sessions that provided an overview of each element and an opportunity for Councilmembers to identify specific questions and changes. This Round 2 review of those items identified by Council is scheduled to continue on June 22 prior to considering adoption of the plan on July 20.

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 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.

Round 2 Review

During the first several Study Sessions Council heard an overview of individual elements of the plan, identified specific items for further discussion, and suggested potential policy changes. This Round 2 review follows up on those specific items to provide greater detail and work towards resolving Council direction for changes to the plan.

During Round 1 Councilmembers identified the follow topics for additional discussion:

- How diversity is addressed throughout the plan
- Growth targets provided in the Land Use Element
- Neighborhood area/Subarea proposed boundaries
- Housing policy changes related to affordable housing
- Utilities policy changes related to electrical lines and solid waste issues
- Transportation policy changes and questions
- Environment polices related to GHG emissions, tree canopy targets and low impact development
- Urban Design treatment map
- Urban Design policies related to building design, tree canopy, and arts and culture

Lists of the items identified by Council are organized by Comprehensive Plan element that provide additional information and, where appropriate, potential changes to the plan. With this agenda memo, items are included related to diversity, growth targets, housing, transportation, and neighborhood boundaries. Additional information is also provided related to the Capital Facilities Element, where a change is proposed to respond to a comment from the Department of Commerce. Please see attachments 1 through 7.

Detailed information about the development of neighborhood mapping and proposed boundary changes is provided in Attachment 8. Staff did not record any additional questions or requests for changes by Councilmembers for the Economic Development, Human Services, or Parks, Recreation and Open Space elements.

The other elements not included in tonight's agenda are scheduled for Round 2 Council review on June 22.

State and Regional Review

As noted on June 8, the draft Comprehensive Plan was provided to the state Department of Commerce and the Puget Sound Regional Council for their review. Commerce and the Puget Sound Regional Council provided comments; neither review found a significant deficiency in the draft. However, each agency made a few points and raised some questions. Responses to their comments are provided in the attached lists following the items identified by Council.

Final Staff Edit

As the Comprehensive Plan moves towards adoption, staff have continued to review the plan for minor grammatical edits and corrections. While these are few, staff have noticed the occasional mistake or need for a correction. These are noted in the attached lists for Council's review.

NEXT STEPS

Round 2 review is scheduled to continue with the June 22 and July 6 Study Sessions, which will incorporate the 2015 annual amendments and any other final review of the plan that is needed.

The anticipated date for Council adoption is July 20.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Diversity Summary
2. Land Use Element Items
3. Housing Element Items
4. Capital Facilities Element Items
5. Transportation Element Items
6. Growth Targets Information
7. Comprehensive Transportation Project List
8. Neighborhood Mapping

AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC 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 (attached to the Planning Commission transmittal)
4. Project Public Engagement Report
5. Public Review Draft Comments
6. Policy review tables