

October 10, 2016

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Introduction of the Transportation Commission's recommendation to amend the Transportation Development Code to incorporate Low Impact Development (LID) Principles, and discussion of the work remaining to complete the LID Principles Project. The LID Principles Project is required under the Washington State Department of Ecology's 2013-2018 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit.

STAFF CONTACT(S)

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Utilities Department

POLICY ISSUES

If the City should amend its Transportation Development Code (TDC) to incorporate LID Principles with the intent to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff related to new development and redevelopment by amending the TDC to reduce impervious surfaces in certain land use districts; incorporate a new hard surface coverage limit; allow zero-lot line development in planned unit developments; and incorporate other measures to make LID the preferred and commonly used approach to site development? The following Comprehensive Plan Policies support this policy issue:

Utilities Element

- UT-38. Encourage the use of low impact development and stormwater best management practices to manage stormwater runoff, which may result in smaller facilities constructed on and off-site for flow control, conveyance, and water quality.

Transportation Element

- TR-144. Incorporate natural drainage practices into transportation infrastructure projects where effective and feasible.

Environmental Element

- EN-24. Reduce runoff from streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces and improve surface water quality by utilizing low impact development techniques in new development and redevelopment.
- EN-46. Make low impact development the preferred and commonly-used approach to site development to minimize impervious surfaces, native vegetation loss, and stormwater runoff.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



This Study Session is to introduce and discuss the Transportation Commissions' recommended code amendments for the LID Principles Project. Final action on these ordinances is scheduled for November 21 to ensure meeting the state-mandated December 31, 2016 project deadline. The Transportation Commission's Transmittal is included as Attachment 1 to this memorandum. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the amendments. Staff and the City's consultants from AHBL (Wayne Carlson and Brittany Port) will be present to answer any questions the Council may have regarding the LID Principles Project, the Transportation Commission's recommendation, or other related requirements under the NPDES Permit.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The NPDES Permit takes a programmatic approach to managing municipal stormwater. Under this approach, the City must develop a stormwater management program that evolves with each five-year permit cycle, typically as a result of permit conditions. The October 10 Study Session will focus on the permit condition requiring the City to control runoff from new development and redevelopment. One of the requirements to do this under the NPDES Permit is the LID Principles Project. The Project is comprised recommendations to the Council from both the Planning Commission and the Transportation Commission and proposed code amendments to the Clearing and Grading and Storm and Surface Water Codes. Administrative changes are also being made to some of the City's development standards. The combination of the recommendations, amendments to development standards, and the other code proposals described below are intended to satisfy NPDES Permit requirements, be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan, and meet the Council's planning principles for the LID Principles project.

A second requirement under the NPDES Permit requires the City to update its codes and engineering standards consistent with technical requirements set forth in the NPDES Permit (Appendix 1). For efficiency and the similarity of the topics, both the LID Principles Project and the technical code updates will be presented to Council this fall.

Beginning with the October 10 Study Session and ending in November, staff will present information to the Council related to requirements arising from the NPDES Permit. As discussed above, Council will hear information and staff will seek direction on two permit requirements: (1) The LID Principles Project and (2) mandatory code amendments to the Storm and Surface Water Utility Code (Ch. 24.06 BCC) and Clearing and Grading Code (Ch. 23.76 BCC) required for compliance with the NPDES Permit. Because the proposed amendments for the LID Principles Project for both the Clearing and Grading and the Storm and Surface Water codes are minor in nature, the Project amendments will be combined and presented with the other required NPDES amendments to these two codes. The following schedule and tasks are proposed:

Date	Proposed Topics and Tasks
October 10 Study Session	Presentation to Council: LID Principles Project – Introduction of Planning Commission and Transportation Commission recommendations
October 24 Study Session	Continued discussion of Planning Commission and/or Transportation Commission recommendations (if required).

Date	Proposed Topics and Tasks
	Presentation to Council: Introduction of proposed code amendments to Clearing and Grading and Storm and Surface Water Codes
November 14 Study Session	Additional Study Session on Council-directed topics (optional)
November 21 Action	Action or additional Study Session on Council-directed topics (optional)
November 28 Action (Alternate)	Last date for Council to take action to meet deadline to have codes adopted and effective by December 31, 2016
December 6	East Bellevue Community Council Final Hearing on the LID Principles Project
March 31, 2017	Summary of results of review and revision process for LID Principles Project due with NPDES Annual Report to Ecology.

Transportation Commission Recommendation. The Transportation Commission's recommendation includes very modest amendments to the Transportation Development Code, Chapter 14.60 BCC. First, the amendments would allow storm drainage to include bioretention swales or other vegetation-based LID BMPs in street frontage improvements and turnaround facilities, thus encouraging more vegetation in right of ways and traffic islands. Second, when retaining vegetation along city streets is not feasible, the amendments establish a preference for native plants or species with a proven ability to survive in an urban environment for landscaping in the right-of-way, easements, or tracts. This preference will aid in the uptake of stormwater by providing vegetation with a higher likelihood of survival in an urban environment like Bellevue. A secondary benefit of these amendments is the greening of the streetscape that provides an enhanced experience to both motorists and pedestrians.

Resources. The Association of Washington Cities provides comprehensive information on low impact development and links to additional resources. The Council and the public may access AWCs website here: <http://www.awcnet.org/TrainingEducation/LowImpactDevelopment/Toolsresources.aspx>

Information on the LID Principle Project is available on the City's website:
<http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/low-impact-development.htm>

ALTERNATIVES

1. Direct staff to prepare a final ordinance of the Transportation Commission's recommendation for action on November 21.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Alternative 1.

ATTACHMENT(S).

Transportation Commission Transmittal

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

Integrating LID into Local Codes A Guidebook