

December 5, 2016

## **CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

### **SUBJECT**

Review of the Planning Commission recommendation to amend the Comprehensive Plan with the Vision Zero Policies 2016 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA), as part of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan amendment work program adopted by City Council on July 18, 2016.

### **STAFF CONTACTS**

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### **POLICY ISSUES**

#### **Comprehensive Plan**

The Growth Management Act states that comprehensive plans may be amended no more frequently than once per year (with limited exceptions) so that the cumulative effect of the proposals can be considered. City Council initiated the Vision Zero proposal in March, and in July directed it into the 2016 CPA work program for Final Review. Due to other withdrawal, deferral and legislative actions over the course of 2016 CPA work, the City Council-initiated Vision Zero CPA now comprises the whole of the 2016 package coming forward for action.

#### **State Environmental Policy Act**

The Environmental Coordinator for the City of Bellevue determined that the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Amendment work program—consisting of the Vision Zero Policies Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA)—will not result in any probable, significant adverse environmental impacts. A final threshold determination of non-significance (DNS) was issued on October 20, 2016.

#### **Decision Criteria for CPAs**

The Planning Commission may recommend and the City Council may approve or approve with modifications an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan if the following Final Review Decision Criteria from Section 20.30I of the Land Use Code are met:

- A.1 There exists obvious technical error in the pertinent Comprehensive Plan provision; or
- B.1 The proposed amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other goals and policies of the City, the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), the Growth Management Act, and other applicable law; and
- B.2 The proposed amendment addresses the interests and changed needs of the entire City as identified in its long-range planning and policy documents; and

B.3 The proposed amendment addresses significantly changed conditions since the last time the pertinent Comprehensive Plan map or text was amended. See LUC 20.50.046 (below) for the definition of “significantly changed conditions”; and

**Significantly changed conditions are defined as:** Demonstrating evidence of change such as unanticipated consequences of an adopted policy, or changed conditions on the subject property or its surrounding area, or changes related to the pertinent Plan map or text; where such change has implications of a magnitude that need to be addressed for the Comprehensive Plan to function as an integrated whole. *This definition applies only to Part 20.30I Amendment and Review of the Comprehensive Plan (LUC 20.50.046); and*

B.4 If a site-specific proposed amendment, the subject property is suitable for development in general conformance with adjacent land use and the surrounding development pattern, and with zoning standards under the potential zoning classifications; and

B.5 The proposed amendment demonstrates a public benefit and enhances the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.

#### **DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

##### **ACTION**



##### **DIRECTION**



##### **INFORMATION ONLY**



No formal action is being requested at tonight’s study session. Staff is seeking direction to bring back an ordinance for final action on December 12, 2016.

Tonight, staff will provide an overview of the proposed update, and Planning Commission chair John deVadoss has been invited to present the Commission’s recommendations. He will be joined by Transportation Commission chair Janice Zahn.

#### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

In 2016, the City received three requests for privately-initiated, site-specific CPAs, two requests for non-site-specific CPAs, and the City Council-initiated Vision Zero Policies CPA. Two of the site-specific CPAs (Naficy and Newport Hills Shopping Center) were withdrawn before Threshold Review. The remaining site-specific CPA (Eastgate Office Park) has been deferred to the 2017 work program for Final Review, as requested by the applicant. The two non-site-specific CPAs (Park Lands Policy #1 and #2) were not advanced into Final Review. The Vision Zero Policies CPA is the sole remaining 2016 CPA before you now for Final Review. See Attachment B.

The Planning Commission recommends **approval** (see below) of the City Council-initiated Vision Zero Policies amendment in the 2016 work program:

- Vision Zero (16-140007AC) text amendments to the Transportation Element for Vision Zero, an approach to traffic safety that has the ultimate goal of ending traffic deaths and serious injuries.

#### **Vision Zero Proposal Overview**

Vision Zero policies express the commitment in Bellevue to strive to reduce to zero, the number of serious injuries and fatalities on Bellevue streets by 2030. Policies support a comprehensive and

programmatic approach to traffic safety that would coordinate existing efforts and accelerate the acquisition and use of data to identify safe design standards and prioritize project investments.

### **Vision Zero Planning Commission Recommendation Summary**

Consistent with direction from the City Council, the Transportation Commission prepared recommendations for policy amendments to incorporate Vision Zero into the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission, in its advisory role regarding the Comprehensive Plan reviewed the Transportation Commission recommendation, held a public hearing, proposed minor amendments to which the Transportation Commission concurred, and recommends Vision Zero policy amendments to the Council.

The Planning Commission finds that the Final Review Decision Criteria have been met for this proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment as set forth in the Land Use Code (LUC 20.30I.150).

The Commission concluded that the proposed amendment addresses the interests and changed needs of the entire City, and addresses significantly changed conditions. The City intends to continue its efforts to make streets safe for everyone. Support for these efforts exists in the form of other existing Comprehensive Plan policies, ongoing safety programs, Council direction, and endorsement and use of best practice design manuals. Vision Zero goes one step farther in that it succinctly and explicitly embeds city policies and efforts into a unifying framework that will help focus efforts and identify priorities.

### **Public Hearing**

A Final Review public hearing with the Planning Commission was held on November 9, 2016. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin and in the Seattle Times on October 20, 2016.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Tonight's Study Session introduces the Planning Commission's recommendation on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan amendment. Following Study Session review, staff is proposing to return with ordinances for Council action on the proposed amendment on the December 12 Consent agenda.

1. Direct staff to return with a proposed Ordinance approving the CPA as recommended by the Planning Commission.
2. Direct staff to return with a proposed Ordinance approving the CPA with modifications.
3. Direct staff to return with a proposed Ordinance denying the CPA.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Alternative 1.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Planning Commission Transmittal for Vision Zero Policies dated November 15, 2016
- B. 2016 Comprehensive Plan amendment work program

### **AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

N/A