

March 6, 2017

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

The Transportation Commission will present a recommendation for Complete Streets policy amendments to the Transportation Element. Council may direct staff to return this Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal to be initiated into the 2017 CPA work program, under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.a*. Under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.b*, amendment proposals initiated by Council will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon by Council.

STAFF CONTACTS

David Berg, Director, 452-6468

Paula Stevens, Assistant Director, 452-2802

Kevin McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner, 452-4558

Transportation Department

POLICY ISSUES

Per direction from Council, the Transportation Commission studied the existing Comprehensive Plan policy in the context of City Council Ordinance No. 6308 adopting a Complete Streets policy framework (Attachment A). The Transportation Commission recommends several policy amendments for the Transportation Element to more fully embed a Complete Streets ethic in the scoping, planning, designing, implementing, operating, and maintaining of the street corridors and networks in Bellevue.

Refer to Attachment B for the specific policy recommendations.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

ACTION



DIRECTION



INFORMATION ONLY



Transportation Department staff seeks Council direction to bring back recommended Complete Streets policies at the March 20 Regular Session to initiate a Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal into the 2017 CPA work program, under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.a*. Under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.b*, amendment proposals initiated by Council will be reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon by Council.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Complete Streets Background

Complete Streets is a national movement intended to inspire communities to consider all modes of travel in the planning, designing, implementing, maintaining, and operating of their transportation systems. The Washington state legislature enacted Complete Streets legislation in 2011, with expressed intent as follows:

“Urban main streets should be designed to provide safe access to all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists, and public transportation users. Context sensitive design and engineering principles allow for flexible solutions depending on a community’s needs, and result in many positive outcomes for cities and towns, including improving the health and safety of a community. It is the intent of the legislature to encourage street designs that safely meet the needs of all users and also protect and preserve a community’s environment and character.”

Transportation Commission Recommendation for a Complete Streets Ordinance

In summer 2016, at the request of the Transportation Director, the Transportation Commission reviewed existing Bellevue policies and practices related to Complete Streets that support the planning, designing, implementing, maintaining and operating of a transportation system for all modes and for all users. The Bellevue Comprehensive Plan has 31 adopted policies that support the concept and ethic of Complete Streets. Policies express a commitment in Bellevue to provide safe and reliable mobility options for people wherever they need to go throughout the city, whether they are walking, riding a bicycle, taking transit and/or driving a car. While these policies articulate the completeness, connectedness and resiliency of the transportation system, the Director sought a Complete Streets Ordinance to create a policy framework around which to organize existing programs and projects, and to attain eligibility for the Complete Streets program.

The Commission crafted a recommendation for an ordinance that would: 1) establish the legislative intent, background and context for Complete Streets; 2) amend the regulatory language of the Transportation Development Code, Chapter 14.60, to include the Complete Streets policy framework; and, 3) direct the Transportation Commission to determine if additional or amended policies are needed to further advance the Complete Streets ethic in Bellevue. On September 8, 2016, the Transportation Commission approved the Complete Streets Ordinance recommendation and the transmittal of the draft ordinance to Council.

Council Ordinance with direction to the Transportation Commission

Council reviewed the Transportation Commission recommendation at its September 12, 2016 Study Session and adopted a Complete Streets Ordinance on September 19, 2016. Council approved language in Ordinance No. 6308 to direct the Transportation Commission to recommend any additional Complete Streets policies that may be needed. In adopting the Complete Streets Ordinance, Council created eligibility for the City to be considered in the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board Complete Streets Award Program.

Transportation Commission Complete Streets Policy Recommendation

The Transportation Commission reviewed existing policy language and identified gaps that a few carefully chosen words could fill which would express and support Bellevue's Complete Streets ethic. On January 26, the Commission approved recommendations for text amendments to seven existing policies in the Transportation Element, as noted below. Narrative language and a new call-out box will provide context and intent. Please refer to Attachment B for the full Transportation Commission recommendation.

Recommended Transportation Element Policy Amendments

TR-20. Scope, plan, design, implement, operate, and maintain a complete multimodal transportation system in a corridor approach within and across Mobility Management Areas.

TR-22. Implement and prioritize transportation system improvements to meet the multimodal level-of-service standards, Complete Streets goals, and other mobility targets for all transportation modes, recognizing the range of mobility needs of each corridor and Mobility Management Area.

TR-23. Coordinate improvements and operations among travel modes and provide facilities to support people who are making connections between modes.

TR-26. Increase system connectivity for all modes by providing for vehicular, transit, pedestrian, and bicycling facilities to create a Complete Streets network throughout the city.

TR-32. Utilize multimodal level-of-service standards for transportation corridors that reflect the range of available and intended mobility options.

TR-104. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle facilities along with other mobility options in scoping, planning, designing, implementing, operating and maintaining the transportation system.

TR-147. Evaluate neighborhood impacts and Complete Streets implementation opportunities as part of corridor and subarea transportation studies.

2017 Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Council may initiate a Comprehensive Plan amendment for Complete Streets policy for consideration and recommendation by the Planning Commission in 2017. With Council direction, staff will bring back this Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal at the March 20 Regular Session City Council Meeting to be initiated into the 2017 CPA work program, under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.a*.

Complete Streets Award

In May of 2016, the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) introduced the Complete Streets Award Program. Bellevue became eligible for an award with the adoption of the Complete Streets Ordinance No. 6308 on September 19, 2016. To be considered by the TIB for an award, a jurisdiction would be “nominated” by a third-party non-profit organization. Bellevue was nominated by Feet First, a pedestrian advocacy organization with which the City has worked on planning and projects in Factoria (FATS 2005), Crossroads (2005), Downtown (Downtown Transportation Plan 2011), and the Walkable Washington Symposium in 2016. On January 27 the TIB selected Bellevue for a \$500,000 Complete Streets Award. Award funds will augment Bellevue CIP funds through the Downtown Transportation Plan/NE 6th Street Station Access project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-182) and the Grand Connection Implementation project (CIP Plan No. CD-44) to construct an “Exceptional Intersection” along the Pedestrian Corridor at 106th Avenue NE – creating a raised intersection that will improve its safety and appearance and that can be an extension of Compass Plaza for special events.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

Direct staff to bring back this Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal at the March 20 Regular Session to be initiated into the 2017 CPA work program, under *LUC 20.30I.B.1.a*.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Complete Streets Ordinance No. 6308
- B. Transportation Commission Recommendation (in track changes)

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

N/A