



Bellevue Planning Commission

October 23, 2019

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Final Review Public Hearing: 2019 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments – City Council-Initiated Amendment: Amend the Comprehensive Transportation Project List in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan to include the projects recommended to the City Council by the Transportation Commission in the Eastgate Transportation Study Final Report.

STAFF CONTACT(S)

Kevin McDonald AICP, Principal Transportation Planner, 452-4558

Transportation Department

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Community Development Department

POLICY ISSUES

The Comprehensive Plan is Bellevue's foundational policy document which guides the nature and intensity of development in the City and sets out the community's vision for the future, provides policies to guide city actions, and provides a framework to allow the city and community organizations to work towards common goals. An amendment to the Plan is a mechanism by which the City may modify its land use, development, or growth policies.

- Land Use Code (LUC) 20.301.120 – Purpose

The projects recommended in the [Eastgate Transportation Study Final Report](#) implement existing Comprehensive Plan transportation policies that: 1) support developing a multimodal transportation system to accommodate growth and 2) serve the mobility needs of the community.

The recommended projects must be included in the Comprehensive Plan to give them “standing” with respect to eligibility for funding (both city resources and grants) and as a condition of private-sector development approval.

Attachment 1 is a map that shows the locations of recommended projects and brief project descriptions. Attachment 2 is the complete proposal of specific amendments to the Comprehensive Transportation Project List, or CTPL.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DIRECTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION ONLY <input type="checkbox"/>
Request	Summary Guidance	
1. Conduct a Final Review public hearing for the proposed amendment	Direct staff to first review and present the staff recommendation, then open the public hearing and accept public testimony. Close the public hearing.	
2. Conduct a study session following the public hearing to make a recommendation	Review the application, staff recommendation, public record, and testimony. Ask questions of staff, applicants or persons giving testimony; review the proposed resolution.	
3. Take action on a recommendation	The Commission uses a resolution to the City Council for the recommendation action. Direct staff on resolution content.	

Pursuant to the state Growth Management Act (GMA) and the Bellevue City Code, proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan may be made by the City Council at any time. These proposals are reviewed annually; they are not part of a broader city initiative. Proposed amendments approved by the City Council can lead to future regulatory actions including code amendments, rezoning, and other discretionary review, to ensure development regulations that are consistent with and [implement](#) the Comprehensive Plan.

These proposals are reviewed by the Planning Commission and acted upon by the City Council through the Final Review process set forth in the Land Use Code at [LUC 20.30I](#). Final Review evaluates the merits of proposed amendments included in the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment work program. Final Review evaluation and decision includes staff review, a Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation by resolution, and City Council action by ordinance.

The Planning Commission holds tonight's Final Review public hearing for the Comprehensive Transportation Project List (CTPL) proposed amendments, followed by a study session tonight to make a recommendation. The Commission's recommendation is conveyed to City Council in resolution form.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

The Final Review Decision Criteria for a proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment are set forth in the Land Use Code in Section 20.30I.150. Based on a review and application of the criteria, and using a process as described in 2019 study sessions before the Planning Commission, Community Development staff developed Final Review recommendations.

Staff recommendations for the City Council-initiated 2019 proposed amendment is in the Recommendations Summary (below.) The full report is available [online](#) and in detail in the report materials provided to Commissioners along with the October 4, 2019, notice of Final Review public hearing. It can also be requested in print.

Summary Recommendation: CTPL 19-120260 AC

This proposed plan amendment would adopt updates to the Comprehensive Transportation Project List in Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan with the projects recommended in the Eastgate Transportation Study; adding new projects to the CTPL, revising descriptions for projects currently in the CTPL, and repealing CTPL projects superseded by this more recent analysis. See Attachments 1 and 2.

Staff recommends approving this proposed amendment because the application satisfies all Land Use Code decision criteria for Final Review of a City Council-initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment (LUC 20.30I.150.) See Attachment 3.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On July 15, 2019, the Transportation Commission transmitted its Eastgate Transportation Study Final Report to the City Council following a year-long technical analysis and engagement with the Eastgate/Factoria community.

In accordance with City Council direction on the Study, the Transportation Commission's work focused largely on vehicle congestion in the Eastgate/ Factoria areas and on expanding intersection capacity. Facilities—existing or planned—for people walking, riding a bicycle, or taking transit were included in the baseline. Commissioners were concurrently mindful of Complete Streets, Vision Zero, Multimodal

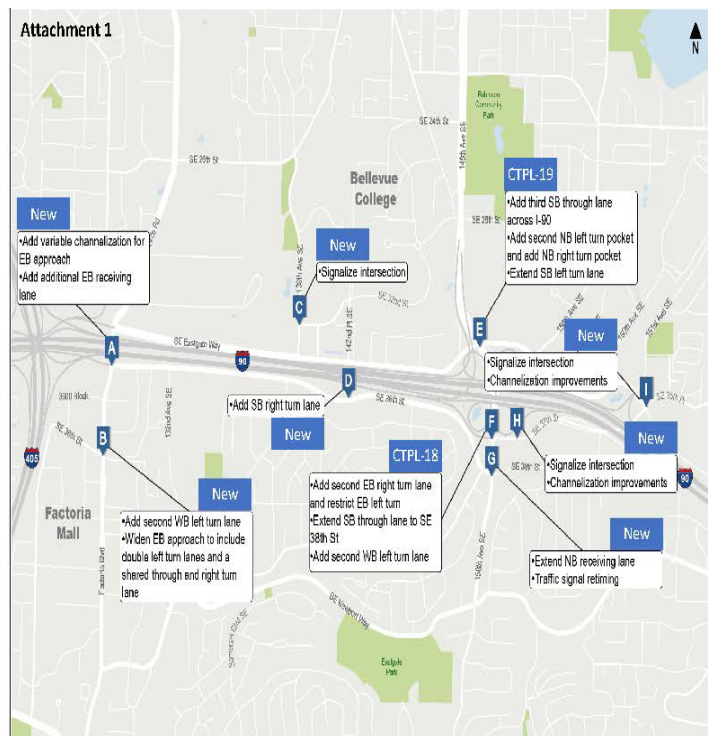
Level-of-Service and other Comprehensive Plan policies that provide direction in the planning and implementation of the city's transportation system.

With a 6-0 vote the City Council then initiated a 2019 Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The City Council initiation action indicated its intent for Comprehensive Plan implementation.

Consideration of proposals to amend the Comprehensive Plan is limited to an annual process under the state Growth Management Act. The City Council initiates Final Review proposals into its establishment of the 2019 annual CPA work program.

Final Review

1. Planning Commission study sessions and public hearings to consider and recommend on proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments (September and October);
2. City Council action by ordinance on Planning Commission recommendations (late fall).



REVIEW AND PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of the Application was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on October 4, 2019 and mailed and posted as required by LUC 20.35.420. Notice of the October 23, 2019, Final Review Public Hearing before the Planning Commission was published in the Weekly Permit Bulletin on October 4, 2019, and included notice sent to parties of interest.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

For the Eastgate Transportation Study itself, in addition to three study sessions held at City Hall, the Transportation Commission held three meetings at the South Bellevue Community Center; on June 14, 2018, and on January 24 and June 27, 2019, to engage with stakeholders simultaneously most affected by existing congestion, and most benefited from future congestion reduction projects. This Parks & Community Services facility was an ideal location for the both the Transportation Commission and stakeholder communities to communicate about mobility challenges and the potential projects to address those challenges.

For the CTPL-CPA application, applicants, residents, and communities engage across a variety of media in proactive public participation during the 2019 annual CPA review process. The city's early and continuous community engagement includes:

- ✓ Responsive early outreach to requests for information and to become parties of interest
- ✓ Responding to each written public comment submitted and returning phone calls

- ✓ Expanded web page material at Comprehensive Plan Amendments with the review schedule, the applications list, and a “What’s Next” timeline
- ✓ Official Weekly Permit Bulletin notice as required

Public comments come in throughout the process. All written comments are included in the public record, for reference and for use by decision-makers. At the various steps, the comments are included in their original form to the Planning Commission as attachments to staff report recommendations. Public comments are available in the File No. 19-120260 AC.

No comments have been received on the proposed plan amendment.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Eastgate Transportation Study –Map of Recommended Projects
2. Comprehensive Transportation Project List: Amendments for Eastgate Transportation Study Projects
3. CTPL CPA staff report
4. Planning Commission resolution for Comprehensive Plan Transportation Project List