



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 24, 2008

TO: Chair Orrico and Members of the Planning Commission

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SUBJECT: Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update Comprehensive Plan Amendment (File Number: 07-123138-AC)

No formal action is requested at this time. The September 24 briefing is focused on Transportation Commission's recommended revisions to the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update.

On September 11, the Transportation Commission completed its work on the 2008 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update policy framework, network maps, project lists, and project maps. At its October 6 meeting, the City Council will be asked to provide direction to the Planning Commission to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan Amendment phase of this project.

The goal is for the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing and complete its review of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) by November 2008 to enable action on these amendments as part of the 2008 CPA package. Additional details on the Planning Commission's schedule is reflected in Attachment 1.

Background

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan acknowledges that responding to anticipated growth in travel necessitates a multi-modal transportation approach that offers the public real choices about how they travel within, to, and through Bellevue. The City Council (and past Councils) have demonstrated a strong commitment to a multi-modal transportation system, including a robust pedestrian, bicycle, and trail network; many policies supporting pedestrian and bicycle travel in existing plans (including the current and past Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan); and its investments in pedestrian and bicycle facilities throughout the city.

At its March 12, 2007 meeting the City Council initiated the update to the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan, as required by Comprehensive Plan policy (which states that the plan should be updated every five years). This update process included reviewing the Plan's policies, implementation strategies, and priorities to ensure they remain consistent with the City's current transportation needs, funding opportunities, and overall trends.

The policy and facility recommendations referenced in the City of Bellevue's Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendment are the product of extensive public outreach, background research, inter-agency coordination, and detailed field work. The policies, projects, and priorities for project implementation have been reviewed and endorsed by the

City's Transportation Commission, who was charged by City Council with overseeing the plan update, and has met many times since March 2007 on the project. The public outreach effort included on-line surveys, focus groups, and outreach to citizens via public events and through the internet. The major conclusions of this effort can be summarized as:

- Connect “somewhere to somewhere” by conveniently serving the places where people live, work and play, and filling gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network;
- Pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be developed in a manner that complements, not diminishes, the character and quality of Bellevue;
- An early, ongoing public involvement program is essential for success in Bellevue when implementing projects;
- Additional attention is needed to increase public awareness to “share the road”.

In response to public feedback, the Plan Update looks at existing opportunities and constraints to help develop a comprehensive walkway and bikeway system which will make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to travel to their destinations. It is in this context that the Plan Update is composed of a variety of different facility types aimed at appealing to pedestrians and bicyclists with varying levels of experience.

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan 2008 Update proposes amendments to existing policies in the Transportation Element, Urban Design Element, and Parks and Open Space of the Comprehensive Plan. The plan update also proposes changes to policies that are in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) which is part of Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan, as well as the project list that is in the TFP. Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan are considered once a year, per the Growth Management Act. Except as otherwise permitted, all proposed amendments in any year are considered concurrently so that the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained. As you are aware, the Planning Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

This Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process relates to amendments to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update. Details of the CPA are contained in the document entitled: *Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments (see enclosure)*. This document proposes to:

- 1) Amend existing policies and add new policies in the Pedestrian and Bicycle System section of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to update the overall vision of realizing a robust, integrated non-motorized network.
- 2) Replace Figure TR-11 (Pedestrian System) and Figure TR-12 (Bicycle System) in the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan with new network maps.
- 3) Amend Policy UD-53 of the Urban Design General Element of the Comprehensive Plan articulating the overall vision of implementing the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway concept.
- 4) Amend Policy PA-21 of the Parks, Open Space and Recreation Element of the Comprehensive Plan to make specific reference to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trail system.
- 5) Amend existing policies and add new policies in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan of the Comprehensive Plan to update the overall vision of realizing a robust, integrated non-motorized network.

- 6) Amend the project list and maps in the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure the plan update responds to current transportation needs.

All of the amendments noted above have been reviewed by the Transportation Commission over the past year, and were endorsed by the Commission at its September 11, 2008 meeting. The details of the CPA are provided in advance of the City Council's October 6 direction to the Planning Commission to move forward with the Comprehensive Plan Amendment phase of this project to provide the Planning Commission with additional time to consider the amendments before its October 22 study session.

Please note the schedule reflected in Attachment 1 is presented as a suggested approach and should not be regarded as definitive; staff look to the Commission for guidance on recommended modifications to the project timeline. If you have questions prior to the meeting please contact me.

Attachments

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update Schedule

Enclosure

Under separate cover:

1. Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update 2008 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Report
2. Pedestrian Projects Map
3. Bicycle Projects Map

Please retain these documents for subsequent Commission meetings on this topic.

Attachment 1

Planning Commission Schedule

Potential Planning Commission dates	Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update
September 24	Briefing: Review Transportation Commission's recommended revisions to the 1999 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Update.
October 22	Study Session: Engage the Planning Commission in a discussion of the Transportation Commission's recommended revisions to the policy framework, network maps, project lists, and project maps.
November 12	Public Hearing: Hear public testimony.
November 19	Action: Make recommendation on Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan Comprehensive Plan Amendments to City Council.