



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 3, 2013

TO: Chairman Carlson and Members of the Planning Commission

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SUBJECT: 2014 Comprehensive Plan Update – Introduction, Citizen Participation and Annexation Elements

With the study session on April 10, 2013, the Planning Commission will continue with the 2014 update of the Comprehensive Plan. This study session will begin review of the Introduction, Citizen Participation and Annexation elements, or “chapters” of the plan. See Attachment 1 for an existing elements review schedule. No action is requested at this time.

The Planning Commission began its review of the Comprehensive Plan as part of this update process with a study session on the Community Vision on June 13, 2013. Following the City Council’s formal initiation of the update, the Planning Commission participated in the January 24, 2013, Joint Boards and Commissions Forum, where seven of the city’s boards and commissions identified their vision for the future of Bellevue. The Commission continued with an initial review of the Land Use Element on February 13, and a review of the Housing and Human Services Elements with a presentation on housing needs in a joint meeting with the Human Services Commission on March 13, 2013.

This study session will provide the Commission with an opportunity to review components of the existing Comprehensive Plan and begin to identify where updates are likely or necessary. Some aspects of the plan are clearly out of date and will need to be updated. Other updates may be identified as the City continues its analysis. At future study sessions later this year staff will present gap analyses and recommendations for changes that build on these initial update discussions.

This study session will review the Introduction, Citizen Participation, and Annexation elements of the Comprehensive Plan:

- The Introduction is the first chapter the public sees. It sets the historic context for the Comprehensive Plan and at the same time holds the future oriented Vision 2025 statements. The Vision is the foundational part of the plan, establishing the vision for what the community wants to be like in the future.
- The Citizen Participation Element follows the Introduction and lays out policy for how the public engages and influences city planning.
- The Annexation Element uses its policies to manage the city’s growth through annexation. This has historically been significant. Now, with annexation nearly complete, this element is has less relevance.

BACKGROUND

In October 2012 the City Council initiated the major update of the Comprehensive Plan with a schedule to complete the update by the end of 2014.

The Comprehensive Plan is the holder of the community's vision for the future of Bellevue, it sets policy that directs city actions and decisions, and it guides city investments in infrastructure. The plan addresses a wide range of topics, including land use, housing, transportation, parks, economic development and human services. The plan consists of four key components:

- The Community Vision statement illustrates the city we hope to become
- Elements of the plan include goals and policies that direct city actions
- Subarea Plans for each of fourteen geographic areas in the city
- Transportation Facility Plans that contain potential transportation projects

The Comprehensive Plan provides the overall policy structure that helps ensure consistency between the city's various functional plans as well as coordinating them with the city's plans for growth. The Comprehensive Plan tends to include broad, citywide policies that frame fundamental management of land uses and city resources.

NEXT STEPS

In each of its review study sessions so far, the Planning Commission has begun to identify areas where updates are likely or necessary. At future study sessions later this year staff will present gap analyses and recommendations for changes based in part on that update discussion.

ATTACHMENT 1

Chapter or Element	Description	PC Review
Introduction	This the first chapter the public sees. It sets the historic context for the Comprehensive Plan and at the same time holds the future oriented Vision 2025 statements. The Vision is the foundational part of the plan, establishing the vision for what the community wants to be like in the future.	6/13/12
Citizen Participation	This element follows the Introduction and lays out policy for how the public engages and influences city planning.	4/10/13
Land Use	This element addresses the general location and distribution of land uses within the city and provides the framework for other plan elements that guide other aspects of land use.	2/13/13
Housing	The goal of this element is to maintain the strength, vitality, and stability of single family and multifamily neighborhoods and to promote a variety of housing opportunities to meet the needs of all members of the community.	3/13/13
Capital Facilities		
Utilities		
Transportation		
Economic Development		
Environmental		
Human Services	This element’s goal is to create a community in which all members have the ability to meet their basic physical, economic, and social needs, and the opportunity to enhance their quality of life.	3/13/13
Parks, Open Space and Recreation		
Shoreline Management Program		
Urban Design		
Annexation	This element uses its policies to manage the city’s growth through annexation. This has historically been significant. Now, with annexations nearly complete, it has less relevance.	4/10/13
Glossary		