

City of

BellevueMANAGEMENT BRIEF

DATE: May 1, 2013

TO: Transportation Commission

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SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update – Transportation Scope

Bellevue periodically updates its Comprehensive Plan to ensure continued compliance with the state Growth Management Act and to ensure that it reflects the dynamic changes and trends that affect the growth and evolution of the community. The City Council initiated the 2014 update of the Comprehensive Plan in October, 2012 and a target date for adoption is late 2014.

This Transportation Commission management brief provides a preliminary scope of work for Transportation Policy that is under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Plan.

Transportation Commission Role

Stewardship for the Comprehensive Plan lies with the Planning Commission, yet the Transportation Commission provides expert advice on transportation policy, the Downtown Transportation Plan for example, and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan. On May 9, the Commission is asked to review the preliminary scope in preparation for the Update. The City Council will review and provide direction on the entire work program on May 13.

Community Outreach

To develop the preliminary scope for the Comprehensive Plan Update, staff held two broad outreach forums and has sought the input from others in the community who have an interest in the Plan and from other staff who work daily with the policies. While outreach continues, these forums have helped to identify major policy issues to address.

Boards and Commissions Forum, January 24, 2013

At this forum, board and commission members were asked to provide their thoughts on the issues that should be the focus of the update, to help guide and shape the plan, and to ensure that the plan continues to embrace the community's vision.

Community Forum, January 29, 2013

Residents from the entire city were invited to share with staff their hopes, concerns and visions for the community. Roundtable discussions facilitated by staff focused on areas of the general community, the environment, business and family.

Transportation Scope

The following transportation topics constitute the preliminary topics that Transportation Department staff and the Transportation Commission would address.

Volume 1: Transportation Element

- **UPDATE: Goals, discussion text and policy language**

This work may include minor substantive revisions, but the primary intent would be to clean-up, update, and consolidate language; acknowledge changed and/or changing circumstances, and modify ambiguous policy language to be more directive where possible (ie, replace “Work with...” policy language with language that is more specific about the intended outcome).

- **UPDATE: TR. Figures and TR. Tables**

Several figures and tables are included in the Transportation Element that are out of date and should be updated with current information. In addition to the updates, a substantive proposal would consider changing the level of service (LOS) standard for intersections in the Wilburton Mobility Management Area (MMA) from a volume/capacity (v/c) ratio of .9 to v/c of .95 in recognition of improved transit service, the intended mix of land use, and the relationship of the area between Downtown and Bel-Red, both of which are assigned a v/c of .95.

- **NEW: Environmental Stewardship Initiative**

Extract transportation-related components from the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan. New Transportation Element goals and policies would be related to topics such as City vehicle fleet greenhouse gas emissions, emissions from citywide vehicle miles traveled, and the commute drive-alone rate.

- **NEW: Multi-Modal Level of Service**

Through this topic we would explore a range of options that could be considered to better integrate multiple modes of travel into the City’s mobility strategy and measurements. For this Comprehensive Plan Update, staff would provide a range of policy choices based on best practices and applicability to Bellevue. New policy could provide direction to implement a multi-modal LOS strategy through a future work plan and budget.

- **NEW: Driveway Consolidation**

Policy direction has long been needed to facilitate the consolidation of driveway access points as a condition of development approval or into design of capital projects where improvements to the pedestrian environment and traffic safety warrant this approach.

Volume 2: Transportation Facility Plans

The several Transportation Facility Plans that are adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan are outdated and redundant. In large part this has happened because the Transportation Facility Plans have not been kept current as projects are built and as planning has occurred that creates new projects that are incorporated into Subarea plans, ie., Bel-Red and Downtown. For the Comprehensive Plan Update, staff proposes the following:

- Remove completed projects from the project lists and maps
- Remove superseded projects. These are projects that are no longer of interest to the City because they have been superseded by more recent subarea planning. Numerous examples of such projects exist in the Bel-Red Subarea, and also in Eastgate and Factoria. The Downtown Transportation Plan Update may also supersede some existing projects.
- Consolidate into one Transportation Facility Plan. There are 6 adopted transportation facility plans: Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan; Bel-Red/Overlake Transportation Facility Plan; Bridle Trails, Bel-Red and Crossroads Transportation Facility Plan; East Bellevue Transportation Plan; Eastside Transportation Program; and the Newcastle Transportation Facility Plan. The goal would be to consolidate these plans into one citywide transportation facility plan that would be a handy reference for both the community and staff.

Next Steps

On May 9 I would like to hear the Transportation Commission's comments on the list of transportation-related ideas for the Comprehensive Plan update. Council will review the overall work program on May 13. Generally, on a monthly basis I will provide a briefing to the Commission on progress, community involvement opportunities, and emerging issues/opportunities.