

## **EXHIBIT 1**

Proposed amendments to the public hearing draft of the Comprehensive Plan

### 1. Transportation Element, Goal 12:

Promote bicycle and pedestrian networks that safely access and link commercial areas, residential areas, schools, ~~and~~ parks, and transit, within the City.

### 2. Land Use Element, text on page 5:

Beginning in 2022, the City began composing a Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan establishes strategies for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled to meet its adopted greenhouse gas reduction goals address climate change. Those strategies are an important step to move the City forward in its response to the changing climate. Where needed, goals and policies were amended or added to this Land Use Element to support the strategies in the Climate Action Plan, including amendments to the policies under goals 26, 27, and 28.

### 3. Housing Element Policy 1.4.M

1.4.M Neighborhoods in which environmental health hazards, including noise and light pollution, -are minimized to the extent possible.

I proposed this policy in the Housing Work Group, which was included after I explained what it meant, but looking at it again, it would be better to not have a policy that doesn't come across easily, if you didn't have a career in environmental health, as I did. I think keeping the broad language is helpful for things that may come up in the future, but it would be more useful to include specific language as well in order to provide a policy basis for possible improvements in regards to light and noise pollution, which are problems now.

Here are several references to health impacts of exposure to light and noise pollution. I have mislaid reference to racial and income disparities in exposure to these source of pollution, but will forward prior to the meeting on May 29.

Here are references to health impacts of exposure to light pollution:

1. Dark Sky International quoting American Medical Association: "American Medical Association findings of an increasing body of scientific evidence that implicates exposure to blue-rich white light at night to increased risks for cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease."

<https://darksky.org/news/ama-report-affirms-human-health-impacts-from-leds/>

2. American Heart Association: "People continuously exposed to bright, artificial light at night may be at increased risk of developing conditions that affect blood flow to the brain and having a stroke

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according to research published today in **Stroke**, the peer-reviewed scientific journal of the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association.”

<https://newsroom.heart.org/news/more-exposure-to-artificial-bright-outdoor-nighttime-light-linked-to-higher-stroke-risk>

Here are references to exposure to noise pollution:

1. Harvard Medicine: “They’ve shown that noise pollution not only drives hearing loss, tinnitus, and hypersensitivity to sound, but can cause or exacerbate cardiovascular disease; type 2 diabetes; sleep disturbances; stress; mental health and cognition problems, including memory impairment and attention deficits; childhood learning delays; and low birth weight. Scientists are investigating other possible links, including to dementia.”

<https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/noise-and-health>

2. EPA: “Noise pollution adversely affects the lives of millions of people. Studies have shown that there are direct links between noise and health. Problems related to noise include stress related illnesses, high blood pressure, speech interference, hearing loss, sleep disruption, and lost productivity. Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) is the most common and often discussed health effect, but research has shown that exposure to constant or high levels of noise can cause countless adverse health effects.”

<https://www.epa.gov/clean-air-act-overview/clean-air-act-title-iv-noise-pollution>

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**Adam Zack**

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**From:** Carolyn Boatsman  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:40 PM  
**To:** Adam Zack  
**Cc:** Alison Van Gorp  
**Subject:** Additional information re: light pollution and health effects

Hi Adam. Would you please pass on to Commissioners this additional reference re: light pollution? Thank you.

Commissioners: This reference describes how light pollution exposure is greater in poorer, non-white neighborhoods. This is easy to spot anecdotally when observing multifamily housing in mixed use areas. Most of Mercer Island's affordable housing is and will be located in the Town Center and Commercial Office Zone where the risk of light pollution is the greatest.

The policy language, however, is meant to highlight light pollution, in general, as an environmental health issue that may need attention.

<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/our-impact/story/brighter-neighborhoods-harm-human-health>



[Brighter Neighborhoods Harm Human Health | NASA Applied Sciences](https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/our-impact/story/brighter-neighborhoods-harm-human-health)

A newly emerging field of study is connecting the bright lights of U.S. cities at night to poorer human health.

[appliedsciences.nasa.gov](https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov)

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### **Adam Zack**

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**From:** Chris Goelz  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** Alison Van Gorp  
**Cc:** Adam Zack  
**Subject:** Re: 5/29 Agenda Packet timing

Hi Alison

I don't want to miss the deadline for submitting comments. So let's consider my draft F-3 submitted:

Try to mitigate through regulation any impacts of moderate density housing on traffic, on-street parking and pedestrian safety, especially in those areas close to transit.

Still open for suggestions. Just not sure when I'll be back on email.

Chris

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**From:** Chris Goelz <Chris.Goelz@mercerisland.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 10:28 AM  
**To:** Alison Van Gorp <alison.vangorp@mercergov.org>  
**Subject:** Re: 5/29 Agenda Packet timing

Hi

Just a couple of typos if you think it's worth it --

in F-3 – "effecting" should be "affecting"

in F-6 – "commutes" should be "commuters"

Then there's this:

F-3: Identify regulations that can reduce the following impacts when establishing regulations for moderate density: • More people parking on neighborhood streets; • Traffic and parked cars effecting pedestrian safety; • Reduced parking requirements in areas close to transit causing more residents to park on the street; and • Loss of mature trees and landscaping when new development occurs

How about this instead?

Try to mitigate through regulation any impacts of moderate density housing on traffic, on-street parking and pedestrian safety, especially in those areas close to transit.

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Any suggestions?

I'm thinking that the tree thing isn't really a thing. I don't have any reason to think that the new middle housing units will be bigger than the McMansions that we're currently building – so I don't see that they present a particular threat to mature trees. And I certainly don't think they should be encumbered with additional regulation re trees.

Thanks.  
Chris

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**From:** Alison Van Gorp <[alison.vangorp@mercergov.org](mailto:alison.vangorp@mercergov.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2024 4:16 PM  
**To:** Chris Goelz <[Chris.Goelz@mercerisland.gov](mailto:Chris.Goelz@mercerisland.gov)>  
**Cc:** Adam Zack <[adam.zack@mercerisland.gov](mailto:adam.zack@mercerisland.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: 5/29 Agenda Packet timing

Hi Chris – Happy to chat on Tuesday. I'm open 10-11 or 4-5.

-Alison

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**From:** Chris Goelz <[Chris.Goelz@mercerisland.gov](mailto:Chris.Goelz@mercerisland.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 24, 2024 3:14 PM  
**To:** Alison Van Gorp <[alison.vangorp@mercergov.org](mailto:alison.vangorp@mercergov.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: 5/29 Agenda Packet timing

Hi Alison

I have a couple of questions about the process at the meeting. I'd like to see a softening on the parking mandates, but am trying to figure out if it's worth raising and, if it is, how best to do it. (Do you deal with the comment from WDFW that we should replace our making minimums with parking maximums?)

Maybe we can chat for a few minutes on Tuesday.

Thanks.  
Chris

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**From:** Alison Van Gorp <[alison.vangorp@mercergov.org](mailto:alison.vangorp@mercergov.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2024 4:30 PM  
**Subject:** 5/29 Agenda Packet timing

Planning Commissioners – I wanted to briefly follow up regarding the updated meeting schedule and timing of the next agenda packet. As you know, next Wednesday's meeting has been canceled. As such, the next packet will be for the 5/29 meeting, which we would typically send out by the end of next week. However, with the large volume of material that will be included in this packet, we are aiming to get it out as soon as possible to give you more time for review. We are working with our consultant teams

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to complete the exhibits and we are planning to publish the packet by Tuesday at the latest. This will give you a full week in advance of the Public Hearing to review the materials. If you have questions during your review that you would like to discuss with staff prior to the hearing, please let us know. We can schedule one-on-one or small group meetings with commissioners if needed.

Thanks,  
Alison