
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Alison Van Gorp, CPD Deputy Director
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DATE: September 28, 2022

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update
Transportation Element – Second Draft

Attachments

- A. Second Draft - Transportation Element
- B. First Draft - Transportation Element Comment Matrix
- C. Planning Commission and Public Comments on the first draft Transportation Element

PURPOSE

To receive the Planning Commission's response to comments on the first draft of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan (see Attachment A). The comments are summarized, and a staff response is provided in Attachment B. The full comments are provided in Attachment C.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public may submit written comments or questions on the Transportation Element to comp.plan@mercerisland.gov. Public comments will be provided to the Planning Commission at its October meeting. Please visit the [Comprehensive Plan update project website](#) for more information about the update process.

BACKGROUND

The City of Mercer Island is updating its comprehensive plan as part of the periodic review required by the Washington Growth Management Act (GMA). The periodic review will be a targeted "surgical" update, focusing on those technical updates required to maintain compliance with the GMA. The existing Transportation Element already meets most of the GMA requirements and only requires limited technical amendments during this periodic review.

The Transportation Element provides policies and projects to guide the development of the Mercer Island transportation system and the City's vision for the future. The document includes the goals and policies, description of the existing transportation system, analysis of future transportation conditions, a list of recommended transportation projects, and an assessment of the City's funding capability to complete those projects.

Primary updates to the Transportation Element include incorporating changes to the transportation system since the 2018 update, adjusting the planning horizon year from 2035 to 2044, incorporating the King County 2021 Countywide Planning Policies, and updating the Recommended Improvements list with revised cost estimates. The Recommended Improvement list was based on a future transportation needs analysis and projects from the City’s Six-Year 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan (2010), and Transportation Impact Fee program (2022).

The Planning Commission was briefed on the first draft of the Transportation Element on July 27. It provided written comments on the first draft following the meeting. The Planning Commission and public comments and staff responses are summarized in Attachment B. The complete comments are provided in Attachment C.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The staff response to Planning Commission comments on the first draft of the Transportation Element is summarized in Attachment B. Specific text changes proposed in comments are shown as alternatives in the second draft (Attachment A). Text amendments proposed by the Planning Commission and a few alternatives proposed by staff are shown in the text of the second draft. Each alternative includes the corresponding comment number from Attachment B in brackets after the alternative text.

At the meeting on September 28, the Planning Commission will go through the amendments proposed by comments. It can decide whether make the proposed amendment, only accept part of the alternative, or keep the first draft version. Staff recommends agreeing to comment responses by consensus.

Once the Planning Commission has worked through the comments, staff requests the Commission decide whether it would like another touch on the draft at its October meeting. If the Planning Commission is satisfied with the draft element after working through the comments at the September meeting, the October meeting may not be necessary. If the Planning Commission decides an October review is unnecessary, it will still have an opportunity to review the element two more times before making a recommendation to the City Council, as described below.

NEXT STEPS

1. October 26 - Third review on the Transportation Element (if needed).
2. There may be additional changes to the Transportation Element for the Planning Commission to consider during the Comprehensive Plan update. The additional changes would be in response to the Climate Action Plan and the Housing Work Group’s work on the Housing Element. Discussion of the possible amendments will take place when the Planning Commission takes up these topics later during the update process.
3. Summer 2023 - The next touch on the Transportation Element will be during a Comprehensive Plan update “tune up” meeting scheduled after the Comprehensive Plan update Open House in the summer 2023.
4. Fall 2023 - After the “tune up” meeting, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the overall Comprehensive Plan update. This will include a review of the Transportation Element before making a recommendation to the City Council.