
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Adam Zack, Senior Planner
Michael Lapham, KPG Psomas

DATE: July 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Plan Update
Transportation Element – First Draft

Attachments:

- A. Draft Transportation Element showing the proposed revisions (track changes)
- B. Draft Transportation Element (clean version)

SUMMARY

The City has retained a transportation consultant, KPG Psomas, to assist with the update of the Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The consultant's scope of work is to provide a surgical update of the Transportation Element document. A more significant update to the Transportation Element and overall Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for 2026. At the July 27 meeting, staff and the consultant will provide an overview of the draft Transportation Element amendments and answer questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please submit written public comments or questions on the Transportation Element by 4:00 PM on August 31. Please send comments to comp.plan@mercerisland.gov. Public comments submitted by the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at their next meeting scheduled for September 28.

BACKGROUND

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 the 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).

SCOPE OF WORK

The City Council approved a scope of work for the Comprehensive Plan periodic review with [Resolution 1621](#). The adopted scope of work for the Transportation Element primarily focuses on the technical amendments needed to maintain GMA compliance. Table 1 lists the Transportation Element tasks listed in the scope of work. The amendments in the first draft of the Transportation Element were based on the scope of work tasks listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Transportation Element Tasks from the Comprehensive Plan Scope of Work.

Task Number	Task Description	Required or Local Choice
T-1	Ensure that the 10-year traffic forecast is consistent with growth projections	Required
T-2	Update Transportation Element Section V to ensure future funding capability will be consistent with current conditions and growth projections	Required
T-3	Ensure that the multiyear transportation financing plan is consistent with updated growth projections	Required
T-4	Update the transportation inventory	Required
T-5	Add policy under Transportation Element Goal 12 to adopt the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan by reference	Local Choice
T-6	Add policy under Transportation Element Goal 12 that establishes a timeline for reviewing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan	Local Choice
T-7	Amend Town Center intersections list in Transportation Element Section III Table 1	Local Choice
T-8	Adopt the streetscape manual by reference	Local Choice

PLANNING COMMISSION FEEDBACK

For your review, we have provided two drafts of the Transportation Element document. The first version shows the proposed revisions and the second is a clean version (maps have not yet been updated). While there will be time available for Q&A at the July 27 meeting, staff are requesting that Commissioners hold their feedback on the Transportation Element. Instead, staff will request the Commissioners’ written input on the following by August 31, 2022:

1. Feedback on the draft Transportation Element update; and,
2. Additional information that the Planning Commission will need to form a recommendation.

Staff anticipates returning to the Planning Commission to discuss your feedback and questions on September 28, 2022. Staff welcome your questions, as well as identification of topics that you would like covered during the September 28th meeting. If you provide questions in advance, staff will attempt to address them at the meeting. Please reach out to Adam at adam.zack@mercerisland.gov or 206-275-7719.