



Community Development Department

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MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Public Works Committee
From: Ashley Wragge, Planning Technician
Date: February 1, 2024
Subject: Comprehensive Plan – Transportation Element Policy Review Including PSRC Comments

Background

The Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requires King County and cities within King County to update their comprehensive plans on or before December 31, 2024. The transportation chapter (sometimes referred to as an “element”) is an essential piece of the Comprehensive Plan and must show how the City intends to provide a transportation system capable of providing for the updated growth targets over the planning horizon of 20 years. This chapter provides a summary of the existing transportation system and will address the long-term transportation needs and goals of the community.

Analysis

The City’s existing transportation use element includes policies in six focus areas. These areas include land use and transportation coordination, intergovernmental transportation planning, street system, bicycle and pedestrian system, travel demand management and environmental stewardship, and planning, design and maintenance. An internal review of the transportation policies was conducted to determine relevance, accuracy, and adherence to new regulations.

On October 2, 2023, staff presented a primer on transportation planning and the components of the Transportation chapter. On October 16, 2023, staff presented the first set of proposed updates to transportation policies to the Planning Commission. On subsequent meetings, the remaining proposed updates to transportation policies and suggested goals for the element were presented along with revisions. On November 20, 2023, final revisions were presented for Planning Commission confirmation, as well as one additional goal pertaining to the “Planning, Design and Maintenance” topic.

The objective of the transportation policies review is to improve clarity in policy language, remove duplicative language, update terminology, and reflect recent changes to the Growth Management Act, and PSRC’s VISION 2050.

In 2023, the Legislature passed HB 1181, which identifies several new expectations for transportation elements including more specific requirements for multimodal level of service, nonmotorized planning, and impacts and costs for state facilities. The previous draft recommended goals and policies were reviewed at the state and regional level for GMA and Vision 2050 consistency.

Review comments received from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), Liz Underwood-Bultmann Principal Planner, dated December 21, 2023, are included in Attachment 2.

In response, staff recommends the following additional policies be added to the Planning Commission Recommended Transportation Element:

For vehicular and all transportation methods, including transit, bicycles, pedestrian planning and development review, use level of service (LOS) measures to evaluate system performance and needs that reflects the community's expectations for transportation performance.

For multimodal levels of service apply consider frequency, presence and span of services to evaluate system performance and need including deficiencies.

Identify projects, programs or strategies that will address existing and all future transportation deficiencies including transit, bicycles and pedestrian.

NEXT STEPS

Discuss additional policy recommendations shown and motion to move the new recommended draft goals and policies to a future City Council meeting for review and approval.

Attachment 1: PC transportation recommendation

Attachment 2: PSRC Comments Snoqualmie Draft Transportation Element