

CITY OF SEATAC
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of December 2, 2014
Regular Meeting

Members Present: Joe Adamack, Roxie Chapin, Tom Danztler, Robert Scully, Jim Todd

Staff present: Joe Scorcio, CED Director; Steve Pilcher, Planning Manager; Mike Scarey, Senior Planner; Susan Sanderson, City Engineer; Larry Toedtli, Transpo

1. Call to Order

Chairman Adamack called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approve minutes of November 18, 2014 Meeting

Moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written. **Passed 5-0.**

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Briefing on Update to Transportation Element of the Comprehensive Plan

City Engineer Susan Sanderson advised the Commission regarding work that has been done to date on updating the Transportation Element. She noted they have been closely coordinating this work with the Port of Seattle. They will be briefing the City Council at its meeting next Tuesday.

Larry Toedtli of Transpo (consultant) reviewed the work schedule. He noted that after reviewing existing conditions, they are now considering forecasts of traffic growth. A primary area of focus is construction of SR 509: what impacts that will have on traffic patterns and how well the system will work if it is not built or only the first phase is constructed. He also noted that traffic growth is based upon the growth forecasts as developed through the King County County-wide Planning Policies process and PSRC. These result in high numbers, as a significant amount of growth is forecasted for SeaTac, both in terms of population and employment. Mr. Toedtli noted that the staff's projections are significantly lower than these figures, being that they are based on historical growth patterns. He also noted that the Airport is predicting a doubling of passengers to 66 million air passengers per year.

Both the years 2025 and 2035 were evaluated. Mr. Toedtli explained that the 2035 baseline assumes construction of Phase 1 SR 509 and an interim Airport south access, using the 24th/6th/28th Avenue arterial, among other area improvements.

In 2025, if there are no improvements made, a 25-35% increase of traffic on International Blvd. and many other congested locations is expected to occur. He noted there are no cost effective improvements that can be made to resolve forecast traffic issues at many key intersections (such as at S. 188th & IB). Potential solutions would involve widening intersections at the expense of accommodating non-motorized users.

If Phase 1 SR 509 is constructed, there will be benefits to International Blvd., as much traffic increase would be diverted to 28th Ave. S. The Commission expressed concern of how this increase in traffic will impact the area surrounding the future light rail station.

By 2035, if Phase 2 SR 509 and the South Airport Expressway are not constructed, there will still be significant traffic issues. If the project is constructed, there will be mostly decreases in traffic growth on City streets. The project also provides significant benefits to the airport and to regional freight mobility.

Mr. Toedtli then reviewed currently planned improvements. He discussed the trade-offs that exist between attempting to maintain a LOS standard and how that could impact non-motorized traffic modes. Other methods of addressing traffic impacts from development were also discussed, including the use of traffic impact fees.

Mr. Toedtli reviewed the schedule for completing the Transportation Element update; the next presentation to the Commission is scheduled for early February 2015.

The Commission spent some time discussing various alternatives and how to best deal with the impacts of growth.

5. Major Comprehensive Plan Update – Capital Facilities Element

Senior Planner Mike Scarey reviewed the proposed revisions to this chapter of the Comprehensive Plan, noting that it is moving from Chapter 4 to Chapter 5. He reminded the Commission they had reviewed the Capital Facilities Plan in October; this chapter deals with goals and policies. He stressed that the City is meeting all of its adopted concurrency standards. Mr. Scarey also noted that some facilities are proposed to be dropped from the list subject to concurrency standards; this includes “one of a kind” facilities (such as a boat dock, botanical garden) and other facilities that are situated within larger facilities (i.e., a weight room within the Community Center).

The Commission asked that the dog park be added to the list for which a standard is maintained.

Commissioners also had questions regarding the sewer and water service standards noted on page 5-5; Mr. Scarey indicated these standards are still being discussed with those utility providers.

Mr. Scarey reviewed the upcoming schedule, noting there is a community event tomorrow evening (December 3rd) at Bow Lake Elementary School.

6. CED Director's Report

None.

8. Commissioner's report

None.

9. Adjournment

Moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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