



MEMORANDUM COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Date: 8/9/2023
To: Planning Commission
From: Kate Kaehny
Subject: Planning the City Together: A Briefing on SeaTac's Major Planning Projects

Summary

Since the Spring of 2022, the City has invested significant resources in updating its long-term growth and development policies by funding the following projects:

- Envision SeaTac 2044: Major Comprehensive Plan Update Project
- Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update Project
- City Center/Airport District Subarea Plan Project

The purpose of the upcoming briefing is to provide a status update of these three projects. This memo includes background information on the projects and highlights issues that will be further discussed at the project briefing.

Project Status Update

NEW "BRANDING" TO CONNECT THREE PROJECTS

- **Proposed "Planning the City Together" Initiative:** Because the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) and City Center/Airport District Subarea Plan (once adopted) are part of the Comprehensive Plan, staff is proposing an overall "brand" or name that is intended to emphasize the connection between the three projects.
- **"Planning the City Together" Roll Out:** The name "Planning the City Together" will be announced to the public the week of August 14th through a blog article and web page that will link to information about the three projects.

ENVISION SEATAC 2044: MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROJECT

- **Main Project Goals:** To update SeaTac's Comprehensive Plan and re-set its growth and development strategies for the years 2024-2044, including updates that incorporate City priorities and align with new state and regional growth requirements. The project will closely coordinate with and leverage work from the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) update and City Center/Airport District Subarea Plan projects. The project will also facilitate a robust, inclusive community engagement process for both the Envision 2044 Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) update projects.
- **City Council Contract Authorization:** 4/11/2023
- **Tasks Completed:**
 - **Early Work:** To meet the goals of the Department of Commerce GMA Periodic Update Grant, the consultant team completed an audit of all policies in the Comprehensive Plan and their compliance with new state law or regional planning requirements enacted since the last major Comprehensive Plan update in 2015. A draft public involvement plan was also created that will be presented at a future meeting.

ENVISION SEATAC 2044: MAJOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PROJECT (cont.)

- **Tasks Underway:**

- **Preparation for Public Project Kick-Off:** Staff is working on materials for the project website which will be announced the week of August 14th as part of the rollout for the “Planning The City Together” initiative.
- **Preparation for Kick-Off of Citywide Vision Update Public Involvement Process:** Staff is also developing materials and community engagement activities for citywide public involvement in updating the City’s growth and development vision.
 - **Current City Vision Statement & Proposed Approach to Vision Update:**

EXISTING VISION STATEMENT (Ch. 1 Introduction & Framework Element

The City of SeaTac is envisioned to be economically strong, environmentally sensitive, visually pleasing, and people-oriented with a socially diverse but cohesive population and employment mix. These attributes create a positive identity and image for the community and contribute to a city of the future that works.

The essence of a growing, prosperous, and vibrant City of SeaTac is found not in its built or natural environment alone but in the collective spirit of those who live and who work within the SeaTac community.

The built aspects of this community—its residential and commercial structures, transportation network, park and recreation facilities, utility systems and other public and private facilities, as well as the natural environmental setting—are not considered as ends in themselves, but as means for enhancing the quality of life and enriching the human spirit.

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR PUBLIC CONSIDERATION & INPUT

- Add specificity to current vision’s “value statements” to clarify where and how the city will grow.
- Other priority issues raised as priorities from SeaTac community members during Citywide Vision Update public involvement process.

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN (TMP) UPDATE PROJECT

- **Main Project Goals:** Update the Transportation Element and Transportation Master Plan (TMP) in close coordination with Envision SeaTac 2044 Major Comprehensive Plan Update Project. Project tasks include:
 - Inventory of existing conditions and incorporation of information and City priorities since last TMP update in 2015.
 - Update plans for all modes (pedestrian, bicycle, vehicular/roadway, freight).
 - Identify capital projects and programs.
 - Update Travel Demand Model (TDM) – in partnership with Port of Seattle.

TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN (TMP) UPDATE PROJECT (cont.)

- **City Council Contract Authorization:** 4/11/2023
- **Tasks Underway**
 - **Project Initiation & Coordination:** Internal project team kick-offs with TMP project staff, Port of Seattle team members, and Major Comprehensive Plan update project staff.
 - **Kick-Off Travel Demand Model (TDM):** Project team is starting technical work on travel demand model.

CITY CENTER/AIRPORT DISTRICT SUBAREA PLAN PROJECT

- **Main Project Goals:** To complete a subarea plan and code update that implement the vision established in Phase 1 of the project: to create a “walkable urban district.”
- **City Council Contract Authorization:** 5/24/2022
- **Tasks Completed:**
 - **Data Gathering/Technical Work:** Project staff has collected significant background and demographic data and completed a draft market study and existing conditions report on transportation conditions in the district.
 - **Community Engagement:** The following activities have been completed.
 - Activity 1: Big Ideas Poll (online).
 - Activity 2: Community Design Workshops (July 18-20). Detailed information on the workshops will be presented at the upcoming briefing.
- **Tasks Underway:**
 - **Technical Work:** Project staff is working to complete existing conditions and infrastructure assessments and the market study.
 - **Community Engagement:** Staff is preparing for targeted engagement activities that will facilitate input from hard-to-reach communities such as families with children, apartment residents, and members of the district’s BIPOC communities. Project staff will also be undertaking additional business outreach.
 - **Refinement of District Vision & Development Concept:** Staff will utilize information from data gathering, technical work, and community input to propose refinements to district’s vision and development concept. Once this work is completed, it will be brought out to the public for community review.

PLANNING THE CITY TOGETHER PROJECTS & SCHEDULE SUMMARY

2022	2023	2024
City Center/Airport District Subarea Plan & Code Project	→	
Envision SeaTac 2044 Major Comprehensive Plan Update	→	
Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update	→	

Packet Materials

Packet materials include the following:

- This memo
- Presentation slides to be reviewed at meeting