



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, WA**

**AB 4359
October 6, 2008
Regular Business**

**PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FACILITIES PLAN
UPDATE - STATUS BRIEFING**

Proposed Council Action:
Provide feedback to staff and consultants

DEPARTMENT OF Development Services Group (Steve Lancaster)

COUNCIL LIAISON Dan Grausz El Jahncke Bruce Bassett

- EXHIBITS**
1. Draft Public Involvement Program
 2. Key Policy Issues (Sept 23 summary)
 3. Technical Memoranda 1 through 9
 4. Draft Vision and Guiding Principles for PBFs
 5. Draft Public Workshop Issues and Questions

APPROVED BY CITY MANAGER

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$	n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$	n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$	n/a

SUMMARY

Background

Investments and other actions relating to Mercer Island's pedestrian and bicycle facilities are guided by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities (PBF) Plan adopted in 1996. The majority of the projects and improvements from the 1996 Plan have been partially or completely implemented. As a result, staff initiated discussions in August 2007 with the City Council, which directed that the PBF Plan be updated. After several policy discussions with the Council and its Parks and Recreation Subcommittee in 2008, a Scope of Work for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities Plan Update was approved.

The Plan Update identifies the following objectives:

- identify and resolve key policy issues relating to pedestrian and bicycle facilities and use;
- review and modify, if necessary, the existing Plan's goals, policies, project selection criteria and other recommendations;
- evaluate and update facility design criteria;
- evaluate demand (assess traffic generators) and identify facility improvement opportunities;
- update the Plan's project list, cost estimates and priorities;
- prepare an implementation strategy and procedures;
- identify ways the Plan can help achieve sustainability goals;
- coordinate Plan implementation with the TIP update process

Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee September 23 Briefing

The approved Scope of Work also identifies the City Council Parks and Recreation Subcommittee as the Plan Update Steering Committee, charged with providing policy direction to staff and consultants. Staff and consultants briefed the P&R Subcommittee on project status on September 23. The Subcommittee was briefed on the project schedule and the planned Public Involvement Program (see Exhibit 1). Key Policy Issues from the City Council's June 2 Study Session were reviewed, and additional policy issues identified through the consultants' technical work were described (see Exhibit 2). Preliminary findings documented in a series of Technical Memoranda prepared by the consultant team (Exhibit 3) were described and discussed.

The Subcommittee provided positive feedback on the technical work accomplished so far. One concern expressed by the Subcommittee was the lack of a clearly articulated focus for the Plan Update process. *What are we trying to achieve?* Clearly identifying where we want to be in ten or twenty years will provide a clearer path for actually arriving at the desired destination.

In response to this concern we have prepared a draft "Vision and Guiding Principles" statement (Exhibit 4). We will be seeking Council feedback as to whether this statement provides useful guidance for moving forward with the planning process, or whether additional work is needed to lay an appropriate foundation prior to continuing with the public involvement process.

The Subcommittee also requested that staff brief the City Council regarding the questions we will be asking during the first PBF Plan Public Workshop. Exhibit 5 provides a list of issues and questions we intend to pose to Workshop participants.

Requested Council Feedback

- Does the draft "Vision and Guiding Principles" statement (Exhibit 4) adequately articulate the City Council's vision for the future of pedestrian and bicycle facilities on Mercer Island?
- Do the draft Public Workshop Issues and Questions (Exhibit 5) adequately capture the kind of public feedback we need to move the planning process forward?

Next Steps

With Council concurrence, we will schedule, publicize and conduct the first of two planned public Workshops to solicit community ideas and feedback regarding the PBF Plan Update. This first Workshop would be held at the Community Center at Mercer View the evening of October 28. Its purpose would be primarily information sharing among staff, consultants and interested citizens. Staff and consultants would present some of the key findings from our technical work, with the bulk of the Workshop being devoted to soliciting citizen ideas and priorities in an "open house" setting.

The Workshop will be broadly publicized through both citywide forums and targeted announcements (additional details are provided by Exhibit 1). Staff will prepare and distribute a memo regarding Public Workshop outcomes and will brief the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee regarding incorporation of Workshop outcomes into the Draft PBF Plan Update. Community response to the Draft Plan Update will be solicited through a second Public Workshop and the City Council will be briefed and consulted prior to finalizing the Draft Plan for Planning Commission review and recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

Development Services Director

MOVE TO: Provide feedback. No formal action required.