

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
Regular Agenda – Public Hearing Item

PC Staff Report
8/26/13

ITEM NO. 3: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT TO H2020; TRANSPORTATION (MJL)

CPA-13-00272: Consider Comprehensive Plan Amendment to Horizon 2020, Chapter 8- Transportation, to incorporate the Goals, Objectives and Strategies in the new T2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. *Initiated by City Commission on 6/11/13.*

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of this comprehensive plan amendment to *Horizon 2020* Chapter 8 - Transportation, to update the chapter to reflect the goals and policies of the approved long-range transportation plan, Transportation 2040 and recommends forwarding this comprehensive plan amendment to the Lawrence City Commission and Douglas County Commission with a recommendation for approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: If appropriate, approve and sign Planning Commission Resolution PCR-13-00332 regarding CPA-13-00272.

SUMMARY

The current Chapter 8 of *Horizon 2020* was amended after the previous long-range transportation plan, Transportation 2030 (T2030) was adopted. That amendment incorporated the goals and policies of T2030, into the comprehensive plan. The newest long-range transportation plan, Transportation 2040 (T2040), was approved by the Lawrence-Douglas County MPO on March 21, 2013. This amendment is proposed to do the same as the last and incorporate the goals, objectives and strategies of the newly adopted plan.

The goals of T2040 that are proposed to be incorporated into *Horizon 2020* include the following:

1. **Improve Safety and Security**
Objectives and strategies to: reduce occurrences to fatalities and injuries to transportation system users, coordination among local agencies in times of emergencies and homeland security of system users
2. **Focus on System Preservation and Economic Efficiency**
Objectives and strategies to: maximize the usefully life of the transportation structures, maximize the capacity of the network and improve the operational efficiencies of the transport system, coordinate transportation improvements with other land use and infrastructure improvements to save costs, and utilize existing financial resources to reduce duplication of services and/or other inefficiencies and investigate potential new revenue sources
3. **Maximize Accessibility and Mobility**
Objectives and strategies to: minimize delay and congestion to improve travel times, provide viable transportation alternatives (transit, bicycle, pedestrian) with better interconnectivity, and assure all users are provided access to the regional transportation system

4. Consider The Environment And Quality Of Life
Objectives and strategies to: minimize adverse social, economic, and environmental impacts created by the transportation system, and consider transportation impacts when making land use decisions

STAFF REVIEW

It is important to incorporate all long-range plans into one place as to not duplicate goals and policies or to not create conflicting goals and policies. T2040 was adopted after an extensive public comment and hearing process. This amendment incorporates the work from the approved document, into *Horizon 2020* in order to use the goals and policies in the plan to guide development in the City of Lawrence and unincorporated Douglas County.

Attached are both the current Chapter 8 text which most of is to be deleted and the draft Chapter 8 document.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT REVIEW

- A. Does the proposed amendment result from changed circumstances or unforeseen conditions not understood or addressed at the time the plan was adopted?**

This amendment results from a change in circumstances with the adoption of the new long-range transportation plan. The updated goals, objectives and strategies should be incorporated into *Horizon 2020* in order to keep it as up to date as possible.

- B. Does the proposed amendment advance a clear public purpose and is it consistent with the long-range goals and policies of the plan?**

The text for the proposed amendment has gone through an extensive public process and reflects current public goals, objectives and strategies regarding transportation facilities. The amendment is consistent with the overall goals of the plan regarding planned and managed growth, diversity, pursuit of quality, compatibility and sustainability.

- C. Is the proposed amendment a result of a clear change in public policy?**

The amendment is proposed in response to a clear change in public policy as it incorporates the recently adopted long-range transportation plan goals, objectives and strategies.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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