2022-03-15 City Council Transcript

2:47

good evening mr mayor we are live great thank you uh good news good

2:53

evening and welcome to the march 15 2022 city council regular hybrid meeting i'm mayor liam neese tonight's hybrid city

3:00

council meeting is being brought to you in person and by zoom we are broadcasting live on mitv channel 21 and

3:07

on the city's youtube channel welcome to all and thank you for joining us tonight before this meeting the city

3:13

council was in executive session from 5 p.m to 5 50 p.m during executive session we discuss with legal counsel pursuant

3:19

to rcw 42.30.110 open paren one close paren open paren

3:26

little i closed paren litigation or potential litigation to which the city is or is likely to become a party and

3:32

for planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by city council during the course of any collective

3:37

bargaining professional negotiations or grievance or mediation proceedings or reviewing the proposals made

3:44

in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress pursuant to rcw 42.30.140

3:51

open four close paren open paren little b close paren no action was taken

3:58

council members please have your microphones turned on for the roll call chief of administration ali speaks please call the roll

4:05

thank you mr mayor council member craig reynolds

4:11

dear member ted weinberg here council member wendy weiker here

4:18

council member jake jacobson here deputy mayor dave rosenbaum here

4:24

council member lisa andrel here mayor salim niece here

4:29

next we have the pledge of allegiance council to ensure that the only the u.s flag is visible please turn off your

4:34

video please join council member weicker in saying the pledge of allegiance

4:40

i pledge allegiance to the flag of the united states of america and to the republic for which it stands one nation

4:47

under god indivisible with liberty and justice for all

4:54

thank you we now move to the approval of tonight's agenda if there are no questions may have a motion to approve

4:59

the agenda second okay removed by deputy mayor rosenbaum seconded by councilmember

5:05

weinberg

5:10

ellie please call the roll okay councilmember weiker

5:15

hi i'm deputy mayor rosenbaum aye councilmember jacobson aye

5:23

member andrew aye deputy mayor excuse me uh mayor niece hi

5:29

councilmember wyker oh i already asked you i'm sorry council over weinberg all right

5:36

and councilmember reynolds all right excellent motion passes and the agenda

5:42

is approved the next item of agenda is a study session regarding the island crestway

Study Session - Island Crest Way Corridor Safety Analysis

5:47

corridor safety analysis to begin tonight's presentation we welcome chief of operations jason kittner deputy

5:53

public works director patrick yamashita and transportation engineer leah klein

6:09

good evening council give us just one second i'm going to turn the floor over to leah to introduce brian chandler and dps

6:21

good evening marines deputy mayor rosenbaum and members of the council for the record i'm lea klein

6:28

transportation engineer last year during adoption of the tip

6:33

the council asked staff to proceed with the island crestway corridor safety analysis

6:38

and to return in 2022 with results and recommendations last october the city selected bks

6:45

associates to perform the and tonight we have brian chandler here to share what we found

6:51

we have about 15 slides to go through in 10 to 15 minutes and we encourage you to ask questions along the way we will

6:58

leave time at the end for additional discussion and with that i will pass it on to brian

7:05

all right thank you leah good evening everyone just quick check my audio and my screen all looking okay

7:10

sounding okay looks good sounds good fantastic thank you thanks so much for having me i appreciate the opportunity

7:15

to share this with you today um again my name is brian chandler i'm the national director of transportation safety at dks

7:22

associates in seattle and looking forward to being with you and sharing a little bit about what we found as a

7:29

group setting island crestway the purpose of our project was

7:35

conducting a safety analysis of island crest way from 90th avenue southeast to southeast 68th street you

7:43

can see the the beginning and end points there focusing on engaging stakeholders

7:48

identifying safety needs and prioritizing safety countermeasures and then our meeting this evening with

7:54

you all is to get your feedback as the staff begun begins to start tip planning

7:59

process for projects related to this corridor

8:05

so with most safety studies we often start with a collision history taking a look at what crashes have occurred in

8:10

the past there's no guarantee that those same crashes that occur in the past will occur again in the future it's a good

8:17

starting point for us to get a feel for what the history of collisions has been

8:22

along this corridor over the last um six years we looked at crashes from 2015 through 2020 there are 43 crashes

8:30

reported and lots of different types of crashes you can see the the top little bar chart

8:36

there also a good time to note um you have everything that you're going to see today in the sly deck is also in your

8:41

full packet of the full report that we submitted um is it in that packet so if there's anything that's maybe a little

8:47

hard to read or you want more information about know that it's in the packet and if you need help knowing exactly where that is just let us know

8:53

and we can pull you in the right direction so the the top list there looks at on several different types of

8:59

collisions so the the top two there would be rear end crashes as you imagine someone rear ending another vehicle in

9:05

front of them the second one is entering at an angle might clarify two we are talking about

9:10

collisions here that occurred along the corridor of island crestway or at one of the many intersections along this

9:17

segment and the severity of crashes is important to us because we are

9:23

focused primarily as safety engineers on reducing harm to injuries to people and you can see along

9:30

of these 43 total crashes three resulted in a serious injury and three resulted in a minor injury and

9:37

then nine additional crashes resulted in a possible injury can we stop you for a quick question

9:42

from police remember anderl yeah thanks is there any way you can um enlarge this because i'm having a hard

9:48

time distinguishing with the color coding in the dots what happened where

9:56

yeah let me see i can't zoom on my screen but maybe you

10:01

can i i don't think we can it's a powerpoint

10:07

okay yeah yeah sure yeah and this did come from a map that we use a tool called tableau

10:14

that that we had um created yeah this was designed to be kind of that first initial

10:20

quick hit but if there is a time or if it makes sense for us to go into more detail on exactly where the collisions occurred and what type and what severity

10:27

um that's something that that we can definitely dive further into

10:34

the other thing that we completed as part of this study was public input we

10:39

posted an online survey on on the let's talk website and that was up for a month there between december and early january also

10:47

shared information and received feedback via facebook next door a sandwich board at the site and

10:53

then my weekly also spent some time talking to school officials on site and we visited

11:00

the site twice during the study once during school drop-off and once during school

11:05

pickup talk a little bit about more about the school here in just a minute and from the let's talk survey

11:11

specifically we received 499 responses over half of which were folks who travel

11:17

along island crestway every day nine percent of whom stated that they walk along there and then 86 percent

11:24

stated that they drive and you can see they're kind of their primary travel either they

11:30

again about half the those who responded live in the neighborhood and a few mentioned that they commuted

11:36

to school or work and then some of the feedback that we received from the public you can see here 64

11:42

responded that they feel safe traveling the corridor the number one safety concern was bicycle safety and of the 499 responses

11:50

there were a lot of comments more than 85 comments specifically about lighting and requests for improved lighting

11:58

and then lots of specific quotes um for the sake of time i'm not going to read these today but you can see these and

12:03

several others in the packet we also do have the full public input so to see all 499 responses if that's

12:10

something that's of interest to anyone at the council that's something that staff can provide

12:18

i'm going to go through just a few of the different areas we're going to see two different things here we're going to look at some specific areas we're also

12:24

going to talk about some general types of safety needs that we identified the first one is island park elementary

12:31

school and the challenges that we saw here especially during drop-off and pickup

12:36

were just a high variety of users so school buses city bus of course personal vehicles

12:42

bicyclists pedestrians a lot of parent pickup drop off a lot of concerns from the parents from the school district

12:49

some backups you know within of course the school property but then also backing up

12:55

a little bit onto the on the island crestway itself um and just general congestion i would

13:02

say particularly at the site you see the image on the left there this is the crosswalk and a rapid

13:08

rapid rectangular flashing beacon at that location that's in heavy use especially before

13:14

school and after school which did cause some delay it's pretty significant delay for vehicles at

13:19

certain times today so a couple recommendations that we have

13:25

that that we're recommending and be taking a look at in the short term is looking at the time of day use of the

13:31

school zone speed limit right now the 20 mile per hour speed limit starts um about 15 minutes before the

13:37

first bell in the morning and that was recently changed it used to start closer to 30 or 45 minutes before the bell

13:44

before that change that's something that the the school just the school had made a decision about um but i did we did see

13:50

a lot of pedestrian activity about 30 to 45 minutes before school so that's one thing that i i had recommended the staff

13:58

coordinate with the school about and then also being sure there were crossing guards there the two days that

14:05

i visited specifically we had heard that sometimes the crossing guard is not there there's essentially one crossing

14:10

guard that serves that location and uh there was some interest or or need to

14:18

train additional crossing guards so that there would always be a crossing guard there that there would be an official backup for that position

14:24

and in the long term one thing that we did recommend was replacing the rfb the rectangular bqc on

14:31

the left with what we call a pedestrian hybrid beacon this is the image you see on the right um this is not on island

14:36

chris way this is just an example of another location and this is just a different type of signal provides

14:42

similar support and safety benefit to pedestrians but also can be set up in

14:47

such a way that it can allow vehicles to actually get through a little easier it has a full walk and

14:52

don't walk cycle for the pedestrians and it can hold the pedestrians back a little bit more so you can get traffic

14:58

flow it just has some more flexibility of how you might time that signal where the

15:04

rapid flashers just turn on every time the button is pushed and then we did learn as part of the

15:10

study that there is long-term plans to move or rebuild or change the school property so just

15:17

keeping an eye on long-term site planning as it may affect pick up and drop off

15:27

looks like councilmember jacobson has a question for you please what uh are the times of operation of

15:35

the uh 20 mile per hour speed uh cam or

15:40

signs in for island park school yeah i believe right now and someone's

15:46

on that has that in front of them um from memory i believe it's about 8 30 to 8 45 if i believe the first bell

15:55

at the school is 8 45 and then similarly it stays on for 15 minutes after the

16:01

bell at the end of school so i don't know the exact time of day of that end i believe it's roughly 3 30 it might be

16:07

3 45 so 15 minutes after that bell and from talking to the

16:13

school officials that that was a longer period previously it was either 30 or 45 minutes before

16:19

and after school and it now is 15 minutes well from having traveled through that

16:26

uh area and also living close to the west mercer

16:32

my observation has been that it comes on sometime before the first class and goes

16:38

out and then goes off until the school

16:45

lets out for the day either on the half days at 12 or whenever that is or at

16:50

around three but in the interim periods it's not a 20 mile 20 mile an hour zone is that yeah

16:58

no yeah that's accurate i'm sorry yeah if i was either confusing or misspoke right it is not on during the day it's

17:03

only on during before school for a few minutes once school starts it is off and is the

17:09

normal 35 mile per hour speed limit it turns on again right when school lets out and then just stays on for a few at

17:16

20 miles per hour for a few minutes after school and then turns off after a few minutes there

17:24

this is jason chief of operations we talked about this earlier today can you just provide a recommendation on what

17:30

approximation you would like to see that 20 mile an hour uh time frame reassessed

17:35

or evaluated to yeah my thought would be to just have to have a general feel for when we start to

17:42

see pedestrian activity um the time that we were out there in the morning especially i recall seeing activity

17:48

around 8 10 or 8 15. and that's a combination of students going to island

17:53

park elementary school but also there's a middle school bus drop or pick up there um even a

18:00

little bit earlier i think that was about 8 10. again i don't have my my full log notes in front of me from our

18:06

field visit but my recommendation would be see when you have higher pedestrian activity and even

18:13

if that's pushing towards closer to eight o'clock that's the reason for that reduced 20 miles per hour

18:18

the major reason for that is for pedestrian safety in my opinion or it should be so that would be my

18:24

recommendation and then at the end getting a better feel for when does that pedestrian activity taper off at the end

18:30

of the day after school um it cleared out pretty quickly from the you know the day that i

18:36

was there in person but it would be again another observation just to get a feel for when you don't have that

18:44

activity and that would be a good time to to turn it off back to 35. perfect thank you councilman randerl

18:52

thanks yeah kind of a multi-part question i mean i assume it's the city that makes the decision about when the

18:59

20 mile an hour speed limit takes effect but if that's wrong please correct me um

19:05

does the district have an opinion about this and then also who is responsible for the crossing guards

19:13

right so the first one actually the school is responsible for and i believe it's the

19:18

individual school from what i understand not the district um

19:24

i they're the ones who changed it to be closer so i can only assume that it was their opinion that they wanted it to be

19:31

closer to the time um i didn't get the full sense of that there there was some

19:36

um expression from we talked to the uh the gentleman who i believe is over the

19:41

the bus the school bus system and yeah if jason or patrick has that name

19:46

um and it was his opinion the traffic flowed better whenever the speed limit was higher at say 8 10 or 8 16.

19:54

i don't have any evidence of that either way i i have not seen operations there in the previous time

20:01

but i only saw it in his current condition and then it's my understanding that the school

20:07

and potentially the school district are responsible for the crossing guards they are i believe entirely volunteer

20:15

so i don't know the exact detail of whether they are supported by the school itself or by the

20:20

school district don't catch all those customers yeah and

20:26

just to act yeah i think you got them all thanks just to add to that if the 20 mile an

20:31

hour speed limit time frame that would be something we would coordinate both the school district and talking with our

20:37

merchant police department was about as we would look to make those changes so we would coordinate that with all

20:43

parties perfect yeah well yeah one day i did an edit part of my recommendation was that

20:48

the city be more involved in that decision um which which they concur with

20:54

councilmember weiker i was just going to add some point of interest here and that is staff at the

21:00

school usually are out there invest in safety gear helping to direct traffic especially coming off 53rd in the

21:06

corridor and our mipd are often on site as helpful in forces that speed limit

21:12

and i'm sure we have friends and neighbors who experience firsthand the tickets they can hand out when this

21:17

speed limit is violated so shout out to mipd for helping schools with safety in the corridor

21:23

all right perfect brian if we can move along absolutely yeah we also took a look at lighting one

21:30

thing we identified is that more than 20 of crashes that occurred along the corridor were reported occurring in dark

21:36

conditions um we did see the the particular time that i was out at night in field review we saw a couple street

21:42

lights that were not functioning those have been since um fixed you know literally as soon as i

21:48

made that uh report that evening i think they were fixed the next day or as soon as they you know had the materials to do so

21:55

in the short term we recommended upgrading the existing luminaires to current standard and then in the long

22:00

term conducting a corridor wide assessment of lighting needs to implement any other lighting upgrades to

22:07

potentially meet standards if there's some additional lighting needed

22:12

can you just briefly touch on what the current standard is

22:18

oh it's fairly detailed and it depends on several factors adt

22:24

type of corridor so there isn't exactly a set they need to be exactly this far away um the illumination of each of the

22:31

lights itself is fairly complex in terms of what kind of luminaires it it spreads

22:36

on the roadway and then there are different types of lights the traditional overhead lighting and then there's also pedestrian scale

22:43

lighting that are lower that have a specific focus on illuminating pedestrians as they're

22:48

about to cross um and everything i've told you is a lot of the detail that i know i'm not a true

22:54

expert in highway lighting we do have that expertise on our staff so if we want to go into the the next

23:01

phase or you'll see later in the presentation if the city elects to do a more full scale

23:07

lighting there's you know several folks including us who could support that perfect thank you

23:18

all right um so preserving the natural environment you know as you know we would get to this point of there's a lot of trees right right along the roadway

23:24

trees in the median which typically are not ideal from a safety perspective um some of the challenges that we

23:30

identified were vegetation covering the signs you can see that the photo on the left there the speed limit signs covered

23:36

by vegetation some side distance limitation limitations side distance is basically

23:42

hey i'm at the side street about to turn right or left and i have a hard time seeing because of vegetation in what we

23:47

call the sight distance triangle so being able to see north and south to be able to enter onto island crestway

23:54

and we found that about 14 of all crashes that occurred along the study area included a vehicle hitting a fixed

24:01

object so some of the recommendations that we made in the short term um we're using more standard black and

24:08

yellow object markers if you look at the image on the right that's a red and white marker which is pretty non-standard and um can be hard for some

24:15

people supposed to a colorblind a standard black nail marker is easier to see in

24:20

that case i'm evaluating upgrading stop signs to be more highly reflective

24:26

trimming vegetation and then removing relocating or shielding fixed objects and then in the

24:32

long term i'm evaluating the city sign evaluation program evaluating or the the potential for

24:39

adding page shorter but then also conducting a tree condition assessment and getting a sense

24:44

of which trees may be the most appropriate to remove and

24:51

then which ones aren't my my recommendation isn't that we clear cut island press away and remove all the trees i don't think that's necessary

24:58

given the data that we've seen given the current operating speeds and the way that this roadway is being used

25:04

but i do think there are some potential opportunities depending on the needs that we identify

25:09

that there might be some trees if not to remove at least to trim i think trimming getting the vegetation

25:15

clear to where we have better sight lines is the first priority

25:22

go ahead councilman randall thank you are there safety enhancements

25:27

as a result of potentially reducing the speed limit to 30 or something

25:32

yeah yeah we did we did take a look at that we did a um we didn't do a separate

25:38

speed analysis part of this study and we did look at a previous speed study i believe it's from 2014

25:46

and leah correct me if i get anything wrong on this i know we talked about this some even this morning um one thing that we could do is conduct

25:53

a a newer speech study you know it's been a few years since we've done that to see if there is a

25:59

there might be a more appropriate speed limit from what we saw from that previous speed study 35 miles per hour

26:04

was the most appropriate speed limit at the time so

26:10

this uh in the appendix there was a table one road rate uh roadway characteristics summary that talked

26:16

about the 50th percentile 85th percentile 90th percentile of speed that

26:22

was not your study that was somebody prior to your firm that's correct yeah that was an

26:27

attachment from a previous study i believe that the city had done

26:32

um from a traffic count so it's data that you're familiar with is

26:38

that right i am yes so if 50th percentile shows that 50 of the cars are doing 37 miles

26:45

an hour or slower then when you get to the 85th percentile

26:50

i assume that means that 35 percent of the vehicles right the delta between 50 and 85

26:56

are going faster than 37 is that right oh we'll see if we get that so

27:04

so they see what the 85th percentile speed tells us is that 85

27:10

of vehicles are traveling at 40 miles per hour below as an operating speed the 15th percentile speed tells us that 37

27:17

i'm sorry that that 50 or half the vehicles essentially are literally are driving at 37 miles

27:24

per hour or below okay so and the kind of traditional way that we set a

27:30

posted speed limit is based on the 85th percentile speed now that can be modified down based on several factors

27:37

and that can be bicycle or pedestrian activity it could be crash history there's plenty of

27:43

engineering judgment and other factors that we can bring in whenever we're identifying what is the most appropriate

27:49

posted speed limit for this segment we do start with the operating speed of

27:54

travel the idea being that um generally speaking that drivers drive at a speed that is

28:00

safe and proper and if we can match the speed limit to that prevailing speed there's some value in doing that but

28:07

that's not the end-all be-all there's a lot as i mentioned there's a lot of factors that go into setting an appropriate speed limit

28:12

so in that data you have a 95th percentile that's 43 to 44 miles per hour so if you

28:20

your statement before was that 35 is a safe speed on that stretch of roadway but clearly we have

28:28

40 percent of the traffic going above 40 and below 44

28:34

on 16. no that's not how the 4 85 of the people are driving below 48 miles per

28:40

hour only 5 of drivers were driving above 44 miles per hour

28:47

okay so you you have how many vehicles going more than 35 miles an hour or

28:52

let's say 40 miles an hour of the 16 000 how many of how many are doing that

28:59

yeah so approximately 15 from the study that was done in 2014 i don't know exactly what the adt was of that study i

29:05

don't have that one in front of me but if it is 16 000 people so approximately 15

29:11

of those traveling that day we're driving above 40 miles per hour

29:18

so that's a couple thousand vehicles a day that's correct and you still kind of stand by the

29:25

statement that 35 is it's a safe speed even though there's a couple thousand vehicles a day not

29:30

driving that safe speed a standby that 35 miles per hour is the

29:37

most appropriate posted speed limit yeah maybe ask a different are you suggesting that we should post at 40 miles per hour

29:42

is that your question no to councilmember anderle's point maybe 30 miles an hour would be more

29:48

appropriate which would get people driving closer to 35 which is what you said was the safe speed limit

29:54

yeah yeah so one one thing that we run into sometimes if we put too big a gap between what

29:59

people are currently driving and our posted speed limit we can cause a couple things so theoretically

30:06

um given the discussion that we're having we could post it at 10 miles per hour and try to get people to drive 10

30:12

but we kind of all know in the room but we probably won't get people to drive 10. so what we found over you know decades

30:18

of doing this these studies over the years is that that same argument to say oh we can't make people drive 10 that

30:25

does to some degree still factor up so if most people are driving 40 and it's close to 35

30:31

just lowering the posted speed limit to 30 won't necessarily make all those people driving 40 drop down with it it's

30:37

just not how people tend to work or it's not what we've seen in decades of research on this study

30:43

all that said i'm not necessarily personally opposed to a reduced speed limit but we would need to do a new

30:49

study and factor in some of the current data and be sure we're using the latest research to do so

30:56

brian if i may if the council would like us to pursue that option then getting council

31:02

feedback tonight that would be something we would include in the tip and do as a future date um certainly not

31:08

out of the realm of possibilities but we would look for council direction to include that analysis uh to bring back

31:14

the council for for further discussion okay uh councilmember reynolds

31:20

thanks hannah a related question if i recall correctly from chief holmes report uh

31:25

the last meeting meeting before i can't recall when it was um the number of citations they gave in

31:31

a year worked out to about one a day i think it was 361 over the course of the

31:36

year or something like that if we're seeing here that one in 20 cars through this zone are going more than

31:42

eight miles an hour over the speed limit that would seem to suggest that there's a reasonable opportunity to

31:48

increase the citation rate as a means of controlling traffic speed and i just wonder what the thought your thoughts

31:53

are or the thoughts of the chief if he's available on whether that would or would not be an effective strategy keep the

31:59

same speed limit but enforce it more aggressively

32:05

so i definitely don't want to speak for law enforcement so they're here

32:11

yeah councilman reynolds i don't know that we have uh pd here to answer that question so we can have put that in a parking lot and get back

32:17

to you if you want thank you guys i do see him licensed hi good evening council real

32:23

quick uh ed holmes your police chief for the record so this is interesting data and we do try to deploy resources as

32:30

best we can some places on the island crest way it's not practical the park controlled car but we do try to spread out our

32:36

enforcement efforts but this is interesting data i'm hearing tonight so i certainly want to take this under

32:42

consideration yeah thank you chief and i i would echo

32:47

that my recommendation as jason mentioned would be if we want to fully

32:52

dive into the speed limit discussion that we look are the most recent data we

32:58

have is eight years old and i think it would be worth looking at new data and doing a speed limit study along this corridor

33:04

there also is new research and we've been applying some new speed limit study research in several cities around

33:10

washington state and so we'd be happy to you know share some of those examples

33:15

with the city as well that's amber jacobson

33:22

well there's some history to this corridor uh the it was the subject of the road diet some years ago

33:29

and uh it this quarter serves several purposes number one it's a

33:35

main connection for people who live on the south end to the freeways

33:41

or to i-90 one way or another or to

33:47

transit such as the park and ride area and sound transit so it does serve two

33:52

two things in the traffic having lived and used it as a my connection to the

33:57

north end for oh 25 years there's a high volume of traffic in the morning and the evening

34:03

here of commuters and that aren't dealing with a school i point that out

34:09

to say that that enforcing a

34:15

a 30 mile an hour speed limit is going to take some doing uh particularly in

34:20

the evenings in the early mornings because the volume of traffic is high and people are anxious to get

34:27

you know get onto the freeway or get to transit one way or another because there isn't much last mile trans mercer around

34:34

so those are some things to be thinking about when we uh start peeling layers off this onion

34:41

perfect thank you brian go ahead right um also we took a pretty a very serious

34:48

look at pedestrian bicycle facilities um the challenge we identified there were three pedestrian collisions and two

34:54

bicycle collisions during the study period um pretty tight near a right-of-way here

34:59

there is as i'm sure most or all of you know there's a west side pathway soft surface on the west side of the road it

35:05

also goes kind of off you know the roadway into the woods there and then on the the east side of course

35:12

there's a sidewall and then at southeast 62nd street it was unmarked crossing to

35:18

stevenson's property trail so i believe i've got some recommendations here

35:24

pleasure my mouse is sticking here we go so um a few potential recommendations

35:30

here on the short term is adding and refreshing crop swap markings the crosstalk markings are

35:35

really good you're using the kind of ladder style high visibility markings throughout

35:40

so just getting those refreshed where needed adding reflective sleeves to the pedestrian crossing warning sign posts

35:46

some of you may have already seen these maintenance folks have gone out and put in some of these already over the last few weeks

35:52

i'm recommending a rectangular rapid flashing beacon that flashing beacon at 62nd street and at 63rd place

36:00

and attributing vegetation nearing all the pedestrian crossings just to be sure that those pedestrians aren't getting

36:05

hit behind vegetation before they step out into the roadway and in the long term there's a lot of

36:11

things that just need to be looked at here so everything here is a little bit kind of this next level of considering

36:16

i'm widening the east side to a shared use path standard minimum of 10 feet there also are some washout

36:24

standards that show a desired path of 12 feet i'm adding pedestrian scale lighting which i referred to earlier

36:30

this evening and improving that west side informal path to meet shared use path standards

36:35

as well so both the width and the surface time

36:43

i think councilmember reynolds you have your hand is that up from before no no this is a new one

36:50

the uh i just want to make the comment that the 12-foot wide path seems

36:55

uh are arguably more appropriate than 10 on a path that's going to have a heavy number of pedestrians and bicycles

37:02

sharing the path during school commute hours but i'm just curious to what extent have

37:07

you done any dimensioning to know if either one is is viable in the space that exists

37:13

yeah we have not done that as part of this preliminary study you'll see part of what our recommendations are moving forward for

37:20

next steps is to do some of that pre-design analysis to determine some of that viability or

37:25

feasibility okay thank you

37:31

all right there's a couple of specific locations of southeast 53rd place challenges we saw here is that this

37:37

westlake you know serves both the school buses and the staff um you you're probably familiar but the the north

37:43

parking lot is only for buses and for school staff the south parking lot is separated just you know for parents and

37:49

visitors and also we saw that the minor approaches have a difficult time turning on the

37:54

island expressway especially the westbound left so on southeast 53rd place turning left

38:01

one thing that's not pictured here is there is a horizontal curve to the north and so it's a little hard to see vehicles coming around that corner um

38:08

some of you may have experienced that over the years so a couple of short-term

38:13

recommendations that we had were some advanced intersection warning signs just to at least let that southbound traffic

38:19

know that there is an intersection coming up both the school driveway and 53rd

38:24

i'm training additional school crossing guards this is another location where having the crossing guard there at the

38:30

end of school is fantastic and she comes out the school buses all leave literally within two minutes they all leave at the

38:36

same time and then everything is you know clears up very quickly um i had heard stories that sometimes when

38:42

there's not a crossing guard there that can be much more difficult as you would imagine for the school buses to leave

38:47

the property at the end of the day and then also evaluating the location for the potential for a marked crossing

38:54

and signs there too for pedestrians one of the reasons for that is that there is a transit stop on the west side of the

38:59

road right in front of the school and there currently is not a marked crossing north of that stock

39:06

then on the long term i'm considering a westbound right turn lane so that you we could separate the right turning and

39:13

then the through and left turning traffic something that happens on that westbound approach um i believe we saw this primarily in

39:19

the am peak is that you see a significant backup actually at the side street because you have maybe one or one

39:25

person who wants to turn left and even if you have a lot of other people who want to turn right behind them there's not a place for them to be so they need

39:32

to wait for that left turn to make their movement which sometimes can take quite a while given as mentioned the high

39:38

southbound volumes on island crest way during the amp time before school or with am commuters council member

39:45

reynolds he has a question can you clarify i had a discussion with mr kintner about this a couple of weeks

39:52

ago and i can't recall the correct terminology but as i recall crossing guards kind of serve to

39:58

uh are distinct from people who actually direct traffic they're just there to get people through the crosswalks

40:04

and that the people to actually direct traffic have a higher or different form of training or

40:10

certification or something to that effect is there any evidence that having uh somebody there to actually direct

40:15

traffic might help further yeah i think that could be true and i

40:21

don't know the details of those that distinguish that i know that there is a distinguisher there between those

40:27

different roles and i don't know for sure what happens at this location but i know sometimes that line

40:34

can get blurred and you can have crossing guards who direct traffic even though they don't direct traffic

40:39

so i think i don't know if that's the case here or exactly how they're trained at what level but i think that that's a

40:46

it is a good question i would say that the description that i gave of helping the buses get out at the end

40:52

of the day that is a traffic direction activity that's not a crossing guard activity and i but i

40:59

can't say whether the person doing it was trained at a certain level

41:05

thank you brian while you're on that slide the the look that you have here is the westbound look as you head up 53rd

41:12

there's a light pole or a telephone pole utility pole on the left-hand side of that picture which is right in the sight

41:18

triangle what what if anything are you recommending to do about that which is really

41:24

causing cars to pull into the crosswalk so they can get a sight line beyond it i don't know if you experienced that

41:30

yourself yeah i think it's really dependent on exactly so a couple of things that you can do there one is we can help i'm

41:37

forgetting it thursday and mark stop bar at that stop sign but one thing that we can sometimes do is move that stop bar

41:44

upper back a little bit to try to put people at the ideal place that we want them to be at that stop sign so

41:50

that can help a little bit sometimes if you're trying to give them because sometimes you can pull up a little bit further than you think you can because

41:56

it just maybe feels uncomfortable but you're not really in the road yet and so if we put that stop bar at the optimum

42:03

side distance location you know that can help as you might imagine too vegetation is a pretty major issue here too so even

42:09

just trimming back and i'm not saying we need to remove seven trees but just trimming back some of the existing trees

42:16

is one way that we could improve scientists and securities well i'm not going to lie if you if you go to that site and

42:22

you pull in your car and cars are heading northbound on island crestway at 35 miles an hour if you're not 100 blocking

42:29

that crosswalk with your vehicle you don't have a sight line that is good enough at the traffic speeds that are

42:36

high enough to really pull into that uh that lane

42:41

absolutely and that's a really difficult conflict that we have oftentimes that yeah that

42:46

issue between you just said i have to be in the crosswalk to be able to feel like i can safely pull out here

42:52

um and yet i don't really want to be in the crosswalk because i want pedestrians to feel safe that they can cross as well

42:58

so yeah you're right that's definitely a that's a difficult conflict that we all often deal with on site streets like

43:04

this on you know arterial roadways and you know often a strategy that we see used is uh

43:10

traffic calming to bring the vehicle speeds down so that people have more time to react

43:15

and you know i just i i read the report and i look at the occurrences of rear-end collisions the

43:22

school zones where you're talking about the disparity between you know 40 miles an hour and 20 miles an hour the deltas

43:28

are higher right because we're we're having a large portion of cars going over the

43:33

posted speed limit that um you know the discussion about paved shoulders and giving cars some

43:40

sort of paved area to meander off the road and then back on the road without causing

43:46

an accident accident or collision you know all these things are less of a thing when you bring the speeds down

43:53

and so again i'll probably be a broken record tonight about this issue but to me it feels like speed in the corridor

43:59

would have been the primary one of the primary tools you could use to alleviate a lot of the things that you're going to

44:04

discuss tonight go ahead no i agree it absolutely is a tool and i think we didn't really talk about

44:10

traffic calling treatments tonight um it is one thing that we do have in the toolbox we use it a little

44:16

more often in more spot kind of specific locations at intersections

44:22

in those kinds of environments because of the length of the segment and the multiple uses you know as mentioned

44:27

and there are a lot of people driving through here to get from place to place and they are not interested in deaf in any destinations

44:34

along the segment they're just getting from north to south or from south to north and so those people being served

44:41

is also part of the purpose and need of this corridor so it absolutely is a roadway that has competing values and

44:47

that makes it complicated to address for sure councilmember weinberg has a question for you yeah uh so i remember

44:54

looking at this intersection uh several times over the years on the planning commission and it's one of the

45:00

intersections of the island that has the lowest level of service rating of f

45:05

um and i remember uh as contemplating at one point uh a roundabout and whether the topography

45:12

uh of the hill right there makes it completely impossible or whether uh considering such a possible solution

45:19

would require uh remodeling essentially on the other side where the street or where the the school is

45:25

uh is that is that a a solution that we had thought about at one point

45:34

on the council i mean oh jason's gonna answer it this is this is jason kennedy of

45:39

operations uh so a roundabout uh conceptually has been

45:44

discussed off and on maybe not directly with the council but certainly at a staff level um

45:51

historically there are some complications at this intersection that this spoken about and mayor nieces

45:56

talked about as well so what i would suggest is i believe the final slide brian we have a feasibility analysis uh

46:04

at this intersection proposed and we consider our short to midterm time frame

46:09

and i would suggest that we allow that feasibility analysis to determine what the best you know intersection

46:14

improvements can be um designed at this intersection let let the design team of the engineering team

46:20

determine whether or not it's a roundabout whether it's other traffic calming measures some other configuration that we haven't

46:26

thought about yet tonight uh but let that happen through the feasibility and sort of conceptual stage of the design

46:33

process um this will be on the like i said i believe it's on the short to midterm process it'll be in the for the next

46:39

one to six years of the tip so something something that we can look at um

46:45

to your point councilmember weinberg it has been discussed at this at the staff level from time to time but there's some

46:52

challenging circumstances at this location okay thank you go ahead brian

46:58

right and then one more specific location and this is southeast 68th street at the very south end of our

47:04

study um challenges we saw here this is a common crash location which frankly surprised me um four-way stocks

47:10

typically have a pretty low frequency of collisions the main issues we historically or typically see at

47:16

four-way stops are operational problems um four-way stops are not very efficient as you would imagine because you tend to

47:22

have one person maybe two going at the same time but they tend to not be particularly

47:28

unsafe and they don't tend to have a very high frequency of crashes and that's a little bit of a different case

47:34

here than what i'm used to seeing there are high traffic volumes at this location as i'm sure some of you have

47:39

experienced at certain times a day also high pedestrian volumes um especially because obviously because of

47:45

the park nearby and a lot of pedestrian traffic and particularly the the crosswalk to

47:50

the north there that runs east to west um and then also an uphill grade approaching the intersections from the

47:56

north we noticed some some traffic sign clutter it's a little hard to see in that image

48:02

but we've got a southbound approach there in the evening where there are a lot of signs kind of stacked on top of

48:07

each other that i think we can make some improvements to and you'll see a collision diagram that

48:12

gives you some details about some of the crashes that occurred again this diagram is in your packet in a lot you know

48:18

bigger view so i apologize you're not able to read that on your screen today so a couple different things that we

48:24

looked at here this is very much a near-term long-term look that i want to show you on the left

48:30

side are some short-term items to consider and so this is i'm changing some of the pavement marking to more

48:36

clearly indicate um when this uh the right turn comes into play and the way this strikes right

48:42

now it's a little bit confusing going southbound i accidentally ended up in the right turn lane more than once

48:48

during my study here and so changing that striping can make it a little more clear to actively get into

48:54

that right turn lane and then if you don't then you continue to be going straight we've got some lighting improvements to

49:00

consider reducing the sign clutter as i mentioned and then a few things to take a look at

49:06

related to vegetation and ada ramps but the long-term solution and again

49:11

we're looking gonna look at a potential you know pre-design analysis or a feasibility study of something like

49:18

this would be to take a look at a single lane roundabout roundabouts provide a lot of value

49:24

um to safety for several reasons they just they slow everyone down in a

49:30

way that four-way stops are supposed to but in some of the reports that i read people didn't stop at the soft science

49:37

a roundabout is designed in something that we call self-enforcing where you really you

49:42

can't drive too fast around a properly designed roundabout because it does just force you to slow

49:48

down if you've driven roundabouts in the region you've had that experience

49:53

and they're just a proven safety counter measure to reduce crashes also just provides an improved traffic

50:00

flow and you will have improved operations with roundabout and we'll see just the aesthetics of it

50:06

it's just it's just a more pleasant situation to kind of see and drive through or walk or bike through

50:12

especially given its proximity to the park

50:18

and again i'm not saying today you have to put a roundabout in this is a you know the study where we're taking a look

50:23

at several potentials councilman thank you

50:29

jake is that a new hand yes excuse me uh is there sufficient room in that

50:36

intersection to have a two-lane roundabout and the reason for my question is that

50:43

you have people that are

50:49

wanting to go and you know potentially three directions from any

50:55

uh you know any place on that intersection and uh so it would certainly be a

51:02

calming traffic calming thing does does this uh roundabout assume that there will be a

51:09

stop sign on all four um

51:14

entries to the uh to the roundabout yeah great question i'll tackle the

51:20

second one first and so these are yield conditions there'll be a yield sign at each of the roundabout so any for anyone

51:25

that entering the roundabout from any of the lakes yields to any vehicles that are traveling around the circle the

51:31

circulating roadway has the right of way always we find that single rain roundabouts can

51:38

handle quite a lot of traffic and we like to stay in a single lane as long as we can

51:43

because they do have significant safety benefits over multi-lane roundabouts if anyone's driven a multi-lane roundabout

51:49

it could be a little bit more confusing it takes a lot more signing and striping to be sure you get everybody where you want them to be

51:56

but a single lane roundabout is truly one of the best safety countermeasures that's in the toolbox

52:03

the i've uh i know and the projects that my company has built on in the construction

52:09

business uh we have done all kinds of intersections in

52:15

various climates and everything but uh one one thing that i have seen are

52:20

uh in highly or uh high traffic intersections which i

52:27

think this would qualify on at least in terms of comparative purposes or preparative

52:33

terms with intersections in our mercer island is having a flashing stop light

52:41

and retaining stop signs where there's a limited amount of room to do something

52:47

like a roundabout and i don't know if you've looked at that or if there's any data on that whether that's

52:54

reduces the uh at least collision problems that are an intersection of

52:59

that is you know has high usage yeah we have used flashing stop signs

53:06

you can either add a flasher to the stop and the stop sign or they have some now that you little leds around the entire

53:12

octagon around the stop sign those can provide some value they typically are used more often at two-way

53:18

stops where we have a high his a high frequency of drivers just not seeing

53:24

missing the stop sign and just blowing it or driving through it um from what i could see from reading some of the crash

53:29

reports those those vehicles or drivers that were running the stop sign were running it on

53:35

purpose they were choosing to either kind of slow down and go or maybe not slow down at all because they assumed

53:40

everybody else would because it's a four-way stop and so in that particular case adding lights to the stop sign wouldn't

53:47

be a bad thing it's a pretty low cost treatment so it's definitely something to consider but in this particular case at a

53:53

four-way stop probably wouldn't be on the top of my list of treatments which is why it's not in the you know in this

53:59

report but definitely not a bad idea and something that we could discuss further

54:05

councilmember weiker yeah i'm just gonna say if we decide to pursue this option i think there's

54:10

funding regionally for roundabouts in terms of safety so i just asked jason to please put that on his to-do list to

54:16

look for off-island money to support the safety improvement

54:22

very good moving forward brian right um wanted to just provide some kudos

54:28

throughout the study we've been working on over the last few months the city has actually knocked out several of the

54:33

low-cost treatments that we've recommended um so you can see here all the city-owned street lights have been

54:38

retrofitted with leds added several reflective post strips on signs you can see the photos here these

54:44

are the new strips that were added to these signs both the stop sign there at 68 in

54:50

the bottom right corner and then some of the gesturing crossings as well um a lot of vegetation trimming has been

54:56

done we've added some left mounted pedestrian crossing signs there were several locations that only had the

55:01

right mounted sign now you've got to sign on both sides pointing down to the crosswalk so that um just again adds

55:08

visibility to that crosswalk so that drivers are more aware that pedestrians could be entering at that location

55:14

um and then a couple things on the list to be done very soon are refreshing the pavement marking and then uh coordinating for

55:21

uh fixing the street light oh there was i think one street light that needed a little bit of additional

55:27

coordination on this out right now to get that one fixed

55:33

and then very briefly um a couple next steps that we're looking towards is looking at those low-cost southeast

55:39

68th street intersection improvements the sign changes pavement markings potentially looking at the lighting but

55:46

those first two signs and strikes extremely inexpensive so looking at those and you can see some of those already been done like with the soft

55:52

sign also looking at improving the sight distance there might be some additional vegetation clearing or other things we

55:57

can take a look at looking at the additional pedestrian crosswalk update upgrades then

56:02

considering um thermoplastic pavement markings just a different treatment it's more durable pavement marking you can do

56:09

a profile marking which is kind of a bump it acts a little bit like a rumble strip but it isn't as aggressive either you

56:16

know in the sound or the the haptic or the tactile nature but provides some value

56:21

and then the medium term items that i'm planning to put in the six year tip are a lighting study to look at overall

56:28

lighting of the corridor pre-design work on the east side trail the tree condition assessment i mentioned before

56:34

and then a feasibility analysis both at 53rd at 68

56:40

and then just a a reminder for saul that the tip preview council meeting is in may and then tip adoption is in june

56:48

and with that happy to take any final questions deputy mayor rosenbaum

56:55

thanks uh brian a question for you um and then i've got to follow up it seems

57:00

like a lot of the data that you collected at least was on december 6th of last year is that accurate

57:07

that was one of the field visit days from what i recall yes okay so i guess

57:13

the question i have because you know the sort of medium term that you just presented there as part of the tip is different than the long term i think

57:19

it's exhibit one where there's a lot of things sort of short term or long term and nothing in medium term

57:24

um i guess my you might want to answer my question with the presentation but are there things that

57:29

you think given the sort of lower traffic volumes in december of last year

57:34

given you know as in theory more people are returning to work would there be anything that you sort of move

57:40

from the long term category into the short term or the new medium term category if traffic volumes were to

57:47

increase say 10 15 20 25.

57:52

no i mean the direct answer would be no not necessarily because that is something that we considered and talked

57:57

about quite a bit you know we knew we were still kind of in um kobe and we were all wearing our masks you know as we were doing our

58:04

outside field visit even at the time back in december um so i think we you know we knew we were in a special time

58:09

and so definitely had that in mind as we were thinking about the treatments um

58:15

yeah i mean short-term median term long-term is all relative right so there really isn't like a necessarily a

58:20

specific time period put on those so that's why i tend to like to just have two categories because they keep things

58:26

a little bit simpler what we decided today is we did want to talk about oh you know six years isn't

58:31

necessarily long term so to have something in the six year step it made sense to kind of create that medium term

58:37

for the sake of that one slide um but there also is an opportunity for us you know we can get together with

58:42

staff and say hey do we want to further divide these up into a little bit

58:47

more specific like we can say short term is you know zero to two years or zero to

58:53

12 months and then have a medium term that's one to six years within the

58:58

this tip and then maybe have one that's longer term beyond this tip so there might be some more specific dates that

59:04

we could choose that might help um dial in that timeline a little bit more if that's something that might be valuable to counsel

59:11

yeah i mean it could be helpful to sort of an idea of you know how can we have the biggest impact you know sooner um just or just so we

59:18

have an idea of sort of how we should prioritize these things versus um you know obviously a bigger project

59:24

but what's going to be the impact sort of the long run

59:30

councilman weinberg i was wondering uh so the uh corners

59:35

where vegetation clearing is called for or likely to be needed

59:41

for improving the visibility triangle do we have a feel for how many of those

59:46

are purely within the city's right-of-way and how many of them will involve uh private property

59:52

yeah it's case-by-case i don't have the exact number and this isn't something new this wasn't a new idea for me to say

59:58

hey you should trim the trees right this is something that you know may not stop do this on a regular basis um so it was just my recommendation was you know

1:00:04

seeing these over the winter there's an opportunity to take a look at this and um yeah so i don't have that number and

1:00:11

a lot of cases it's both and like we can get a lot of value from just trimming back to the right of the line and then

1:00:17

in some cases having a conversation with the property owner sometimes those conversations go well sometimes they

1:00:23

don't go well i've had dozens of them over the last two decades and you just you kind of get what you

1:00:29

can get sometimes you know in that case is you know this is folks property and sometimes you can share with them what

1:00:34

the need is and they may be interested in that frankly they're one of the drivers usually that's trying to come

1:00:40

out and see whenever you know they make their turn at the same time there's a lot of competing values here right they also

1:00:46

like having their high hedges in their backyard that's one reason that they have the the property that they have and

1:00:51

so it it really just takes a pretty gentle hand right in some careful conversations to see if there's situations where we

1:00:58

can make some additional improvements beyond the right-of-way but of course we're extremely careful to you know not

1:01:03

do that without explicit permission great thank you for that brian so jason i'm going to just ask you

1:01:10

before we move on if you have gotten what you need out of this certainly we've gotten a lot of information it was

1:01:16

a great uh package that you put together brian and team yeah i think i think this evening we've

1:01:22

gotten some great feedback from the council i the only piece that i have a open-ended question on my end is is

1:01:28

there a council consensus for staff to add a evaluation of the speed limit on the corridor do you want to see

1:01:36

that as part of the tip process you don't have to answer that question tonight we can certainly um talk about

1:01:41

during the tip process but i believe that would be probably the only what i'm hearing is the only sort of

1:01:46

open question that i heard from a couple different council members this evening so council if if there's interest in

1:01:53

exploring it in the tip obviously we'll have a number or cost at that point is that a thumbs up from sure folks to

1:02:00

explore it looks like you you've got enough support even remotely for

1:02:05

okay thank you very much we're learning the hybrid model here it's a it's a little hard

1:02:12

great well thank you staff for that um hey celine sorry go ahead wendy

1:02:18

yeah i'm just wondering if there's council interest in looking at a roundabout down there at the end of that corridor i think that's something for

1:02:25

later i think it's programmed in the tip it's an out year to look at signalizing

1:02:30

or dealing with that intersection so jason do you need more feedback than that that's already in the tip

1:02:37

nope we'll include that we'll include the feasibility for that roundabout at 68th not a crest as part of the tip process and so um you'll see it in one

1:02:44

of the six years i don't know quite where it's going to go yet but you'll have an opportunity to

1:02:49

shape and mold that as the cip process comes back in may land somewhere thanks perfect

Special Business - 2020 Financial, Federal and Accountability Audit Exit Conference

1:02:55

thank you everyone the next item on our agenda special business regarding the 2020 financial

1:03:01

financial federal and accountability audit exit conference to begin tonight's

1:03:07

presentation we have deputy finance director luann tuttle

1:03:13

thank you thank you this is milan tuttle your deputy friend instructor and i'm just going to introduce our audit team here

1:03:20

to present the exit conference we have with us um assistant manager adams and our

1:03:26

audit lead jesse fleming so i'll let you guys take it away

1:03:33

great thank you so jesse has a presentation um

1:03:39

she'll be presenting great

1:03:47

all right looks like everything's working here

1:03:53

all right yes so um good evening so we're we're here today to share the results of the city's

1:03:59

most recent fiscal year 2020 audit and my name is adams so i'm the assistant audit manager or the audit

1:04:05

supervisor on the audit and joining me is jesse fleming and she's the one who insisted on conducting um your audit and

1:04:12

wendy choi is our audit manager but she had a prior commitment on this evening so she couldn't join us today um and

1:04:18

along with the presentation so this is just a summary of our auto results or your audit results and to supplement the

1:04:24

presentation we have provided a packet of information that also includes copies of the auto reports the

1:04:30

draft auto reports and that will be issued and also the exit agenda as well

1:04:38

so i just wanted to quickly kind of go over the benefits of the audit so one of the most important things about

1:04:43

our audits are just the role of increasing trust in government so you know it lets you your staff also others

1:04:50

such as the public um know the areas of operations that are working properly also if there's any areas that

1:04:57

can possibly be improved in the areas that we examined as well and reviewed

1:05:02

but we also also having an independent audit increases the public's trust on that the

1:05:07

information that the city is presenting can be relied upon and also provides transparent results directly to the

1:05:13

citizens as well and the results are available to the public and also published on the state auditor's office website as well

1:05:21

and the arts are also designed to help you improve operations as well and if there are any other recommendations that

1:05:27

are made they also help assist the city in continuing to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations as

1:05:33

well so i'll hand it over to jesse to go over the results of your fiscal year 2020

1:05:38

audit thank you hodgie so first we're going to

1:05:44

go over the accountability audit results and just a little bit of background on the accountability audit so the scope

1:05:50

covered january 1st 2020 through december 31st 2020 so your fiscal year

1:05:56

2020 audit and the purpose of the accountability on it is just to determine if the city is

1:06:02

in compliance with any state laws regulations contracts grant agreements and then even

1:06:08

the city's own policies and procedures and in addition these audits look at whether in general the city has adequate

1:06:15

controls to safeguard public funds so on page seven in your packet you'll

1:06:21

notice the results in free section and that just says what the audit

1:06:26

results were and so this report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas that we

1:06:32

examined and we're happy to report that in the selected areas we looked at city operations complied in all material

1:06:40

respects with any applicable state laws regulations and the city's own policies

1:06:45

and that the city also provide adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources so that's really good what the

1:06:52

city wants to hear have some good accountability over the funds at the city

1:06:57

and just something to keep in mind is with general auditing practices we don't examine every transaction activity

1:07:04

policy or internal control of the city mercer islands a sizable city so that

1:07:09

would take a really long time so we just kind of select some areas based on risk and because we can't audit

1:07:17

everything no information is going to be provided on the areas that we did not examine

1:07:24

so a little bit of information on which areas were selected for audit this year

1:07:30

so we use a what we call a risk-based approach when we determine areas for the accountability audit and this entails

1:07:37

reading city council minutes speaking with key staff members and then also council members as part of what is

1:07:44

called a risk assessment just to gauge where the city perceives there's risk so using this approach the areas we

1:07:51

selected for audit this year was self-insurance for the families paid family and medical leave

1:07:57

plan we also looked at permit cost recoveries specifically just looking at

1:08:02

the permit cost recovery model that the city is using we also looked at small business grants

1:08:09

specifically looking at them for compliance with the coveted relief funding that the city received

1:08:16

another area of focus was payroll more specifically overtime pay in the police and fire department

1:08:24

and third party receding which is just compliance with legal and contractual requirements

1:08:30

for some of those vendors that the city is using for electronic payments for items such as utilities

1:08:35

and the final two areas that we examined are open public meetings that area generally covers just

1:08:41

compliance with minutes meetings and then executive session requirements which we cover that as part

1:08:47

of our normal planning procedures for accountability and finally

1:08:53

financial condition in other words just reviewing for indications of financial distress of the city

1:08:59

so in those areas that we audited we didn't note any concerns so that's really good to

1:09:04

hear city has really good controls over those areas

1:09:11

so the other portion of the city's audit was financial statements and this covered the same

1:09:17

scope as the accountability audit so fiscal year 2020 the objective of the financial statement

1:09:23

audit is to issue an opinion as to whether the information included in the city's financial statements can be

1:09:29

relied upon to make decisions so why this matters is it lets external readers know that they can place

1:09:35

reliance on the information included in the financial statement and that they can use this information to make

1:09:41

decisions for example a bond rating agency could use this to make decisions about the city

1:09:49

so we're happy to report that the opinion we're issuing for the city is an unmodified opinion so that is a

1:09:56

clean opinion that's exactly what the city wants to see and that gives assurance that the financial statements

1:10:02

are fairly stated and materially correct so that's a really nice job something

1:10:07

the city should be proud of and just other things we're required to communicate is the audit was conducted

1:10:14

in advance with governmental auditing standards so those standards just require us to gain an understanding

1:10:23

to gain an understanding of the internal controls used to prepare the financial statement

1:10:28

and if we identify any weaknesses or concerns with those internal controls that could result in errors in the

1:10:33

financial statements we would be required to bring those to your attention so we are happy to report that

1:10:39

we noted no significant deficiencies in internal controls and no deficiencies that we consider

1:10:46

material weaknesses so all that means is that the city had really good controls in place which is

1:10:52

something the city wants to hear and then finally auditing standards also

1:10:58

require us to consider compliance with any applicable laws regulations contracts and grant agreements where

1:11:04

non-compliance could affect the fair presentation of the financial statements and you'll see in your report that we

1:11:11

noted no issues with that this information is summarized on a

1:11:16

couple different pages in your audit report page 14 is kind of the snapshot where

1:11:21

you can see this but for more detail you can also look at age 16 and then 21-23

1:11:28

and you'll also note in your report after the auditor's report is a full set

1:11:33

of the city's financial statements that we audited that will be published on our website

1:11:41

and just some other required communications as it relates to the financial statements so

1:11:47

um uncorrectedness statements have been ident were identified but were provided for review so these are just minor errors

1:11:54

that we determined are not material and they don't impact the city's audit opinion

1:11:59

these were provided to management for correction and we agree with management's assertion that not

1:12:06

correcting these items won't impact the opinion on the statements and we're also happy to report that we

1:12:11

identified no material misstatements any questions on any of the information

1:12:17

we've gone over so far i'm not seeing any right now

1:12:26

so this year um was a little bit different than typical years at the city we audited federal grant compliance

1:12:34

so this was because the city received some code 19 relief funding um that we were required to audit so

1:12:41

this will be something new that's included in your audit report this year starting on page four

1:12:47

of your report package i'm sorry page 4 in the report but page

1:12:53

14 in the packet you'll notice the schedule of findings and question costs which basically outlines that we

1:12:59

performed a federal grant compliance audit or a federal single audit so this covered the same scope as the financial

1:13:05

statements and accountability fiscal year 2020. federal grant audits are required

1:13:11

whenever a local government expends over 750 000 in federal funds within one fiscal year

1:13:19

and the objective of this audit is we select programs to audit and review

1:13:24

the city's processes and expenditures for that program just to make sure that the city is in compliance with the

1:13:30

requirements of receiving the federal funding so we're happy to report that

1:13:36

over the areas we examined the city is receiving an unmodified opinion which again is a clean opinion

1:13:43

and what the city wants to see so this opinion provides assurance that federal funds were expended in

1:13:49

accordance with their intended purpose and all the requirements of the grant have been met

1:13:56

so our audit was conducted in accordance with the uniform guidance which is the set of rules the federal government has

1:14:02

created for grant funding and the uniform guidance requires us to also gain an understanding of the city's

1:14:08

processes that it goes through to make sure grant requirements are followed we're also happy to report we know no

1:14:15

issues with the city's current processes and no instances of non-compliance with any of the federal requirements

1:14:21

so that is a really great job for the city and as you'll see in the report

1:14:28

the results of the single audit are included in a combined report with the financial statement report

1:14:35

so you might be wondering which programs were selected for audit we reviewed the coven 19 coronavirus

1:14:42

relief fund for the city which the city received as part of the cares act funding

1:14:47

so the city's primary expenditures under this program were small business relief board awards

1:14:54

to local businesses within the community that had been impacted by the pandemic so as you can see

1:15:00

the city received quite a bit of money under this program and it makes up about 1.1 million

1:15:05

or 82 percent of the city's reported federal expenditures so federal requirements required us to

1:15:12

obtain 40 coverage of federal expenditures so as you can see we well exceeded that coverage just by auditing

1:15:19

this one program just other important communications related to the single audit is our

1:15:26

report is required to be submitted along with what's called the data collection form to the federal clearinghouse

1:15:31

following our audit and we will work with lawn um to submit that form on the opticity

1:15:38

are there any questions about any of the reports not seeing any of this time

1:15:45

okay well with that i will turn it back over to for some um concluding items for

1:15:52

our presentation all right thanks jesse

1:15:57

yes so we do have report publication so um the reports that we've presented

1:16:03

today are all draft copies and the audit reports will be published on our website and it'll

1:16:09

take about a week from today for those reports to be published and you can sign up and be notified by email when the auto reports are posted

1:16:15

to our website so we've provided a link here and you'll receive a notification when those reports are released and they'll be

1:16:21

provided and you'll be also provided some instructions on how to locate those reports on our website as well

1:16:27

then we'll also be sending a customer service survey so we just ask that the city complete that please let us know

1:16:32

what went well also if there's anything we can do to also improve on the audit experience as well

1:16:42

then we do have two oops sorry i thought you might have been done oh no worries um yeah so i just wanted

1:16:49

to quickly point out so we do have two other um resources that's available to the city so we do have local government

1:16:54

support team and we call them lgs so they can help with your annual report filing they also

1:17:00

provide accounting reporting and bars training as well which is the budgeting accounting and reporting system

1:17:06

that's used and also our website and the client portal also has lots of resources

1:17:12

including a client help desk for answering any auditing or accounting questions that the city may have as well

1:17:17

and then second we do have the center for government innovation that's available and they can help the city

1:17:22

with process improvements so they can help out with using lean principles kind of helping the city optimize any

1:17:28

processes that you may have and they also have tons of resources on the website there and tools and checklists

1:17:35

also a lot of cyber security resources as well are available and there's also the fit

1:17:40

tool and that's kind of a tool that you can use to review and look at your financial health indicators

1:17:45

you can look at key ratios such as debt load there's also other financial trends you can take a look at as well with that

1:17:52

fit tool that's available on the website as well and i did want to just turn it over to

1:18:00

up to the next okay awesome uh so it's a couple of closing remarks um also audit

1:18:05

costs are in alignment with our original estimate that we had estimated at the beginning of the audit and we will be

1:18:10

back to do another audit and that'll be your fiscal year 2021 audit and we'll conduct that in september of 2022 it'll

1:18:17

be another accountability audit financial statement audit and we foresee doing another federal grant compliance

1:18:23

audit as well and we've also provided an estimated cost for the next audit in your packet

1:18:29

as well that's gonna be on that second page in the agenda as well

1:18:34

then uh it's gonna pass it on to jesse for some um final final remarks

1:18:41

thanks audrey so at this time i just want to take the opportunity to thank the city officials and staff

1:18:48

for their timely communications throughout the audit process i thought it is a collaborative process

1:18:54

and we really couldn't do it all without the help of the city um in particular we just want to thank lawan and her team

1:19:01

for her cooperation and then timely responses to our requests um all throughout especially since the

1:19:07

audit was performed similar to last year in a remote environment and just another big shout out for the

1:19:13

city as a whole we really appreciate that the city took great care to ensure their expenditures for the burna virus

1:19:20

relief were properly supported and documented the city was really thoughtful on how

1:19:26

they documented everything making sure everything was supported and we really appreciated that and that really lended

1:19:32

to the city receiving a clean audit opinion so thank you everyone and really nice job

1:19:40

thank you guys thank you and jesse and congratulations to deputy finance

1:19:45

director luann tuttle on another clean audit and to uh our director matt mornick who is i

1:19:51

think just returning from uh paternity leave okay um

1:19:58

do you have a hand from deputy mayor who's mom thanks mr mayor uh yeah real quick you

1:20:04

know i i i do want to thank the staff i mean 2020 was a very unusual year um and

1:20:10

and to get not only a clean audit but also a special commendation for the way that that that all these new grant

1:20:16

programs were you know handled on a really quick basis is is great i mean that's and that's

1:20:21

that's that's excellent i just want to say thanks i know there was obviously a team involved in that and i won't name names so i'll leave anybody out but i do

1:20:27

want to i i do think we need to give special mention of that um and i guess one question i have for the audit team would

1:20:34

be my understanding is we kind of got this draft report today um i can imagine if if craig and

1:20:40

you know had a had a few more hours to look at this he might have some pretty in-depth questions and i i guess i just

1:20:46

ask you know for the next audit it would be possible for us to get the draft a little bit earlier um

1:20:51

just to give us a little more time to digest it um as you know days when we have council meetings can be pretty

1:20:57

crazy so 130 something pages uh you know five or six hours before our council meeting is is a little tough

1:21:05

yes so yes that's something we can definitely work on um getting it out to you all a little bit earlier um it does

1:21:12

go through a series of reviews and also since we had the single audit um that has that does have a march um deadline

1:21:18

as well so that kind of took a little bit more work for us to get that report um drafted and ready but yes we can

1:21:24

definitely work on getting it out a little bit earlier for the next audit right so you all can get a little bit earlier excellent well thanks for

1:21:30

working with our team and again i just want to thank the staff for you know incredible work and really challenging conditions that that were the year 2020.

1:21:38

all right thank you deputy mayor our next item of business is appearances this is an opportunity for anyone to

1:21:44

speak to city council on any item tonight's agenda will for the first time in a couple years include in-person

1:21:51

public appearances and remote public appearances via zoom individuals wishing to address the

1:21:57

council may do so in person or by zoom or telephone provided they registered with the city clerk by 4 pm today

1:22:04

when it's your turn to speak you will be called by name remarks must be addressed to the council as a whole and not to

1:22:09

individual council or staff members please speak audibly and state your name and city of residence for the record

1:22:15

there will be a timer on the screen you will have three minutes to speak when your time has ended i will thank you for

1:22:20

your comments and move to the next speaker or item of business uh staff please

1:22:25

call the first speaker mr mayor our first speaker is addie

1:22:31

smith i have a quick point of order aren't we supposed to have the city manager report first oh did i skip that

1:22:38

i believe you did yeah hold on mr mayor it looks like i was

1:22:43

excited for first impression it looks like that got uh emitted from your script

1:22:49

okay apologies good cover city manager bond

1:22:56

i am happy to jump in give me just a moment thank you councilmember reynolds

1:23:03

by the way feel free to move my report anywhere you'd like to in the agenda

1:23:09

oops i thought maybe you just had nothing to say but i was having a hard time picturing that so well

1:23:15

i always i always have something to say but i will uh given the given the hour i will

1:23:20

try to move it along here again good evening uh mr mayor and members of the council and community both in person and

City Manager's Report

1:23:27

remote this is our first hybrid meeting and knock on wood we've got a couple bugs but nothing nothing too uh

1:23:34

earth-shattering tonight okay uh speaking of just wanted to give um

1:23:40

give a quick look ahead we will have our next hybrid city council meeting on april 5th

1:23:46

and we will continue to use the hybrid uh technology for the foreseeable future

1:23:53

upcoming board and commission meetings the planning commission will be meeting on march 23rd and the parks and rec

1:23:58

commission meeting uh the next meeting is april 7th we do keep all of our board and commission agendas and meeting

1:24:05

schedules updated on our website

1:24:10

the city council is holding their planning session also known as their annual retreat on saturday march 26th it

1:24:17

will be here in city council chambers with i presume most of the city council attending in person

1:24:24

staff and other support team members will likely be remote the council will be looking ahead to

1:24:30

work priorities particularly for the next biennium we will be broadcasting on channel 21

1:24:36

and the city's youtube channel similar to the way we do our city council meetings certainly if you haven't been back to

1:24:42

city council chambers well nobody's been here for two years except myself and alfredo we do

1:24:48

have space in the room for guests but again you'll be able to join us virtually for the planning session as

1:24:54

well i have a handful of service updates for you uh first of all just uh

1:25:01

let the community know the council's i think aware of this we are getting ready ready to remodel the entryway to city

1:25:08

hall this has been a project that's been on the books for a couple of years to address some safety

1:25:13

issues at the building and improve access the image to the right is a rendering

1:25:19

it's not when you look at these renderings it makes the space look just a little bit bigger than it actually is but you get the

1:25:25

the general idea the project went out to bid yesterday uh city council we anticipate bids will be

1:25:32

back april 6th and we'll be coming to you on tuesday april 19th uh to award

1:25:37

the contract so what this means is uh city hall we're delaying um opening city hall until we

1:25:44

get through the bulk of the construction which will largely be the month of may

1:25:50

and then we'll be resuming some limited hours in mid-june this project will not be fully complete

1:25:57

until probably september like everyone else we have some supply chain issues we're dealing with

1:26:03

namely the glass enclosure around the front desk there and the doors the new

1:26:10

doors we need to purchase so anyway that's uh that's an exciting project we're looking forward to making these

1:26:16

enhancements uh mercerdale playground update i wish

1:26:22

you know one of these council meetings i'm gonna have uh some good news for you uh we're still in a holding pattern we

1:26:28

have uh two issues it's the same issues i've been uh reporting on uh one is we need three days of dry weather and

1:26:36

hopefully above 45 degrees to put down the resilient rubber surfacing and we have a big concrete pour that's

1:26:43

anticipated you can see we've been doing some work to get ready for that concrete pour and the concrete

1:26:48

strike is impacting that component of the project although i read in the newspaper today

1:26:54

maybe maybe there's some movement there so we'll continue to keep you posted and hoping for a

1:27:00

spring opening i'll keep it general uh just a reminder the aubry davis park

1:27:06

trails safety improvement survey is open uh this is you know we're in a design and scoping

1:27:14

phase of the project looking for your feedback on a variety of design ideas to help

1:27:19

improve the safety along the aubry davis trail

1:27:24

we have the survey posted on the let's talk page

1:27:30

spring recycling event is coming up saturday march 26th from 9 to 3. it's in the luther burbank south parking lot

1:27:37

we will also have a limited number of compost bins rain barrels and warm beds for

1:27:42

purchase and i think uh the yfs foundation may be there as well

1:27:49

i'll get back to you on that again saturday march 26 from nine to three

1:27:54

and thrift top donations we have made the move out of the community center where we've been collecting donations

1:28:00

for gosh more than a year now and what is happening

1:28:08

we are now going back to the thrift shop where we will be collecting donations

1:28:13

from 8 a.m to 11 a.m sundays through thursday so drop off in the morning and then the

1:28:18

retail store will be open from 11am to 5pm sundays through thursdays i know we've been fielding some questions at

1:28:24

some point are we going back to seven days a week that is the goal but we're getting our systems in place

1:28:31

to be able to do that successfully

1:28:37

all right i am frozen

1:28:42

oops there we go

1:28:49

the friends of mercer island library spring book sale is happening now and they reached out and asked me to

1:28:56

do a little promo the spring book sale started this last weekend it runs through sunday march 20th during normal

1:29:03

library hours so they have a wide range of items to purchase books cds dvds and the

1:29:10

sales 100 uh go back to the library and support our local library programs

1:29:16

so we encourage you to drop by and support the friends of the mercer island library

1:29:24

good news city council um covenant shores at a full sail

1:29:29

full-scale emergency preparedness exercise it's nice to be able to do these things again back in person

1:29:35

working in partnership with our emergency management volunteers they held a full-scale training

1:29:43

this is a great opportunity by the way if anyone else is interested in this program businesses and organizations can

1:29:48

reach out to our police officer jennifer franklin who is also our emergency manager to set up

1:29:54

that training uh great job everyone after two years of a pandemic we're happy to be back and doing our emergency

1:30:02

management training again successful recycling partnership council

1:30:08

i think i shared this with this with you in one of my weekly emails uh we have been looking at ways to collect items

1:30:14

that are beyond the bin so things that are not cannot be picked up uh curbside recycling events

1:30:20

last month we partnered with ridwell to pilot program for free doorstep styrofoam collection

1:30:28

in total we had 475 bags collected which is two big box trucks full uh 420

1:30:34

households participated including more than half of those were non-ridwell participants so we chalked that up to a

1:30:41

success and we are looking at other opportunities to partner with ridwell and others so congratulations mercer

1:30:48

island that was a great great pilot program

1:30:53

hey i'm excited about this one after two years of work on the parks recreation

1:30:59

and open space plan our plan was approved by the recreation and conservation office so

1:31:06

we are officially done not done with implementing the plan but done with developing the plan itself our

1:31:11

thanks to the recreation and conservation office for a swift review i think they turned it around within a

1:31:17

week and certainly again my opportunity to say thank you to the parks and rec commission the arts

1:31:23

council the open space conservancy trust and all of the staff and certainly the city council and community that worked

1:31:28

on getting that plan done we are now once again eligible for state grants

1:31:34

good job team and that is it mr mayor

1:31:40

very good thank you for that so going straight to public comments i think our

Appearances

1:31:45

first commenter is addie smith i'm not seeing here at the moment and

1:31:51

that wasn't in person so

1:31:56

not seeing her we'll move to sue stewart

1:32:08

good evening i serve as president of friends of luther burbank park and our desert

1:32:14

organization determined we cannot support the mountain bike park facility in upper luther burbank park

1:32:20

when we first read the mercer island reporter on december 15 2021 that it will be designed for 10 to

1:32:27

25 year old mountain bike riders the bmx park was vandalized by teenage

1:32:33

bikers i was at meetings in 2020 with riders when they called the bm bike's

1:32:39

inferior old hat unable to doing the daring stunts mountain bikes can do with

1:32:44

their shock absorbers and braking systems during covid riders built their own

1:32:49

mountain bike facility but let's be clear it was the bmx park that was

1:32:55

closed due to vandalism when does vandalism get rewarded

1:33:01

that seems to be exactly what happened a professional mountain bike builder was hired and without funding ever approved

1:33:07

by you as i understand it our city council members recently the understory

1:33:13

has been slashed on both sides and up the hillside well beyond the single

1:33:18

track that the city shows on their website what does this slashed understory mean

1:33:26

is it the newly slashed area an indication both hillsides will be involved in this much anticipated

1:33:32

mountain bike park design i've shared before that part of the

1:33:38

culture mountain biking involves building their own trails that has already happened and people

1:33:44

i've spoken to with king county king county park john brown

1:33:49

to people who volunteer with evergreen mountain bike alliance parks on the east side that illegal trails are a big

1:33:56

problem when mountain bikers ages 10 to 25

1:34:02

come to a facility in our 20-acre park containment will not be possible

1:34:09

they will take over the entire park friends of luther burbank park suggest

1:34:14

council create a fund to support transportation options to doothy hill

1:34:19

the 120 acre park that has dealt with liability issues and other downside

1:34:26

realities our island parks are simply too small for the adventures these riders desire

1:34:33

transportation funding is a win-win west hill was protected from becoming a

1:34:39

sound transit garage that initiative was taken by the sitting council when debbie bertland was mayor so park

1:34:46

protections have been successfully secured in the past we urge this council take

1:34:52

the same initiative again and designate upper luther burbank park to be an open space park in this year's comprehensive

1:35:00

plan update please protect upper luther burbank park as an open space park for everyone not a

1:35:07

select few and i'll mention thank you miss stewart

1:35:12

glenn you are next thank you

1:35:19

thank you hi mr mayor council members i'm glenn bloomstein i've been up

1:35:24

living on the island for about 30 years i live adjacent to the park

1:35:30

my children and grandchildren love walking in the park there have been problems interacting

1:35:36

with the bmx folks who come in and

1:35:41

sort of treat the places their own uh it's scratches i'm scratching my head to think why it is that this seems like a good

1:35:48

idea or a good place to put such a park um why it couldn't be built in a place that

1:35:53

already has parking for instance like bicentennial park where there is parking on the street

1:35:59

that whole 84th corridor where children walk they depend on the berm to be able to

1:36:04

walk up and down the street there's no sidewalk that berm is where people who visit the parks to do biking

1:36:10

park when they visit and now with people coming off island if we further develop this

1:36:16

it will become seriously dangerous there are people who speed down that hill in fact the city itself in 2014 when the

1:36:23

koval property of five acres was built they forced the developer to build a 26

1:36:30

foot wide road into that development so people would not park on the streets so

1:36:35

they could have street parking inside the koval main corridor that was increased at expense to the developer

1:36:43

to preserve the safety of that street because it was recognized how fragile the safety is and the berm is the only place for

1:36:49

people to be walking and believe me i've seen dozens of cars parked already before the shutdown of

1:36:56

the bmx adventurers in there it just seems to be like a crazy place to put a park

1:37:03

of that nature when in fact there's already street parking down at bicentennial park if you wanted to

1:37:08

develop a bmx track uh it's also taking out more trees if the notion is let's now build a parking lot

1:37:15

oh my god then we're changing the whole character of the park and dropping down trees trees which are

1:37:22

necessary for a sound barrier for that whole neighborhood against the loud noise coming up from the uncovered

1:37:27

portions of uh highway 90. i would also say that uh

1:37:34

seems the primary part of that plan that you had announced that you guys had recently finalized and congratulations

1:37:40

for that is environmental sustainability and it says preserve and protect open space and

1:37:46

park lands with significant features such as wetlands forests which was what this is

1:37:51

there are owls that live in that forest you can hear them at night to protect them from development impacts

1:37:58

not fun development impacts and this the spending of uh what quarter million dollars is estimated to do this

1:38:05

plan uh when we we can't even have summer celebration i i just don't understand what's going

1:38:11

on so i'm puzzled and obviously upset thank you very much thank you for your comments

1:38:17

so our next uh speaker is going to be remote on zoom tenley tobin

1:38:43

do you hear me we can go ahead okay i don't see myself so okay am i on video

1:38:50

go ahead okay well thank you to the city council for

1:38:56

the opportunity to speak tonight i would like to introduce myself my name is tim lee tobin and i am an owner and trustee

1:39:02

of the islandia center as well as a retired architect as as trustee of our family asset it is my duty to preserve

1:39:09

and protect the value of our property however our family has no intention to sell or redevelop our property now or in

1:39:16

the near future as our elderly aunt's livelihood is dependent on the income

1:39:22

i'm speaking tonight over my grave concerns regarding the proposed changes to the town center ordinance

1:39:27

each town center property has unique parameters regarding site configuration

1:39:32

and current retail square footages the changes to the ordinance directly affects the ability to economically and

1:39:39

physically redevelop properties in my professional opinion i see two important issues with the proposed

1:39:46

changes number one the no net loss provision and number two the maximum 60

1:39:51

foot lineal street retail frontage restriction typical small tenants require roughly

1:39:57

two to three thousand square feet in today's market the majority of tenants are looking for a depth of approximately

1:40:02

40 to 50 feet our building has 100 foot depths the proposed changes to the

1:40:07

ordinance would force any future redevelopment of our property to replicate a functionally obsolete

1:40:14

building if the no net loss provision was applied a redevelopment project would require

1:40:19

approximately 14 tenant spaces twice the number of tenants in our current building this is physically impossible

1:40:26

to build our property site is an l shape with very little street frontage in proportion to the site retailers and

1:40:33

small businesses will not rent spaces that don't have street visibility with the no net loss provision i would

1:40:39

be forced to provide 23 700 square feet of commercial space there's no

1:40:45

feasible configuration for this amount of commercial square footage on our site in a mixed-use project this creates an

1:40:51

impossibility for redevelopment as an architect i have applied the code revisions to a preliminary feasibility

1:40:57

study and have concluded that a mixed-use building could not be designed that would be would comply with the

1:41:03

proposed changes to the ordinance in addition and equally important the proposed maximum 60 lineal fee of street

1:41:10

frontage would eliminate any possibility of even a mid-sized tenant

1:41:16

this exasperates the challenges to meet the required retail square footage for

1:41:21

example island books would not be in compliance as it exists today the limited 60 feet of street frontage is

1:41:27

not feasible for any tenant of moderate size only small businesses could comply with this restriction the bottom line is

1:41:34

the proposed provisions and restrictions imposed on future development on our property will create an impossibility to

1:41:40

meet the commercial code requirements the no net loss provision is an is if enacted prohibits a mixed-use project on

1:41:47

our site and economically destroys any future very much

1:41:52

uh the next speaker is kenneth katzeroff

1:42:09

welcome thank you good evening my name is ken catheroff and i'm an attorney at schwabby

1:42:15

williamson wyatt for the record 1425th avenue suite 3400 seattle washington

1:42:21

98101. uh i'm here following on uh what what tenley just spoke about i'm not really

1:42:27

going to get into the depths of what we have seen as challenges to the particular text amendment itself but i

1:42:34

will make a few comments first of which we provided two separate letters to the planning

1:42:41

commission one with detailed uh i'll call them objections to the text amendment itself

1:42:47

and a second to the cipa determination that was made after the date of public comment needed

1:42:53

to be received on planning commission to receive sorry to get to the planning commission

1:42:58

uh at the time of submitting the stepa comment letter also note that i've asked for confirmation by the cipa official

1:43:04

that they have received the letter or reviewed it or frankly just a confirmation haven't gotten anything

1:43:10

back and so we have raised a number of procedural questions here as to

1:43:16

what's going on how we got to this place uh and why this amendment is seeming to

1:43:22

try to solve a problem that simply doesn't exist here's where i have to get a little uncomfortable

1:43:28

not only have we raised a number of significant ethical concerns with regards to this process

1:43:34

both before the planning commission and at the planning commission itself uh but i've also had to make a public

1:43:40

records request that we have not received any response to yet except to say that the city needs more time

1:43:46

and so i point this out because we made specific comments about the ethics code as well as the

1:43:53

bylaws of the planning commission and how there were as defined in the code both actual and

1:43:59

potential conflicts of interest and no response to them and so we are

1:44:04

quite concerned by the entire process and would urge that the council either

1:44:09

adopt the planning commission's current recommendation or quite frankly direct staff to

1:44:15

stop work and leave the code as it exists today there doesn't seem to be a problem that needs to be fixed it seems

1:44:22

like we have just a lot of problems that have started to percolate as this text

1:44:27

amendment has been considered so with that i'm happy to answer a question if anybody would like to give me one

1:44:33

otherwise i appreciate your time and look forward to the discussion on this agenda item uh later this evening

1:44:40

thank you for your comments uh moving to the next speaker is quentin

1:44:46

shires

1:45:23

there you go welcome quentin hey uh my name is quentin shires i'm from

1:45:29

mercer island i spent a lot of time at snake hill and

1:45:34

i don't play traditionally traditional sports so i like having a place where i

1:45:39

can exercise and be with friends and work on my skills uh i think it's just important to

1:45:45

have this area because it just keeps kids out of trouble it teaches kids to just love forests and it's a

1:45:51

place for everyone in general i'm open to discuss the rules and what

1:45:57

the park looks like like uh and i think it's important just

1:46:02

to have a bike skills area in the first place uh

1:46:07

i like that i can just ride to snake hill and back when i want to on my own schedule

1:46:14

and not have to like deal with uh time restrictions uh please prioritize this i miss this

1:46:22

park every day

1:46:28

thank you brian our next or that was thank you quentin our next

1:46:33

is uh brian shires

1:46:39

okay thank you everyone hello i'm brian shires a mercer island resident for a little context i'm a head coach of our

1:46:45

mercer island middle and high school mountain bike team that competes in the washington student cycling league

1:46:50

i'm happy to share that the team size has begun getting back to pre-pandemic sizes with 27 riders and eight coaches

1:46:58

right into it this this year the team is anxiously awaiting a path forward to reopen the bike skills area

1:47:04

at upper luther burbank park or as the kids refer to it snake hill

1:47:09

this provides an additional writing option during our on island training rides i'm happy to see the recommendation uh

1:47:16

in the sessions tonight regarding the island crestwave recommendations as well specifically the recommendations to

1:47:22

improve the past along island crest way to increase the safety of moving north to south uh this is important as meeting the team

1:47:28

members ride to practice and it helps the team ride to different locations the island so

1:47:34

great to see those recommendations uh tonight also thanks to the city operations team

1:47:40

for keeping the bike skills area design progressing towards a proposal and i look forward to a future reopening

1:47:46

of the long-standing bike area you just met uh clinton uh we first rode

1:47:52

there over 10 years ago with my family and i believe it's an important community asset that should be preserved

1:47:57

and it's been there for uh for many years um and a a big

1:48:02

asset for our island this area is important to our youth not only for riding but it's a venue where

1:48:08

this community of kids can make connections and help have healthy outdoor options

1:48:14

having this in our backyard is important makes it possible to have audience in small windows of time after school

1:48:19

between many other events busting our kids off the island is not a win-win

1:48:25

looking at an inventory of our mi parks and open spaces of 475 acres that includes 50 field and sport courts 28

1:48:33

and a half miles of trails this community of riders is asking for reopening of this one bike skills area

1:48:39

let's keep this one biking specific area on the island park's inventory

1:48:45

as a community let's focus on addressing the original concerns when the bike parts bike park was closed last fall

1:48:51

these issues included expansion of the course damage to soils and vegetation

1:48:56

construction of jumps to the exceeded rules a look forward to the upcoming design proposal to mitigate these concerns and

1:49:02

ask council members support and reopening of the park with the mitigation of these issues

1:49:08

lastly our mountain bike team a newly forming mercer island mountain bike advocates non-profit are at the ready to

1:49:14

work with the city to rebuild and maintain the bike area and other trails on the island thank you for your time

1:49:21

thank you next up is kirk griffin

1:49:38

can you hear me we can welcome oh good thank you uh yeah i'm kirk griff and

1:49:43

i've lived 31 years on mercer island i'm speaking on behalf of neighbors in

1:49:49

motion or nem which i'm a 10-year member maybe you won

1:49:54

uh and i have submitted uh written comments earlier this evening which you haven't had a chance to if you have not

1:49:59

had a chance to read them yet i hope you have a chance to later on i'm going to speak primarily to the

1:50:05

study and the safety analysis of island quest way and the proposed bike path on each side of

1:50:11

ironcrest way name is grateful that the city had done has done a survey in the safety analysis

1:50:16

of this quarter the north-south bike route for pedestrians as well is one of nim's four

1:50:22

main priorities we urge the city to install the bike path on both sides of our crestway

1:50:28

and make it physically separated from traffic to install the crosswalk at southeast

1:50:33

62nd and to extend the route with sharrows south of southeast 68th

1:50:40

about three years ago at nym's urging the city revised and remarked parts of the north-south bike route and also

1:50:46

improved the first trouble spot which is along southeast 40th the main safety concerns of the south

1:50:52

mile of violent westward are for pedestrians and bicyclists as the safety survey has shown

1:50:59

if this gap is filled it could facilitate children riding bikes to school at island park lake bridge iambs

1:51:05

and yeshiva and possibly northwood and additionally in addition it gives people a chance to

1:51:11

exercise in the summer and do it safely the current six foot to eight foot wide

1:51:17

sidewalk is poor repair and cannot adequately accommodate two-way bike traffic as well as pedestrians

1:51:25

i also want to urge the council to take the recommendation to add a

1:51:30

crosswalk at southeast 62nd currently the bike path goes on the east side of unknown crestway and then across

1:51:37

the 60 second without a crosswalk the safety study recommended installing a crosswalk there which makes a whole

1:51:43

lot of sense the safety setting also recommends that the bike route goes far south as

1:51:49

southeast 68th which is where the qfc is we would like the city council to continue that route just

1:51:57

be a via painted shells on the site on the street to at least southeast 71st

1:52:03

they'll facilitate kids running to ims lake bridge or the south play fields

1:52:08

the top priority of course needs to be that the route and the bike path is physically separated from traffic

1:52:14

especially if the road is going to be wide with two foot to four foot wide shoulders

1:52:20

as the council may know names of 501 c 3 corporation we have offered to partner

1:52:25

with the city to ask for funding currently there are several possible funding sources on federal and state

1:52:30

level we'd be happy to help the city in terms of funding recommendations and grants

1:52:36

in summary we ask you to put in a separate bike pedestrian path on both sides of island crest way

1:52:41

to install a crosswalk at southeast 62nd thank you thank you thank you 68 thank you thank you

1:52:48

our next up is jim stanton

1:53:11

you

1:53:27

welcome jim we can see you and potentially can you hear me yeah can you hear me

1:53:35

hello go ahead we can hear you great um

1:53:40

yeah i'm jim stanton i've uh lived on the island since 1985

1:53:46

at 78 one two southeast 78th street um and i'm also involved with neighbors

1:53:54

in motion i do wanted to to thank the city for doing the safety

1:54:01

study which i think underscored that the major safety

1:54:08

concern for the area that was studied was from bicyclists and pedestrians

1:54:15

the study's recommendation for putting in separated

1:54:22

bike lanes along that length is a welcome

1:54:27

recommendation but and it reconfirms what the city has in

1:54:36

several previous studies going back to 1996 and then 2010

1:54:43

that we need a safe bicycle pedestrian route down the center

1:54:48

of the island to connect the schools to connect the south end with the city

1:54:54

center and now to connect the rest of the island with

1:55:00

the new light rail station which will have expanded indoor safe bicycle storage

1:55:10

and i think it's also worth noting that the new farmers insurance renovation includes indoor bicycle

1:55:17

storage and showers because that's an expectation that people have these days

1:55:22

and that's the kind of tenant that they were trying to attack to attract

1:55:30

if you if you go around uh the communities uh

1:55:37

excellent bicycle uh trails and paths uh have become an accepted uh and

1:55:44

expected community amenity we've fallen behind in that area however

1:55:51

the state is offering us a life ring in a 1.3 billion dollar bicycle

1:55:59

infrastructure bill that the governor is about to sign

1:56:04

i hope we will take this as an opportunity to move up uh

1:56:10

consideration of the bicycle path from a long-term project

1:56:16

well into the future to a more immediate one we have if we don't we'll miss out on the money

1:56:23

and we've known for over 25 years this is a project that we need to do

1:56:28

thank you thank you next up is rita moore

1:56:55

welcome hi my name is rita moore and i live on the island

1:57:02

i have uh worked and volunteered and almost said every city park on the island removing the uh invasives and

1:57:10

planting native plants i moved to mercer island in the summer of 1999

1:57:16

i made it a special point to visit all of the parks open spaces and street ends on the island

1:57:22

i was shocked to see the bike area in upper luther rear bank park it seemed entirely out of place in a forested park

1:57:30

at the time it was relatively small over the years i have seen it grow and

1:57:36

grow parks started putting in boundary markers but they were ignored and removed as each year the bike area got

1:57:44

longer and wider and ever higher jumps with kovac 19 the increase in size was

1:57:50

dramatic the damage done has been well documented as our climate changes forests continue

1:57:57

to absorb moisture from these atmospheric rivers carbon dioxide from i-90 gets absorbed

1:58:03

by trees and oxygen is released in the process four trees were killed where the riders

1:58:09

burrowed out soil for jumps compaction from bike tires denuded the entire riding area

1:58:15

soil in upper luther burbank is silty and readily eroded slopes are steep

1:58:22

water already drains into a sedimentation pond so silt will not run into lake washington and

1:58:28

affect salmon that spawn there what exists now bears no relationship to

1:58:34

what existed when the luther burbank comprehensive plan was created i believe they would have removed the

1:58:41

x-bike area at that time if they had known how extensive it would

1:58:47

become today mountain bikes not bmx use the area today

1:58:54

in addition to the expanded jump area trails to the north part of the

1:58:59

park are now being extensively ridden and illegal trails have been created at the north end of the park

1:59:06

i raised two boys and they both like

1:59:11

bike mountain bike trail riding and they still do as adults today

1:59:16

however they rode public trails and did not build new ones the trails were closed in winter to

1:59:23

prevent erosion and bike that the bike tires would cause on wet trails

1:59:28

i've watched the videos created by the boys riding the jumps in upper luther burbank park and they do look like great

1:59:35

fun however upper luther burbank park is not the right place for this

1:59:41

even if the city builds a mountain bike area the kids will increase riding park trails and creating more illegal trails

1:59:49

for more exciting riding as mercer island population grows the amount of park space and open space

1:59:56

areas per person thank you very much thank you

2:00:01

next up is ira appleman

2:00:13

do i do this am i there welcome ira okay thanks lee

2:00:20

uh ira apple and mercer island i appear tonight to warn that mercer island is under attack by seattle values and that

2:00:28

if we don't fight we will become the urban disaster that seattle has become the seattle city council and its

2:00:34

supporters have learned to effectively use two words racist and nimby not in my

2:00:40

not in my back yard to discourage opposition first the seattle city council is trying

2:00:47

to outlaw single-family zoning on mercer island degrading the safety of our neighborhoods through overcrowding as

2:00:53

they've done in seattle because they claim single-family zoning is racist in this past legislative session seattle

2:01:01

introduced bills to greatly increase housing density on mercer island as they did in seattle in 2019 the bills

2:01:08

didn't pass but they came close and will be back next year second

2:01:14

as you know as you also know many months ago a seattle-based group with help from

2:01:20

islanders tried to get us to allow derelicts to camp on public property as they can in seattle they claim not

2:01:27

allowing campers is racist and nimby street crime is spiking in seattle

2:01:33

third seattle defunded the police losing over 200 officers because they claim

2:01:39

policing is racist the result is spiking crime in 2020 a seattle-based group with the

2:01:45

help of some islanders tried to get us to defund the police we added two police

2:01:50

officers instead but the degrading pressure of seattle values was applied to us and will

2:01:57

probably be applied again again fourth i appreciate that the city-eliminated coyote but only after a

2:02:04

seven month delay that wouldn't have happened in the past unlike seattle mercerite which is not going to

2:02:11

eliminate its coyotes mercer island places a high priority on safety but seattle value creep seems to have slowed

2:02:19

our response to this dangerous situation not allowing coyotes as supposedly nimby

2:02:27

fifth as you know considerable illegal vandalism and damage was done to upper luthor burbank park by biker groups

2:02:34

instead of prosecuting the offenders and requiring restitution the city has followed the 2020 seattle example of not

2:02:41

prosecuting the offenders and even offering them city funds to achieve what they were illegally trying to achieve

2:02:49

not allowing these biker facilities that exist elsewhere in the region

2:02:54

is supposedly nimby we need local political leaders to resist this creep of uh seattle values

2:03:03

uh the racist nimby attack on mercer island and uh we hope that

2:03:08

we'll see that leadership in our current political leaders thank you thank you

Consent Agenda

2:03:16

we now move to our next item of business approval of the consent agenda the consent agenda contains

2:03:22

ab6035 february 25th 2022 payroll certification certification of claims of february 25th

2:03:29

and march 4th 2022 revised city council meeting minutes of

2:03:34

march 1 2022 ab-6026 2019 arterial and residential street

2:03:41

overlays ab6027 2020 arterial and residential street overlays

2:03:47

is there a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented so moved second

2:03:53

moved by councilmember jacobson seconded by councilmember weinberg

2:04:00

ali could you please call the roll yes councilmember jacobson all right

2:04:07

councilmember wyker aye deputy mayor rosenbaum aye

2:04:13

councilmember weinberg aye mayor niece aye councilmember anderle

2:04:19

aye councilmember reynolds aye

2:04:25

all right motion passes uh just a time check we're it mr mayor i'm sorry to cut in we had uh one speaker

2:04:32

that was a late edition on the list that may still be waiting for public comment

2:04:38

okay alfredo do you know if mr coons is still in the queue

2:04:44

would you mind if we went back to public comment and allowed mr koontz to speak absolutely we have the time already

2:04:52

apologies

2:05:16

territory uh mr coons we're having some

2:05:23

technological problems if you're uh able to hear me we are not able to promote you to um

2:05:29

speaker position so mr mayor it sounds like you were going to do a time checkmate i was going

2:05:35

to ask council if council wanted to kick into the first item of regular business and then take a break or

2:05:43

take a break now okay we're going to recess for 10 minutes

2:05:48

mr coons we will work on trying to promote you and see if we can get you as soon as we come back

2:15:51

mr mayor we're live okay welcome back we're going to go to our last public appearance uh speaker a little bit out

2:15:57

of cycle here jeff koontz welcome hey thank you uh

2:16:02

that made me seem way more important than i am but i appreciate the opportunity so my name is jeff koontz

2:16:07

i've lived on the island since uh well about 20 years i'm also a member of neighbors in motion

2:16:14

um first of all i want to thank the city and the traffic engineering department for putting together the study it's

2:16:19

it addresses a number of issues that are important to our membership and i think it gives us a framework for

2:16:24

dealing with them going forward in recommending the two general use trails on both sides of island crest the

2:16:31

safety study dovetails with recommendations in both the 96 and 2010 pedestrian and bike plans

2:16:38

those plans recommended sustainable transportation meaning investing in facilities

2:16:43

that encourage bike and pedestrian travel as an alternative to cars and those plans also seek to create

2:16:50

facilities that connect our parks schools commercial areas bus and light rail and the i-90 trail

2:16:55

the study goes a long way in addressing this connectedness peace we get there a lot of details and issues

2:17:02

to work out but the safety study helps us move forward on those long established goals

2:17:07

i would note that the study also identified the trails as long-term projects the island has been discussing

2:17:15

similar projects since the 1990s it's time for us to accelerate the process

2:17:20

as covid and the recent war have demonstrated we have many challenges but in light of the urgency of climate

2:17:26

change now is the time to act the state and the federal government are supporting these types of plans with

2:17:32

funding and we should be applying nam is ready to do what we can to move

2:17:37

this process forward and we hope that you will use us or consider us as a resource for that

2:17:43

i'm a little bit off script but there was discussion about speeds of traffic on uh island crest

2:17:50

and i'm just going to give you the benefit of something that i often hear in the biking community i'm not an engineer i've never researched it but it

2:17:56

sounds right and it goes like this if a vehicle is traveling at 20 miles

2:18:01

per hour and hits us a pedestrian or a cyclist 9 out of 10 of those individuals would

2:18:07

survive that crash at 30 miles per hour five would survive and five would not

2:18:13

and at 40 miles per hour one would survive very badly injured and nine would perish

2:18:20

with all the traffic and pedestrians and kids and bikes on that stretch of roadway and we don't

2:18:26

we haven't done a speed study in number of years i would urge the city council to to do

2:18:31

that we ought to know what the consequences are of advanced speed on that roadway for our citizens so thank

2:18:38

you thank you so again moving out of order we now move

Consider 2024 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Review Scope of Work, Master Schedule, and Public Participation Plan and related Port of Seattle Economic Development Grant Funding for 2022-23

2:18:44

to the first item of regular business ab6040 consider the 2024 comprehensive plan

2:18:50

periodic review scope of work master schedule and public participation plan and related port of seattle economic

2:18:57

development grant funding for 2022-2023 to begin tonight's

2:19:02

presentation we welcome interim cpd director jeff thomas and senior platinum planner adam zack

2:19:10

welcome thank you mayor good evening council um as amir just mentioned adam zacker

2:19:16

senior planner is here this evening we'll be delivering the bulk of the presentation we also have sarah bluvis

2:19:22

she'll be doing a small segment of the staff presentation uh near the end in just a

2:19:28

few minutes a couple of quick comments before i turn it over to adam um this is a follow-up to

2:19:34

uh the city council's february 15th session in which you had an introduction to the

2:19:40

um 2024 comprehensive plan periodic review and uh one of the assignments that we

2:19:47

left you with coming out of that meeting was to uh submit

2:19:52

any requests or comments that you had on the scope of work the schedule and the public

2:19:58

participation plan um thank you to city council members and planning

2:20:04

commissioners as well that took the time to do that [Music] to orient you with your packet materials

2:20:12

here this evening we have the agenda bill we have exhibit one which is a resolution that

2:20:17

we are hopeful you will consider approving this evening and we also have exhibit two which is um

2:20:25

a matrix of um those uh comments that we received

2:20:30

so we've compiled those for you and provided some staff responses um last comment um we in addition to

2:20:38

approving a resolution we do have a couple of other motions that we're going to run you through near the end of our presentation here in a few minutes that

2:20:45

we're hopeful you will also consider making this evening and i think with that i'm going to turn

2:20:50

it over to adam and he's going to share a screen for a short slide deck

2:21:09

okay uh good evening um i'm adam zack a senior planner

2:21:15

um so um our purpose tonight uh we have kind of three things that we'll be touching

2:21:21

on uh we'll we're looking for council direction on the comments to that were on the comprehensive plan

2:21:29

scope of work the master schedule and the public participation plan um and then hopefully we can approve or

2:21:36

you you will approve uh resolution 1621 which would uh set the scope of work the

2:21:44

schedule and the public participation plan for our comprehensive plan update and then finally uh get some council

2:21:52

direction on pursuing a port of seattle grant funding for some of this

2:21:57

comprehensive planned work uh just for some background in case people haven't seen

2:22:04

our presentation from last time the copper we're updating the comprehensive plan um

2:22:11

which is required by the growth management act there's a deadline of june 30th 2024 for

2:22:17

that update that periodic review to be adopted and with the scope of work that's before

2:22:22

you today we really put together a surgical update um trying to really focus on those

2:22:28

requirements or those updates that are required in the state law

2:22:33

and and really focus in on those uh what we're calling a surgical update

2:22:39

the master schedule outlines a project uh shooting for adoption uh in april of

2:22:45

2024 um and the public participation plan that's included with the resolution um

2:22:53

is kind of the guiding document for how we will engage the community throughout that

2:22:58

project um so that has the different tasks and goals for uh public participation

2:23:04

um one side note on um kind of there are two aspects of this

2:23:10

project that are a little brought more broad than the surgical update

2:23:15

and that's drafting and economic development element which the comprehensive plan does not currently have an economic development element

2:23:23

so that that requires a little more more project there and a little more public participation

2:23:31

and then the other component is the working on the housing elements um kind of in response to the housing needs

2:23:38

assessment um that's another piece where we'll be taking a little broader approach than that really targeted uh

2:23:45

surgical effort we've got with the rest of the scope of work

2:23:50

as jeff mentioned the council was briefed on the scope of work

2:23:55

schedule and public participation plan on february 15th the planning commission

2:24:01

received the same briefing the following night and both the council and the planning

2:24:06

commission were asked to provide their comments by march 1st

2:24:11

in those written comments we we received five uh individual comments that

2:24:17

proposed a total of 26 changes to the scope of work um or the schedule

2:24:23

or the public participation plan um so we'll look at those here in a moment those those different changes

2:24:32

um we're asking you to approve uh resolution 1621 after we've gone through

2:24:38

the different comments on the scope of work and the important part here is that that

2:24:43

resolution will really set the scope of work schedule and public participation plan for the project so it's kind of the

2:24:51

approving that resolution is the um the first step on getting

2:24:56

getting us started on that that project the resolution also creates the charters

2:25:03

for the economic development and housing work groups these are

2:25:08

special work groups that will be um that will meet throughout the early stages of the comp plan update

2:25:15

um to work on the economic development element and the housing element amendments

2:25:21

and the these work groups will be made up of two council members and two planning commissioners

2:25:26

each each work group will have four members in them and the planning commission and the city

2:25:33

council will select their volunteers for those two work groups at a meeting a

2:25:38

little later this spring uh one comment came in on monday um we

2:25:46

numbered that 27 um this won't show up in the um in the comet matrix because it just

2:25:54

came in but it was uh it pointed out there was some clarification needed

2:25:59

in section 6.1 of the housing and economic development workgroup charters

2:26:06

this is the section that's pertaining to conflicts of interest

2:26:12

basically we we just the comment proposes essentially adding

2:26:17

in this underlying text here to clarify that it's cut that um if there's an actual or perceived

2:26:23

conflict of interest ex parte contact or other conflict with the appearance of fairness that that member would then

2:26:30

recuse themselves from the um from the deliberations so it's just a minor clarification in the charter

2:26:37

being proposed with comment seven or sorry comment 27

2:26:44

earlier this week we were asked to staff was asked to kind of divide up these uh

2:26:51

the different comments um into three different buckets um

2:26:57

so and those different buckets pertain to the disposition for those different

2:27:02

comments bucket one are those comments that we are

2:27:08

recommending get added to the resolution so these comments are things that we can

2:27:15

we can just add without um they'll enrich the document but they they don't necessarily affect the

2:27:22

overall outcome of the um the scope and the public participation plan

2:27:28

um then the second bucket would be um things that several of the comments were

2:27:35

things that we can consider through the comprehensive plan update but don't necessarily need to get added to the

2:27:40

scope of work or the public participation plan so things in bucket two are basically we can treat those as kind of

2:27:47

the first comments that we've gotten on the comprehensive plan and integrate those through the the legislative

2:27:52

process um as we work through the comprehensive plan update and then finally in bucket

2:27:59

three there were some comments that needed no further action um these were things that were

2:28:05

would adversely affect our adoption target or maybe didn't need to be

2:28:11

addressed at this time um or we're not recommending that we address those issues at this time

2:28:17

um so those are the kind of the three buckets that we propose and these will come back we'll we'll see these in the

2:28:23

in our recommended motion as well jeff did you have something that you wanted to add there

2:28:30

um no i think you covered that well um we did have some questions come up about the matrix as adam mentioned

2:28:37

and um there was um some conversation requests uh regarding parsing out uh those items

2:28:44

a little bit so what adam is showing you on the screen is literally the bucket exercise that we undertook and uh we'll

2:28:50

cover those on the the motions that will be coming here in the next few slides

2:28:56

okay great um and then the next slide here um discusses the the port of seattle grant

2:29:04

for economic development so i would turn it over here to sarah bluvis our

2:29:09

economic development coordinator thanks adam good evening council against sarah

2:29:15

bluvis economic development coordinator just a brief slide about the port of

2:29:20

seattle economic development partnership grant program we did not have full information back in

2:29:27

february when you all first went through the comp plan scoping discussion

2:29:34

so we wanted to bring it to you now uh to get some feedback and direction from you all so as a reminder this uh grant

2:29:41

program is the per capita grant program offered by the port of seattle every year to

2:29:48

encourage economic development activities that will foster regional

2:29:54

promotion and economic development in addition to the local fostering and strengthening that the

2:30:01

funding is meant to support so for this year the port of seattle is

2:30:07

offering funding on a two-year cycle instead of a one-year cycle so that's why we've included information for 22

2:30:15

and 23 in the slide and in your addenda bill we've learned that this year while the

2:30:21

port is still interested in supporting local businesses through coven 19 recovery they're also open to other

2:30:28

projects that take maybe a lower a more long-term approach and in particular

2:30:34

projects that are really blooming out of uh what cities have learned in in light

2:30:39

of the pandemic and the situations that we've dealt with the past two years so in light of that and because we are

2:30:45

embarking on the comp plan effort and including adding an economic development element to our comp plan we are

2:30:51

proposing to include a couple items in our 2223

2:30:57

application for the grants program this year related to the economic development element so we are

2:31:04

proposing that for 2022 funds we include a

2:31:09

request for support of the economic analysis for the economic development elements as a reminder this is a key

2:31:16

technical report that we are proposing should be drafted as part of the overall drafting of that

2:31:22

element and then for 23 we are proposing that we request

2:31:28

for our request support to really develop the implementation strategy for the economic development

2:31:34

element now in addition to these two pieces we anticipate that the port will still want us to include some

2:31:43

direct business support such as buy local support so supporting the activities that businesses are doing

2:31:49

over the next couple of years through various programs but really a lot of the funding we hope

2:31:55

will go towards this effort to identify more of a long-term approach to economic

2:32:01

support and development on the island so tonight we're asking for um you know any

2:32:07

questions you may have about this and if you do support this direction we'll be back later this spring

2:32:13

for authorization to accept that grant funding so i'm happy to pause here for questions

2:32:19

or if you all would wait until the end or would like to wait until the end of the presentation that's fine too i see a

2:32:26

question from councilmember anderall yeah thank you mayor

2:32:31

my question is do we know what the specific conditions of these grants would be are they matching or are they

2:32:38

kind of unconditional what's the dollar amounts that we could be going after

2:32:44

so this program is a per capita program that requires a 50 match from the city

2:32:51

and that match can be then divided out fifty percent in staff time or other

2:32:57

in-kind support and fifty percent in a cash match so our per capita number for

2:33:02

each year that the port is offering is twenty four thousand seven hundred and

2:33:08

ninety dollars uh so it'll be a little over um fifty thousand dollar right around fifty

2:33:14

thousand dollars in support and then the city would be required to match half of that over the two-year period

2:33:22

so very similar to past years really the only major difference here is that we have a slight bump

2:33:28

in the per capita funding since we have they go by population increases and we

2:33:35

are requesting funding over two years instead of one year thank you

2:33:44

not seeing any other questions so

2:33:50

okay um so as we look ahead um at the next steps um once we get the scope uh

2:33:57

sorted out tonight um we'll be looking to have a project kick off with the planning commission at their next

2:34:04

meeting and then we'll and that will include their selection

2:34:10

the planning commission selection of their work group members and then we plan on coming back to the

2:34:15

council for for your work group members and a in a project check-in in early may

2:34:21

um and then we'll look ahead to the housing needs assessment um and economic analysis briefings uh sometime in june

2:34:30

and then the planning commission will get started uh reviewing those comp plan elements um in july of this year so

2:34:36

that's kind of what's coming up and then we have some recommended motions i believe these were provided to

2:34:43

you in advance of the meeting if if that's helpful i can bring that up

2:34:48

on the screen here or if you have any other questions we can i can answer those now

2:34:55

i'm seeing a question from deputy mayor rosenbaum i don't have a question but i i am prepared to make a motion when

2:35:01

appropriate feel free uh well first uh let me get uh councilmember anderol do you have a

2:35:07

question you're on mute

2:35:15

sorry i wasn't able to print out the written materials and so i have a question um because i'm not looking at

2:35:21

items 24 25 26 and 27 are were those the ones that were um

2:35:27

offered late yes okay and is one of those

2:35:32

the one that one of those that um asks specifically for an outreach

2:35:38

group or specific contact with uh renters yes

2:35:44

yeah okay so is there um i don't i guess i don't have

2:35:50

a problem in principle and yet maybe i kind of think i i might um my my

2:35:56

question is is are there perceived um impediments to

2:36:01

renters or tenants participating in public process because it seems to me that

2:36:06

the city of mercer island is you know striving always towards openness and transparency and public participation

2:36:12

and and i mean it is it seem that there are particular barriers that that need

2:36:18

require some sort of separate outreach and is there separate outreach then for other groups where there may be

2:36:26

actual or perceived barriers such as seniors or you know young families who don't have time to participate

2:36:33

i'm just kind of wondering about you know carving out specific classes here

2:36:39

well i think the concern i mean i can't speak for the concern of the

2:36:44

um the person that submitted the comment um the planning commissioner that submitted the comment but i think

2:36:49

generally there's a concern that um that renters are a group that doesn't

2:36:54

that aren't necessarily specifically reached out to in the same way that homeowners are usually pretty dialed

2:37:00

into these processes and so taking the extra step of reaching out to renters is uh

2:37:06

a way to to hear that voice that maybe isn't always at the table um in these conversations i think that's

2:37:13

just kind of generally i think the approach there yeah but and i guess what i'm wondering

2:37:18

is is it because homeowners are more dialed in um because they are

2:37:25

or like i said is there some impediment to renters being dialed in that we're

2:37:30

trying to compensate for um i don't know that there's necessarily a barrier to participation for renters i

2:37:37

think it's just trying to again kind of specifically reach out to a group that uh typically is

2:37:43

underrepresented in the in the discussion around housing or can be underrepresented in that

2:37:49

discussion right okay and then and do you feel as though there are other groups that maybe

2:37:55

are underrepresented like i said such as young families or seniors that we should create specific outreach groups for them

2:38:02

as well well i think one of the things that we were is already in the public participation

2:38:09

plan is having some some engagement with the work groups and

2:38:14

convening panels of um folks to talk to anyway and there's

2:38:20

just not we're not specifically spelling out that they'll be homeowners or they'll be

2:38:25

one group or another and so in that process i think we can engage with a kind of broader swath if there's

2:38:32

somebody that we're concerned that we're not going to reach we can make sure that we get to them

2:38:38

in that in that work group process when they're convening those other panels i think the

2:38:43

proposal here is just to have this one specific panel but i think the

2:38:48

the risk is if we add too many of these it'll add a lot of meetings to that housing workgroup schedule and then they

2:38:56

they may not be able to meet their other deadlines so i think that's kind of the

2:39:01

give and take or the balance that needs to be struck there does that answer your question

2:39:06

thank you yes okay uh councilmember jacobson

2:39:13

uh my questions uh arise out of the task list it begins at page

2:39:19

13 in exhibit 1a task three talks about consultant

2:39:26

contracts and i asked the question and uh did not get an answer

2:39:31

as to what particular ex areas of expertise were gonna seek

2:39:36

client excuse me consultant assistants and that may not be able to

2:39:42

be answered right now but i am interested in knowing that

2:39:47

and in connection with that task four talks about housing needs assessment and economic analysis

2:39:54

planning commission and city council briefings the

2:40:01

text says in addition to the hna housing needs assessment the city will produce

2:40:06

an economic analysis of the local economy my questions are is the consultant going to do the the

2:40:14

housing needs analysis or are we going to do that in-house

2:40:21

council member this is that jeff thomas i'd be happy to answer that for you um to answer your first question well to

2:40:27

answer both maybe at the same time um we will be engaging with qualified

2:40:33

outside professionals to assist with both the housing needs assessment as well as the

2:40:40

background information that we're going to compile for the economic development element

2:40:46

in addition to um seeking out qualified professionals to assist us with those two items

2:40:53

we will also look for some outside services related

2:40:59

to assisting with environmental documentation environmental review for this

2:41:04

this planned effort and also some assistance

2:41:10

as was similar i believe to the pros plan a process that just completed with uh

2:41:15

public outreach and engagement as well oh and i forgot one uh apologies and

2:41:22

then public works will also be um engaging with

2:41:29

some work related to the traffic model and the transportation element

2:41:36

okay thank you and my further question i have is has to do with uh

2:41:41

you know the larger subject of economic development

2:41:47

for mercenaries and one of my beliefs is that most people

2:41:54

would like to have a robust retail environment and

2:42:00

on mercer rounds specifically in town center and that the south end shopping center

2:42:05

are we planning on hiring anybody or

2:42:11

let me strike that let me back up are we planning on getting hiring any expertise

2:42:17

to take a look at what we need to do to develop business on mercer island

2:42:23

yeah that's a great question and as part of crafting the economic development element that's really going

2:42:29

to be a policy document and i think that's actually a great

2:42:35

policy directive that should be considered ultimately by the city council in adoption of this

2:42:42

effort to include and moving beyond the comprehensive plan

2:42:48

update i'm hopeful that the city will then have a implementation strategy an

2:42:56

economic development implementation strategy that will take those policy directives that are going to be worked

2:43:01

on here with this effort and essentially the implementation strategy

2:43:07

will be a work program and a you know a funding guidance document that will help

2:43:13

them get some of these things done and that downtown uh or commercial area retail strategies

2:43:18

for both the north and south ends of the island i think it's a great idea to include as a policy directive and then

2:43:24

um have an implementing action to actually do that well i'm i'm just a dumb old contractor

2:43:31

but uh one of the things that strikes me in and trying to think of how do we

2:43:37

how do we solve this puzzle and obviously one part of it is some policy part of it to which you've just spoken

2:43:45

but also what's the art of the possible and whether that should proceed

2:43:51

policy development or not i i haven't really thought

2:43:56

through to conclusion however uh i'm not sure

2:44:02

i'm not sure we have the expertise on the city council or probably on the staff to be able to look at it because

2:44:09

so much of that is taking a look at what other people have done and say will this fit here now i don't expect that we're

2:44:15

going to have a nordstrom's open here you know shooting the moon without the

2:44:22

queen but um i i would like to get somewhat more

2:44:27

clarity and uh about how we how we're going to go about uh this whole economic development

2:44:36

element of the comp plan but also how we're going to go about it uh on the ground if and when we get around to it and i'm

2:44:43

that's more of a statement than a question but it's something that concerns me a great deal because

2:44:50

i don't i would suspect that if you did public

2:44:56

the public would say we don't have enough stuff here on retail and there's good reason for keeping people on the

2:45:03

island rather than getting in cars and driving to bellevue or seattle or renting or what have you so there

2:45:09

the economic development part of it has tentacles that go elsewhere

2:45:15

namely uh climate issues so i at this point i i don't have a lot of

2:45:21

confidence of how we're proceeding here and maybe i need to sit down and go through stupid study on this but uh

2:45:28

uh i'm i'm concerned that we're we're gonna set up some policies and then wander off into the sunset and we're not

2:45:34

not gonna do anything with this problem which has persisted for a number of years here

2:45:41

well i i can tell you with absolute certainty that to uh

2:45:46

craft and implement a downtown or a town center downtown whatever you'd like to call it

2:45:52

retail strategy island retail strategy that is absolutely something that uh the

2:45:58

city would want to have a qualified professional that does that sort of work um full time for a living engage with us

2:46:06

on and um it's it certainly would be i would expect it would be one of the top

2:46:12

implementation actions that the city would want to get moving on um after the completion of this periodic

2:46:18

review of the comprehensive plan well my my concern about that is that

2:46:24

how can you set a policy if you don't know the directions in which you have opportunities to go

2:46:30

and unless the policy explores that with some level of expertise

2:46:37

well a lot of the goal and policy setting that's going to take place in conference plan similar to the other

2:46:42

elements that we already have are going to be somewhat broad in nature but um there

2:46:48

will be degrees of specificity for specific actions that the city will

2:46:54

want to take to achieve its vision that's in the comprehensive plan and the goals also

2:46:59

that are contained within that to help support the vision it is i do understand what you're saying

2:47:05

councilmember um in some regards it certainly can be perceived as a little bit of a chicken

2:47:11

and egg or a cart and horse issue um but um we uh the

2:47:17

effort didn't hand at this moment in front of us is getting this periodic review off the ground so that we can be

2:47:24

compliant with the growth management act and uh complete this periodic review in a timely fashion

2:47:30

and a big part of that will be the policy setting and the policy

2:47:36

directives that will will come out of the 26 month process that's in front of us

2:47:43

[Music] okay council member weinberg

2:47:48

i wonder whether uh we might be able to uh address or at least

2:47:54

echo the concerns that councilmember jacobson is expressing by providing guidance to the economic

2:48:01

development work group saying that all of the policies created need to be

2:48:07

thought of with the lens to implementation that we shouldn't be creating

2:48:14

a wish list but rather something that we do expect to be able to do uh and if we can have kind of a

2:48:20

grounding in uh realism uh on that uh work group i think that we'll end up with something hopefully that will be a

2:48:26

lot more implementable than if we kind of go in there saying you know ideal world what would we want

2:48:34

is that something we might be able to uh adjust in terms of the guidance to the work group

2:48:40

i think that's an excellent idea there's nothing worse for both elected officials and staff and

2:48:45

the public of just having policies that go nowhere so having policies that

2:48:52

have clear outcomes or clear measures are going to be associated with them not

2:48:58

only make for a better read for a comprehensive planning type document but

2:49:03

also helps preserve all of our sanities and probably promotes brevity as well

2:49:09

in the overall effort [Music] very good i sent some volunteers and all

2:49:15

that um if you could put your hands down if if maybe councilmember jacobson and

2:49:21

deputy mayor did you want to make a motion yeah three pieces here so bear with me uh

2:49:28

i move that we approve resolution number 1621 adopting the scope of work master

2:49:34

schedule and public participation plan including the establishment of the economic development working group work

2:49:39

group and the housing work group for the 2024 periodic review of the mercer island comprehensive plan as amended by

2:49:46

adding the following items from exhibit two item one to the scope and items 24

2:49:51

25 26 and 27 to the public participation plan second direct the city manager to ensure

2:49:59

the legislative process for the 2024 periodic review of mercer island comprehensive plan captures the

2:50:04

following items from exhibit 2. items 5 6 7 8

2:50:10

10 11 12 13 15 18 21 22 and 23

2:50:19

3 direct the city manager to pursue an economic development grant from the port of seattle for the

2:50:24

2022-2023 grand cycle to support the development and implementation of a new comprehensive plan economic

2:50:31

development element okay um first a quick question before i

2:50:37

ask for a second i assume can we take all three of those motions in one uh tranche

2:50:46

i um i'm not the attorney but i would say it might be better to take them one by one

2:50:54

i agree uh mr mayor this is bill city attorney i would recommend that you take

2:51:00

one of those at a time given that

2:51:05

there may be members of the council who wish to vote on one and not on the other

2:51:11

okay well having read those uh the first one which began with approve resolution

2:51:17

and end it with participation plan which i think is captured in staff's notes

2:51:23

do we have a second on that motion

2:51:29

the second okay so that was seconded by councilmember reynolds

2:51:34

i'm sorry um mayor kind of a point of clarification um

2:51:41

what i have in my agenda didn't end with the words that you said so are we just

2:51:47

looking at recommended action number one um which is the approve the resolution

2:51:52

as amended to add the um item one and i don't know what it is

2:51:59

when i can 5 26 and 27. let me clearly read the motion that has been seconded

2:52:05

so the motion reads approve resolution number 1621 adopting the scope of work master schedule and public participation

2:52:11

plan including the establishment of the economic development work group and the housing work group for the 2024

2:52:17

periodic review of the mercenary comprehensive plan is amended by adding the following items from exhibit 2

2:52:23

items 1 to the scope and items 24 25 26 and 27 to the public

2:52:31

participation plan that is the motion that we have on the

2:52:36

floor thank you and do you have

2:52:42

it's been second yeah it was uh made by deputy mayor rosenbaum seconded by council member reynolds

2:52:50

any discussion no i no no discussion uh any questions

2:52:56

councilman reynolds i'm not sure it matters but i'm just going to point out that item 27 which

2:53:02

has been added which was in response to my comment really has nothing to do with public participation

2:53:07

so and i think it's probably slightly mis described in that motion

2:53:14

so i wonder if uh cpd director thomas about that

2:53:21

yeah it is the the work group uh documents are attached to the resolution

2:53:27

so it is all one one package um so it is appropriate to include that

2:53:33

item as part of the motion here i i'm very comfortable including it but it's

2:53:38

the fact that in councilmember he he referred to it as a related to

2:53:44

public participation i don't think it is should

2:53:50

they

2:53:56

appended essentially to the public participation plan so it's the left elbows attached to the left

2:54:01

forearm attached to the left wrist type thing if that makes sense

2:54:09

if you're comfortable that it's still okay the way it's described i i'm okay to support especially since i seconded it

2:54:15

very good thank you any other questions or discussion if not

2:54:21

uh aly can you please call the roll

2:54:29

council member weinberg aye councilmember reynolds

2:54:36

aye councilmember anderle bye deputy mayor rosenbaum aye

2:54:44

mayor niece aye councilmember wiper

2:54:52

council member weiker and i i think thank you

2:54:57

is it working not working there we go we heard gia and then councilmember jacobson abstain

2:55:04

okay motion passes now for the next one uh

2:55:10

mr mayor i uh direct the city manager to ensure the legislative process for 2024 periodic

2:55:17

review of the mercer island comprehensive plan captures the following items from exhibit 2. items 5

2:55:23

6 7 8 10 11 12 13 15

2:55:29

18 21 22 and 23.

2:55:36

any second

2:55:42

i will second that any discussion

2:55:47

let me talk about this one real quick the intention of this motion is to sort of encapsulate the suggestions and um

2:55:54

submissions that we got around elements that we should include that are are part of the sort of normal scope of what we

2:56:00

would look at when we look at the comprehensive plan uh jeff if i if i misspoke please correct me

2:56:07

that's excellent thank you great so

2:56:12

uh any more discussion by council councilmember reynolds i i hate to be difficult here but i

2:56:19

don't know these issues by number could we do quickly put them on screen and walk through which ones are included

2:56:24

which ones are not yep adam are you able to pull that up and

2:56:30

show your screen yeah yeah just a moment here you get

2:56:35

that do you have your packet council member reynolds i do so the first one is 5.

2:56:44

i never got it today

2:56:50

it was five six seven eight if i recall correctly

2:57:02

okay i'm good so far and we go to 11 12 13 15.

2:57:14

oh 13. [Music]

2:57:22

okay i'm good with that and we have 18 21 22 23

2:57:42

okay i'm good thank you discussion

2:57:50

okay not seeing any ally can you please call the roll

2:58:00

okay councilmember reynolds hi

2:58:05

mayor niece hi councilmember jacobson abstain

2:58:12

council member weinberg aye councilmember weiker hi

2:58:17

mayor rosenbaum aye council member andrew right

2:58:23

okay motion passes and one last motion last but not least mr mayor i direct the

2:58:30

city manager to pursue an economic development grant from the port of seattle for the 2022-23 grant cycle to

2:58:35

support the development and implementation of new comprehensive plan economic development element

2:58:43

okay so motions made by deputy mayor rosenbaum seconded by council member jacobson

2:58:49

anyone wish to speak to the motion i don't i think sarah did a really good job kind of covering off what we're looking to cover here sarah has been

2:58:55

very good at finding these pork grants all right um

2:59:00

ellie can you please call the roll elsa member wyker

2:59:06

hi council member andrew hi councilmember reynolds hi

2:59:13

mayor niece hi councilmember jacobson hi

2:59:18

deputy mayor rosenbaum aye councilmember weinberg aye

2:59:24

very good so the motion passes and that will move us to our next item of business um

2:59:30

cpd director thomas do you need a few minutes before we get teed up for that

2:59:37

um you know i thought i was going to but i think i'm ready to roll the council is so

Development Code Amendment ZTR21-004 Town Center Retail Requirements – Ordinance No. 21C-28 (Third Reading)

2:59:43

everybody looks ready all right our next item of regular business is ab6036 development code amendment ztr

2:59:51

21-004 town center retail requirements ordinance number 21c-28

2:59:58

third reading uh welcome cpd director thomas and

3:00:04

economic development coordinator sarah bluis thank you again mayor and once again

3:00:09

jeff thomas was tpd sarah bluvis our economic development coordinator and um i don't see him on my screen is

3:00:17

chair hubble of the planning commission has he joined the meeting

3:00:23

he just jumped on jeff okay great so council i'd also like to introduce um

3:00:31

chair dan hubbell from the planning commission and our program here for this item we'll be in

3:00:37

two parts the first part will actually be chair hubble

3:00:42

presenting the planning commission's recommendation to you on this subject

3:00:47

from their public hearing and deliberations in february

3:00:53

and uh before i turn it over to chair hubble um i just have two other very quick

3:00:58

comments um the first one a friendly reminder for council this is um uh the return of the boomerang

3:01:05

sort of speak from december 7th when the council provided some directives to remand to

3:01:12

the planning commission and requested that the planning commission

3:01:18

complete its work and uh report back to the city council by uh march uh which is here where we

3:01:25

are at the second meeting of the month so um that was the first item and then the second item

3:01:30

um we underscore this a few times along the way here this evening staff is not requesting any action from

3:01:36

the council this evening on this any formal action at least there may be some direction that comes

3:01:42

later on in this item here but uh no formal action is being requested

3:01:48

this evening so with that uh chair hubble will will take the floor here and then when uh his

3:01:55

portion is complete uh sarah does have a short slide deck uh that will walk the council through and then i'm sure

3:02:01

there'll be some discussion with the council charitable

3:02:07

uh good evening council and it's good to see some of you back in person in the uh

3:02:12

council chambers i look forward to uh being back there myself here in a few

3:02:18

weeks or months here in the future i don't know as if i have a whole lot i

3:02:24

really uh just wanted to be here in case there were questions i know that um

3:02:29

the uh transmittal that we sent that is in your packet is uh

3:02:34

uh not exactly what we were um [Music] uh

3:02:41

maybe not what you were expecting to get back from us and so i'm happy after

3:02:48

the presentation from staff to be here to answer questions

3:02:54

i think the crux of our position on this is that after

3:03:01

some public testimony at the meeting on

3:03:07

february the 16th we had a number of business owners that and

3:03:12

people representing the business community in the town center that came forward and really expressed concerns

3:03:18

with some of the structural components particularly around the zero net loss

3:03:23

provisions and what we had in there and they really echoed i think a number of concerns that we had sent back

3:03:31

in the late fall time frame when we reviewed this

3:03:36

on our outset so happy again to answer questions once we get to that and i think um sarah has

3:03:44

something to walk you through as far as what was um in your packet and uh

3:03:50

we will go from there

3:03:56

okay i'm happy to take over unless jeff you had any other comments that you

3:04:01

wanted to make before this portion of the presentation no please go ahead unless there's any

3:04:08

questions at this time for the chair from city council well i do have a question so chair

3:04:14

um the first run through the planning commission it came back to us at the

3:04:19

council with the kind of expressed concern that the far with the no net loss on the post 2005

3:04:27

was going to result in a contraction before it would result in equilibrium or growth

3:04:33

and that was the council's attempt to take the information that the planning commission had assembled

3:04:39

and seek a solution and send it back to you all

3:04:45

here we are kind of looking at two options both that have kind of ran

3:04:50

through your commission uh understanding that you don't want to make a recommendation on either one

3:04:57

potentially which do you prefer well

3:05:03

i guess the the best way to describe this is um it sort of gets back to

3:05:09

uh the first item in sort of the recommended sort of questions that that

3:05:15

need to be answered or concerns that we had which was which problem do you want to solve for

3:05:20

right like they're they're in somewhat opposition to each other the the far and

3:05:26

the no net loss um concepts and so um

3:05:31

on the surface you know one approach that we discussed is you know why is just the far not

3:05:39

applied equally amongst all of the properties whether we think they're going to redevelop anytime

3:05:45

soon or not and then the second is well we don't

3:05:50

want to see a contraction in potential retail space in the um in the

3:05:58

short term the reality is i'm not sure we're really going to know the answer to that until

3:06:04

we go down either road because it's for the most part conjecture at this point

3:06:10

what we did hear from the uh testimony that we heard on

3:06:15

february 16th was the no net loss provision in some ways

3:06:21

um unduly restricts uh some of the properties that were

3:06:26

developed under we'll call it just a different

3:06:32

design ethos 20 30 40 50 years ago

3:06:38

that make the way that those spaces are constructed

3:06:43

um less relevant or maybe less attractive to businesses today

3:06:49

and so by by requiring

3:06:54

the additional space in how those properties might be redeveloped in

3:07:00

the near term by saying we don't want to lose any space in some ways could have the unintended

3:07:07

consequence of creating space that's unusable for anybody and is the question

3:07:14

the question that the council or sorry that the commission was asking was what's the better alternative to have

3:07:20

less space that's more usable and attractive to tenants that's full and active

3:07:26

and being participated in or space that from a square footage

3:07:32

perspective is not a loss but

3:07:39

may not be as active or as attractive to potential tenants

3:07:44

because it's artificially shaped and designed around

3:07:50

square footages that were used or maybe necessary um

3:07:56

at a time when those spaces were just designed differently and so ultimately that's

3:08:01

sort of the question that we were getting to is is even the loss of space

3:08:07

um even the right measure of success when you look at we want to activate the

3:08:13

town center is a thousand or two thousand fewer square

3:08:18

feet or even ten thousand fewer square feet on a property um make it

3:08:24

a less desirable business for the island uh and so that

3:08:30

from the from the outset was sort of the view that we came to on the

3:08:35

16th which is these two concepts are sort of in opposition to each other

3:08:41

neither one of them are frankly perfect solutions

3:08:47

and both point back to what is the problem that we're trying to solve

3:08:52

in the town center so just uh before we move on i had thought that cai had done a fairly good

3:08:59

job articulating the problem that needed to be solved they had done you know a revenue spending based

3:09:05

analysis they had looked at the inventory of uh commercial space within town center

3:09:11

they had looked at specific spending from the department of revenue and suggested that the town center and the

3:09:19

population of mercer island at his current population and then at his future population

3:09:24

would support all of the retail that existed and then some to the tune of 30 000 square feet

3:09:30

so the original problem was we had a half of town center all of the area and the south end

3:09:36

zoned with no commercial requirement and we have now a cai report

3:09:42

saying that all of that retail that exists there is necessary and then some

3:09:48

and so the problem to be solved was how do you make it so when the the current zoning didn't

3:09:54

support that right that there would be a massive contraction if the full

3:09:59

south end of town center developed as nothing but multi-family and you lost all that retail it would be too steep of

3:10:07

a hill to climb dealing with the north end of town center trying to create that back so to

3:10:13

speak uh yeah i understand that that's the um

3:10:18

the position that was uh given to us in that data uh and

3:10:24

without having the vaulted memory of knowing the exact um

3:10:31

uh sort of the details of that data i do know that there was a lot of discussion

3:10:37

and jeff or sarah maybe you can back me up if you have the specifics um the

3:10:43

specific concerns but there were a number of areas and questions that were

3:10:49

surfaced as we reviewed that information and data that just seemed to be inconsistent with

3:10:55

itself as well as some of the other

3:11:00

data that was available so [Music] you know as a group it was you know it's

3:11:08

understood that the broader problem is how do we ensure that we have the appropriate amount of retail space

3:11:15

in the town center and more

3:11:20

more importantly how do we have the right um activity and the right businesses for

3:11:28

the town center which which tended to lean itself more in that direction of the

3:11:34

conversation is less a conversation of do we have enough but do we have enough of the right

3:11:39

commercial space downtown and um you know one of the comments that we

3:11:45

have in our [Music] recommended you know set of things to

3:11:51

look at is there are a number of other legislative methods that could be used to

3:11:57

encourage and bolster this and gets back to the question of is

3:12:03

square footage of space a

3:12:09

an accurate way to measure the success of meeting our needs or not

3:12:18

yeah i mean it's the container that we theorized uh our legislative our zoning authority

3:12:25

allowed us to uh add to town center or preserve in town center so

3:12:31

i you know i'm not sure how cerebral i want to get about it it's this is the power that we have is

3:12:37

is zoning it's not the power to create a store of a particular bent or a

3:12:43

restaurant of a particular type well i mean in with with you know

3:12:49

as you're well aware it's one um vehicle that we have there are other ways to

3:12:56

legislate and encourage uses of all sorts of times there are

3:13:01

specific sub-area overlays that you could create you could create incentive programs uh relaxing of certain

3:13:08

regulations infrastructure investments that the

3:13:13

city could make in encouraging um specific types of business

3:13:19

so it is a tool and um there are other tools that can be used and as a

3:13:26

we're not saying that there isn't something that can or should be done but there were enough questions

3:13:31

in the time that we were given we had two meetings to review this um there were enough

3:13:39

there was enough commentary at the february 16th meeting that frankly

3:13:44

from a person as the chair i came in thinking that the recommendation was going to go one way

3:13:50

and after the testimony that was provided it raised enough question amongst the board that

3:13:56

the group decided that you know this is not something that we should be racing into with

3:14:01

you know two meetings to be able to review and and i do appreciate the council looked at this for a number of

3:14:07

months and we had the chance to look at it a few times um in the fall as well

3:14:12

but um you know a big piece of this was missing was actually some of the commentary that we got on february 16th

3:14:18

from the business community that seemed to not know that any of this was uh being talked about or um

3:14:26

considered for the last nine months so very good no i appreciate that uh deputy mayor

3:14:32

rosamond yeah dan how many just remind me how many folks came to testify at the february 15th meeting

3:14:38

um on the sixth on the meeting on the 16th i believe there were four um

3:14:44

four people that were connected to businesses in the um town center that

3:14:50

came forward all right which are four more than we've had at any other meeting right cumulatively and how many

3:14:56

properties did those four represent uh that i i could not tell you i i don't

3:15:02

remember exactly who was representing what i don't know if sarah or jeff have a

3:15:08

better knowledge of that i i can respond to that uh with a little

3:15:14

more context we in addition to the four speakers at the february 16th public

3:15:20

hearing there were three i think three

3:15:25

individuals representing two specific properties and then one i think community member who was interested in

3:15:31

sharing input over zoom we also received several written comments so we received probably

3:15:39

total comments from i think five of the towns individual

3:15:44

town center property owners or major properties

3:15:49

all of the public comment was included in the agenda packet for the february

3:15:55

16th meeting so council we'd be happy to share that with you after this meeting if

3:16:01

interested very good all right well that's all the questions i have not seen any others um

3:16:07

thank you chair thank you to the commission for the work that you did and we appreciate the handoff

3:16:12

yeah thank you and if i can just make one last uh statement which is like we do we do feel

3:16:18

like this is uh worthy of continuing to um look at

3:16:23

and and solve we're not sure that the um solutions that we've

3:16:29

collectively you know put together are are ultimately the right we think that there are some good pieces there but

3:16:35

in our recommendation we just think there's a few more things that need to be looked at and uh we're hoping that we'll have the opportunity to dig into

3:16:41

that more very good thank you great thanks

3:16:47

okay i am going to go ahead and share my screen and bear with me quickly

3:16:55

can you all see the presentation great

3:17:00

so this is just a quick presentation to run through some of the information that was included in your agenda packet

3:17:07

as jeff mentioned at the top of this item we aren't seeking a specific action

3:17:13

on the ordinance that is attached to this agenda item really we're just hoping

3:17:18

that you all will provide some direction for future staff work if desired on this item and so this this

3:17:26

powerpoint presentation is really meant to help frame that discussion that you all will have

3:17:33

to lead to direction so we included a list of updated

3:17:38

legislative options in your agenda packet some of these you may recall are very similar to the

3:17:44

items we reviewed last summer and then received additional direction on in september of 2021 so i think someone

3:17:51

called this a little bit of a rewind some of these options are still the same so in light of

3:17:57

the planning commission recommendations that you all have received and additional public comment you may

3:18:04

choose to revert back to pursue one of these original options

3:18:10

or chart a different path forward so they're listed here but i'm going to go

3:18:15

just briefly into each of them on a few slides so i'll skip reading through this

3:18:22

option number one hasn't changed it was to do nothing and

3:18:27

we presented this back in 2021. again this would require

3:18:32

no change to current development regulations no ordinance adoption and the retail street frontage

3:18:38

requirement would continue to not be required within the town center moratorium area

3:18:45

the second option is just to make some surgical additions and deletions to the

3:18:52

much beloved pink lines map so the figure at the right this is the current figure 2 or pink lines map

3:18:59

included in the code as a reminder these requirements were adopted in 2016 as part of some other

3:19:06

overall town center development regulation updates and the one of the primary goals for

3:19:12

adopting these updates was to concentrate commercial retail activity in the town center which was i believe a

3:19:18

rationale for why the moratorium area is now left out of

3:19:23

that commercial retail requirement so this updated map

3:19:28

again these are the additions and deletions that we're proposing we shared this with you all back in the summer of

3:19:34

last year and then received additional direction related to it in september and december

3:19:40

the updated map attempts to reflect corridor concentration on southeast 27th street

3:19:46

as well as 78th avenue for any existing and future development

3:19:51

so as you continue the discussion tonight and think about future direction to staff

3:19:57

you may choose just to focus on amending this map in particular

3:20:03

option number three relates to the no net loss requirement so again this developed from a

3:20:10

town center wide or blanket no net loss option what we had originally proposed

3:20:16

and you can see in the map on the right on this slide was that the provision be administered on a parcel by parcel basis

3:20:23

on post 2005 developed parcels in the town center again we presented this back in summer

3:20:29

of last year and then further refining this requirement was part of your original direction in

3:20:35

september option number four again the flu map should look familiar would be to add a

3:20:42

commercial floor area ratio requirement or the commercial far so through the work that we did with cai

3:20:50

last year and multiple conversations with city council

3:20:55

and working sessions we landed on a commercial bar of 0.2623 which would

3:21:02

be applied across the parcels identified in this blue map and upon

3:21:08

redevelopment those parcels would be required to provide a far square footage at least of eligible ground floor

3:21:15

commercial space again presented back in summer and included in the original direction

3:21:21

from city council that we received in september so number five option number five is to

3:21:28

combine options two through four um again so if it sounds like a broken

3:21:34

record and this is also in your addenda packet this direction was the primary option that city council

3:21:41

asked us to pursue back in september before we went to planning commission to refine

3:21:46

the code language and ordinance and then we also received subsequent direction related to

3:21:52

this in december when we were doing the um second ordinance reading

3:21:57

so this option combines updating the pink lines map adding the no nut loss

3:22:02

requirement on post 2005 developments and adding the commercial far requirement

3:22:08

throughout the town center i think dan or chair hubble had mentioned this the planning commission

3:22:15

reviewed this proposal over a few meetings in the fall and held

3:22:21

a public hearing on november 3rd after that public hearing they did they

3:22:27

deliberated this proposal and ultimately recommended not proceeding with this combination of options

3:22:33

back in november so if we were to rewind back to this

3:22:41

original kind of preferred option that council discussed and provided direction

3:22:46

on last fall these are just a few areas where

3:22:51

a few bullet points that we based on the work over the past subsequent months that we've done with the planning

3:22:57

commission and council on this topic recommend adding or are proposing as

3:23:04

amendments um in subsequent ordinance reading so that includes

3:23:10

expanding the list of eligible uses we need to reinsert some code language

3:23:15

that clarifies that requirements apply to the ground floor use and as well as

3:23:20

permit driveways loading areas and some other types of entrances on the street

3:23:25

frontage we would need to insert code language related to that evaluation trigger that

3:23:31

we've discussed last last fall as well as insert code language related

3:23:37

to exempting museum and art exhibitions and theater uses from the 60-foot

3:23:42

linear street frontage maximum and establishing a cap for those uses that would be applied to the far so

3:23:49

these are five specific kind of amendments that were proposed in

3:23:55

various elements of this process that have been discussed with the planning commission and heard through public

3:24:02

hearings that if council ultimately decides to pursue this rewind option we would call it kind

3:24:10

of an option five plus and ask that we um consider these pieces as well

3:24:17

and then finally the last option um as staff understand would be to execute

3:24:23

ordnance 21c-28 so the proposal that went to the planning

3:24:29

commission uh at the beginning of this year and was heard through a public hearing on february

3:24:36

16th has a couple key components and the main difference between this the new proposal

3:24:43

and the previous proposal is that adding in the

3:24:48

greater than requirement between a commercial far and a no net loss for parcels so rather than

3:24:55

having the orange map subject to no net loss and the blue map subject commercial far that map would be combined

3:25:03

shown here in a saint patty's day green that was unintentional

3:25:09

but fitting i guess this week all of those parcels would ultimately be

3:25:14

subject to a greater than requirement between the far and the no net loss of their existing

3:25:20

eligible commercial space upon redevelopment so again important to note

3:25:26

and share hubble you know presented this at the top of this topic the planning commission

3:25:31

recommended not moving forward with this proposal which is included at the exhibit one in

3:25:36

your agenda pack-up so last slide just some next steps again we are requesting direction from you all

3:25:44

tonight so feel free to frame your discussion in the legislative options that we have

3:25:50

outlined or you know please ask other questions

3:25:55

upon receiving any direction from you tonight we anticipate that we'll return in the middle of the year

3:26:01

for a final reading of the ordinance and adoption and this allows time to

3:26:07

address some of the other issues and final needs that have come up in recent weeks as well

3:26:12

including amending and finalizing the cpa review re-noticing to the department of commerce if we deem that necessary

3:26:20

um working with the planning commission to review and recommend to remove a

3:26:26

figure tc1 map so that pink line pink lines map which is in the comp plan right now if necessary and then to

3:26:33

renumber the ordinance because we are in a new year and then we can't

3:26:38

adopt an ordinance in 2022 that was created in 21 so we'll need to renumber

3:26:45

the ordinance finalize it and review also important to note that the current moratorium expires on june 1st

3:26:54

so if necessary we staff will also be back sometime

3:26:59

in early this spring to renew the moratorium if needed so with that i will

3:27:05

stop sharing my screen and turn it back over to you mayor thank you uh miss blue vest so councilmember

3:27:12

reynolds you're up thank you hold on one sec

3:27:17

i'll let director thomas he's who's got his hand up just jump in before we do that

3:27:22

um just real quick sarah's last point there about current moratorium

3:27:27

any any option on that list that sarah just ran through with the exception of number one

3:27:33

which would be to do nothing um we certainly anticipate will require

3:27:40

doing one more renewal of the moratorium so then that would carry us through to

3:27:45

um roughly the beginning of december so that renewal that will be coming to

3:27:51

city council at the beginning of may you're the most likely your first meeting in may for

3:27:57

renewal that was it thank you okay thank you councilman reynolds and ms bluis can you bring back up the

3:28:04

pink line map for a moment

3:28:37

my screen sharing just gave me a notice that it failed to start so let me

3:28:42

try again there we go no i i've got you council member

3:28:47

okay thank you um this is a case of uh i want the other one that shows

3:28:54

the new one yes um this is probably a case of my memory just failing me but that maybe you can

3:29:00

help me out here i i believe at some point perhaps suggested by councilmember angel if

3:29:05

memory serves we voted to ex oh wait never mind that this question was just

3:29:12

answered and just figured this one out uh but i'm gonna i'm gonna ask a different question as long as i have the floor

3:29:17

um the list of services in options five plus or five

3:29:24

extended that you mentioned uh you listed off of a variety of facilities that would be potentially

3:29:30

included including uh financial services service stations bars

3:29:36

etc i don't think i remember discussing that i know in the agenda bills that i've

3:29:42

seen we talked about retail we talked about museums and art expedition exhibitions we talked about

3:29:49

dining and i think there was one other category that i don't recall but i don't recall these other things when did these

3:29:55

come into the definition so the additional eligible uses outlines here were ones

3:30:03

that came up in subsequent planning commission discussions there was interest in

3:30:09

in our code restaurants and bars are separated out so there was interest

3:30:14

including you know drinking establishments might encourage a brewery or another wine bar

3:30:20

that kind of thing financial and insurance services and our code definition would cover

3:30:26

banks and you may recall there's been a lot of conversation around when banking services count as retail

3:30:32

service stations it relates to gas stations a lot of conversation related to those especially at the planning

3:30:38

commission level and then recreation was one that came in a little bit later in the planning

3:30:45

commission process but there was interest in making space for that type of use

3:30:50

in particular to encourage some more of those maybe active

3:30:57

vibrant uses of town center that chair hubble was alluding to there are some other uses that the

3:31:04

planning commission or were presented before the planning commission and discussion but these were the primary

3:31:10

ones that we at least seem to get consensus on and discussion around

3:31:17

so were those ever those that expanded definition of allowable services were those ever

3:31:25

part of a specific proposal which if we were to adopt this we'd be in compliance with uh

3:31:32

public hearing requirements that's a good point um we would

3:31:37

potentially have to go back and [Music] recall what the official discussions

3:31:44

were for during those public hearings that's something that if we're directed to complete additional

3:31:51

work on this jeff and i would clarify and make sure that we're bringing back

3:31:56

a final proposal that is in line with those requirements thank you

3:32:02

we just add on to that quickly we did so council did direct

3:32:07

staff to bring to the planning commission here at the top of the year

3:32:12

that use discussion so those additional uses

3:32:19

that was part of the noticing of public hearing and the scope of what the planning

3:32:26

commission what was delivered to the planning commission from staff via the city council

3:32:32

here since december um we would always uh measure twice with

3:32:37

our city attorney's office before making any final determination on process

3:32:42

uh subject to direction but um we were very mindful of that when we left city

3:32:49

council on december 7th and uh moved this process um back to the planning commission in

3:32:54

january okay i i just know i i was a little surprised as the expansive list because i thought i'd been personal services

3:33:00

retail and dining was where we had been but no strong opinion on the issue right now

3:33:06

do the right thing [Music] to go to go

3:33:11

look at that uh as part of coming back to you now in march thank next up is councilmember wyker

3:33:21

yes okay so i'm going to take a minute here because our council um we've talked about this we've i don't i

3:33:27

can't remember anything we've ever ever had four readings before and we've stumped our planning commission

3:33:33

i think i'm thoroughly confused about how all these elements work together all of these options have so many exceptions

3:33:38

and exemptions i'm hearing from business community this is awesome and that this is not reality based at all for any sort

3:33:45

of mixed-use development we have rules that won't result in the outcomes that we're seeking

3:33:51

so i'm i guess this question is for jeff what is our path forward for for more time it sounds like we're already going

3:33:57

to extend another six months it sounds like we could use a reality check all the way around on a number of these

3:34:03

concepts and i think i recall that we're the first city to take on trying to compound all these

3:34:09

concepts is there some way to compare with other cities or if we're actually going to get an

3:34:15

outcome here like help me figure out how to move this forward and land this plane it

3:34:20

doesn't seem to make any sense and it doesn't feel like we're on any path forward that's going to result in success

3:34:28

well um sorry it feels like there's about 30 questions buried in there i'll take a

3:34:35

quick swing at it uh councilmember laker um

3:34:41

we've you know council spent a lot of time uh last year as as

3:34:46

a few of you including chair hubble have mentioned here in our session this evening um culminating in september with the

3:34:55

initial directions provided which was essentially that option five that you saw on the screen tonight

3:35:01

and then option six was essentially then um as the

3:35:06

planning commission chair and the mayor were dialoguing a little earlier here a few minutes ago

3:35:13

you know that was the council's auction six was council's attempt to uh perhaps address some of the planning

3:35:19

commission concerns from the first recommendation provided in november and then went back again so

3:35:26

we we do have um we do have a report from cai um that was discussed again a

3:35:32

little earlier this evening and um option five does

3:35:39

correlate with that report so the the numbers

3:35:44

were designed in option five to match that analysis that was done by cai right

3:35:51

so that would be the far requirement with a selective no net loss requirement

3:35:58

for the post 2005 developed parcels um that's that's really the crux of that

3:36:04

right there's there's some secondary items that go into that to help make it all work um the details um at the the next layer

3:36:11

down but um that is that is the issue the option six was trying to

3:36:17

[Music] create a you know the greater than scenario between the no

3:36:23

net loss and the far and i i think the planning commission the chair can confirm this for me but i i

3:36:29

seem to specifically recall there was some good planning commission discussion around option six and about how

3:36:35

um there was a potential there for a potential overbuild of commercial space

3:36:42

with the greater that option so some of this you know from my perspective some of

3:36:48

this boils down to um short versus long plays right

3:36:53

the the short plays are the no net loss type tools the long plays are more the far

3:37:00

what council and i think some of our planning commission dialogue has tried

3:37:06

to do is thread the needle a little bit in some of this stuff to

3:37:11

to combine those elements together um to make short and long plays work in

3:37:18

unison and um the conversation

3:37:24

we had with council after the first planning commission recommendation i i think acknowledged that

3:37:31

none of this is likely to be perfect uh where you know no codes are absolutely perfect we're dealing with

3:37:37

constant imperfections which is why we're always coming back to amend codes and try and make them

3:37:43

clearer perhaps more stronger and a little more simple

3:37:48

and i i don't see you know i don't see a magic sauce here with this i think

3:37:56

any potential result from this exercise that we've undertaken is going to need to be

3:38:02

constantly measured and reviewed and further discussed and potentially improved upon

3:38:09

hence the council had some discussion back in november and december about having the

3:38:15

provision in a potential code amendment that would be a 5-year or 75 000

3:38:20

square foot threshold that would require that review to be

3:38:26

done and that consideration given um

3:38:33

that's that seemed like a long answer but it seemed like a short answer compared to all the questions that you had there a

3:38:39

few minutes ago so um it's it's uh it's it's a challenge no

3:38:44

doubt i guess maybe the one final aspect council remember i'll address is

3:38:49

um we've certainly acknowledged um going as far back as april of last year that

3:38:55

some of this may be pioneering in nature um i don't know i i wish i i'd have to dig

3:39:01

through my notes and i can certainly do that and send that to the council um we did do a quick survey um via you know

3:39:11

google looking at other city's codes and we did find sarah i think you may recall this we did

3:39:17

find a few jurisdictions that had similar elements of some of this in their codes with either certain

3:39:24

sub-areas of their city or their downtown area um i'd have to dig through my outso and

3:39:30

pull those out um we're not we're not absolutely the original pioneer of some of this but

3:39:35

definitely we would be near the front of the pack if that makes sense

3:39:41

and say something um so i want to be chair hubble i want to be careful that

3:39:46

we don't include you in our deliberations but if you have some context to provide we would

3:39:52

that'll be great i do yeah i just had one uh point of clarification to commissioner reynolds

3:39:58

question um about how the quest the uses

3:40:04

came up and how they were discussed um as uh uh interim uh director jeff

3:40:10

mentioned the uh it was a part of the work item that was brought to us and we

3:40:15

didn't pull them out of thin air we actually went and pulled up the use tables for allowed

3:40:20

uses in the town center so the the descriptions that were given to us actually didn't map

3:40:28

specifically to uses in the use table so there's actually a defined list of

3:40:34

use types that are allowed in the town center and so we actually went to go map those

3:40:39

um to like professional services doesn't actually exist in the um

3:40:47

in the use table per se like it's actually a grouping of a number of other things so we went in to go map what

3:40:53

those were and in the process for example restaurants and bars are listed separately

3:40:59

so we would say yes we want restaurants but then why would we not include bars as a part of that so the wine shop for

3:41:06

example would be excluded in a restaurant definition strictly because the use table calls them out separately

3:41:13

so um that's where the introduction of a few of those as we were trying to map those

3:41:19

to the exact definitions that exist in the in the code um and through that process there were a

3:41:24

few others that we discovered that maybe we didn't think of that we're being called out separately so

3:41:31

one example when we were talking about movie theaters and that such those are called out specifically but there are

3:41:36

other entertainment venues that maybe aren't whether maybe it's an arcade or bowling alley those sorts of things so

3:41:43

we used to have a bowling alley here on the island um would not be included um

3:41:48

and so that's where that list came from i'll leave it to you know the

3:41:53

future discussions around this to was which ones would be appropriate or not but i just wanted to give context to

3:41:58

where those came from and they weren't just us coming up with a list of things that we liked

3:42:05

very helpful context thank you yep okay council uh

3:42:10

deputy did you took it down yeah okay so we have a number of options six was the

3:42:18

last thing that we sent to the planning commission five was the prior thing that we sent to the

3:42:23

planning commission and then some right it's been improved over time uh

3:42:29

i if there's is there any discussion does anybody want to have any further discussion about it i was

3:42:34

you know i thought a thumbs up thumbs down on those two might get us to

3:42:39

a place where we could see some consensus um councilmember reynolds

3:42:45

it's gonna say you know in a general sense i

3:42:50

i'm wary of making the perfect be the enemy of the good here um i i think if we adopt

3:42:57

either of of five plus if we want to call it that and and six we're substantially improving the the current

3:43:04

regulations in town center and i i think it's time for us to uh

3:43:09

to find a way to land this plane in in the terms of that i think councilmember weinker might have used so i in it

3:43:14

leaning towards uh option five plus is the best viable option we have right now

3:43:21

yeah i agree as am i so i will start with five plus but uh councilmember under all

3:43:27

yeah um you know i've been thinking about this a lot and i thought the moratoriums lasted for a long time

3:43:34

and i i thought naively going into it um inexperienced with land use decisions as

3:43:40

i am that it would be you know simple matter of walking back the decisions in 2016 but of course it's turned out to be

3:43:47

a lot more complex than that i think i'm i remain in favor of five

3:43:53

because five plus i think dilutes the retail component that we're

3:43:58

trying to promote um because i i remain um kind of a believer that

3:44:05

places like benaroya fall do not uh create a vibrant downtown and so i while

3:44:11

i support museums and art centers i i'm not sure that they should qualify

3:44:17

um so i'm kind of a five but i'd love to hear what other people say

3:44:23

well the only caveat i would add is that there's there's a cap on that so it's not likely to take over

3:44:31

but you know we were talking 5 000 square feet was the cap so to the extent that it it's

3:44:38

offsetting the 0.2623 it could only be to that margin okay i i didn't i i don't think i

3:44:44

recalled that that that helps thank you yeah deputy mayor yeah just to get some

3:44:50

clarification here i don't know if dan or jeff uh it's sort of you know on that list of of items that that we sort of

3:44:57

asked to be included or take a look at as to how we would find retail if we don't include that list does that

3:45:03

mean that something like a like a wine store or like a brewery would not

3:45:08

would not count or is this is this a is that only if we include five plus

3:45:15

we include that if we do five we don't and then they're not part of the list they don't park the formula

3:45:26

he froze you

3:45:32

i'm sorry can you hear me now yeah okay great

3:45:37

uh deputy mayor to answer your question directly your example would not be able to be included if um

3:45:43

we didn't pick up at least that specific uh definition uh those uses to include

3:45:49

in the organs okay well in that case and i i think we definitely need to include it because i think those things

3:45:55

you know i think are sort of the original intention around vibrancy in town town center at least

3:46:00

my original thought around the process you're a five plus guy yeah uh just to clarify um director thomas

3:46:08

if somebody wanted to have a distillery or a brewery

3:46:14

and that neither one of those things was a bar and the distillery and brewery was not

3:46:19

in the existing table that chair hubble referenced could not the the council

3:46:25

outside of a moratorium after passing five plus revisit the list and just make

3:46:31

amendments to the list and work that through the planning commission with the moratorium being lifted

3:46:37

yeah uh we're always able to do code of amendments as long as we follow the proper process

3:46:43

okay so there's no you know this is not the end of the rainbow this is

3:46:48

this is a pathway to lifting the moratorium and getting around uh all right so all those in favor of five

3:46:54

plus uh we were so close so um i think one of the the concerns

3:47:01

with five and five plus was that there would be an incentive for those that

3:47:07

would be able to reduce uh their um uh their retail square footage to

3:47:15

develop earlier than those uh that wouldn't have uh that wouldn't be able to uh reduce it

3:47:22

um and i'm wondering whether the uh there's

3:47:27

there where there's another knob we can turn uh namely uh the frequency of update i think that the the current uh

3:47:34

proposal for number five is that we come back to it five years later or seventy five thousand square feet later

3:47:40

i'm wondering whether if we were to turn that down to three years and sixty thousand square feet or something like

3:47:46

that whether that would reduce the risk i was losing a lot of retail because there'd be less of a time window

3:47:52

in which for that to happen so the question to you director thomas the the frequency of that

3:47:58

is that something that if we were to change needs of public hearing or that can be done without a public hearing

3:48:05

no that provision that provision was included in

3:48:11

[Music] the second planning commission public hearing so that has been uh that has

3:48:17

been noticed and and went through that process um so if as council member weinberg just

3:48:23

uh friended uh turning the dial i believe is what he said um

3:48:28

that dial can be turned um if you've got the code structure in place and

3:48:35

a 360 or whatever combination numbers accounts would like to turn the dial to

3:48:41

that is possible well could you not achieve the same outcome by saying five years 75 000 feet

3:48:48

or sooner you know in the final ordinance

3:48:55

um yeah i i sarah remind me i think that's the way the language is structured currently it's five years or whatever comes first

3:49:04

i think no i get that but uh could you have a further sooner on that right like

3:49:09

uh oh yeah you could

3:49:16

i mean to the to the idea of turning the dial you you don't want to block yourself box yourself into a number we

3:49:23

could just have an ordinance come back that allowed us a council at that time to

3:49:29

to review it councilmember reynolds

3:49:35

no idea i think your sooner is always implied right even if it says sooner or five years or sixty or seventy five

3:49:42

thousand do it after one year and ten thousand if we want to even if it says the latter

3:49:47

right the five year requirement just says we have to do it by then we could always do

3:49:52

it sooner okay so this is just uh this is just to get the

3:49:58

staff heading in the direction of writing the ordinance the way we hope to see it at the fourth reading

3:50:04

i mean if there's consensus around that i think we would write it in a way that is flexible is that right

3:50:11

yeah i mean that's i'm seeing thumbs up the flexibility is

3:50:17

taking the day there okay so to end this thing i'm just gonna

3:50:22

ask for a thumbs up on five plus with flexibility i saw a hand from jake councilman

3:50:28

jacobson jacobson no i i was just gonna make a point that was made here earlier

3:50:35

oh he's lauren's hand okay i'm seeing four here and

3:50:41

wendy's not decided wendy's a no okay

3:50:46

and lisa is a yes staff i hope that gives you what you need

3:50:52

i know it does four readings is a lot i think the residential code went through nine

3:50:58

uh rds because somebody aspired to so we haven't broken all the ceilings

3:51:04

around here do you need anything else from us we have clear direction of this

3:51:11

no we have clear direction and the next step slide that sarah presented gives you an idea of what will be happening

3:51:16

over the next few months behind the scenes and um we will be back um

3:51:22

hopefully in time to have this wrapped up um my magic hope is before summer recess so

3:51:30

very good and if chair hubble's still here thank you for joining us tonight and answering all of our questions

2022 City Council Planning Session Agenda

3:51:40

okay um so our next item of regular business is

3:51:46

ab6041 uh 2022 city council planning session agenda

3:51:52

and we welcome back city manager jesse bong all right i have a 42 slide powerpoint

3:52:00

oh that's karma jesse no i don't

3:52:06

uh actually this one should be pretty straightforward uh city council i've had an opportunity i don't know why my

3:52:13

screen's jumping around here to work with the mayor and deputy mayor to propose an agenda for your planning

3:52:19

session that's what is in your packet this evening we are looking for

3:52:24

a motion to approve the agenda i will just call out a couple homework items i emailed you about over the

3:52:30

weekend one is if you have some thoughts on council priorities either rewording the

3:52:36

ones we have revisions or new priorities to send those to us

3:52:41

by monday we are also looking ahead to the 23-24 biennium

3:52:47

and starting to talk about work plan and really more importantly

3:52:52

budget development so also looking for your suggestions on by monday

3:53:00

so that we can build a list of work plan considerations for your planning session so that's really all i have

3:53:07

mayor deputy mayor if there's anything else you'd like to add well this is really an opportunity for

3:53:14

council to look at this and put their fingerprints on it before we get into it but deputy mayor yeah i'll just say that

3:53:20

you know i think this is a great opportunity to consider new ideas where we're headed so the early we can get ideas around especially to give the

3:53:26

staff time to give us the information that we need to make informed decisions around where we're heading the better so um i had a

3:53:32

nightmare that yesterday was the deadline but it's actually next week so um please try to get this to jesse so we

3:53:38

can have good conversations around ideas uh mayor i have a question that is when

3:53:44

will the materials for the funny session be available to look at

3:53:52

uh we'll publish the packet on friday of this week and then once we have your information

3:54:00

uh we'll receive all your information and ideas on monday we'll assemble everything and publish that supplemental

3:54:06

by wednesday of next week

3:54:11

very good any other questions

3:54:19

no i'm not seeing any so we need a motion on this guy

3:54:24

i would move to approve the proposed agenda for the planning session second second okay moved by councilman reynolds

3:54:30

and seconded by councilmember weinberg sure

3:54:36

ally can you please call the roll

3:54:45

member reynolds hi council member weinberg aye council member andrew

3:54:51

aye council member jacobson hi mayor niece aye

3:54:57

councilmember whiteker hi deputy mayor rosenbaum hi

3:55:02

very good motion passes uh we now move to other business in the

Other Business | Planning Schedule | Adjournment

3:55:08

planning schedule so we go to uc manager bond you know given the hour i don't have

3:55:13

anything um to call out you obviously are aware we have a planning session march 26 and

3:55:19

then your next council meeting is april 5th you know council i will remind you that we are publishing the planning

3:55:25

schedule three months out which means sometimes some of the items toggle around a bit if something's tentative we

3:55:32

are labeling it as such and i hope that helps you in your ability to look out and anticipate

3:55:38

upcoming agenda items so that is all i have this evening mr mayor okay thank you for that

3:55:44

uh are there any upcoming council member absences to report

3:55:50

not seeing any okay council member reports uh first to you council member

3:55:55

anderl nothing to report thank you okay councilmember jacobson uh the eastside

3:56:01

transportation partnership uh uh convened last friday and uh the

3:56:08

interest of mercer island was the routes of not yet metro routes and sound transit bus routes have not yet

3:56:15

been finalized in response to my question they said that they didn't really know how many

3:56:20

layovers or how many buses would be arriving on mercer island they said they thought

3:56:26

maybe about 12 during peak hours and eight thereafter but that

3:56:32

was not you know none of that's really been established yet

3:56:39

very good thank you to me so deputy mayor

3:56:46

rosenbaum and i were able to do a ribbon cutting so the first ribbon cutting of our tenure and first one in a couple

3:56:53

years in town center for fave kitchens which was a great interesting dining concept that is like

3:57:00

the amazon for restaurants you can go or signature items from a number of

3:57:05

different kind of pretty notorious restaurants all under one roof and they prepare those items

3:57:10

and serve them on site so that's at the former mo's pizza

3:57:16

location and they kind of paid homage to moe's because they still have mo's uh some signature items on their menu so

3:57:24

uh that was great to see and uh enjoyed that uh quite a bit uh councilmember reynolds

3:57:30

i hope you'll bear with me a few items to address but probably the most important one is to thank to uh the city

3:57:37

manager and alfredo and everybody else involved this was our first attempt at a hybrid technology and it seemed to be

3:57:44

damn near seamless i i was very very impressed and so thank you for all your hard work and preparing us for that

3:57:51

um second is just the k4c related item make sure everybody noticed there's going to be an elected

3:57:56

official's work session on april 21st which i think you've probably all received an invite too but

3:58:01

if you haven't you should probably ask about it and a related uh march 28 public education session how the key foresee

3:58:08

will be putting on then related to k4c my last item um

3:58:13

the last meeting i'm still not sure how this ended up on the agenda but we did we had a a three-hour meeting talking

3:58:19

about uh native american land acknowledgements and it was a a

3:58:24

fascinating and inspiring meeting about the numerous ways in which we could uh

3:58:31

show respect and honor to the to the peoples that were here before us on mercer island and the other cities around the region

3:58:37

and that's one of the ideas that i'm going to be submitting in our our planning sessions to talk about what

3:58:42

what uh what mercer island should be doing in that area and in particular one idea i think that they've talked about a lot is

3:58:49

for those to be meaningful exercise the land acknowledgements you have to do more than just uh throw words of the

3:58:54

problem and one idea i've been noodling on is adopting what we've seen in some other areas and adopting uh signage in

3:59:00

our parks as we go forward with the pros plan to increase increased signage it would maybe uh utilize native language

3:59:07

for uh identifying some of the landmark features on the island i think that could be another another way to show respect so

3:59:13

expect to hear more from me on that topic we'll meet in two weeks very good

3:59:18

uh deputy mayor rosenbaum yeah craig stole my thunder a little bit but it's nice to be back in the chambers i know this is a

3:59:25

huge lift for the staff so i just do want to say thank you uh we had a pick meeting last week um i was asked to

3:59:31

present around some of the work that mercenaries done with our arpa funds um which made me very proud because they

3:59:37

singled out four cities that they thought were doing a good job so um there were some interesting ideas

3:59:42

that of some things some other cities had done that um talked with jesse about but you know i

3:59:48

think we're on a really good track there um just got an email this afternoon around um this is a new word for me

3:59:56

superintendency is a word um so the school district uh

4:00:01

superintendency finalists there's going to be a zoom um interviews monday night um

4:00:09

21st and i guess the the candidate list will be available on thursday but um i thought folks might be interested

4:00:14

in that yeah a lot of folks interested in that yeah councilmember weiker nothing to report thank you and to you

4:00:21

councilman weinberg nothing to report thanks okay the next special hybrid meeting of the city council is scheduled

4:00:27

for saturday march 26 and the next regular hybrid meeting of the city council is scheduled for tuesday april

4:00:33

5th the time is now 9 58 p.m

4:00:38

again as a reminder please stay seated we're gonna just skip that good evening and thank you everyone

English (auto-generated)