

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

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Subject: Update to the Complete Streets Ordinance in the Redmond Municipal Code

PURPOSE

The purpose of this briefing is to brief Planning Commissioners on proposed updates to the Complete Streets chapter in the Redmond Municipal Code (RMC 12.06). The intent of these updates is to better reflect and align this chapter of the RMC with Redmond's Transportation Master plan and to make the City more competitive in an upcoming Transportation Improvement Board Complete Streets Award Program.

This briefing is informational; this update to the proposed ordinance does not involve amendments or changes to the Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Code.

BACKGROUND

The Complete Streets chapter of the Redmond Municipal Code (Chapter 12.06) calls for the City to plan for, design and construct all new transportation projects to provide appropriate accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and persons of all abilities in comprehensive and connected networks. This chapter of the RMC was adopted by ordinance in 2007, developed in consultation with the Cascade Bicycle Club, and was one of the first such ordinances in Washington. Chapter 12.06 is in the Streets and Sidewalks Title of the RMC, and carries the force of law as a code the city will enforce.

Since the adoption of the complete streets chapter in the RMC in 2007 the City has updated policies in the [Comprehensive Plan](#) such as TR-4 and TR-5 to call for complete streets, and incorporated a Complete Streets ethic into our [Transportation Master Plan](#), which contains modal system plans for streets, transit pedestrians and bikes. The City has also incorporated complete streets approaches into detailed street design plans such as the [Overlake Village Street Design Guidelines](#) and into plans and guidelines for individual modes, such as the Bicycle Facilities Design manual proposed for adoption this year. The City's approach focuses on planning for and building complete networks for each mode to support Redmond's vision of two vibrant urban centers and well connected neighborhoods with high quality services.

Recently the Washington State Legislature created the "Complete Streets Award Program" as an incentive for city and county governments to adopt and implement a complete streets ordinance. This award program is administered through Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), and the TIB will look for agencies that have extended their thinking beyond one-time ordinance adoption to integrate a complete streets ethic throughout their transportation practices. Awarded agencies will

propose a work plan that includes one or more projects to support walking, bicycling, access to transit or streetscape aesthetics for TIB approval.

As an early Complete Streets adopter the City is eligible for this award program, however, there is an opportunity to update the City's Complete Streets chapter of the RMC to better reflect and align with City's Transportation Master Plan, and make the City a stronger candidate. An ordinance updating the RMC would need to be approved by Council in early October for the updated language to be considered in the award nomination and selection process.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED UPDATES

Staff have proposed revisions to address the following 7 areas of improvement to better align the Complete Streets chapter of the RMC with the City's Transportation Master Plan:

1. Clarify the relationship to the City's Transportation Master Plan
2. Require accommodation for people of all ages and abilities, and accommodation for all modes
3. Revise language so that the requirement does not just apply to City constructed facilities
4. Clarify that accommodation should complement the local context
5. Clarify that accommodation for specific modes is not required where prohibited by law (e.g. freeways or light rail corridors)
6. Call for the City to view Complete Streets as part of the everyday decision making process
7. Call for the City to measure the performance of Complete Streets implementation

PREPARATION FOR SEPTEMBER 14TH BRIEFING

Please review the attachments and contact staff in advance with questions. At the meeting, staff will summarize the proposed changes and seek input on potential items related to complete streets to consider for a future Transportation Master Plan update.

Schedule and Next Steps

Planning and Public Works Committee	(Tu 9/13)
Planning Commission	(We 9/14)
Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee	(We 9/21)
Council Business Meeting, proposed adoption	(Tu 10/4)
Nominations due to Transportation Improvement Board	(We 10/21)

EXHIBITS

1. Proposed updates to Chapter 12.06 of the RMC
2. Existing Chapter 12.06 of the RMC
3. Excerpts from Redmond's Comprehensive Plan