

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

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Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE amending the Seattle Comprehensive Plan to incorporate changes proposed as part of the 2012-2013 Comprehensive Plan annual amendment process.

Summary of the Legislation:

The ordinance makes several amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, including updates to two neighborhood plans, new sets of policies on climate change, urban design, transit communities and healthy food. Updates to the neighborhood plans change the Future Land Use Map, implying the need for future rezone that will alter the type and density of development that could occur in the Rainier Beach and Bitter Lake urban villages. Policies related to transit communities, while not linked to specific locations, could result in increased City investment for infrastructure and amenities near transit stations.

Background:

State law permits the Comp Plan to be amended only once a year. The City Council has adopted an annual procedure for reviewing suggested amendments in the spring/summer and adopting a “docketing” resolution that identifies topics from those suggestions to receive further consideration. Based on department review of those topics, the Mayor recommends an ordinance to amend the Plan in the 4th quarter for Council action in the 1st quarter of the following year. The ordinance addressed by this fiscal note represents the recommendations for Council action in early 2013.

Please check one of the following:

This legislation does not have any financial implications.

This legislation has financial implications.

Other Implications:

a) Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?

This ordinance could have long-term financial implications because some of the Comprehensive Plan amendments it includes suggest changes to either the levels of – or priorities for – funding for certain activities, such as encouraging more construction of pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities, or concentrating City-sponsored amenities near transit stations.

b) What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?

There is no financial cost of not adopting this legislation.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

The Comprehensive Plan provides broad guidance to several departments that have roles in managing or serving development. Particular policies in this legislation address reducing carbon emissions and call on the City to build infrastructure that would facilitate travel by pedestrians, bicycles and transit, which over time could alter spending priorities in SDOT, if not increase its expenditures. Similarly, policies for the revised Bitter Lake and Rainier Beach neighborhood plans call on SPU to develop a system-wide approach to drainage that will alleviate drainage problems and enable other improvements in the right-of-way.

d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives? The Comprehensive Plan is the document state law designates for articulating City policy about matters affecting how the City manages growth. If the elected officials determine they want to make these policy adjustments, this ordinance is the only way to accomplish that.

e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

Yes, City Council will hold a public hearing in early 2013.

f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

This legislation is subject to review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and DPD has already published notice of a SEPA determination of non-significance (meaning no environmental impact statement required) in the DJC. Notice of the public hearing will also appear in the DJC.

g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

The ordinance does not affect a particular property; the Comp Plan has general effects across the entire city. Two sets of this year's amendments apply to specific neighborhoods – Bitter Lake and Rainier Beach – but even for those neighborhood

planning areas, policies do not apply to individual properties.

h) Other Issues:

List attachments to the fiscal note below: