

October 21, 2019

To: Mayor Selby and members of the Olympia City Council
From: The Olympia Planning Commission
Re: 2020-2025 Draft Capital Facilities Plan and Financial Plan

Dear Mayor Selby and Olympia City Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2020-2025 Draft Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) and Financial Plan. We find that the CFP is not only consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, but focuses on the city's most pressing needs and does so in a clear and consistent manner. We would like to congratulate City Manager Steven Hall and all the city staff who contributed to this document for a job well done, and to encourage them to keep up this high quality of work.

Consistency with Comprehensive Plan

We appreciate the CFP's consistent focus on walkability, which is a theme that runs throughout the Comprehensive Plan. This year's CFP demonstrates the City's solid commitment to walkability and cycling, especially in the Fones Road project, which represents a high bar for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Olympia, while also accommodating the need for truck access to industrial sites. This project, along with a general focus on intersection improvements, bicycle infrastructure, and sidewalk investments demonstrates significant progress toward full implementation of multimodal transportation. Although it is not possible to calculate the exact proportion of the budget dedicated to walkability and cycling infrastructure, we find that the proportion of projects committed to these modes of transportation exceeds current demand (?).

Recommended improvements

I-967

We believe the Public Works Department should plan to secure alternative funding in the event that I-967 is passed. If this measure were to pass in November, the CFP indicates that some critical transportation maintenance projects would not be able to be completed. We would like to recommend identifying a "Plan B" to assure the continued maintenance of our transportation infrastructure.

Public involvement in the CFP

Another area of improvement would be to increase the opportunities for public involvement in the CFP process. Public involvement is another strong theme in the comprehensive plan and we

suggest that the city consider the efficiency of their public outreach efforts around the CFP. [Consider that we do have public involvement in the annual budget process and in the Master Plan (Transportation, Parks, etc.) development process. Neighborhoods are also encouraged to develop Sub-Area Plans, in which infrastructure projects can be identified and other input provided to the City.]

The Commission would also like to suggest including the following minor improvements or clarifications to the CFP:

- A map, or maps, of project locations to help the commission and public visualize where CFP projects will take place
- Highlighting how volunteers, partnerships, and/or sponsorships help leverage funds and add value to the CFP
- Because the cost of borrowing affects the amount of funding available for projects, we would like more information about our debt service (interest rates and terms) and believe that information should be included in the document.
- It can be difficult for the Commission and the public to tell the difference between projects in the CFP that have secured funding and those that are in the plan with only the hope or anticipation of funding. Communicating more clearly about the uncertainty of funding in the CFP may help increase public engagement. (?)
- A clearer description of how projects are prioritized.

We would like to reiterate our support for the CFP and the careful work city staff has done too assure that it is clearly written, explicitly connected back to the comprehensive plan, and supported by helpful tables and figures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review the CFP and we look forward to watching it be implemented over the coming years.

Sincerely,

Carole Richmond, Chair
Olympia Planning Commission

Rad Cunningham, Chair
Finance Subcommittee

Kento Azagami, Vice-Chair
Olympia Planning Commissio



October 21, 2019

Mayor Cheryl Selby and
City of Olympia Councilmembers

RE: Capital Facilities Plan and 2020-2025 Financial Plan Review

Dear Mayor Selby and Olympia City Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2020-2025 Draft Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) and Financial Plan. We find that the CFP is not only consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, but focuses on the city's most pressing needs and does so in a clear and consistent manner. We would like to congratulate City Manager Steven Hall and the City staff who contributed to this document for a job well done.

Consistency with Comprehensive Plan

We appreciate the CFP's consistent focus on walkability, which is a theme that runs throughout the Comprehensive Plan. This year's CFP demonstrates the City's solid commitment to walkability and cycling, especially in the Fones Road project, which represents a high bar for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in Olympia, while also accommodating the need for truck access to industrial sites.

This project, along with a general focus on intersection improvements, bicycle infrastructure, and sidewalk investments demonstrates significant progress toward full implementation of multimodal transportation. In addition, we find that this CFP meaningfully prioritizes pedestrian-oriented development, and that these types of investments will prepare the city for a less car-dependent future.

I-967—Limiting State and Local Taxes, Fees, and Other Charges Relating to Vehicles

We believe the Public Works Department should plan to secure alternative funding in the event that I-967 is passed. If this measure were to pass in November, the CFP indicates that some critical transportation maintenance projects would not be able to be completed. We would like to recommend identifying a "Plan B" to assure the continued maintenance of our transportation infrastructure. This may not need to be included in the CFP, but we recommend careful consideration be given in the near-term.

Recommendations for Future Capital Facilities Plans

Public Involvement in the CFP

Budgets are in many ways one of the most significant documents on which we issue a recommendation to City Council. We and the community would be better equipped to consider how funding allocations over time are moving in alignment with the Comprehensive plan if we could see an analysis of how CFP funds have been directed annually over a reasonable time frame.

The Commission also suggests the following minor improvements or clarifications to future plans:

- A map, or maps, of project locations to help the Commission and the public visualize where CFP projects will take place;
- How volunteers, partnerships, and/or sponsorships help leverage funds and add value to the CFP;
- More information about our debt service (interest rates and terms) to highlight that the cost of borrowing affects the amount of funding available for projects;
- Clear communication about the uncertainty of funding sources so that the Commission and the public can identify projects that have secured funding and those in which there is only the hope or anticipation of funding; and
- A more explicit description of how projects are prioritized

We reiterate our support for the CFP and the careful work City staff has done to assure that it is clearly written, clearly connected back to the Comprehensive Plan, and supported by helpful tables and figures.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review the CFP, and we look forward to its implementation.

Best,



Carole Richmond, Chair
Olympia Planning Commission



Rad Cunningham, CFP Subcommittee Chair
Olympia Planning Commission



Kento Azegami, Vice-Chair
Olympia Planning Commission