

Olympia Planning Commission

October 4, 2021

Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507

Dear Mayor Selby and City Councilmembers:

The Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) is pleased to provide its recommendation on the proposed 2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendments. The OPC conducted a public hearing on August 2, 2021, and considered the written public comments and testimony provided.

The City proposed amendments were considered in three parts, as follows:

- Part A: Text amendments requested by the Public Works Department regarding transportation concurrency.
- Part B: Text and transportation map amendments requested by the Public Works Department regarding street connections in the southeast portion of Olympia, in the area known as “LBA Woods”.
- Part C: Text amendments requested by Council to improve language around equity and inclusion, including defining neighborhood character.

The Commission recommends approval of Part A as proposed; Part B as proposed and with the minor text amendments requested by the Washington State Department of Transportation; and recommends **approval** of Part C, as summarized below.

1. Accept changing the word “citizen” to “community member” or “resident” throughout the plan.
2. Accept changing all gender references in the plan to gender neutral pronouns.
3. In regard to proposal to add a definition of Neighborhood Character, as proposed in the Land Use and Urban Design Chapter, the following changes **(or insert language as recommended)**:
 - a. In the first bullet, replace “multi-mobility” with “multi-modal mobility”.
 - b. Add a fourth bullet that states: Physical characteristics of neighborhoods are not stagnant and will change over time. Consideration of neighborhood character will be made for attributes such as design elements of buildings (mass, scale, materials, setting, and setbacks), parking, parks and open space, provision of City utilities, street grids and connections, and street trees. These will be balanced with other plan goals and policies, such as increasing the variety of housing types and providing pedestrian oriented streets, and implemented through the City’s development regulations.

c. Any other OPC Modifications

4. In regard to the equity language proposed in the Community Values and Vision Chapter:

a. Planning Commission recommendation...

The Commission agreed that the proposals, as amended by the Planning Commission recommendation, are consistent with the Final Review and Evaluation Criteria in OMC 18.59.040. Thank you for the opportunity to review and make a recommendation on the proposed annual amendments.

Sincerely,

Candi Millar, CHAIR
Olympia Planning Commission

Aaron Sauerhoff, VICE CHAIR
Olympia Planning Commission

DRAFT