

Memorandum

To: Planning Commission

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Date: June 5, 2009

Subject: **West Lake Sammamish Parkway Corridor Study and the Recommendation of the Overlake and Viewpoint Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC)**

MEMO PURPOSE – June 10, 2009

The purpose of this memo is to update the Planning Commission regarding the West Lake Sammamish Parkway (WLSP) Corridor Study and recent public involvement. Staff's recommended amendments to Redmond's Transportation Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan include proposed improvements to this corridor. This memo summarizes the recommendation from the members of the Overlake and Viewpoint neighborhood CACs regarding the proposed corridor improvements.

COMMISSIONER PREPARATION

The Commission is currently considering updates to the City's Transportation Master Plan, including proposed improvements to the portion of West Lake Sammamish Parkway from NE 51st Street to the intersection of Bel-Red Road. Because of the neighborhood plan updates underway for both the Overlake and Viewpoint neighborhoods, City staff asked the respective CACs to develop a recommendation for the corridor and the associated intersection improvements.

Please review this memo which describes the process and outcome of the recent public and CAC involvement. Commissioners are asked to contact staff with questions and requests for additional information for their June 10, 2009 public hearing and discussion of these components.

BACKGROUND

The original corridor study for WLSP from Bel-Red Road to Leary Way was completed in 1993 by Skillings Connelly. Phase I construction (Leary Way to Marymoor) was

completed in 2003 and Phase II construction (Marymoor to NE 51st Street) was completed in 2005. The most recent project determined the configuration of the roadway and intersections, and estimates the cost to complete improvements for the final segment of the WLSP corridor between NE 51st Street and Bel-Red Road.

This section of WLSP is an important link between the three urban centers of Downtown Redmond, Overlake, and Bellevue. The TMP Build-out Transportation Plan identifies roadway widening projects on Bel-Red Road from NE 30th to NE 40th Streets and on WLSP from Bel-Red to NE 51st Street to accommodate enhanced roadway sections in both of those areas. Items on the 2030 plan are currently unfunded. Improvements to the intersections at Bel-Red Road and NE 51st Street are Bellevue Redmond Overlake Transportation Study (BROTS) projects. These improvements are also included in the Transportation Facilities Plan portion of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP three-year action plan calls for project development of the West Lake Sammamish Parkway project.

PRELIMINARY DESIGN OF WLSP FROM 51ST TO BEL-RED

In 2005 the Business Tax Committee approved funds for a preliminary design of the corridor. This study was undertaken to provide for preliminary engineering work to evaluate alternatives and prepare accurate cost estimates for improving West Lake Sammamish Parkway (WLSP) between NE 51st Street and Bel-Red Road.

As part of the process, citizens attended a West Lake Sammamish Parkway Corridor Study open house in September 2007. At same time, the Overlake and Viewpoint neighborhoods initiated the neighborhood plan update process.

Based on the results of the study and available projected revenues for 2022, staff recommends a phased approach for development of West Lake Sammamish Parkway including 2022 and 2030 improvements. This approach includes the intersection improvements at WLSP and Bel-Red as the highest priority. Staff also recommends improving the intersection of WLSP and Bel-Red with a roundabout rather than additional turn lanes as proposed in the current 2022 TFP.

PUBLIC PROCESS WITH THE OVERLAKE AND VIEWPOINT CAC'S

To gain additional public feedback on the staff recommendation and to learn the CAC's recommendation, staff provided an additional public involvement phase from December 2008 to the present. Included were web, newsletter, e-mail, FOCUS magazine, and Redmond Reporter promotions and information. Citizens and CAC members submitted twelve e-mail messages indicating their preferences and seeking additional information. City staff held a workshop on May 21, 2009 at which citizens learned about the corridor's existing conditions, projected volumes, and the study findings and had an opportunity to complete a preference survey. The majority of those who completed the preference survey supported full build-out of the corridor with a roundabout at the intersection of West Lake Sammamish Parkway and Bel-Red Road:

Tally of Preference Survey – May 21, 2009 Public Workshop				
1 – Phased Project Approach	2 – Full Build-out with Roundabout	3 – Full Build-out with Signal	4(a) – Other; Do Nothing	4(b) – Other; Other solutions
1	9	5	1	

In addition, attendees responded in favor of a multi-purpose path that connects the current trail terminus at NE 51st Street to the intersection of West Lake Sammamish Parkway and Bel-Red Road.

After attending the May 21st workshop, members of the Overlake and Viewpoint CACs met on May 28, 2009 to state their preference and recommendations for the corridor. Seven CAC members, one Viewpoint resident, and Commissioner Hinman received additional information from staff on various questions and concerns. The group responded to the same preference survey as follows:

Tally of Preference Survey – May 28, 2009 OV-VP CAC Special Meeting			
1 – Phased Project Approach	2 – Full Build-out with Roundabout	3 – Full Build-out with Signal	4(a) – Other; Do Nothing 4(b) – Other; Other solutions
4 – with emphasis on the multi-purpose path	3	2 – with emphasis on the multi-purpose path and coordination among stakeholders including WSDOT, King County, and City of Bellevue	1

The May 28th attendees also generated a list of additional recommendation and caveats they are grouped in two categories below:

Comments:

- Promote the bike path; it is necessary.
- Acquire the needed right-of-way, including property needed for the path, now.
- Do not promote the phases approach on behalf of citizens that reside in the vicinity; perform all construction at once to lessen the impacts.
- Note that New Zealand includes traffic lights at roundabouts for use during peak trip times. Some are traditional stop lights while others are metering lights.
- Redirect, encourage bicyclists to use the path.
- Focus on flow versus widening to accommodate more vehicles.
- Maintain the current configuration at NE 51st Street; it works for neighbors who reside in the vicinity.

- Build capacity first into the corridor. Then the roundabout could come later if still warranted, after analysis with the corridor improvements. *(please note that this suggestion was directed at Alternative #3)*

These items mentioned will be performed in the next step of the design phase:

- Address neighborhood access for those uncontrolled intersections (t-intersections) throughout the corridor.
- Provide more information such as timing and cost of the phasing effort.
- Ensure sufficient street lights for safety.
- Include noise abatement.
- Include a speed study and plan.
- Coordinate with WSDOT regarding the SR-520 interchange.
- Coordinate the bike/pedestrian infrastructure and configuration with Bellevue's plan for WLSP to prevent the need for crossovers.

NEXT STEPS

The Commission will hold an additional study session on the recommended Transportation Master Plan amendments on June 17, 2009. Staff will provide further responses on the comments from the May 28 CAC meeting as part of the Commission's packet for June 17.

Questions and concerns regarding the CACs process may be directed to Kimberly Dietz at (425) 556-2415 or kdietz@redmond.gov. West Lake Sammamish Parkway corridor and intersection items may be directed to Tricia Thomson at (425) 556-2776 or tthomason@redmond.gov.

Attachments:

- Summary of May 21, 2009 Public Workshop
- Summary of May 28, 2009 OV-VP CAC Special Meeting