



# City of Seattle

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## Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Councilmember Sally Clark  
**FROM:** Diane M. Sugimura, Director  
**DATE:** May 14, 2010  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendations for Comprehensive Plan Amendments

DPD is offering several topics for the City Council's consideration as you establish the docket for the Comprehensive Plan annual amendment cycle. Most of the items listed below have been suggested in the past, and were deferred for various reasons. The last item on the list is new and represents an ongoing planning project DPD is carrying out cooperatively with the Port of Seattle.

- Three Updated Neighborhood Plans. Working with communities in Othello, North Rainier and North Beacon Hill through 2009, DPD helped develop new goals and policies for the neighborhood plans affecting these neighborhoods. DPD recommended the updated plans for approval in the 2010 cycle, but appeals on the plans' SEPA compliance have delayed Council's ability to consider them. These updates would replace text now found in the Neighborhood Planning Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Shoreline Master Program. DPD will be proposing amendments to shoreline policies now found in the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan, as part of the mandated update to City's Shoreline Master Program. The amended policies will establish the basis for revised regulations in the Land Use Code, which will be available for review by Council along with the policies.
- Vehicle Miles Traveled. In previous years DPD has recommended deferring a proposal that would add a numeric goal for reducing vehicle miles traveled in the city because of the need for additional analysis to understand what an achievable yet aggressive goal would be, given Seattle's travel patterns. We believe that work being done by consultants under contract with the Office for Sustainability and Environment will help define an appropriate reduction target in time for consideration in the 2011 amendment cycle.
- Master Planned Community. DPD will be preparing policies to authorize master planned communities on large sites in designated urban centers. The intention is to allow a type of flexible zoning that could be used to address development of large sites in the areas where the Comprehensive Plan calls for accommodating the most intense



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urban growth. This is a response to the Seattle Housing Authority's request for an amendment to the Future Land Use Map in the past year's amendment cycle.

- Container Port Element. This is a new requirement in 2009 state legislation intended to address potential land use conflicts near container ports and continued freight access to container facilities. DPD is working with Port of Seattle staff and others to shape this element.

As always, DPD will work with Council to develop these ideas further and to produce recommendations for final consideration. If you have any questions about these suggestions or DPD's work on the amendment process, please contact Tom Hauger at 684-8380.

cc: Ketil Freeman, Council Central Staff