

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

On-Premise Wall Sign Amendments

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Seattle

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Mike Podowski
City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development
700 Fifth Avenue, Room 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, Washington 98104-4019
206-386-1988

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 8, 2011

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):

The amendments are anticipated to be considered by the City Council in summer 2011. Council review will include a public hearing.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:

The Land Use Code and Building Code are regularly updated as required.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

Information in this checklist, the proposed Ordinance, and Director's report were considered in formulating and analyzing the subject proposal.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:

It is likely that there are pending applications for signs in applicable areas that are generally the subject of the proposed amendments.

10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:

The proposed amendments will require adoption by the City Council.

11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.

The proposal would amend the Land Use Code and the Building Code to: provide area limits and provisions for the identification and location of businesses sponsoring on-premises wall signs located in commercial, industrial and downtown zones; clarify the definition of wall signs, combination signs and roof signs; clarify other provisions for on-premises wall signs; establishes a one-year phase-in or amortization period whereby all existing, legally permitted, on-premises wall that do not comply with the new standards included in the legislation will be deemed non-conforming and allowed to remain up for no more than one year after the effective date of the legislation and new penalties for violations of certain Building Code and Land Use Code sign provisions.

The following table includes a brief description of all of the amendments by Seattle Municipal Code Section in the order presented in the legislation:

Code Section	Description of proposed change
23.55.030 Signs in NC3, C1, C2 and SM zones	Provides an area limit of 100 square feet for on-premises wall signs in the Neighborhood Commercial 3, Commercial 1 and 2, and Seattle Mixed zones. Provides that the name and location of the business establishment offering the products or services displayed must be included on all commercial wall signs. Adds a requirement that at least 50% of the area of on-premises commercial wall signs be devoted to identifying the name and location of the associated business.
23.55.034 Signs in downtown zones	Adds the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030 while maintaining existing exceptions for signs identifying hotels and public buildings.
23.55.036 Signs in IB, IC, IG1 and IG2 zones.	Adds the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030 while maintaining existing exceptions, including those for signs on spectator sports facilities.
23.55.042 Off-premises and business signs adjacent to certain public highways	Amends sign area limits to be consistent with the 100 square foot area limit proposed throughout this legislation.
23.84A.036 “S” (definitions for terms beginning w/ “s”)	Clarifies the definition of wall sign to include additional types of signs, including those projected onto a wall or suspended from a roof. Clarifies the definition of roof sign to include signs that are attached to and principally supported by the roof. Clarifies the definition of combination sign to remove a reference to freestanding signs. Clarifies that the definition of on-premises signs do not include signs that bring

Code Section	Description of proposed change
	rental income to the property where the sign is located.
23.66.160 Signs (in the Pioneer Square Special Review District)	Adds the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030. Adopts a provision that allows the Special Review District Board and the Director of Department of Neighborhoods to determine whether the appropriate size of certain wall signs in the District may be less than 100 square feet in area, consistent with factors contained in 23.66.160.c.4.
23.66.338 Signs (in the International Special Review District)	Adds the same standards as proposed for 23.55.030.
23.90.018 Civil Enforcement Proceedings and Penalties	Establishes a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per day for each violation of the provisions of subsections 23.55.030.E.3.a.iii, 23.55.030.E.3.b, 23.55.034.D.2.a, 23.55.036.D.3.b, 23.55.042.C.1, 23.84A.036 by using an on-premises sign for off-premises advertising, 23.66.160.C.2, or 23.66.338.D.4 of the Land Use Code from the date the violation begins until compliance is achieved. Establishes a subfund whereby penalties acquired through enforcement of size limitations for wall will be directed to Department of Planning and Development's Operations Division to be used for additional enforcement.
103.5 and 103.5.1 Seattle Building Code (2009)	Increases the civil penalty for failing to comply with section 3107.4.1 of the Building Code to \$1,000 per day from the date the violation begins until compliance is achieved, which is consistent with the civil penalty proposed for violations of Land Use Code Sections 23.55.030.E.3.a.iii, 23.55.030.E.3.b, 23.55.034.D.2.a, 23.55.036.D.3.b, 23.55.042.C.1, 23.84A.036 by using an on-premises sign for off-premises advertising, 23.66.160.C.2, or 23.66.338.D.4.
3107.3 Seattle Building Code (2009)	Clarifies the definition of wall sign to include new types of signs, including those projected onto a wall or suspended from the roof. Clarifies the definition of roof sign to include signs that are attached to and principally supported by the roof. Clarifies that the definition of on-premises sign does not include signs that bring rental income to the property.
23.55.017 Amortization of on-premises wall signs	Adds a new Code section whereby all existing, legally permitted, on-premises wall that do not comply with the new standards included in the legislation will be deemed non-conforming and allowed to remain up for no more than one year after the effective date of the legislation. This phase-in period does not apply to applicants seeking a new on-premises wall sign permit after the effective date of this legislation

This proposal would be in keeping with the City's Sign Code to allow signs that promote business vitality by providing business establishments an opportunity to identify their business, service or good by displaying signs that invite public attention and provide necessary information while also protecting the public interest and safety by reducing driver distraction and visual blight associated with signage.

The legislation will restore the connection between a business establishment and any on-premises wall sign associated with it by requiring the name and location of the business to appear on the face of the sign. This will further local business vitality by making it clear where a particular

business is located and where the products or services featured on such a sign can be purchased. Wall signs under the proposed legislation will continue to enhance the visual environment of the City while also providing a means to convey information about such businesses.

The legislation also amends the definition of on-premises signs, projecting signs, roof signs and combination signs to make these definitions consistent with the City's Sign Code policies and to prevent abuses to the Sign Code. The attached Director's Report and Ordinance provide additional detail about this proposal

The proposed legislation will also reduce traffic impacts from wall signs by adopting a reasonable area standard that prohibits the placement of very large on-premises wall signs in industrial, downtown and commercial areas of the City. Additionally, the legislation will require a predominant feature of such signs to be the name and location of the associated business establishment. The wall sign standards will reduce visual blight because they establish a maximum wall sign size that is smaller than some on-premises wall signs recently permitted by DPD. This ordinance is therefore consistent with the Sign Code because it promotes the legitimate public purposes of identifying and promoting businesses while also protecting public health and safety by reducing driver distraction and visual blight.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

a. General description of site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

All types of terrain are present in Seattle, including the commercial, industrial and downtown zones (includes flat, rolling, hilly and steep slopes).

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Land area in Seattle, including commercial, industrial and downtown zones is generally flat, some areas contain slopes exceeding 40%, and many established commercial, industrial and downtown neighborhoods are located on sloping hillsides, including the slopes of Capitol Hill, Beacon Hill, and Queen Anne.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Almost all soils found in Seattle are also found in applicably zoned areas, including silt, sand, gravel, clay, peat, till, hardpan, sandstone, debris, and slag.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. There are indications of unstable soils in some areas.

e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of filling or grading depends upon existing site conditions and usually is part of the site preparation.

- f. **Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase development pressures in any area, or change the amount of clearing that would occur on any site. Potential impacts of specific development projects will be addressed through existing regulations.

- g. **About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of impervious surface coverage depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. The proposal would not result in an appreciably greater amount of impervious covering, if any, compared to what existing zoning provisions allow.

- h. **Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The amount of erosion depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth at this stage.

There are established policies and regulations to limit the potential of erosion and landslide impact of specific development proposals. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

2. Air

- a. **What type of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial, wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. No changes to odor standards are proposed.

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal to air resources, including green house gases, are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions

- b. **Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Off-site sources of emissions or odors could exist in the vicinity of individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

There are established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent adverse air quality impacts of specific development projects.

3. **Water**

a. **Surface Water:**

- 1) **Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

There are several water bodies in and around the city, including commercial, industrial and downtown zones, such as Elliott Bay, Lake Union, Green Lake and Lake Washington.

- 2) **Will the project require any work over, in or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

No. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity.

- 3) **Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The proposed legislation is unlikely to affect the amount of fill or dredge required for site preparation in the city, including applicably zoned areas as compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

- 4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to affect surface water withdrawal or diversion in the city, including applicably zoned areas, as compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

- 5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not involve construction or development activity.

- 6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on surface water resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

b. **Ground Water:**

- 1) **Will groundwater be withdrawn or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development regulation changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in the withdrawal of or discharge to ground water as part of the site development for an individual project.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground for septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals...; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city, including applicably zoned areas, is served by sewer mains.

c. **Water Runoff (including storm water):**

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The amount of runoff and method of collection depends upon existing site conditions and site design of a project-specific action. Individual projects will be subject to the City's stormwater and drainage requirements if applicable.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal may be subject to the City's stormwater and drainage requirements. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal related to water runoff are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground or runoff water impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. There are established policies and regulations to protect wetlands, riparian corridors, lakes, drainage basins, wildlife habitats, slopes, and other property from adverse drainage impacts of specific development projects. New construction will need to comply with the City's stormwater, grading & drainage provisions as they are applicable and provide for mitigation of erosion, if required.

4. **Plants**

a. **Check the types of vegetation found on the site:**

- Deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 Evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 Shrubs
 Grass
 Pasture
 Crop or grain
 Wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
 Water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 Other types of vegetation

Most vegetation types listed above could be found in the city, including applicably zoned areas in the city.

b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Not applicable. The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The amount of vegetation removal depends upon existing site conditions and project-specific site design. The proposed legislation is unlikely to affect the amount of vegetation removed or altered compared to that allowed under existing regulations.

The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on vegetation are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site:

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The proposed legislation is unlikely to have a different affect on threatened or endangered plant species than existing regulations.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Development standards and design guidelines are in place to support the use of native plants and other vegetation on specific development projects where appropriate. Existing zoning provisions are expected to provide mitigation for water quality and run-off impacts as well as promote aesthetically pleasing landscaping of new development sites when applicable.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals that have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

Seattle and its applicably zoned areas are developed and urban in character. Birds observed in Seattle include hawk, eagle, songbirds, crow, starling, seagulls, pigeons, heron, Canadian Geese, and other birds. Mammals observed include squirrels, raccoons, the opossum, other small rodents, and household pets.

This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of specific animals present at this stage.

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual development sites have not been determined. Some future installation of projecting signs not facing a public right-of-way or of wall signs may be near areas, such as Lake Washington, where endangered species are known to be found, including Chinook salmon, Bull trout. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on animals are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The city and applicably zoned areas are developed and urban in character.

Seattle is within the “Pacific Flyway,” one of the four principal north-south migration routes for birds (including Canadian Geese, heron, and other birds) in North America. The Pacific Flyway encompasses the entire Puget Sound Basin. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot currently be evaluated in terms of impacts on migration routes.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Policies are in place to encourage the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat for specific development projects where appropriate.

Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of measures to preserve or enhance wildlife at this stage.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing etc.**

The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The area is served by electric and natural gas utilities. New development is unlikely to use these sources of energy, except for possible lighting of some signs. Future development projects that may use the proposed legislation are unlikely to require different types of energy sources under the new provisions than under the existing provisions.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

The proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Wall signs erected under the proposed legislation are not expected to have any impact on solar access on neighboring parcels.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Individual projects that may use the provisions of this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of energy conservation features or measures to reduce or control energy impacts at this stage. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on energy resources are addressed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Changes in the proposed legislation are unlikely to result in environmental health hazards as part of the site development for an individual project.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The amount of potential growth in applicable zones is not changed by the proposed legislation and further, existing estimated growth is within the range covered by the City of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan for Fire Protection and Police Services. In general, emergency service providers including the Fire and Police Departments will review the effects of increased development and propose enhanced services as necessary as part of their planning for future service needs. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increased need for emergency services. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

None proposed. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in an increase of environmental health hazards. See discussion in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Ambient noise typical of urban areas exists in the city and its commercial, industrial and downtown zones.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction activity. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase noise impacts.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity. Existing noise standards and regulations in the Land Use Code and noise ordinance would be retained and would not change as part of this proposal.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

There will be no change of land uses as a result of this proposed code change. Commercial, industrial and downtown zoning include provisions for uses that will be maintained with no alterations proposed in this legislation. As redevelopment occurs in the city, including applicably zoned areas, some less intensive uses, such as vacant or underused land, may be replaced with commercial, industrial and downtown uses just as is expected under the current provisions.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Agricultural use is not prevalent in the city.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The city, including within commercial, industrial and downtown zones, contains a wide range and extensive number of structures and are urban in nature.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate of demolition.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Zoning within the areas affected by the proposed amendments includes commercial, industrial and downtown zones that allow for a range of land uses and types of development.

f. What is current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Comprehensive plan designation of the areas affected by the proposed amendments are commercial, industrial and downtown in nature.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

A variety of shoreline designations are found in the city including the commercial, industrial and downtown zones and are subject to the shoreline master program.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Some areas within the city, including commercial, industrial and downtown zones, may be classified as environmentally sensitive. See also the City's critical areas maps.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable. The indirect affects of this non-project proposal will not increase the rate and extent at which residences or businesses are displaced.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable. The indirect affects of this non-project proposal are not expected to increase the rate or extent at which residences or businesses are displaced.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. The proposed legislation does not change any Code provision related to housing units.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in any significant change to the rate of demolition of housing in the city, including commercial, industrial and downtown zones.

c. Proposed measures to reduce of control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable. The indirect affects of this non-project proposal are not expected to result in significant impacts to housing.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal and does not include any construction or development activity. Projects and development consistent with this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of exterior building materials at this stage. Wall and projecting signs may be made of vinyl or paint.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Projects and development consistent with this proposal will occur over time and cannot be evaluated in terms of view alteration at this stage.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None proposed.

11. Light and Glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Existing light and glare standards are not proposed to be changed.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Certain projecting signs and wall signs erected under the proposed legislation are not expected to have significant impact on light and glare.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Ambient light and glare typical of urban areas exist in Seattle.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

This is a non-project proposal. Established policies and regulations to minimize or prevent hazards and other adverse light and glare impacts of specific development projects will not change.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There are parks and other designated and informal recreational opportunities within the city, including applicably zoned areas.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal which is not likely to change the potential displacement of any existing recreational uses.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal that is not anticipated to have significant impacts on recreation.

13. Historical and Cultural Preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

This is a non-project proposal. Individual projects and development that use the proposed legislation will be subject to the City's regulations related to historic and archaeologically significant landmarks as applicable.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Individual projects and development that use the proposed legislation will be subject to the City's regulations related to historic and archaeologically significant landmarks if applicable.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Not applicable. The indirect impacts of this non-project proposal on historic and cultural resources are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions. There are established policies and regulations to maintain and preserve significant historic sites and structures and to provide the opportunity for analysis of archaeological sites during review of specific development projects.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe the proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The city, including applicably zoned areas, are served by the entire street system, including arterials with access to highways.

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not applicable. This is a non-project proposal. Generally, Seattle and its commercial, industrial and downtown zones are well served by public transit in terms of both frequency of transit stops and headways.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not applicable. The general direct and indirect effects of this non-project proposal are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and is not expected to require new roads or streets. New development on streets not meeting City standards will be responsible for improvements pursuant to the Land Use and Street Use Codes, the Street Improvements Manual and other applicable requirements.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action. Indirect effects of the proposal are not likely to affect water or air transportation. Certain commercial, industrial and downtown zones are in the vicinity of Link Light Rail.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Not applicable. The direct and indirect effects of this non-project proposal on vehicle trips are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action.

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Not applicable. The proposed amendments are not expected to change potential demand for public services. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on public services are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not applicable. This proposal is a non-project action and does not involve construction or development activity.

16. Utilities

a. Utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Seattle commercial, industrial and downtown zones are extensively developed and are served by all the utilities listed above except for septic systems. Other utilities available include cable television and internet access.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed:

Not applicable. The proposed amendments are not expected to change potential demand for utility services or the specific services to be provided, which are decided on a site-by-site basis. The indirect effects of this non-project proposal on utilities are discussed in Section D, Supplemental Sheet for Non-project Actions.

C. SIGNATURE

Signature provided following section D below.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering the questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The proposed amendments to the Seattle Municipal Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including applicably zoned areas. As a result it is expected that the potential for increased impacts to water, air (including green house gas emissions), or noise or additional release of hazardous substances is expected to be minor or non-existent. Runoff from construction projects should be normal and thus not increase any of the topics addressed in this checklist item.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

As discussed above, the potential for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal are expected to be minor or non-existent. The existing regulatory framework, i.e., the Land Use Code, the Building Code, The Shoreline Master Program, Environmentally Critical Areas Ordinance, and the City's SEPA ordinance, for non-exempt actions, will address impacts during review of development proposals on a project-specific basis as applicable.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

The proposed amendments to the Seattle Municipal code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including applicably zoned areas of the City. As a result, the potential for increased environmental impacts to plants, animals, fish or marine life is minor if present at all.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

As discussed above, the potential for indirect impacts of this non-project proposal are expected to be minor to non-existent.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including applicably zoned areas of the city. As a result, the potential for increased depletion of energy and natural resources is minor.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

None are warranted.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Future installation of wall signs on specific parcels would likely have little effect on historic sites and districts that are located in the city, including commercial, industrial and downtown zones. Future development has a low potential to affect environmentally sensitive areas, parks, wetlands, or floodplains, since these types of areas are limited within the highly developed commercial, industrial and downtown areas of the City.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

None are warranted.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land and shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The proposed amendments to the Land Use Code and the Building Code would be unlikely to result in any major changes to the rate of development or patterns of development in the city, including applicably zoned areas of the city. The objective of the legislation is to clarify and further goals of the Seattle Sign Code that protect the public interest and safety by reducing driver distraction and visual blight while still protecting the right of business to identify its premises and communicate with the public. As a result, the proposal is not expected to have significant on land and shoreline use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

None are warranted.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

None of the proposed amendments are expected to result in significant adverse impacts to traffic or parking or public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:

None are warranted.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

No conflicts are anticipated with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for protection of the environment.

SIGNATURE:

I, the undersigned, state that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and complete. It is understood that the lead agency may withdraw any declaration of non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part.

(signature on file)
Mike Podowski

July 5, 2011
Date