



City of Seattle

Department of Planning and Development

Diane M. Sugimura, Director

June 19, 2015

TO: Councilmember Mike O'Brien, Chair, PLUS Committee

FROM: Diane M. Sugimura

SUBJECT: DPD Recommendations for Docketing Resolution for Comprehensive Plan Annual Amendments 2015 – 2016

DPD staff has reviewed the amendments proposed to the Council for this year's annual amendment cycle. DPD applied the docketing criteria from Council Resolution 31402 as well taking into account the Council's desire to focus on FLUM amendments during this cycle.

Based on DPD's review, five of these proposals are appropriate and ripe for Council to consider. These five are recommended to move forward for further analysis. Three other proposals are not recommended to move forward.

The amendments that Council agrees to further consider will be integrated into DPD's current planning effort, "Seattle 2035." As part of this major Comprehensive Plan update, many changes to the Comprehensive Plan will be proposed to the Council. DPD recommends that the Council consider the specific amendments from this cycle as part of the Council's review of the Seattle 2035 changes proposed.

The Executive and the Planning Commission will review these docket items in parallel with the 2035 process and integrate recommendations on these items into the package presented for Council consideration in 2016.

Recommended to Move Forward in this Annual Amendment Cycle

The amendments we recommend for further analysis are summarized in the tables that appear on the following pages.



City of Seattle, Department of Planning and Development

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Future Land Use Amendments

Proposal	Summary	Consistent with Docketing Criteria
35 th Ave. NE	Change FLUM designation from MF to MU/C in Wedgwood in three areas along 35th Ave. N.E.: near N.E. 68th St., N.E. 73rd St. and N.E. 82nd St.. This FLUM change relates to the Council-funded Wedgwood sub-area planning.	yes
NE 68 th St.	Change FLUM designation from Multi-family (MF) to Mixed Use/Commercial (MU/C) south of N.E. 68 th Street and east of 12 th Ave NE (within the Roosevelt Residential Urban Village)	yes
40 th Ave. NE	Change FLUM designation from MF to MU/C for a property on the west side of 40 th Ave. N.E., south of Sand Point Way N.E.	yes
Greenwood Ave.	Change FLUM designation from SF to MF for a property on Greenwood Ave. N. south of N. 67th St.	This amendment has been withdrawn
NE 94th	Change the FLUM to adjust the boundary of the Northgate Urban Center to add an area east of NE 1st Ave. and south of N.E. 94th St. to the Northgate Urban Center and further to change the FLUM designation of those properties property from SF to MF.	yes

Recommendation Not to Move Forward during this Annual Amendment Cycle

DPD recommends that four proposals not move forward at this time as identified below with more specific information about the Council’s docketing criteria that they do not meet. These criteria are listed on the last page of this memo. Generally, the criteria that the following three proposals do not meet are either that the amount of analysis required would not be practical, given limited staff resources (C 2) or that the proposal has been considered and rejected recently (C 4).

Comprehensive Plan Text Amendments or FLUM Amendments

Proposal	Summary	Consistent with Docketing Criteria
Open and Participatory Government Element	Amendments to describe how various offices of City government should communicate with the public.	This amendment has been considered and rejected for the last six annual amendment cycles.
Clarification of Social Equity policies	Would change core value back from “race and social equity” to “social equity,” along with additional language changes.	Social equity policies will be addressed through Seattle 2035. In addition, the Council recently adopted unanimously Resolution 31577 responding to this issue.
Pier 1	FLUM amendment to remove land from Duwamish M/IC and reclassify as commercial/mixed-use	This amendment has been considered and rejected as recently as the 2014 – 2015 amendment cycle, as well as in previous years.

If you have questions about these recommendations, you may contact Kristian Kofoed of my staff at (206) 233-7191.

Criteria for Amendment Selection. The City Council considers a variety of criteria in determining whether a proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment will be placed on the amendment docket for a given year. Among those criteria are the following:

- A. The amendment is appropriate for the Comprehensive Plan because:
 - 1. It is consistent with the role of the Comprehensive Plan under the State Growth Management Act;
 - 2. It is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies and the multi-county policies contained in the Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040 strategy;
 - 3. Its intent cannot be accomplished by a change in regulations alone;
 - 4. It is not better addressed as a budgetary or programmatic decision; and
 - 5. It is not better addressed through another process, such as neighborhood planning.
- B. The amendment is legal under state and local law.
- C. It is practical to consider the amendment because:
 - 1. The timing of the amendment is appropriate and Council will have sufficient information to make an informed decision;
 - 2. City staff will be able to develop within the time available the text for the Comprehensive Plan and, if necessary, amendments to the Municipal Code, and to conduct sufficient analysis and public review;
 - 3. The amendment is consistent with the overall vision of the Comprehensive Plan and well-established Comprehensive Plan policy, or the Mayor or Council wishes to consider changing the vision or established policy; and
 - 4. The amendment has not been recently rejected by the City Council.
- D. If the amendment would change a neighborhood plan, it either is the result of a neighborhood review process or can be reviewed by such a process prior to final Council consideration of the amendment.
- E. The amendment is likely to make a material difference in a future City regulatory or funding decision.