SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL
CENTRAL STAFF

November 28, 2022

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Land Use Committee
From: Lish Whitson and Eric McConaghy, Analysts
Subject: Council Bill 120462: 2022 Comprehensive Plan amendment

On November 30, 2022, the Land Use Committee will hold a public hearing and discuss Council Bill (CB) 120462, which would amend the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan's Growth Strategy and Transportation elements. The proposed amendments support the use of lids and other connections to rejoin neighborhoods across State Highways and Interstate 5. The amendments encourage the use of lids to create open space, affordable housing, and pedestrian or bicycle connections to transit. The proposed bill responds to the City's 2021-2022 Comprehensive Plan docket, Resolution 32010 and Resolution 32068.

The bill would add language to Growth Strategy policy GS 3.13 that would indicate support for lids across highways to neighborhoods, particularly when such a lid would reconnect neighborhoods and provide amenities like affordable housing, open space, or pedestrian and bike connections. The bill would amend Transportation policy T 3.12 to broaden a policy related to improving connections across Interstate 5 to apply to State Highways as well as the Interstate. This amendment would similarly support improvements that increase opportunities for open space, affordable housing, and neighborhood cohesion.

Next Steps

The Land Use Committee will likely vote on CB 120462 at its December 8 meeting, which would allow for a City Council vote on the bill on December 13.

The City is limited to amending the Comprehensive Plan once a year under the Washington State Growth Management Act. If the Committee does not vote on the bill on December 8, it should hold the bill until it can consider this bill alongside amendments likely to be recommended by the Mayor for adoption in 2023. Those amendments will focus on changes to policies related to Maritime and Industrial areas.

cc: Esther Handy, Director
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