

Item 24-0338: Approve the Complete Streets Documents: a. Complete Streets Policy b. Pedestrian Crossing Improvements Policy c. Priority Project Locations d. Complete Streets Design Guide

Common Council

Wed, Apr 03, 2024 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 45:36

Moving on to our next item, this is from municipal services committee. This is item 24-0338. Approve the Complete Streets documents. Just need a motion. Motion and a second has been made to approve. Open the floor for discussion. Alder Hartzheim.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 46:06

Thank you, chair. In general, I agree that we should approve this. I think it's been a long hard road for the DPW, and I'm very grateful for all the extra work that our staff has put in and for everything that has been done by the consultants for this. I do have one piece of concern though, and that is with the verbiage and the non-definition so to speak of something called "equity" in in the priorities of this crossings set up.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 46:45

In the community priority score, there isn't really a definition of what that is and what—how equity is defined and where we get the information that defines those things. So, I'm hoping that we can have a little further discussion in that regard so that I can feel more comfortable about that piece of this whole puzzle.

Mayor Jake Woodford 47:07

Is that a specific question?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 47:09

Might deputy director—or no Traffic Engineer Lom be able to help us with that?

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 47:14

Okay.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 47:14

Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 47:16

Traffic engineer Lom. Your mic number, please. Okay, go ahead.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 47:21

So, for those that weren't at the last municipal services committee, we did, we did talk about this a little bit, and we did provide the breakdown of this scoring model for the equity piece at one of the previous presentations that we did at municipal services committee. We can certainly provide this as part of the meeting minutes. But in terms of how it's broken down, basically, the—there are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 different pieces to—that are used to create that composite score. The first one is the density of short trips in a particular area. So basically, we're looking at the ability to the—how many people are would be able to get where they're going in a relatively short distance. So that's going to tend to steer toward the more higher density areas. There's the equity piece, which I

will break down in a moment, which—and then there is proximity to parks and schools, proximity to trails, proximity to major barriers, transit stops, and commercial areas.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 48:45

The equity piece that you asked about specifically—each one of these varies a little bit in terms of how it's weighted, but we're looking at economic opportunity, zero vehicle households, air quality, canopy coverage, heart disease rate, race and ethnicity, poverty level, educational attainment, youth and senior population. So, when you add up all those equity pieces it comprises 37.5% of the total score.

Mayor Jake Woodford 49:15

Thank you. Go ahead.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 49:18

Thank you. I think my only concern with that and that's—thank you that is good information. I think my concern with that is how quickly we as a city will be reassessing what those equity pieces—how those equity pieces are measured. In other words, one thing was zero vehicle usage or zero vehicle homes; how often will we be surveying the city to determine where are our zero vehicle homes? And the other pieces of that equity puzzle—I have the same question in that regard. So, is that something that's defined in this policy or will be defined separately by the DPW?

Mayor Jake Woodford 50:00

Traffic Engineer Lom.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 50:03

So, if you look toward the bottom of page one of the pedestrian crossing improvement policy, it is recommended that that be reviewed every five years.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 50:15

Thank you. That clarifies it. Thank you.

Eric Lom (City Traffic Engineer) 50:17

Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 50:20

All right, Alder Van Zeeland.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 50:21

Thank you, Chair. I had similar questions; however, Alta does actually have their information out on their website, and what made me feel more comfortable is that it's just combining data from the US Census Center for Disease Control, EPA. It—this is all based on data so it's not something that is subjective. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 50:48

Further discussion?

Mayor Jake Woodford 50:51

Seeing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Alder Croatt votes aye.

Mayor Jake Woodford 51:09

Motion passes 14 to zero. Item has been approved.