Adam Zack

From: Tiffin Goodman

Sent: Tuesday, March 1, 2022 8:05 PM

To: Adam Zack

Subject: Comprehensive Plan Scoping Input

Adam,

I know today is the deadline for Comprehensive Plan scoping comments. Overall, I think it makes sense to step back and allow some time for community outreach/input before fully committing to a scope of work, especially considering a large portion of the scoping comment period occurred during mid winter break for our local public schools. I understand you need a scope to get started, but also think it is premature to narrowly focus the scope before having a broader understanding of community needs and desires.

More specifically, I very much believe the city should take this opportunity to update the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan, perhaps even consider framing it more as an Active Transportation Plan. With the extensive outreach the city already needs to do as part of any Comp Plan update, it makes sense to leverage those efforts to better integrate non-motorized solutions and infrastructure into our community. Since I moved here eight years ago, I have observed a considerable uptick in the number of families using bicycles and other active transportation modes to get around. Yet, our infrastructure for these modes has largely stayed the same. We also have a regional transit station opening in the near future, which further warrants planning work in this area. Mercer Island really could be doing so much more to make walking, bicycling, and other active transportation modes safe and inviting for our residents. We have a lot to offer as a community, but I am concerned this is one area in which we have significantly underinvested.

I believe there are other areas we should evaluate during this update, but at a high level, I would refer to my original comment above and seek broader community input upfront to help shape the scope and progression of this planning endeavour.

Thank you very much for your work on this. Feel free to forward these comments to staff and the City Council.

Regards,

Tiffin Goodman