

Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Minutes of March 13, 2018:

18-0003M Conduct a Public Hearing to Consider/Discuss/Act on a Request by the City of McKinney to Amend the Transportation Element Section (Section 8) of the Comprehensive Plan, Including Minor Amendments to the Master Thoroughfare Plan

Mr. Aaron Bloxham, Planner II for the City of McKinney, explained the proposed amendments to the Transportation Element Section (Section 8) of the Comprehensive Plan, including minor amendments to the Master Thoroughfare Plan. He stated that this is a proposed amendment to the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bloxham stated that there were two reasons why an amendment was needed. First, in 2016 there was an Alignment Study and Design Study conducted on Laud Howell Parkway. Second, in the summer of 2016 City Council directed Staff to update the Engineering Design Manual. He stated that both of these were based off of concepts found in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bloxham stated that due to delays with the adoption of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the City is moving forward with these amendments to incorporate the alignment study, design study, and concepts already approved by City Council. He stated that the proposed changes are: the Master Thoroughfare Plan will reflect the new alignment of Laud Howell Parkway; the cross-sections will be updated based on the ONE McKinney 2040 Comprehensive Plan Initiative and the recently completed updates to the Engineering Design Manual; and other non-substantive changes associated with the updated to Section 8 (Transportation) of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Bloxham stated that these non-substantive changes include updating outdated information and correcting typographical errors. He stated that the proposed amendments had been discussed with City Council during previous presentations. Mr. Bloxham stated that Staff recommends approved of the proposed amendments and offered to answer questions.

Alternate Commission Member McReynolds asked for an example of a six-lane greenway arterial. Mr. Bloxham stated that there were not any currently in McKinney.

Alternate Commission Member McReynolds asked if there were different levels of greenways. Mr. Bloxham stated that there are four-lane greenway arterials in McKinney. He gave examples of Hardin Boulevard and Eldorado Parkway. Mr. Bloxham stated that they typically have a larger parkway and median areas.

Commission Member Cobbel stated that she is excited to see something happen with the Comprehensive Plan.

Chairman Cox asked how changing Laud Howell Parkway from a principal arterial to a greenway arterial would affect the future uses that might see there. Mr. Bloxham did not believe that it would necessarily change the uses that you would see along Laud Howell Parkway. He stated that it would still be a major six-lane arterial; however, now there would be some additional treatments along the edges of the road.

Vice-Chairman Mantzey asked how the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) changes might effect this. Mr. Bloxham stated that it could have an impact to Laud Howell Parkway; however, Staff does not know yet. He stated that changes could be made to address their preferred alignment at a later date.

Chairman Cox opened the public hearing and called for comments. There being none, on a motion by Commission Member Cobbel, seconded by Commission Member McCall, the Commission unanimously voted to close the public hearing and recommend approval as recommended by Staff, with a vote of 7-0-0.

Chairman Cox stated that the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission will be forwarded to the City Council meeting on April 3, 2018.