



MEMO FROM COUNCIL OFFICE ON:

Resolution 23-14 – To Initiate Amendments to the City’s Comprehensive Plan Re: Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles

Synopsis

This resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Volan, directs the Plan Commission to prepare an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan consistent with four accessible transportation and mobility principles.

Relevant Materials

- [Resolution 23-14](#)
- Presentation slides from December 7, 2022 report to Council on Accessible Transportation and Mobility Principles

Summary

[Resolution 23-14](#) is sponsored by Councilmember Volan and would initiate an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of incorporating policies consistent with four accessible transportation and mobility principles. The four principles, described more fully in the resolution, are:

1. Involve people with disabilities in decision-making.
2. Develop equitable access.
3. Provide safe and functional mobility.
4. Ensure accountability.

These principles stem from a report given to the Common Council on December 7, 2022 by Special Projects Coordinator Michael Shermis and Deborah Myerson that preceded consideration of an update to the City’s ADA Transition Plan approved via [Resolution 22-19](#). The presentation slides shown during that report are included herein.

According to Indiana Code [36-7-4-501](#), the Comprehensive Plan is meant for the promotion of public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, or the general welfare and for the sake of efficiency and economy in the process of development.

Once adopted, the City must give consideration to the general policies and pattern of development set out in the Comprehensive Plan in the:



(1) authorization, acceptance, or construction of water mains, sewers, connections, facilities, or utilities;

(2) authorization, construction, alteration, or abandonment of public ways, public places, public lands, public structures, or public utilities; and

(3) adoption, amendment, or repeal of zoning ordinances, including zone maps and PUD district ordinances, subdivision control ordinances, historic preservation ordinances, and other land use ordinances.

The resolution cites existing portions of the City's [Comprehensive Plan](#) that call for prioritizing accessibility in various ways.

Indiana Code [36-7-4-511](#) allows the Common Council to initiate an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. This resolution would do so by directing the Plan Commission to prepare the amendment and to submit it to the Council for consideration. In preparing the amendment, the Plan Commission would be required to follow the procedures set forth in state law for the adoption of comprehensive plans, which include the publication of a notice and holding one or more public hearings on the proposal.

State law says that the Plan Commission has sixty (60) days to prepare and submit an amendment after the formal written request by the Council. However, the Council may grant the Commission an extension of time, of specified duration, in which to prepare and submit the amendment. Planning staff have indicated that they intend to prepare and propose Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan updates by spring 2024 to, in part, better position the city to apply for [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) grant funding from the federal government. In order to avoid a duplication of efforts and to align this proposed amendment with the upcoming effort from the Planning and Transportation Department, this resolution provides that the Plan Commission has 300 days to prepare and submit the amendment rather than 60 days.

The sponsor of the resolution, Cm. Volan, does not anticipate any direct financial impact to the city as a result of this particular resolution, though implementation of these principles through legislation or other action by the city may entail future expenses.

Contact

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