

STAFF REPORT
March 7, 2013

No. 13CA003 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan **ITEM 2**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

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| APPLICANT | City of Rapid City |
| REQUEST | No. 13CA003 - Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan |
| DATE OF APPLICATION | February 7, 2013 |
| REVIEWED BY | Kip Harrington / Brandon Quiett |

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of the Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to adopt the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

GENERAL COMMENTS: The Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan was completed in July 2011 to provide a long-term vision for a non-motorized transportation network and to serve as a guide for future network development and expansion. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan includes recommendations on the location and types of facilities to enhance bicycle and pedestrian travel and the quality of life in Rapid City.

The Plan is built around the “Five E” concept. The first “E”, Engineering, consists of analysis of the network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, recommended improvements and additions to the network, and design guidelines for the construction of new facilities. The second “E”, Education, includes strategies to inform the public on the proper use of non-motorized transportation facilities, as well as the rules of the road. The third “E”, Encouragement, details methods to increase the percentage of the population that utilizes alternative modes of transportation. The fourth “E”, Evaluation, provides a methodology to assess the current state of bicycle and pedestrian transportation in order to identify possible areas of improvement. The fifth and final “E”, Enforcement, ensures that all users of the transportation network follow the rules for proper usage of the network.

STAFF REVIEW: The adopted Comprehensive Plan is a framework with the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious development of Rapid City, which will, in accordance with existing and future needs, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development. The plan is intended to guide the orderly growth of the community. In order for the plan to remain viable and to keep pace with a changing market place, periodic adjustments to reflect changing conditions will be required.

Staff has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to adopt the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for conformance with the six criteria for review of Comprehensive Plan Amendments established in Section 2.60.160(D). A summary of the findings are outlined below:

1. *Whether the proposed change is consistent with the policies and overall intent of the comprehensive plan.*

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One of the goals of the Transportation Plan Element of the adopted Comprehensive Plan is to develop and maintain a transportation system that will be coordinated with land use patterns and will incorporate all available modes of transportation into a safe, efficient, and effective system of moving goods and people within and through the community. The Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan identifies the location and types of improvements necessary to expand the existing non-motorized transportation network. The proposed Amendment appears to be consistent with the policies and overall intent of the Comprehensive Plan.

- 2. Whether the proposed change is warranted by changed conditions within the neighborhood surrounding and including the subject property.*

There is no changing condition that warrants the proposed change; rather, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan is a result of a recommendation in the Long Range Transportation Plan to develop a strategy to improve opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian travel in and around Rapid City.

- 3. Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment is compatible with existing and proposed uses surrounding the subject land.*

The Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan identifies bicyclist and pedestrian destinations and areas of demand, and recommends connections to these areas. These recommendations appear to be compatible with the existing and proposed uses in the area.

- 4. Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment would adversely affect the environment, services, facilities, and transportation.*

The Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will provide the planning tools for developing a non-motorized transportation network in and around Rapid City avoiding any significant adverse affects on the environment, services, facilities or transportation network.

- 5. Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment would result in a logical and orderly development pattern.*

The proposed Amendment will provide specific guidelines addressing the expansion of the existing bicycle and pedestrian transportation network. Amending the Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan will assist in developing logical and orderly transportation and development patterns in the Rapid City area.

- 6. Whether and the extent to which the proposed amendment adversely affects any other part of the city, or creates any direct or indirect adverse effects.*

Staff has not identified any significant adverse effects that the Comprehensive Plan

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Amendment would have on the surrounding area or on the City.

Staff recommends approval of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment to adopt the Rapid City Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.