



STAFF REPORT

Planning Commission

Ordinance #1917

PC Date:	November 7, 2012	Case Planner:	Traci Ferguson
CC Date:	December 3, 2012		
Location:	City-Wide		
Applicant:	The City of Commerce City		
Address:	7887 E. 60 th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022		

Case Summary

Request: The City of Commerce City requests approval of Ordinance 1917 regarding Walk Bike Fit Commerce City, a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Plan for Commerce City.

Project Description: Walk Bike Fit Commerce City is the city's recently completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The plan has been adopted by resolution, but staff is now seeking to have it adopted by ordinance, solidifying the document's importance in the planning and land use development process.

The plan includes a vision and guiding principles as well as goals and actions. The necessary components for a successful "active travel network" are included; items such as healthy street design, sidewalks, at-grade and grade-separated road crossings, and on and off street bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Recommended layouts and alignments are described and the plan contains a roster of catalytic projects. Finally, implementation strategies are addressed.

Appendix A to Walk Bike Fit Commerce City has a general cost estimate for some elements and Appendix B focuses on wayfinding components and their importance as a part of active travel.

Staff Recommendation: Approval

Request and Analysis

Commerce City received a \$120,000 grant in December 2010 through Tri-County Health Department as a part of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work federal program. The funding was designated to create a bicycle and pedestrian master plan. DHM Design, whom the city has worked with in the past on several parks, trails and open space projects, was chosen to complete the plan. A Technical Working Group was created which included representatives from Community Development, Public Works, the Police Department and Parks and Recreation as well as school districts, local non-profits and Tri-County Health Department.

The goals and objectives of the plan are:

- Close the gaps, overcome barriers and enhance the existing active travel grid
- Create a city-wide/regional active travel corridors network
- Broader engagement in active travel
- Effective/enduring policies and programs

Throughout 2011, several open houses were held and staff attended several events to solicit public comment and ensure that resident's concerns, questions and comments were heard. The plan focuses on the historic part of Commerce City as the 1999 Prairieways Action Plan addresses much of the bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the Northern Range. However, key missing connections in the north are included as priorities.

Walk Bike Fit Commerce City was completed in March 2012 and was adopted by resolution by City Council on March 5, 2012. Staff is now going through the process to have it adopted by ordinance.

Development Review Team Recommendation

Based on the information provided above, the Development Review Team recommends that the Planning Commission forward the requested ordinance to the City Council with a favorable recommendation.

Recommended Motion

To recommend approval (DRT recommendation):

I move that the Planning Commission recommend that City Council adopt ordinance #1917, approving Walk Bike Fit Commerce City, a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Plan for Commerce City.

Alternative Motions

To recommend approval subject to condition(s):

I move that the Planning Commission recommend that City Council adopt ordinance #1917, approving Walk Bike Fit Commerce City, a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Plan, subject to the following conditions:

Insert Condition(s)

To recommend denial:

I move that the Planning Commission recommend that City Council deny ordinance #1917, regarding Walk Bike Fit Commerce City, a Multi-Modal Active Transportation Plan, because it fails to meet the following criteria:

List the criteria not met

I further move that, based upon this finding, the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council deny Ordinance #1917.