

## STAFF REPORT

## Mobility Element

**Ordinance No:** 2021-03

**Applicant:** Village of Wellington

**Request:** Repeal the Transportation Element and replace with the Mobility Element, as a part of the overall update to the Wellington Comprehensive Plan.

**Project Manager:**

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**Boards, Committees, and Council:**

	Date	Vote
PZAB	4/14/21	Approve, 4-0
Council (1 <sup>st</sup> )	5/11/2021	TBD
Council (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	TBD	TBD

**Wellington Vision**

A Great Hometown: Great Neighborhoods, Great Schools, and Great Parks.

**Wellington Mission**

To provide high-quality services that create economic, environmental, and social sustainability for residents.

**Wellington Goals**

- Economic Development
- Neighborhood Renaissance
- Protecting Our Investment
- Respecting the Environment
- Responsive Government

**Background**

The State of Florida requires municipalities to review and update, where appropriate, their Comprehensive Plan at least every seven years to reflect changes in Growth Management Laws, changing conditions within the community, updates to policies that may no longer be accurate or effective, as well as based on where the community thinks the Plan is working or not working. Wellington has been updating its Plan in this manner regularly since its initial adoption in 1999, but has not performed a complete update of the Plan; that is, until now.

Each element within the Wellington Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") is being updated, creating a document that is simple yet direct and easy to use with clear separation between this document and Wellington's Land Development Regulations. The Plan forms the blueprint for Wellington's future with a focus on the next 10 to 20 years, comprised of 10 "elements" or chapters.

1. Land Use & Community Design
2. Mobility
3. Housing & Neighborhoods
4. Public Facilities and Services
5. Conservation, Sustainability, & Resiliency
6. Parks & Recreation
7. Community Partnerships
8. Capital Improvements
9. Education
10. Equestrian

The Plan is designed to guide development and redevelopment, multimodal transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, community partnerships, parks and recreation, and capital improvements. The Plan includes several optional elements, such as the Equestrian and Education Elements, focused on community priorities generally unique to Wellington. Each element is comprised of goals, objectives, and policies to address statutory requirements as well as community priorities.

The update of the Plan will be presented to the Planning, Zoning and Adjustment Board over the course of several months with one or more elements on each Board agenda. The Council will then consider each element in a similar fashion prior to being transmitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). Once the Plan (all elements) have been approved at first reading by Council, transmitted to DEO, and ready for adoption, the full Plan will be presented to Council for adoption. The one exception is the Capital Improvement Element, which will be adopted once a response is received from DEO, to ensure Wellington meets its requirement to annually update the element to incorporate the annual capital budget.

### **Element Update Summary**

The update of the Mobility Element provides policies and guidelines that are intended to maintain and improve Wellington's transportation system and enhance the travel choices of current and future residents, visitors, and workers by providing multi-modal options. The Mobility Element sets forth a framework to create a modern, well-balanced transportation system that provides a range of mobility options and creates great places where people want to live and invest their time and money that is coordinated with the Village's future land use plan. True mobility means people have the option to walk, bike, ride, or drive in a safe and comfortable environment as a part of an interconnected system. The Mobility Element uses the following guiding principles:

- Enhance Wellington's transportation system to provide mobility options
- Enhance Wellington's transportation corridors to provide a broader mix of transportation modes
- Increase bicycle and pedestrian connections, routes, and facilities
- Improve the effectiveness of the existing transportation system

The Mobility Element proposes to split the current goal of the Transportation Element into three goals with expanded objectives and policies. The three goals are (1) Mobility System; (2) Mobility Infrastructure; and (3) Maximize Mobility Investment.

Preliminary comments were received from the Florida Department of Transportation that were incorporated after the PZAB recommendation but do not significantly change the proposed update. The comments which have been incorporated consist of changing the level of service mandate to a target in Policy MB 1.1.1, revising the functional classification map to include Federal Highway Administration labeling, and revising Policy MB 2.2.6 to support the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency non-inclusion of an urban interchange at Forest Hill Boulevard and SR 7.

### **Statutory Compliance**

Chapter 163.3177, Florida Statutes, requires a "transportation element" addressing mobility issues in relationship to the size and character of the local government. Wellington's current Comprehensive Plan refers to this element as the "Transportation Element" and is proposed to be renamed the "Mobility Element". Exhibit D of the staff report presents the statutory compliance of the proposed element.

### **Recommendations**

The Planning and Zoning Division recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2021-03 to repeal the Transportation Element and replace with the Mobility Element.

The PZAB recommended approval of Ordinance No. 2021-03 to repeal the Transportation Element and replace with the Mobility Element with a vote of 4-0 on April 14, 2021.

**List of Exhibits**

- Exhibit A: Current Transportation Element, including maps (to be repealed)
- Exhibit B: Proposed Mobility Element, including maps (to be adopted)
- Exhibit C: Proposed Mobility Data and Analysis, including maps (for information and reference)
- Exhibit D: Mobility Element Statutory Compliance Checklist