



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Planning & Community Development

Analyst: Ryan Countryman

ECAF: 2021-1085

Proposal: Ordinance 21-106

Date: January 18, 2022

Consideration

Proposed Ordinance 21-106 addresses roads and access. It would amend several sections in Chapters 30.24 and 30.41C of Snohomish County Code (SCC).

Amendment Sheet 1 would add a new temporary subsection in Chapter 30.41C to allow current project applicants twelve months to opt-in to changes in that chapter.

Amendment Sheet 2 makes housekeeping corrections.

Background and Analysis

Most of Snohomish County's regulations for roads and access are in Title 30 SCC and the Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS). These distinguish between different types of road network elements, for example roads, alleys, and drive aisles. Ownership (and maintenance responsibilities) of road network elements can be public or private.

Planning and Development Services (PDS) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) have identified and proposed amendments in Chapters 30.24 and 30.41C SCC that would:

1. Simplify the process for applicants to request approval for use of private road network elements in residential developments (SCC 30.24.050 and .055);
2. Improve access for fire apparatus for public safety (SCC 30.24.100); and
3. Allow greater flexibility for design of pedestrian facilities in rural cluster subdivisions (SCC 30.41C.080).

All changes are consistent with EDDS and all proposed development would still need to comply with EDDS.

Procedural changes in SCC 30.24.050 and .055 would allow applicants to propose and for the County Engineer to approve private road network elements and without also going through the variance process.

Amendments to SCC 30.24.100 would address a conflict between that section, EDDS and the fire code regarding whether pedestrian walkways can count towards meeting necessary width minimums for fire lanes (they cannot).

SCC 30.41C.080(6) currently requires that pedestrian facilities for rural cluster subdivisions be physically separate from vehicular roadways. The proposed amendments would allow a widened shoulder next to the road, consistent with other types of rural development (and as allowed by EDDS).

PDS staff briefed the Planning Commission on November 16, 2021. Following a public hearing on December 14, 2021, the commissioners voted unanimously to recommend the changes to the County Council. After the Planning Commission hearing, PDS staff prepared Amendment Sheet 1 to allow current rural cluster subdivision applicants to opt-in to the changes and revise their plans to place pedestrian facilities next to the road. Council staff prepared Amendment Sheet 2 to make housekeeping corrections.

Current Proposal

Scope and Summary: This ordinance and amendment sheets would revise road and access requirements in Chapters 30.24 and 30.41C SCC.

Fiscal Implications: None

Handling: NORMAL

Approved-as-to-form: YES

Risk Management: APPROVE

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE

Request: Move to General Legislative Session on January 26 to set time and date for a public hearing.