



King County

Road Services Division

Department of Transportation

KSC-TR-0231

201 South Jackson Street

Seattle, WA 98104-3856

www.kingcounty.gov/roads

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental Checklist

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help the agency, citizens, and other reviewers identify impacts from the proposal, to possibly reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of Proposed Project:

2009 King County Transportation Concurrency Management (TCM) Program update to King County Code 14.70.

2. Name of Applicant:

King County Department of Transportation
Road Services Division

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

John Shively, Transportation Planner, 206-263-4747
King County Department of Transportation
Road Services Division
King Street Center, Mail Stop: KSC-TR-0317
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3856
ATTN: Janel London, Senior Environmental Engineer, 206-205-0575

Contact the Transportation Planner for questions related to the TCM update and code revision. Contact the Environmental Engineer for questions related to content of the SEPA environmental checklist and environmental issues.

4. Date Checklist Prepared:

August 1, 2009

5. Agency requesting checklist:

King County

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

It is anticipated that the King County Executive will transmit the ordinance to the King County Council in September 2009. The Council would adopt the ordinance in Autumn 2009, and the concurrency update would become effective ten days after being signed by the Executive, or approximately 20 days after Council adoption.

7. Plans for future additions, expansion or further activity related to or connected with this proposal:

King County Code (KCC) 14.70.270 requires an annual update of the concurrency map. The concurrency map is a result of spring travel time data collection and concurrency testing, and will be used to determine whether proposed development projects meet concurrency requirements. The next update will be done in 2010. Policy and program changes to the TCM program are also accomplished at the time of King County Comprehensive Plan major updates, which occur every four years. The next major plan update is scheduled for 2012.

8. Environmental information that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

No environmental information directly related to this proposal has been prepared.

9. Applications that are pending for governmental approval of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by the proposal:

There are no known applications pending for governmental approval of other proposals directly affecting this proposal.

10. List of governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for the proposal:

The King County Council will need to review and adopt the ordinance with attachment.

11. Brief, complete description of the proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site:

The purpose of the TCM program is to ensure the road level of service (LOS) standards in the King County Comprehensive Plan are achieved concurrently with development. According to the Washington State Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A.070(6), *concurrent with development* means that either transportation facilities or strategies are in place at the time of development or that a financial commitment is in place to make the necessary transportation improvements or implement strategies within six years of the development. King County will only accept development applications for development in “travel sheds” that pass the concurrency test as shown on the concurrency map in effect at the time of application, or for minor developments specifically identified in KCC 14.70.285. *Travel sheds* are geographic areas within which development would be likely to use or be affected by traffic on arterials within the travel shed.

This non-project action by King County Department of Transportation, Road Services Division (Roads), is the proposed update of the TCM program by adoption of an ordinance with attachment. In the ordinance, Roads proposes to amend the transportation concurrency chapter KCC 14.70 by adopting a new Transportation Concurrency map (Attachment A to the ordinance).

King County Code 14.70.270 requires an annual update of the concurrency map based on updated travel time surveys, standards and methodologies. Various parameters used to update the concurrency map include the following:

- Use of large geographic travel sheds where travel patterns share common characteristics;
- Use of global positioning system (GPS) travel time data collection units and corresponding software to analyze the data collected – actual travel time is collected by corridor routes on County principal and minor arterials and certain State highways;
- Revised designation of State Route 164 by the 2009 State Legislature to a new Highway of Statewide Significance;
- Updated road network to reflect recent annexations;
- Updated road network to reflect King County Arterial Functional Classification changes;
- Identification of rural mobility areas, which are defined by land use, enhance multimodal travel, and reduce length of vehicle trips in rural areas.

Concurrency testing evaluates travel time by roadway mileage within each travel shed. Eighty-five percent of travel shed arterial mileage must meet minimum LOS concurrency standards for the travel shed to pass the concurrency test. Through data collection, the County clearly identifies which corridors and corridor segments are the primary reason for concurrency failure within a travel shed. Based on this information, the County identifies projects needed to bring a travel shed back into compliance. This process creates increased transparency of transportation improvement decisions.

The concurrency map indicates the passage or failure of the travel sheds and is the basis of determining concurrency for both residential and nonresidential development proposals; no

certificate of transportation concurrency is issued. Based on the concurrency test, four travel sheds out of 25 are failing concurrency standards in 2009. Six travel sheds failed the concurrency test in 2008. Two travel sheds that failed the 2008 concurrency standards have improved to the passing status in 2009. All other travel sheds remain in the same status as indicated in the 2008 concurrency map.

Additional information about the King County TCM Program can be found at:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/roads/planning/concurrency/index.cfm>

12. Location of the proposal, including the street address, if any, and section, township and range, if known; a legal description, site plan, vicinity map and topographic map, if reasonably available:

Adoption of the TCM update is not associated with a specific site, but applies to King County as a jurisdiction.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. EARTH

a. General description of the site (underline one):

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a general description of a site is not applicable.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not applicable.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? Specify the classification of agricultural soils and note any prime farmland.

Not applicable.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not applicable.

e. Describe the purpose, type and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Not applicable.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Not applicable.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion or other impacts to the earth, if any.**

Adoption of TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts to the earth are not applicable.

2. AIR

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, vehicles, odors, industrial wood smoke, greenhouse gases) during construction and when the project is completed? Generally describe and give approximate quantities, if known.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of types of emissions resulting from construction and completion of the project is not applicable.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odors that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to the air, if any:**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts to the air are not applicable.

3. WATER

- a. Surface**

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site, including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, the description of surface water in the vicinity of a site is not applicable.

- 2) **Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Not applicable.

- 3) **Estimate the amount of dredge and fill material that would be removed from or placed in surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

Not applicable.

- 4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities, if known.**

Not applicable.

- 5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year flood plain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Not applicable.

- 6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

Not applicable.

b. Ground

- 1) **Will ground water be withdrawn or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose and approximate quantities, if known.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, the description of ground water in the vicinity of a site is not applicable.

- 2) **Describe any waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources (e. g., domestic sewage, industrial, agricultural, etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served, or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

Not applicable.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water)

- 1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method(s) of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Will this runoff water be discharged or flow into surface waters or ground water? If so, describe.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, the description of water runoff in the vicinity of a site is not applicable.

- 2) Could waste materials or toxic materials enter ground or surface waters during or as a result of this proposal? If yes, generally describe.**

Not applicable.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground and runoff water impacts, if any:**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts to surface, ground, and runoff water are not applicable.

4. PLANTS

- a. Underline types of vegetation found on the site:**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, the description of vegetation on a site is not applicable.

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Not applicable.

- c. List threatened or endangered species or critical habitat known to be on or near the site:**

Not applicable.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to preserve or enhance vegetation are not applicable.

5. ANIMALS

- a. Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site, or are known to be on or near the site:**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of any birds and animals observed on or near a site is not applicable.

- b. List any threatened or endangered species or critical habitat known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, describe.**

Not applicable.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to preserve or enhance wildlife are not applicable.

6. ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of the kinds of energy used is not applicable.

- b. Would the project affect the use (potential or actual) of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans for this proposal? List any other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce energy impacts are not applicable.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals or hazardous wastes, risk of explosion or fire that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of the environmental health hazards is not applicable.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable.

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce environmental health hazards are not applicable.

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect the project (e.g., traffic, heavy equipment, operation, industrial, other)?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of noise in a project area is not applicable.

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by, or associated with the project, on a short-term or a long-term basis (e.g., traffic, construction, operation, other)? State what hours noise would come from the site.

Not applicable.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce noise impacts are not applicable.

8. LAND AND SHORELINE USE

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of the current use of a site and adjacent properties is not applicable.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Not applicable.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not applicable.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not applicable.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not applicable.

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not applicable.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not applicable.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an environmentally sensitive area? If so, specify.

Not applicable.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not applicable.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not applicable.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any.

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to avoid displacement impacts are not applicable.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the project is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans in the area.

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to ensure compatibility with existing and projected land uses are not applicable.

9. HOUSING

a. Approximately how many housing units would the project provide, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low income housing.

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of housing near a site is not applicable.

b. Approximately how many housing units would be eliminated, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low income housing.

Not applicable.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce housing impacts are not applicable.

10. AESTHETICS

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of aesthetics, such as proposed structures, near a site is not applicable.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not applicable.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce aesthetic impacts are not applicable.

11. LIGHT AND GLARE

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of light or glare produced on a site is not applicable.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not applicable.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not applicable.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any.

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce light and glare impacts are not applicable.

12. RECREATION

- a. What designated or informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of recreational areas near a project site is not applicable.

- b. Would the project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation including any recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts on recreational opportunities are not applicable.

13. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

- a. Are there any sites, structures or objects listed on, or proposed for national, state or local preservation registers known to be on or near to the site? If so, generally describe.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of historical and cultural areas near a project site is not applicable.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific or cultural artifacts of importance known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts on historical and cultural areas are not applicable.

14. TRANSPORTATION

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of public streets and highways serving a site is not applicable.

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

Not applicable.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads, streets or improvements to existing roads or streets (not including driveways)? If so, generally describe, and indicate whether public or private.**

Not applicable.

- e. Will the project use (or be in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated as a result of the project? Indicate when peak traffic would occur, if known.**

Not applicable.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts on transportation are not applicable.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (e.g., fire and police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of an increased need for public services as a result of a project is not applicable.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, measures to reduce impacts on public services are not applicable.

16. UTILITIES

- a. **Underline utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, telephone, refuse service, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.**

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that is not associated with a specific site; therefore, a description of utilities available on a site is not applicable.

- b. **Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

Not applicable.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Wally Archuleta
Wally Archuleta, Manager, Environmental Unit

Date: 8/21/09

The following are included with the Checklist if checked off:

- Vicinity Map
- Project Plans
- Ordinance with Attachments

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS
(do not use this sheet for project actions)**

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of how the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

The effects of the proposed amendments are:

The proposed update of the TCM program by adoption of an ordinance with attachment will amend the transportation concurrency chapter KCC 14.70 by adopting a new Transportation Concurrency map (Attachment A to the ordinance).

King County Code 14.70.270 requires an annual update of the concurrency map based on updated travel time surveys, standards and methodologies.

The new Transportation Concurrency map will be used to determine whether a development proposal will be accepted for processing. King County will only accept development applications for development in travel sheds that pass the concurrency test as shown on the concurrency map in effect at the time of application, or for minor developments specifically identified in KCC 14.70.285.

Since the concurrency update is a planning level document, further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level. At a non-project level, the amended transportation concurrency code revision will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine water, air, hazardous material, and noise impacts. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for these projects.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in

compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine impacts to plants and animals. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for these projects.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine impacts on energy and natural resources. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for these projects.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine impacts on sensitive lands. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for these projects.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine land and shoreline use impacts. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for these projects.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Adoption of the TCM update is a non-project action that in and of itself is not associated with a specific site or specific construction activities. Further environmental analysis in compliance with SEPA will be required at the project level to determine impacts on transportation, public services and utilities. At a non-project level, the TCM update will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Since there is no significant adverse effect on the environment, no mitigation is proposed as part of the TCM update. Mitigative measures will be determined on a project-by-project basis during compliance with SEPA as required for those projects.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The TCM program is required by state law as part of the Growth Management Act, RCW Chapter 36.70A. The TCM program is required by King County Code to be updated annually based on updated travel time surveys, standards and methodologies. As this non-project action is required by state and local laws and codes, the proposal does not conflict with local, state, or federal laws and requirements.