

Memorandum

Date: November 10, 2021

To: Lilith Vespier, City of Leavenworth

From: Kara Hall and Michael Adamson, Fehr & Peers

Subject: Land Capacity Supplemental Analysis for the Comprehensive Plan Update

SE20-0747

The City of Leavenworth is considering an update to the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations that would combine the current Residential Low Density 12,000 District (RL 12) and Residential Low Density 10,000 District (RL 10) and designate the districts as Residential Low Density 8,000 (RL 8).

To supplement this Comprehensive Plan update and address questions raised by the community regarding how changes in residential density might increase traffic congestion, a traffic analysis based on work completed for the Transportation Element (TE) update in 2020 has been completed.

The traffic analysis to supplement the zoning change to RL 8 was based on a land capacity analysis completed by the City and 2040 traffic forecasts developed for the TE update. Data from the land capacity analysis and 2040 traffic forecasts was used to develop new traffic forecasts that reflect the development potential within the City and regional growth expected to occur over the next 20 years. Updated traffic forecasts were then used to analyze how key intersections within the City will operate in 2040.

This memorandum includes a summary of the land capacity analysis completed by the City, which was used to estimate the number of new vehicle trips that might be generated during the weekday PM peak hour, defined as the hour with the highest traffic volumes between 4PM and 6PM, and the weekend peak hour, defined as the hour with the highest traffic volumes on a summer Sunday between 11AM and 3PM. This is followed by the changes in delay and Level of Service (LOS) at key intersections with the addition of new trips from the increase in housing.

Land Capacity Analysis

The City completed a land capacity analysis to understand the availability of land to accommodate the projected population over the next 20 years. The analysis was based on



Summary

Findings from the rezoning analysis indicate that an increase in density would result in higher delay at the primary US 2 intersections within the City of Leavenworth, while capacity at the Ski Hill Drive and Pine Street intersection could accommodate an increase in development with minimal changes in delay or LOS. Intersection improvements identified in the TE Update would decrease delay and improve operations at two intersections on US 2 under the Rezoning scenario. While this analysis considers growth within the City based on the land capacity analysis, as development occurs a Traffic Impact Analysis should be completed to understand the direct impacts that may result from specific developments.

Attachments:

A. 2040 Level of Service & Delay Calculations

