

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Work Plan for the Overall Update of the CPPs

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SUMMARY

Since 1994, the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) have been amended to address policy updates on an as-needed basis but the CPPs generally remain as originally adopted. For the most part, the changes to the CPPs since 1994 have included expanding the list of designated urban centers, updating the growth targets, and amending the land use, interim potential annexation areas, and urban separator maps.

To comply with updated population forecasts provided by the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) as well as the recent adoption of VISION 2040 and the Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is comprehensively updating the CPPs. As approved by GMPC in 2009, adoption of a revised set of policies is expected to occur by year-end 2010. This staff report briefs GMPC on the progress made and remaining milestones toward adoption of a revised set of Countywide Planning Policies.

BACKGROUND

The King County Countywide Planning Policies are part of the planning hierarchy as envisioned by the Growth Management Act (GMA) in the State of Washington (Attachment 1). Originally drafted in the early 1990's, the CPPs described a vision for the county for the 1992-2012 planning period. The CPPs established a framework for the initial round of local comprehensive plans under GMA that were adopted in the mid-1990s.

Several factors currently support GMPC's decision to conduct a comprehensive review and update of the Countywide Planning Policies, including: recent adoption of VISION 2040 and the Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs); revised population, housing and employment growth targets in King County and the region; and general outdatedness of the CPPs as we near the end of the 1992-2012 planning period.

VISION 2040 and the Multicounty Planning Policies. In April 2008 the Puget Sound Regional Council General Assembly adopted VISION 2040, the long-range growth, economic, and transportation strategy for the four-county central Puget Sound region. A key feature of VISION is the Regional Growth Strategy—a pattern of preferred growth in the region that

modifies growth assumptions in King County by deemphasizing subareas and distributing growth in cities based on their size and function within the region. The CPP update promotes the preferred pattern of growth found in VISION and provides the policy basis by which all jurisdictions in King County will align their comprehensive plans when jurisdictions update them.

OFM Population Projections and Growth Target. The Growth Management Act requires counties and cities to plan for growth consistent with population projections produced by the OFM. Meeting this requirement, the GMPC adopted the 2006-2031 Housing and Employment Growth Targets in October, 2009. The CPP update will support the new growth targets by providing appropriate context and policy direction to further promote the Regional Growth Strategy established in VISION 2040.

CPPs Are Increasingly Out-Of-Date. To maintain the CPPs as a living relevant document, a general policy update will incorporate current information on the county and its cities. In addition, with local governments moving into a third round of comprehensive planning under GMA, the focus of the CPP document will shift from initial plan adoption to the ongoing and evolving implementation of GMA and countywide policies. Finally, CPPs will be amended to ensure that they accurately reflect current state law, state agency guidance, and recent hearings board decisions.

In scoping the CPP update work, IJT cross-referenced VISION with the existing CPPs. This preliminary research found that the CPPs are largely adequate in carrying forward the basic tenets of the MPPs. However, IJT recognized areas in which the CPPs could be enhanced to address VISION and the 2006-2031 planning period, including:

- allocation of regional services in a manner to support the Regional Growth Strategy;
- enhancement of environmental policies to address climate change; and
- articulation of King County's role in advancing the Regional Economic Development Strategy.

2010 CPP UPDATE WORK PROGRAM

VISION 2040 requires countywide planning policies to address the revised MPPs. As approved by GMPC via Motion 09-1 in October 2009, the goal of the CPP Update Work Program is as follows:

The GMPC will update the Countywide Planning Policies to ensure consistency with the Multi-County Planning Policies contained within Vision 2040, to ensure consistency with the State Growth Management Act, to reflect current terminology and relevant references, and to establish the policy framework for advancing the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities. Phase One of the work plan is focused on establishing one or more Framework policies that will advance the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities, while continuing to serve all communities in King County.

To complete this work, IJT will engage GMPC via ongoing presentation of progress and key findings, referring major issues to GMPC for consideration and direction. Furthermore, IJT will allow adequate time for public input by engaging key stakeholders in spring 2010.

In October 2009, GMPC adopted the 2006-2031 Housing and Employment Growth Targets, for incorporation into the CPPs. Moving forward, IJT will: present policy language that prioritizes regional service delivery in a manner to promote the Regional Growth Strategy; revise Framework policies to ground the remaining policy work; revise implementing policies and narrative throughout the CPPs; and prepare the revised CPPs for adoption and ratification.

Prioritize Regional Services to Support Countywide Growth Strategy. With adoption of Motion 09-1, GMPC directed the IJT to develop options for “new CPP policy language that will prioritize regional service delivery in ways that promote the Regional Growth Strategy.” IJT has completed this work item and is presenting the results in a separate report for GMPC consideration as directed.

IJT anticipates presentation of final policy language for delivering regional services for GMPC adoption in April, 2010.

Revise Framework Policies. The Framework policies—dispersed throughout the existing CPPs—represent a cohesive set of concepts that are intended to establish the overall direction for the remaining implementing policies. Largely unchanged since their inception, these 42 policies will be reviewed to ensure consistency and relevance to the current 2006-2031 planning period.

IJT anticipates presentation of draft Framework policy language for GMPC consideration in June, 2010.

Revise Implementing Policies and Narrative. The existing CPPs are arranged in 10 chapters, shown below. IJT will consider a reorganized body of CPPs to align with the MPP structure found within VISION 2040 in order to improve accessibility of the CPPs and demonstrate greater alignment with the MPPs and VISION 2040. The restructured CPPs would collapse the 10 existing chapters as follows:

| New CPP Chapter: | Incorporating elements from existing chapters:* |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Vision and Framework | I. King County 2012 IX. Economic Development X. Implementation and Transition |
| 2. Environment | II. Critical Areas V. Community Character & Open Space VII. Contiguous & Orderly Development |
| 3. Development Pattern | III. Land Use Pattern V. Community Character & Open Space |
| 4. Housing | VI. Affordable Housing |
| 5. Economy | IX. Economic Development |
| 6. Transportation | IV. Transportation |

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| 7. Public Services | V. Community Character & Open Space VII. Contiguous & Orderly Development VIII. Siting Public Facilities |
| *Policies currently found in Chapter X. Regional Finance and Governance will be located throughout the new CPP chapter structure as appropriate. | |

Within this structure, revised policy language will provide the appropriate context and policy direction to support the Regional Growth Strategy established in VISION 2040 while recognizing the unique planning challenges and opportunities that exist in King County.

IJT anticipates presentation of draft policy language for the full body of CPPs in September for GMPC consideration.

Ratification. Incorporating GMPC input throughout the work program, IJT anticipates presentation of the final body of CPPs for GMPC adoption in December, 2010. With adoption, ratification of the CPPs will follow as set forth by Countywide Planning Policy FW-1, Step 9.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

In anticipation of a revised body of Countywide Planning Policies in 2010, IJT recommends the following timeline, as described above.

| Date | Milestone |
|--------------------|--|
| December 2009 | Executive transmittal of growth targets to King County Council for adoption and approval for ratification. |
| January 25, 2010 | King County Council approval of growth targets via consent. |
| Pending | Ratification of growth targets by cities takes place 90 days after King County Council adoption. Approximate date of ratification is April 30, 2010. |
| March 17, 2010 | Presentation of draft policy language for delivering regional services for GMPC consideration. |
| April 28, 2010 | Presentation of final policy language for delivering regional services for GMPC adoption. |
| June 23, 2010 | Presentation of draft policy language for remaining Framework policies for GMPC consideration. Presentation of substantive update on full CPP update. |
| September 22, 2010 | Presentation of draft body of CPPs for GMPC consideration. |
| December 8, 2010 | Presentation of final body of CPPs for GMPC adoption. |
| Pending | King County Council adoption and city ratification of amended CPPs. |

Attachments

Attachment 1: WA State Land Use Planning Hierarchy and Policy Framework

WA STATE LAND USE PLANNING HIERARCHY AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

There are four recognized levels in King County's planning hierarchy, each with its own governing authority:

GMA. Establishing the land use planning hierarchy in Washington, the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) mandates local comprehensive planning in heavily populated and high growth counties and their cities. It establishes 13 broad goals, including managing urban growth, protecting agricultural, forestry, and environmentally sensitive areas, protecting property rights, reducing sprawl, and encouraging efficient multimodal transportation systems. GMA requires comprehensive planning in the Puget Sound region to be done in a coordinated and consistent manner and is implemented through a planning structure of regional, countywide and local plans as follows.

MPPs. The Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs) are required by GMA to develop regional guidelines and principles to guide both regional and local transportation planning. As the region's federally recognized Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) recently adopted VISION 2040 and its MPPs to provide a consistent regional framework for growth management planning in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties.

CPPs. The GMA further requires King County to prepare broad Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) that comply with both the growth principles of the GMA and the more directive policies of the MPPs. The CPPs provide the vision and policy framework for the development of each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan, including the King County Comprehensive Plan. Addressing the principles put forth by VISION 2040, the CPPs are intended to speak specifically to the unique interests and challenges of King County, as the largest county in the region. The CPPs are maintained by the Growth Management Planning Council and are currently under review, with the adoption of newly amended policies anticipated by year-end 2010.

Local Comprehensive Plans. Local comprehensive plans direct land use planning regulations and activity in unincorporated King County and each of the county's 39 jurisdictions. The King County Comprehensive Plan maintains the Urban Growth Area boundary. Each local plan, including the King County Comprehensive Plan, establishes the land use and development regulations within its jurisdiction. Local plans, when next updated, are expected to align with the planning hierarchy described above. Anticipating completion of the CPPs in 2010, many cities have begun the planning effort to revise their comprehensive plans.