

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT RELEASED

The 2016 update is a major four-year review of the Comprehensive Plan and the release of the *Public Review Draft* represents an important step in the process. For the last six months, following adoption of Motion 14531, which specified the Scope of Work Topical Areas for the 2016 update, county staff has analyzed a wide variety of potential amendments.

Importantly, this year is the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Growth Management Act. This landmark legislation created a new planning approach in Washington State that sought to address the harmful impacts of uncoordinated and unplanned growth. The Act required jurisdictions focus growth in urban areas, assure the conservation of natural resource lands and protect environmental critical areas. By almost any measure, King County has been successful in realizing these broad goals. However, success has not been easy and has required on-going vigilance and attention to changing circumstances.

As shown below, the *2016 Public Review Draft* continues to respond to these broad goals and, looking to the future, it also responds to critical new challenges such as providing equitable access to opportunity, reducing carbon pollution and positioning the County to respond to a changing climate, addressing housing affordability and strengthening mobility options.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Categorized in broad topical areas, the following summarizes the amendments proposed in the *2016 Public Review Draft*.

LAND USE POLICY AMENDMENTS

- Initiation of a new **Community Service Area Subarea Planning Program**. After many years where regular updates to Community Plans did not occur, the County will begin updating these plans in 2016. This process will use the Community Service Areas as the planning geography. These amendments are found in *Chapter 11*.
- Enhancements to policies to protect the Rural Area from incompatible uses. This includes **policies avoiding the placement of urban serving facilities** in the rural area and, based on community input, **removal of the mining site conversion demonstration program**. These amendments are found in *Chapters 2, 9 and 12*.
- New **Transfer of Development Rights policies**. Within unincorporated urban areas, a new policy allows limits to transfers if there is an annexation agreement with a city, and a new policy directs amenity funding into areas that receive significant numbers of development rights. These amendments are found in *Chapter 2*.

Land Use continues....

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AMENDMENTS

- Increased **focus on Climate Change** in multiple chapters. These changes integrate relevant policies from the Strategic Climate Action Plan and the County-Cities Climate Collaboration.
- Updates to **reflect the new Stormwater Management Program and Permit**. Changes address low impact development practices, promotion of sub-basin planning, integration of the Green Building Code, policies to evaluate a **stormwater credit trading program**, and more. These amendments are found mostly in *Chapters 5 and 9*.
- Updates to **various environmental topics**. These include addressing noxious weeds, addressing impacts from the growing beaver population, enhanced landslide hazard identification and mapping, updates to reflect the County's work on kokanee salmon and salmon recovery generally, and support for a market-based price on carbon pollution. These amendments are found mostly in *Chapters 5, 7 and 9*.

The description of proposed amendments **continues on the back** of this page....

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

With the *2016 Public Review Draft* released, the process now turns to dialogue with residents and stakeholders. The extended public comment period lasts from **November 6** until **January 6**. After this, comments will be carefully reviewed and an Executive Recommended 2016 Plan will be transmitted to the County Council on March 1, 2016.

Help us by reading the *Public Review Draft*, attending a community meeting, and sharing your thoughts.



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT – *continued*

LAND USE POLICY AMENDMENTS – *continued*

- Edits to **make the Annexation Policies more city-focused**. These changes, mostly found in *Chapter 2*, open the door to joint planning, using city regulations in annexation areas, and negotiating with cities on transferable development rights. The Plan includes a work item to revisit the potential annexation areas agreement in coordination with the cities.

GENERAL UPDATES

- Changes to **make the plan more user-friendly**. These include an *Executive Summary*, a more navigable *Table of Contents*, and a new Workplan section in *Chapter 12* that identifies major "work items" that will follow the adoption of the plan in 2016.
- Other **general updates** throughout the plan including revised data, refined definitions in the Glossary, minor formatting enhancements, updated references to partnerships such as the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration, the Growing Transit Communities program, the Eastside Rail Corridor, as well as County plans such as the Metro Long Range Plan, the Local Food Initiative and others.

CODE AMENDMENTS

Recommendations on a number of **Code Amendments** raised by the policy changes as well as a few identified in the Scope of Work Motion. These are in a *separate attachment*.

DOCKET SUBMITTALS

Sixteen Docket Requests were submitted and propose the following – two land use category changes, one road reclassification, two policy changes, five rezone requests, one community subarea plan, and five urban growth area changes (note: three Dockets are identical to the Site Specific Proposals.)

To create more transparency and solicit input on this aspect of the Comprehensive Plan process, the proposals are posted on the website for review and comment. On December 1, the **2016 Docket Report** will be transmitted to the County Council.

EQUITY & HEALTH POLICY AMENDMENTS

- Establishes a **new chapter on Housing and Human Services** to heighten the focus on equity and the human-dimensions of land use planning. The new *Chapter 4* consolidates and updates existing policies, and reflects initiatives such as Communities of Opportunity and the Health and Human Services Transformation program.
- Amendments in the new chapter call for the establishment of **new Community Development tools** such as food innovation districts and residential local assessment districts. New policies also explore tools to increase **housing density and affordable housing stock** near business corridors and frequent transit.
- Outside of the new chapter, policies increase the **emphasis on Equity and Social Justice throughout the Plan**. Consistent with the Scope of Work, the Plan is updated to reflect the Equity and Social Justice Initiative.
- Inclusion of **public health-related** policies such as tobacco-free parks, smoke-free housing, healthy food retail, and urban agriculture.
- Additional changes related to the **Local Food Initiative** and other farm-supportive programs. These changes are found mostly in *Chapters 2 and 3*.

SITE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

- Recommendations on **sixteen Area Zoning and Land Use Proposals** – four call for future subarea planning, one is a current subarea plan (see next bullet), one was rescinded, and ten required full analysis. There were also two County proposals for newly acquired parks department properties and two County technical urban growth area adjustments to reflect right-of-way changes.
- The **Skyway–West Hill Action Plan**, an Addendum to the 1994 community plan, was developed following a community initiated process supported with county technical assistance. The Addendum proposes a set of implementation actions to improve neighborhood conditions in the areas of health, sustainable growth, youth and community, economic prosperity, affordability, culture and innovation. Following public input, the plan will be updated by the community and submitted for adoption.

GET INVOLVED.

The County urges your consideration of the **2016 Public Review Draft**. The proposed amendments are intended to ensure that the region manages growth, protects rural areas and resource lands, and remains in compliance with the Growth Management Act.

Visit <http://kingcounty.gov> and search on "**Comprehensive Plan**."

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