

## Interjurisdictional Coordination

### Vision Statement

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan (“Plan”) includes a Vision Statement that is presented in its entirety within the Introduction of the Plan. The Vision Statement is an aspirational goal that the Plan aims to help bring to fruition through the goals, objectives, and policies of each element. The Vision of Snohomish County is:

We’re all in this together: In 2044 Snohomish County is a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive place to live with a high-quality of life where all residents can thrive.

The Interjurisdictional Coordination Element furthers the vision by guiding how the County will communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with other local jurisdictions to be more resilient and ensure that all county residents can thrive. The environment, climate change, equity, and many other topics do not follow jurisdictional boundaries and must be addressed collectively by cities and towns and the County to produce positive results.

Intergovernmental or interjurisdictional coordination (~~(has been described as)~~) is a (“) meaningful effort to bring all parties together to identify concerns, discuss issues, examine solutions, resolve problems, and employ joint approaches, where appropriate (~~(to manage the uncoordinated and unplanned growth posing a threat to the environment, economic development and high quality of life in the state.” (Working Together – A Guide to Intergovernmental Coordination Under the Growth Management Act, State of Washington DCD, July 1992))~~). Such cooperative efforts between jurisdictions can lead to increased efficiency in the preparation of plans, provision of public services, annexations and incorporations, and many other activities by minimizing conflicts and duplications.

There are many planning and regional growth management issues such as transportation and water quality management that transcend jurisdictional boundaries. The lack of a range of housing opportunities near employment centers, public facility sizing, and scheduling of transportation improvements concurrent with development are all issues that could be better managed through a coordinated approach.

The development of unincorporated land adjacent to cities has created a number of complex issues. When cities seek to extend their corporate boundaries through annexation without coordination with the county, they may find it difficult to provide public services to this new

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land at appropriate urban service levels because of: incompatible lot sizes; road alignments; utility line sizes; and differing design standards typical of these more rural areas. If unincorporated, urbanizing areas remain under the county's jurisdiction, there often is pressure for the county to provide additional urban services that may be cost prohibitive. Once areas are annexed, the county faces a loss of tax revenues that may exceed the former costs of servicing the area, may have been dedicated to amortizing capital facilities in the area, and may reduce the county's ability to provide regional services.

Annexations and incorporations may affect county programs such as stormwater management or financing of transportation improvements if the land removed by annexation no longer contributes financially to the program. Special purpose districts are also affected by annexations and transition measures need to be considered as service providers change.

Snohomish County and its cities, towns, and the (~~Tulalip Tribes~~) federally recognized tribes recognize the benefits of coordinated planning. The cities, county and Tribes continue to participate in Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT), a joint planning process through which goals have been formulated to guide the development and revision of local comprehensive plans. These goals form the basis for the countywide planning policies which were also developed through SCT. SCT has been instrumental in developing annexation policies which are used by the county and the cities.

The county and the cities realize that coordinated planning is beneficial in updating comprehensive plans for the unincorporated areas around cities, and particularly along identified transit emphasis corridors and within designated urban centers and urban villages. The county and cities are exploring urban transition options that would result in improved regulatory consistency between jurisdictions over standards for land use development in the UGAs.

The county's Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA) includes nine cities and unincorporated county land. Urban-level services within UGAs should ultimately be provided by cities. Dividing the SWUGA into separate Municipal Urban Growth Areas (MUGAs) will facilitate coordinated planning between the cities and Snohomish County. The delineation and adoption of initial MUGA boundaries by the county council allows the county to plan for the development of these urban areas in coordination with the city they are most likely to join in the future. MUGAs which have been established within the SWUGA will continue to help ensure predictability for residents and businesses in the unincorporated areas as to the municipality that will eventually become their urban services provider.

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The following goals, objectives and policies provide general policy direction for continued and improved interjurisdictional coordination.

[Insert goals, policies and objectives here]