



**Snohomish County**

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**Planning and Development Services**

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Snohomish County Planning Commission

**Dave Somers**  
*County Executive*

FROM: Michael Saponaro, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Interjurisdictional Coordination Element, Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan

DATE: March 8, 2023

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**INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this staff report is to provide information on updates to the Interjurisdictional Coordination element of Snohomish County's Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan. A briefing on the recommended language is scheduled for the March 28, 2023, Planning Commission meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

The purpose of the Interjurisdictional Coordination element of Snohomish County's GMA Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") is to promote the coordination of planning, financing, and implementation programs between the county and local jurisdictions including tribal governments. The proposed amendments to this element are minimal and were primarily developed based on a recent policy implementation review by County staff, the recent update process for the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), coordination with Snohomish County Health Department leadership, and public input after making the proposed amendments available online. The proposed updates provide consistency with the CPPs, the Vision 2050 Multi-County Planning Policies (MPPs), and other Plan policies.

**PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS**

The policy table attached to this staff report as Attachment B shows the amendments staff are proposing to the Interjurisdictional Coordination Element. The proposed 2024 updates within the Interjurisdictional Coordination element are relatively minor. There are eight total amendments shown in the attached policy table for the element. Three of the updates are made solely to address word choices such as "stakeholder," which has been changed to "parties" or "residents." Another update is moving interjurisdictional coordination with Snohomish Health District to Land Use Policy 4.A.3, as the Snohomish Health District is no longer a separate jurisdiction. The last three policy updates are more substantial, with two policies updated related to collaboration with other local jurisdictions on development regulations and interlocal agreements, and one policy updated to reflect that minimum residential density standards is a topic that may be included in annexation interlocal agreements consistent with existing policy in the Land Use Element and state law.

**ANALYSIS**

The following analysis provides a summary of the proposed amendments' compliance with state law, regional planning, and countywide planning policies.

### Compliance with State Law

The GMA planning goals adopted in RCW 36.70A.020 guide the development and adoption of comprehensive plans. The proposed amendments to the Interjurisdictional Coordination element further the GMA planning goals, especially Goal 11 as shown below.

**Table 1 Compliance with GMA Planning Goals**

GMA Planning Goal	Finding
GMA Goal 11: Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.	The proposed amendments to the Interjurisdictional Coordination element of the Plan provide guidance for how the County will coordinate with other jurisdictions consistent with this goal.

### Compliance with the Multi-County Planning Policies

The proposed amendments to the Interjurisdictional Coordination Element comply with the Vision 2050 Multi-County Planning Policies (MPPs) by adopting policies that conform with the following MPP:

- MPP-PS-17 Coordinate, design, and plan for public safety services and programs, including emergency management. These efforts may be interjurisdictional.

### Compliance with the Countywide Planning Policies

The proposed amendments to the Interjurisdictional Coordination Element comply with the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) for Snohomish County by adopting policies that conform to the following CPPs:

- CPP JP-1: Coordination of county and municipal planning particularly for urban services, governance, and annexation is fundamental in implementing the Regional Growth Strategy and GMA directives related to urban growth areas in RCW 36.70A.110. Interlocal agreements for this purpose are encouraged pursuant to the Interlocal Cooperation Act (chapter 39.34 RCW). These agreements should emphasize the importance of early and continuous public participation, focus on decision-making by elected or other appropriate officials, and review the consistency of comprehensive plans with each other and the Growth Management Act, where applicable. Appendix F provides an illustrative list of issues that could be considered appropriate for Interlocal Agreements.
- CPP JP-2: In the event of a proposed annexation of unincorporated lands in Snohomish County by a city or special district with no incorporated or district territory currently located in Snohomish County, an interlocal agreement between Snohomish County and any jurisdiction determined necessary by the County shall be in place, consistent with CPP JP-1 and Appendix F. This agreement shall be in effect before the city or district submits a Notice of Intent to Annex to the State Boundary Review Board (BRB) of Snohomish County or, if not subject to BRB review, prior to approval of the annexation to the city or special district.
- CPP JP-3: Encourage policies that allow accessible, effective, and frequent interjurisdictional coordination relating to the consistency of comprehensive plans in a particular Urban Growth Area (UGA) and to the expansion of a UGA.
- CPP JP-4: The County and cities shall develop comprehensive plan policies and development regulations that provide for the orderly transition of unincorporated Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to incorporated areas in UGAs. Mutual agreements may be utilized to address governance issues and expedite the transition.
- CPP JP-5: The County and affected cities should collaborate on the development of appropriate urban design measures in unincorporated Urban Growth Areas.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The GMA requires early and continuous public participation per RCW 36.70A.140. Public participation for the Interjurisdictional Coordination element has been provided to date through:

- The draft amendments to the Interjurisdictional Coordination Element were posted for 30-day public comment from 11/1/2022 to 11/30/2022.
- Seven public comments were received, some supporting the amendments and some opposing some aspects of the amendments. Topics covered by the comments included: 1) support for improved coordination with all Tribes; 2) support for annexation; 3) support and concern over the density of development related to proposed amendments to Policy IC 1.B.6; 4) support and opposition to proposed amendments to Objective IC 1.C and related policies regarding collaboration on development regulations; and 5) support for continued coordination on public health. No revisions were made based on the public comments received.

All public comments are available in the index of records.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The County issued a Determination of Significance (DS) for the 2024 Update to the Plan on November 1, 2021. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will likely be issued in September 2023, satisfying State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review.

### **NOTIFICATION OF STATE AGENCIES**

Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, a notice of intent to adopt the proposed regulations and standards will be transmitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce for the entirety of the 2024 Update to the Plan in September 2023.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of the proposed comprehensive plan amendments and findings contained in this staff report.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Planning Commission is requested to hold a public hearing, consider the proposed comprehensive plan element, and provide a recommendation to the County Council. The Planning Commission can recommend approval of the element with supporting findings of fact as proposed or modified, deny the proposal with findings, or amend the proposal with appropriate findings.

cc: Ken Klein, Executive Director  
Mike McCrary, PDS Director  
David Killingstad, PDS Manager  
Ryan Countryman, Legislative Analyst

### **Attachments**

**Attachment A – GPP Interjurisdictional Coordination Narrative Updates**

**Attachment B – Interjurisdictional Coordination Summary Table**