

ANNEXATION PRINCIPLES

The following principles are intended as a “roadmap” for successful annexations but are not intended to require cities to annex all UGA lands. The desired outcome will reduce Snohomish County’s current delivery of municipal services within the urban growth area while strengthening the County’s regional planning and coordinating duties. Likewise, cities/towns will expand their municipal services to unincorporated lands scattered throughout the UGAs in Snohomish County. These principles propose altering historical funding and service delivery patterns. All parties recognize that compromises are necessary.

1. The county and all Snohomish County cities will utilize a six-year time schedule which will guide annexation goals. This work will be known as the Six Year Annexation Plan. As follow-up to the county’s Municipal Urban Growth Area (MUGA) policies, those cities that have a (MUGA) land assignment, should designate this land assignment a priority. Each jurisdiction shall conduct its normal public process to ensure that citizens from both the MUGA areas and city proper are well informed. All Snohomish County cities have the option of opting in or out of this process. Cities that opt in will coordinate with the county to establish strategies for a smooth transition of services and revenues for the annexations proposed in the accepted Six Year Plan.
2. Each city will submit a written report regarding priority of potential annexation areas to the county council every two years, at which time each city will re-evaluate its time schedule for annexation. This report will serve as an update to the Six Year Annexation Plan.

The report to the county council should be based upon each city’s internal financial analyses dealing with the cost of those annexations identified for action within the immediate two-year time period. This analysis shall include: current and future infrastructure needs including, but not be limited to, arterial roads, surface water management, sewers, and bridges. A special emphasis should be given to the financing of arterial roads, including historical county funding and said roads’ priority within the county’s current 6-year road plan. Where financing and other considerations

are not compelling, the city and county may “re-visit” the annexation strategies at the next two-year interval.

3. To facilitate annexation within urban growth areas (UGAs), the host city and the county may negotiate an Interlocal agreement providing for sub-area planning to guide the adoption of consistent zoning and development regulations between the county and the city. Coordination of zoning densities between the county and the host city may require the revision of land use maps, adoption of transfer rights or other creative solutions. Upon completion of sub-area planning, if densities cannot be reconciled, then the issue would be directed to SCT for review and possible re-assignment to alternate sites within the UGA.

The Interlocal Agreement would also address development and permit review and related responsibilities within the UGA, apportioning related application fees based upon the review work performed by the respective parties, and any other related matters. The format for accomplishing permit reviews will be guided in part by each city’s unique staffing resources as reflected in the Interlocal agreement between the host city and the county.

4. The city and the county will evaluate the financial and service impacts of an annexation to both entities, and will collaborate to resolve inequities between revenues and service provision. The city and county will negotiate on strategies to ensure that revenues and service requirements are balanced for both the city and the county. These revenue sharing and/or service provision strategies shall be determined by individual ILAs to address service operations and capital implementation strategies.
5. The county and the host city will negotiate with other special taxing districts on annexation related issues. Strategies for accomplishing these negotiations will be agreed to by the county and host city, and reflected in the host city’s annexation report. (See preceding Principle #2.)
6. To implement the goals of the Annexation Principles regarding revenue sharing, service provision, and permit review transitions, the county and the cities will consider a variety of strategies and tools in developing Interlocal Agreements, including:

- Inter-jurisdictional transfers of revenue, such as property taxes, Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), storm drainage fees, sales tax on construction, and retail sales tax. Dedicated accounts may be opened for the deposit of funds by mutual agreement by the county and city;
- Service provision agreements, such as contracting for service and/or phasing the transition of service from the county to the cities;
- Identifying priority infrastructure improvement areas to facilitate annexation of areas identified in Six Year Annexation Plans.

These Annexation Principles were brought forward on April 25, 2007 at the Snohomish County Tomorrow Steering Committee meeting and were passed unanimously by the Steering Committee of Snohomish County Tomorrow to be forwarded to the Snohomish County Council for consideration.



**Aaron Reardon, Co-Chair
SCT Steering Committee**



**Dennis Kendall, Co-Chair
SCT Steering Committee**