Welcome to the latest edition of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update Newsletter!

In this newsletter, you’ll learn more about the Comprehensive Plan and the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. There will be many opportunities for public engagement throughout this planning process, and this newsletter will highlight news and upcoming efforts.

2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Snohomish County is planning for a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive future. One of the main ways the county can plan for this future is through periodic updates to its Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a document that guides Snohomish County decisions on a wide range of topics and services over a 20-year time period. Between now and December 2024, the Plan will go through an extensive update. When adopted, the Plan will be in effect from 2024 to 2044 with minor annual updates, as needed.

Please explore the 2024 Update website for more information on the current Comprehensive Plan, the Update process, and opportunities to provide your input. By incorporating the hopes and desires of the public, the 2024 Update will be centered on your direct feedback and reflect the benefits that are important to you and your communities.
Potential Policy Amendments within the 2024 Update

Between now and December 2024, the Comprehensive Plan will go through an update and we will be seeking your input on potential policy revisions to each element.

The 2024 Update team is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan’s elements to identify potential policy revisions and additions. Policies provide direction for planning efforts in the county, and policy revisions may require amendments to development regulations. Beginning in the winter of 2022-2023, each element will share draft policy revisions for your consideration and input. This represents an early opportunity to review potential changes and let us know what you think. There will be additional opportunities going forward.

The proposed policy changes will be based on new or updated requirements to state laws such as the Growth Management Act (GMA), regional planning efforts such as Vision 2050, changes in countywide planning policies (CPPs), local initiatives, and public input. Additionally, each element will be reviewed through a lens of social and environmental justice. Your input can help ensure any proposed changes will help bring about a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive future for Snohomish County.

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Public Meetings: There are regular public meetings where you can learn more and provide feedback about decisions being made by Planning Commission, County Council, and other county representatives.

Project Timeline (Subject to Change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Time and Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Meeting Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>April 26, 2022, 5:30pm</td>
<td>• County-Initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Briefing</td>
<td>Agenda Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• PSRC Presentation on VISION 2050</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
<td>May 24, 2022, 5:30pm</td>
<td>• County-Initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendments: Hearing</td>
<td>Agenda Center</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Water Code: Briefing</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife presentation</td>
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*Note: All meeting topics are subject to change, please click the link to the agenda page for update*
Three New Elements Added to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan

The 2024 Update is proposing three new elements to join the existing ten elements that make up the Comprehensive Plan. The newly proposed elements include the urban core subarea plan, climate change, and Tribal coordination. The impetus for these new elements came from proposed changes to the GMA, public input, and the continued effort required to plan for the coming light rail service in Snohomish County.

You can find the current Comprehensive Plan [here](#).

### Urban Core Subarea Plan Element

This element will focus on the two funded light rail station locations (Ash Way and Mariner), one unfunded station at SR 99/Airport Road, and a large area of unincorporated Snohomish County between the Cities of Everett, Lynnwood, Mill Creek, and Mukilteo. The element will cover a range of topics including: Land Use and Urban Design; Transportation and Mobility; Environment and Climate Change; Housing; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Public Services and Utilities; and the Economy.

Furthermore, the new element will include goals and policies that help direct future planning and regulations in that specific geographic area. For further information on the urban core subarea plan, please visit the article from the [Summer 2021 newsletter](#).

### Climate Change Element

**Vision 2050**, created by the Puget Sound Regional Council, contains significant direction on climate change for the region through the multi-county planning policies (MPPs). The Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) for the county, cities, and towns were then updated in 2021 to be consistent with Vision 2050. In light of the direction from Vision 2050, the CPPs, and public input we have received over the last year, the County will add a new climate change element to the 2024 Update.

(continued on next page...)
Continued: Three New Elements Added to the 2024 Comprehensive Plan

The scope of the new climate change element will focus on a high level goal, objectives, and a limited number of policies focused on adaptation to, and mitigation from, climate change. It will also cross-reference existing climate change policies in other elements of the comprehensive plan (like transportation policies on reducing vehicle miles travelled).

Earth Day is on April 22nd! This year we celebrate the 52nd Earth Day. Check out your local area for events celebrating this day.

Tribal Coordination Element

The 2024 Update will build upon previous work started in 2016 to create a new Tribal coordination element that will also include input from, and be shaped by, Tribes in Snohomish County. The recently adopted Land Acknowledgment now read once a month during County Council meetings is an example of a recent action that required Tribal coordination to complete. The goals, objectives, and policies within this new element will bring about additional measures and ensure coordination on opportunities, projects, and issues that are of interest and have meaning to the Tribes.

The Snohomish County Land Acknowledgment:

“We acknowledge the original inhabitants of this place, the Sah ku me-hu (Sauk-Suiattle Tribe), the stuləgʷábš (Stillaguamish Tribe), and the sduhubš (Snohomish) Skykomish, Snoqualmie and their successors the Tulalip Tribes. Since time immemorial, they have hunted, fished, gathered on, and taken care of these lands and waters. We respect their sovereignty, their right to self-determination and honor their sacred spiritual connection with the land and water. We will strive to be honest about our past mistakes and bring about a future that includes their people, stories, and voices to form a more just and equitable society.

With this tribal acknowledgement, we open our time together by honoring the ancestors whose feet first knew these lands, and whose paddles still know the waters of what we now call Snohomish County.”
Snohomish County Initial Growth Targets

On December 1, 2021, the Snohomish County Tomorrow (SCT) organization recommended a set of Initial Growth Targets to the County Council. The County Council adopted the SCT-recommended targets into the Countywide Planning Policies on February 23, 2022. Growth Targets are the population and job goals to the year 2044 broken down from the regional level to the local planning level within Snohomish County. They are important because they form the basis for planning efforts in those areas. For instance, with High-Capacity Transit (HCT) Communities targeted to receive 50% of the county’s population growth between now and 2044, we need to ensure there will be adequate housing and other services when those residents arrive.

The 2044 Initial Growth Targets were developed using projections from the State Office of Financial Management (OFM) and PSRC’s Vision 2050 Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) as starting points. The projected growth shares by the regional geographies contained in the Vision 2050 RGS (shown in the table below) were distributed to individual jurisdictions within Snohomish County based on the 2021 Buildable Lands Report, existing population and employment distributions, changes over the past decade, pending developments, proposed light rail and other HCT stations, manufacturing industrial center locations, and transportation accessibility.

The forecasted total population for Snohomish County in 2044 is 1,136,309 based on the PSRC RGS. This represents a potential increase of 308,352 people between 2020 and 2044. Forecasting future growth can be tricky as there are so many factors that can play into whether an individual moves to or from the County. Some of these factors include where jobs are available, and if individuals can work remotely or need to commute to their jobs; the price of housing; the location of neighborhood amenities; climate change, weather patterns, and natural disasters; urban versus rural preferences; and much more. This is also one of the reasons the above table includes “Initial” Growth Targets that will be analyzed within the 2024 Update’s Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Reconciled Growth Targets will be produced after the 2024 Update to the Comprehensive Plan is complete.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Geography</th>
<th>Population (2020-2044)</th>
<th>Jobs (2019-2044)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro City</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Cities</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCT Communities</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
<td>29.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities &amp; Towns</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Unincorporated</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Snohomish County</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table:
Snohomish County’s Population and Growth Shares by Regional Geography
Adoption of the 2044 Initial Growth Targets in the Countywide Planning Policies is important as they feed into several important elements of the Comprehensive Plan update such as the land use alternatives for the EIS, as well as the discussion around the current location of the Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundary. For instance, if the growth targeted for one area of the county exceeds the buildable land in that area, strategies to increase capacity to accommodate the additional growth in those locations need to be considered. For more information, view the Buildable Lands Report here, and our past newsletter here.

Below, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) illustrates the Central Puget Sound Region.

You can find the full version of the map here along with more maps and information from PSRC.

Watch the Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan 2024 Update Video Here.
Snohomish County — Did you know?

Lushootseed – Coastal Salish is the language of the Tulalip Tribes. The Tulalip Tribes website, indicates that “The Lushootseed-speaking region extends along the shores of Puget Sound from modern-day Olympia to the Skagit watershed and from the Hood canal to the Cascades.”

“Lushootseed is a member of the Salish language family, whose approximately twenty surviving languages are spoken from Northern Oregon to central British Columbia.”

You can learn more about the dxʷləšucid Lushootseed language from the Tulalip Tribes of Washington Lushootseed Department website. “The Tulalip Tribes Lushootseed Department is dedicated to increasing awareness of Lushootseed within the community and beyond, as well as to restoring the language to everyday use within the community.”

Image courtesy of Lushootseed Dept. website

Photo Corner

We ❤️ Snohomish County and showing our appreciation in pictures! Is there a part of our wonderful county that you’d like us to feature in our upcoming newsletters? Email them to us at 2024Update@snoco.org with a description of where it is and why you love it or tweet to the county’s twitter account @snocounty (follow while you’re there). We are eager to share as many photos as we can to spread the love of our county!
Visioning Update

Between November 1, 2021, and February 25, 2022, you told us about your 2044 vision for Snohomish County. We received nearly 100 comments! Staff compiled the public comments into a draft vision statement and collection of guiding principles.

Did we hear you correctly? Let us know if we missed anything by emailing 2024Update@snoco.org

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.

In 2044...

Community: There are a range of healthy, safe, and affordable housing options for all economic segments of the population and in all stages of life. Communities around light rail stations and high-capacity transit service have flourished. Neighborhoods have access to local markets, businesses, and recreational opportunities. Displacement from development pressure is minimized to ensure that businesses and affordable housing options remain in communities. Rural areas maintain their rural character with rural businesses and services that support local needs, while being stewards of the natural environment.

Growth and Livability: The County has focused the majority of its growth to urban areas while protecting rural and natural areas and offers a high quality of life where all residents have access to opportunities and resources to thrive. The County is a welcoming and inclusive place to work, live, and recreate. Health and wellbeing are priorities, and the community has vibrant arts, music, and diverse cultures throughout.

Natural Environment: The County values its beautiful landscapes and fiercely protects the natural environment for its ecosystem services, recreational opportunities, and habitat. There are many connected greenways, open spaces, and wildlife corridors throughout the county providing habitat, flood mitigation, and tree canopy. Regional and neighborhood parks, trails, and open space offer recreational opportunities that are accessible and affordable to all.

Resilience & Conservation: Communities are resilient to the changing climate. Special efforts continue to support our most vulnerable populations. The County is exceeding the state’s greenhouse gas reduction targets and has implemented transportation and building practices that conserve resources and promote healthy living. The County is well-prepared to respond to natural disasters and emergency events to keep communities safe.

Transportation / Mobility: People and goods move reliably, efficiently, and effectively throughout the county. There is a well-planned interconnected transportation network for all-users, including walkers, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers, to get people and goods to where they need and want to go. Public transportation is well-integrated and offers affordable and useful transportation options.

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(Visioning Update Continued...):

**Economy:** The County has a strong and diversified economy providing local employment, anchored in part by its commercial and industrial centers, tourism, robust agricultural enterprises, and investments in aerospace, green building, and alternative energy businesses. The airports, ports, and educational institutions maintain a critical role in ensuring the County’s economic strength. The County continues to be a leader in emerging trends in employment and evolving business models.

**Infrastructure and Services:** The County is served by well-maintained efficient, and coordinated public infrastructure systems and services, including roadways, schools, energy, water, wastewater treatment, and broadband service. Long-range plans consider our changing environment, and advances in technology. Social services are easily accessible and provide resources and support ensuring basic needs are met with assistance to develop human potential.

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### 2021 Tree Canopy Monitoring Report

Every year, PDS staff produces a tree canopy monitoring report to summarize the tree canopy retained or created through new residential land use development permits in the Urban Growth Area (UGA). To review the full monitoring report, please visit the ‘[Tree Canopy in Landscaping](#)’ webpage. You can learn about the 2021 Annual report on Tree Canopy, canopy regulations, past reports, and more.

The Tree Canopy Monitoring Report provides data and analysis on urban residential permits that were approved in the past year. In 2021, there were 3,306 new trees planted for approved urban residential permits. Every proposed landscape plan that was approved in 2021 met or exceeded the minimum 20-year tree canopy coverage required in Snohomish County Code.

There is a proposed County Council Initiated amendment for the 2024 Update that would add goals, objectives, and policies focused on the preservation of urban tree canopy. The preservation and creation of urban tree canopy can have positive benefits on human health, wildlife habitat, surface water, air, and soil quality.
Translation and Interpretation Services

The Communication Plan for the 2024 Update emphasizes meaningful engagement with historically underserved populations. One such population that is made up of multiple communities, are those who have limited English proficiency (LEP). To reduce barriers for engagement, such as the need for LEP folks to request translation services in order to engage, the 2024 Update team has begun translating various documents into Spanish and Korean before we distribute them. Recent translated documents include the scoping report, the winter newsletter, and visioning flyers that were posted around the county in businesses, grocery stories, and apartment buildings. The two scoping public meetings also had live interpretation services, and recordings were posted on the 2024 Update project website.

To aid in interpretation services moving forward, PDS has a contract with Language Link. If you or anyone you know would like interpretation services over the phone to better understand the Comprehensive Plan Update, please call 425-388-6660.

Who’s Listening?

Thousands of people work for Snohomish County government and hundreds of them work for Planning and Development Services (PDS), the Parks and Recreation Division (within the newly created Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or DCNR), and Public Works. Dozens of them are specifically focused on the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update. As a Communications Specialist I working for the Long Range Planning Division in PDS, Jacob Lambert spends a fair bit of his time working with and supporting the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update Public Participation team. He’s a Colorado native, Colorado College graduate, 19-year Pacific Northwest transplant, and Snohomish County resident. When he’s not at work, he’s likely thinking about how nice it will be to attend live music again, practicing his guitar (poorly), dreaming about travel, or taking photos, interrupted occasionally by a satisfying bike ride on Snohomish County’s beautiful Interurban Trail or camping off of Mountain Loop Hwy.

Title VI / ADA Information

Interpreter and translation services for people with limited English proficiency, and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please make arrangements by emailing the project contact at 2024Update@snoco.org. For questions regarding Public Works’ Title VI Program, contact the Title VI Coordinator via e-mail at spw-titlevi@snoco.org, or phone 425-388-6660. If you have a hearing or speech impairment call 711.