

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

AGENDA TITLE: Annexation Area Databook

PRESENTED BY: The Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT)

Topics for Discussion:

The 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan included direction to develop a countywide plan to move remaining unincorporated urban Potential Annexation Areas (PAA) toward annexation. The first phase in drafting the plan is the creation of an Annexation Area Databook (Databook) containing information on all of the PAA in King County. The King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) was first briefed on this topic in March 2017; this report is an introduction to the Databook and a discussion of next steps.

Background

The 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") included an action item as follows:

Action 14: Develop a Countywide Plan to Move Remaining Unincorporated Urban Potential Annexation Areas Toward Annexation. The GMPC has authority to propose amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies, and a unique defined role related to recommending approval or denial of Urban Growth Area expansions. In order to move remaining unincorporated areas, which vary in size and complexity, towards annexation, the GMPC would reconsider the Potential Annexation Areas map and the "Joint Planning and Annexation" section of the Countywide Planning Policies. This effort would include an evaluation of how to address Potential Annexation Areas that have been previously unsuccessful in annexation and/or where annexation does not appear feasible in the near future.

To support development of a Countywide Annexation Plan, the county created the Annexation Area Databook. The purpose of the Databook is to support engagement with cities and residents of PAA by providing information on all the annexation areas at the countywide level, jurisdiction level (i.e., aggregating all PAA affiliated with a city into one dataset), and then at the individual PAA level. Note that since this is the first

iteration of the Databook, it is being released in Draft Final form and will be finalized following discussions with cities and communities to review and verify the data.

Much of the remaining urban unincorporated area in King County is made up of geographically isolated islands surrounded by cities or on the edge of the UGA, adjacent to rural areas. Because these areas are scattered across such a large and disconnected geography, the provision of local services by the county is costly and inefficient compared to having services provided by an adjacent city. In addressing urban growth areas, the Growth Management Act states that counties are the most appropriate providers of rural and regional services and cities are the most appropriate providers of urban services.

There are six large urban unincorporated areas remaining in King County; each of which has been claimed as a PAA by an adjacent city. These areas are: North Highline/White Center Area Y and the Sliver (Seattle), Fairwood (Renton), West Hill/Skyway (Renton), East Renton (Renton) and North and East Federal Way (Federal Way). In addition, there are more than 100 smaller urban areas – many of which are islands of unincorporated land surrounded by a city. Only about 80 of these have residents; the remainder are rights-of-way, road segments, or isolated undeveloped parcels.

While the vast majority of urban unincorporated lands have been identified as part of the PAA of a neighboring city, there are currently no city annexation timelines identified to affect annexation. The one exception is the City of Seattle, which has approval through the King County Boundary Review Board to bring forward an annexation ballot measure for the North Highline area. The date of election has not been scheduled, nor has the planning or public outreach that would proceed such an election.

The 2012 Countywide Planning Policies regarding annexation address the following:

- managing targeted levels of growth;
- ensuring Urban Growth Area expansions are linked to annexation;
- establishing a collaborative process for affiliating areas with cities and avoiding overlapping affiliations or gaps;
- addressing affiliation and annexation of infrastructure such as rights-of-way as well as urban service provision;
- supporting joint planning between the County and the cities; and
- prohibiting annexations of certain types of lands such as agricultural lands.

Built on state annexation law, these policies form the basis for how jurisdictions work together in the planning process to facilitate annexation.

Annexation Map

To highlight the remaining PAA, the 2016 King County Comprehensive Plan included a reformatted version of the annexation map. No changes were made to geographies or boundaries, only changes to formatting and the addition of names for clarity. For the smaller PAA, names were added based on proximate geographic features, large subdivisions, roadways, predominant ownerships, or other information that helped to

describe the area. Names have no legal status and are only intended for the purpose of reference. These turquoise colored areas on the attached map are the subject of the Annexation Area Databook.

Next Steps:

The next steps will address three primary tasks:

- Develop, review and finalize Annexation Databook (2019)
- Develop, review and finalize Annexation Action Plan (2019)
- Review and consider PAA Policies as part of 2020 update to Countywide Planning Policies (following update of VISION 2050)