
Council Meeting Date: December 2, 2020

Agenda Item: V

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA TITLE: 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policy Update – Status Report

PRESENTED BY: Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT)

Schedule

December 2, 2020	GMPC meeting: overview of the Development Patterns and Housing Chapters; concurrence to initiate Candidate Countywide Centers Identification process; review 2021 GMPC schedule
January 27, 2021	GMPC work session: review draft changes to the CPP policies, presented by chapter
February 24, 2021	GMPC meeting: review and comment on all draft chapters; update on growth targets progress
March 31, 2021	GMPC meeting: direction for release of the Public Review Draft, including draft growth targets
April/May, 2021	Release of the Public Review Draft; stakeholder and community meetings
May 26, 2021	GMPC meeting: review of public comments and consideration of amendments
June 23, 2021	GMPC meeting: final action of the 2021 CPP Update including growth targets; final action of the Urban Growth Capacity Report
Summer, 2021	King County Council consideration of the 2021 CPP Update
Fall, 2021	City ratification of the 2021 CPP Update
December 1, 2021	GMPC meeting: approval of list of Candidate Countywide Centers
December 31, 2021	King County submittal of the 2021 CPP Update to PSRC for certification

Background

The Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) create a shared framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County. The CPPs implement the Growth Management Act and the VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies. Local comprehensive plans are developed from the framework that the CPPs create. Countywide Planning Policies are being updated in advance of the 2024 periodic update of comprehensive plans to reflect a number of changes to the regional policy framework since their 2012 adoption.

2021 CPP Update – Chapter Summaries

1. Environment

Changes to the Environment Chapter include updating existing policies from 2012 and the including new policies that align with VISION 2050 Multi-county Planning Policies that:

- Emphasize climate change as a new subsection;
- Update the greenhouse gas reduction goals to correspond to the goals set by the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C);
- Address environmental justice issues across several policies including access to a healthy environment, community resilience, and reducing pollution; and
- Call for the use of best available science when establishing and implementing environmental standards.

2. Development Patterns

This chapter has a significant number of changes. Updated policies clarify and reinforce topics such as: integrating social equity and public health into local and countywide planning, ensuring a stable urban growth area boundary, codifying growth target and urban growth capacity report processes, better linking growth targets to land use assumptions in comprehensive plans, addressing four-to-one program provisions (including aligning program goals with County annexation goals), and the process for reassigning potential annexation areas. New provisions focus on topics such as: establishing a Centers Designation Framework consistent with the PSRC regional framework approved in 2018, ensuring better understanding in local planning of past housing and land use practices have led to inequities by race and ethnicity, adding a reconciliation component to the growth targets process, developing new growth targets to 2044 to ensure a 20-year planning horizon for the 2024 periodic update of comprehensive plans, strengthening city-county collaboration around annexation area planning, and recognizing the role of Cities in the Rural Area consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.

Candidate Countywide Centers

PSRC's updated Center Framework provides for the designation of Countywide Centers. Similar to regional centers, these will be first designated by jurisdictions in their Comprehensive Plans, and this will occur in 2024. To allow jurisdictions in King County to compete in the regional transportation funding competitive processes in 2022, the GMPC is being asked for their concurrence on a process and criteria for identifying Candidate Countywide Centers. These candidates will be in effect until 2025-26, at which time GMPC will finalize the designations.

3. Housing *(Please refer to separate report for more detailed information)*

This chapter has a significant number of changes. In 2018, the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (RAHTF) found that King County needs 156,000 more affordable homes today and another 88,000 affordable homes by 2040 to ensure that all low-income families in King County have a safe and healthy home that costs less than 30 percent of their income. In light of these findings, the King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) asked the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) to recommend updates to the Housing Chapter of the CPPs in 2021 to support efforts to address this shortfall and other housing needs. The Committee's adopted recommendation must be transmitted to the GMPC in February 2021. As such, the AHC expects to adopt a recommendation at their next meeting on January 29, 2021.

In response to AHC and IJT guidance, the HIJT (Housing IJT) CPP Working Group proposed amendments to the Housing Chapter to:

- align with existing plans, including VISION 2050 and the RAHTF report;
- strengthen methods of local and regional accountability; and
- achieve health and equity outcomes.

4. Economy

Changes to the Economy Chapter include updating existing policies from 2012 and including new policies that align with VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies that:

- Support the Regional Economic Strategy;
- Support advanced manufacturing throughout the county;
- Foster a supportive environment for local owned and women and minority owned businesses;
- Reduce historic and ongoing disparities in income and employment opportunities for communities that have been economically disadvantaged; and
- Call for the development of a system that provides a safety net during economic downturns.

5. Transportation

Changes to the Transportation Chapter include updating of the existing policies from 2012 and inclusion of new polices that align with VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies that:

- Emphasis creating an equitable transportation system;
- Improve the safety of the system for all users;
- Encourage alternatives to driving along including transit and active transportation;
- Minimize displacement and impact on affected communities;
- Strengthen connections between land use and transportation; and
- Promote a sustainable system by encourage transit use, active transportation and alternative fuels.

6. Public Facilities and Services

This chapter received a CPP “tune-up” to continue to assure that County residents in both Urban and Rural areas have timely and equitable access to the public services needed in order to advance public health and safety, protect the environment, and carry out the Regional Growth Strategy.

Existing policies are amended to:

- Address impacts of climate change on fisheries and water reuse and reclamation (PF-4 and PF-10);
- Make investments in renewable and alternative energy sources (PF-15);
- Make the provision of telecommunication infrastructure a focus on broadband service to businesses and households of all income levels (PF-16);
- Further continue King County’s ahead-of-the-curve approach to school siting policy with specific RCW acknowledgement, and requirements for district-jurisdiction review meetings with reports to the GMPC (PF-18, -19, and -19A); and
- Establish a process for public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance to incorporate equity in determining impacts and benefits (PF-20).

The chapter update adds new policies that:

- Prioritize investments for affordable and equitable access to public services in this chapter;
- Consider climate change, economic and health impacts when siting and building essential public facilities; and
- A new Public Facility and Service Disaster Preparedness topic area to plan for such preparedness and ensure a resilience and recovery focus in facilities site selection.

At Today's Meeting

The IJT will provide an overview of the Development Patterns and Housing Chapters and review the 2021 GMPC schedule. The GMPC will be asked for their concurrence on the proposed process for identification of Candidate Countywide Centers.

Next Steps:

- Staff will:
 - Prepare draft policy changes for GMPC work session on January 27, 2021;
 - establish a stakeholder and public review process; and
 - develop target ranges.
- The GMPC members will have the opportunity to review draft policies at the January 27th work session.