

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dillingham Planning Commission
FROM: Project Team
DATE: April 10, 2026
RE: Comprehensive Plan — Summary of Public Comments and Plan Revisions

This memo summarizes the public comments received during the public review period for the Dillingham Comprehensive Plan and describes the revisions made to the plan in response. The full record of comments and responses is available in the accompanying Comment Tracker.

Overview of Public Comments

The public review period generated 88 comments from 18 individual commenters; 13 via SurveyMonkey and 5 via email. Of the 88 comments, 5 resulted in revisions to the plan and 83 did not require changes. *(The number of individual commenters is lower than the number of comments because most submissions included more than one comment.)*

	Count
Total comments received	88
Total individual commenters	18
SurveyMonkey respondents	13
Emailed responses	5
Comments resulting in plan revision	6
Comments not requiring revision	82

Comments by Topic Area

Topic Area	# of Comments
Waterfront	17
Housing	13
Community Wellness	12
Economic Development	10
All Plan / Process	8
Energy	8
Transportation	7
Public Facilities	5
Introduction	4
Land Use	4

Plan Revisions

Five comments resulted in changes to the plan. Each is described below.

Revision 1

Public Comment	<i>Re Vision: Involve ALL the entities I.e. BBNC, BBNA, BBEDC, BBHA, UTBB, Choggiung Ltd, Curyung Tribe, DMHS, BBCampus, The University, Dlg Police Department</i>
How Addressed	A new section on City Powers and Partners was added to the Introduction chapter (pg. 12) that addresses community partnerships and includes these entities.

Revision 2

Public Comment	<i>Potential Partners: Need to include UAF-BBC Marine Advisory / Sea Grant Program</i>
How Addressed	The new City Powers and Partners section in the Introduction (pg. 12) addresses community partnerships broadly. The plan generally avoids naming specific entities throughout the strategies (see Waterfront Strategy 2.h for an example of broad partner coordination language) in order to remain inclusive of any entities not named and partnerships that may develop over the life of the plan.

Revision 3

Public Comment	<p><i>There are many positive recommendations in the Draft Comprehensive Plan. One critical component not addressed (that I saw anyway) to achieving this plan is how to raise the revenue to pay for it. A couple of suggestions the City needs to do:</i></p> <p><i>Increase property tax revenue:</i> <i>Annex / extend the City limits to the Aleknagik City boundary</i></p> <p><i>Raw or processed fish tax:</i> <i>Annex the Nushagak Fishing District.</i> <i>Annex the Wood River Special Harvest Area</i> <i>Increase Harbor fees to more likely cover the cost.</i> <i>Head tax: Short term rentals (B&Bs); Airport head tax (?)</i></p>
How Addressed	<p>Some of these ideas are covered under Public Facilities and Services Strategy 1d: "Improve staffing, financial systems, and partnerships to deliver high-quality services and maintain essential public facilities Action d: Strengthen financial sustainability through updated fee schedules, improved sales tax management, periodic rate studies, and exploration of new revenue tools or leases on City property." Added Strategy 1f under "Potential City-led Actions" - "Work with the State of Alaska and state representatives to determine Dillingham's eligibility and pursue options to receive a share of state fisheries business and landing taxes"</p> <p>Some of the other specific ideas or taxes in this comment are not supported or heard through other inputs to support specific inclusion; however Strategy 1d., would allow for exploring any of these specifically.</p>

Revision 4

Public Comment	<i>The traditional food bank is being run and organized by the Smokehouse Collective. The idea being that we will have traditionally harvested Alaskan foods available for those in need. We intend to start in the hub of Dillingham but if possible to arrange for shipping some of the food to communities in the Bristol Bay area that are in need.</i>
How Addressed	Revised Economic Development Strategy 5d under "Potential Partner-led Actions" to now read: "Expand local markets and food distribution networks such as the Traditional Food Bank (through the Smokehouse Collective), Dillingham Farmers Market and other retail outlets to connect growers, harvesters, and consumers while improving affordability and access for all residents."

Revision 5

Public Comment	<i>The Seafood Innovation Center Feasibility Project is a two-year grant through Philanthropy Northwest to better understand what infrastructure development would best support Dillingham and Naknek in creating year-round economic sustainability opportunities from the sockeye salmon fishery.</i>
How Addressed	Added Economic Development Strategy 1h under "Potential Partner-led Actions" that reads: "Continue pursuing Seafood Innovation Center Feasibility Project to look at location, land ownership, partnership opportunities, energy requirements, funding sources, and impact."

Revision 6

Public Comment	<i>Re Vision: Correct the references to "Bristol Bay Borough staff, Borough Planning Commission and Assembly meetings".</i>
How Addressed	Corrected.
