



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2023-312

File ID:	AB2023-312	Version:	1	Status:	Approved
File Created:	04/24/2023	Entered by:			
Department:		File Type:	Resolution		
Assigned to:	Council Planning and Development Committee			Final Action:	05/09/2023
Agenda Date:	05/09/2023			Enactment #:	RES 2023-013

Primary Contact Email: maamot@co.whatcom.wa.us

TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution relating to a schedule for joint County and City review of Urban Growth Areas

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

The Growth Management Act indicates that county and city comprehensive plans must be coordinated and consistent (RCW 36.70A.100). Additionally, interlocal agreements between Whatcom County and the cities state the County and the cities will coordinate the comprehensive plan and Urban Growth Area (UGA) reviews required by the GMA through “. . . Approving, by resolution of the respective legislative bodies, a schedule for joint County and City review of the UGA. . . “ The proposed Resolution is intended to facilitate coordination between the County and the cities and facilitate consistency between the jurisdictions’ respective comprehensive plans and UGA planning.

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
05/09/2023	Council Planning and Development Committee	RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL	
	Aye: 2	Elenbaas, and Galloway	
	Nay: 0		
	Absent: 1	Byrd	
05/09/2023	Council	APPROVED	
	Aye: 7	Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner	
	Nay: 0		

Attachments: Staff Memo, Draft Resolution

Sponsored by: _____

Proposed by: _____

Introduction date: 5/09/2023

RESOLUTION NO. 2023 - 013

RELATING TO A SCHEDULE FOR JOINT
COUNTY AND CITY REVIEW OF URBAN GROWTH AREAS

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) requires county and city comprehensive plans to be coordinated and consistent (RCW 36.70A.100); and

WHEREAS, the GMA requires Whatcom County and cities located in the County to review and, if needed, update their respective comprehensive plans by June 30, 2025 (RCW 36.70A.130); and

WHEREAS, the GMA, county-wide planning policies and inter-local agreements indicate that review of urban growth areas (UGAs) should be coordinated between the County and the cities; and

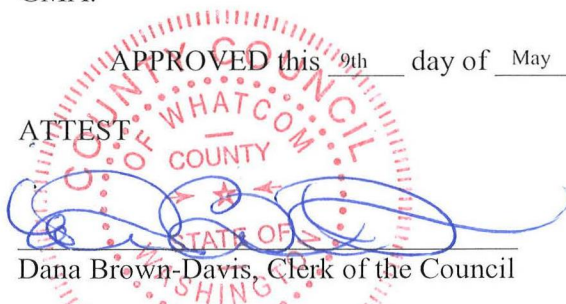
WHEREAS, the GMA states urban growth areas, and the densities permitted in the urban growth areas by the comprehensive plans of the county and each city located within the urban growth areas, shall be revised to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur in the county for the succeeding twenty-year period by June 30, 2025 (RCW 36.70A.130); and

WHEREAS, County/city coordination of time-frames and process is needed in the review of UGAs.

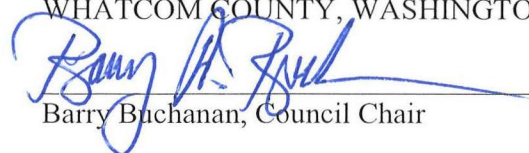
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Council hereby agrees that the County and cities should utilize the attached UGA Review Schedule (Exhibit A) to guide coordinated planning efforts for the UGA review. The schedule is general in nature, and failure to strictly adhere to the schedule shall not be deemed to be a failure to comply with the GMA.

APPROVED this 9th day of May 2023.

ATTEST


Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Royce Buckingham
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Exhibit A

Year	Primary Activities
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of City & County elected officials (if convened by the County Executive pursuant to the Interlocal Agreements). • Land capacity analysis methodology review. • Preparation of background information and future allocations of population, housing and employment. • Preliminary population, housing and employment allocations to transportation analysis zones and special purpose districts.
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of City & County elected officials (if convened by the County Executive pursuant to the Interlocal Agreements). • Initial City and County proposals for population, housing and employment • Initial review and preliminary Planning Commission recommendations for population, housing and employment projections and allocations to urban growth areas (UGAs). • Non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolution regarding allocation of population, housing and employment growth to UGAs. • City proposals regarding UGA growth allocations and UGA boundaries. • Land capacity analysis results. • Transportation model results. • Develop draft capital facility plans. • SEPA review (likely including development of an environmental impact statement).
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of City & County elected officials (if convened by the County Executive pursuant to the Interlocal Agreements). • Land capacity analysis results. • County Planning Commission public hearings and recommendations. • City council and County Council public hearings, review and adoption of respective comprehensive plan and capital facility plans.