



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 5793
January 5, 2021
Study Session**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5793: King County presentation on the Urban Growth Capacity Study and King County Planning Policies Growth Target Update Process.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
	RECOMMENDED ACTION:	
	Receive the presentation from King County staff.	

DEPARTMENT:	Community Planning and Development
STAFF:	Jeff Thomas, Interim CPD Director
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	n/a
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

King County staff will present an overview of the King County Urban Growth Capacity Study and the process to update the Countywide Planning Policies.

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires all counties and incorporated jurisdictions within those counties to maintain a valid Comprehensive Plan to guide community building and future growth of a jurisdiction for a 20-year period. The GMA also requires periodic updates to the Comprehensive Plan and recent legislative amendments now require an update every 9-years for a rolling 20-year period.

The last periodic update to the Mercer Island Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2015, planning to 2035. Mercer Island, like King County and other incorporated jurisdictions within, is commencing preparations for the next periodic update scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2024, planning to 2044.

Essential preparation components for King County (and incorporated jurisdictions within) to complete their next Comprehensive Plan periodic update include:

- The adoption of Vision 2050 by the Puget Sound Regional Council – completed in October 2020;

- Completion of the King County Urban Growth Capacity Study (UGCS) – scheduled for completion in 2021; and,
- Updates to the Countywide Planning Policies, which includes the Growth Target update process, also scheduled for completion in 2021.

King County staff have accepted an invitation from Mercer Island staff to present to City Council an overview of the work items planned for 2021. This is an opportunity for the City Council to learn more about the Countywide Planning Policies update process, understand how information from the UGCS is used to inform the update process, how Mercer Island fits into Vision 2050 in the High-Capacity Transit regional geography category, and how the Growth Target process generally works.

COMMUNITYWIDE PLANNING POLICY PROCESS UPDATE

With the Urban Growth Capacity Study in the final phase of data reporting, King County has initiated the Countywide Planning Policy Growth Target update process. Mercer Island staff participated in an October 2020 introductory meeting with King County and other jurisdiction staff. At this meeting, King County staff provided an overview of the Countywide Planning Policies update process and oriented meeting participants to the methodology used by King County to allocate future growth targets based on population forecasts.

Additionally, the regional geography caucus discussions were initiated by sorting the entire group of King County cities into sub-groups based on Vision 2050 and other geographic attributes. The City of Mercer Island is assigned to the High-Capacity Transit regional geography category with 6 other cities – Des Moines, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Shoreline, and Woodinville, as well as 3 planned annexation areas – Federal Way, North Highline, and Renton.

Since this introductory meeting, there have been two additional High-Capacity Transit (HCT) regional geography caucus discussions. Preliminary results of the growth targets methodology for the HCT regional geography category were shared and general parameters related to achieving the cumulative HCT category growth targets, as well as methodology refinements, were discussed. Additional regional geography caucus discussions are anticipated in January and February.

Eventually, each regional geography category will need to collectively settle on how its respective allocation of future growth targets will be distributed amongst its assigned jurisdictions. This growth allocation will be discussed with the City Council at the meeting on Tuesday, January 19.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive the presentation from King County staff. No action is requested at this meeting.