



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5800
January 19, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5800: A discussion related to King County Planning Policies Growth Target Update Process.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	No action is requested at this time.	<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	Community Planning and Development
STAFF:	Jeff Thomas, Interim CPD Director
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Vision 2050 Comment Letter 09-16-2019
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

SUMMARY

Following up on the January 5, 2021 King County presentation to the City Council on the County-Wide Planning Policies Growth Target Update Process, this is an opportunity for City Council to discuss and provide staff direction as to the City's position for the ensuing update process.

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 jurisdiction growth 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.

At the January 5, 2021 City Council meeting, King County staff presented an overview of the work items planned for 2021, as detailed in [AB 5793](#). This presentation included information about the Countywide Planning Policies update process, 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.

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICY GROWTH TARGET UPDATE PROCESS

The Countywide Planning Policy Growth Target update process is scheduled to be completed by mid-2021. In addition to having updated Countywide Planning Policies, King County and incorporated jurisdictions within will each have updated growth targets for housing and employment. These updated growth targets will serve as a foundation for the next periodic Comprehensive Plan update, planning to 2044.

To complete the growth target updates, jurisdictions in King County have been assigned to regional geography caucuses based on Vision 2050 and other geographic attributes. The City of Mercer Island is assigned to the High-Capacity Transit (HCT) regional geography caucus 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.

The HCT caucus is responsible for providing a recommendation as to how the proportioned regional geographic share of housing and employment will be assigned amongst its members. A total of 29,950 housing units and 28,750 jobs must be proportioned among the HCT caucus members. King County noted at the January 5 meeting its preference is to have the recommendation reached by consensus but has yet to outline any alternate methodologies (i.e. a weighted vote).

King County applied numerous methodologies to determine possible proportions of housing units and jobs for HCT caucus members. For Mercer Island, these methodologies have thus far produced results ranging from 1,255 to 3,414 housing units and 1,257 to 3,278 jobs. King County continues to refine methodologies and issue updated results into early 2021.

To date, the Mercer Island staff position with the HCT caucus has been to advocate for the lowest possible assignment of both housing units and jobs. This position is generally consistent with the City's comments dated September 16, 2019 on the draft VISION 2050 as detailed in Exhibit 1.

This is an opportunity for City Council to discuss and/or provide staff direction on the City's position for the ensuing Countywide Planning Policy Growth Target update process. While no action is requested at this time, it is recommended, when ready, the City Council make a motion to provide staff direction on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

Discussion only, no action is requested at this time.