



Community Development Department

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MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission
From: Emily Arteche, Community Development Director
Date: December 5, 2022

Subject: Snoqualmie Comprehensive Plan Update

Background

The Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requires King County and cities within King County to update their comprehensive plans on or before December 31, 2024. RCW 36.70A.070 identifies mandatory elements of Comprehensive Plans including land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, economic development, and parks (optional). These elements establish local goals, policies, objectives, and provisions for these areas of planning. The City's existing Comprehensive Plan, Snoqualmie 2032, incorporates these elements and also includes a Community Character element.

State law also requires a public participation program for Comprehensive Plan updates, per RCW 36.70A.140. Staff is in the process of developing the public participation program for this major Comprehensive Plan update, but is also seeking additional input and guidance from the Planning Commission on this subject.

The City of Snoqualmie is preparing for this periodic update to occur starting in the Winter of 2023 and continuing through adoption of an updated plan in late 2024. The updated plan will have a horizon year of 2044.

Introduction

The current plan is organized into a [Vision and Policy Element](#) (#1), and individual subject elements. The below graphic shows the general schedule for update and review of the different elements.

The Land Use and Housing elements are likely to require the most significant amount of work. The Land Use element is the core of the Comprehensive Plan, and must incorporate updated growth targets and show how the City is planning to grow and change over the planning horizon. With the robust focus on housing in Snoqualmie, the region, and throughout the state, the Housing Element has also taken on outsize importance in this major update. The City will soon transition to focusing on local housing plans; a collaboration with other Snoqualmie Valley cities on regional housing needs and a local middle housing effort with the state Department of Commerce.

The City will seek consultant services to assist on the update of several elements including Land Use, Housing, Transportation, and Capital Facilities some of which are already underway. The Planning Commission should expect to see the City's consultants involved with all the elements starting after the first of the year.

Public Participation

A robust public participation is essential to this Comprehensive Plan update. The City currently plans to focus on direct outreach to engage citizens, business owners, and other stakeholders and coordinate with community organizations such as the Snoqualmie Ridge ROA, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Merchants, and the Snoqualmie Valley School District, i.e. Mt Si High School in addition to formal public hearings or other meetings with the Planning Commission. Staff desires to gain public input from a variety of other sources to ensure maximum participation.

Schedule

The formal project kickoff is scheduled after the first of the year; January 2023 when the City will initiate public outreach and begin formal work on individual elements. Work on elements will be staggered to account for staff capacity and to ensure we complete the update by the deadline. Some elements will follow slightly different paths; for example the Economic Development element will be reviewed by the City's Economic Development Commission prior to the Planning Commission.

City Council consideration of the entire package is anticipated for late summer/early fall of 2024.

Next Steps

Staff will also brief the City Council Community Development Committee. The Planning Commission should discuss public engagement interests outside of those identified and provide any general input into the Economic Development Element update that may assist the Economic Development Commission in their upcoming work.