Part 1 – Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

City of Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan

Balancing Nature and Community: Tumwater's Path to Sustainable Growth

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Abbreviations Used in Document

- **CDD** Community Development Department
- **RCW** Revised Code of Washington
- **PRD** Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department
- **TED** Transportation & Engineering Department
- **TMC** Tumwater Municipal Code
- **WRS** Water Resources & Sustainability Department



1. Introduction

A. Background

The Land Use Element is part of Tumwater's Comprehensive Plan and was prepared in response to the state Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) requirements to determine where particular land uses would be appropriate in Tumwater.

Part 1 of the Land Use Element specifies goals, policies, and implementation actions that set forth a direction to manage land uses in Tumwater. These goals, policies, and implementation actions also serve to ensure

coordination with separate Comprehensive Plan Elements, subarea plans, regional plans, and the County-Wide Planning Policies.

Part 2 of the Land Use Element provides the technical analysis of land use in the Tumwater and provides the basis for the goals, policies, and implementation actions in Part 1.

Tumwater's Vision, Mission, and Belief Statements that provide overarching direction for the future of Tumwater are found in the Comprehensive Plan Summary.

Commented [BM1]: This will be the document that has the Comprehensive Plan wide goals and policies.

B. How to Read this Element

Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 1 of the Land Use Element discuss the Element's connection to the land use goals of the state Growth Management Act and the Thurston County-Wide Planning Policies.

Chapter 4 provides an explanation of how to read the policies and implementation actions tables and then Chapter 5 presents each of Tumwater's land use goals in detail with an explanation the importance of each goal, what Tumwater department is responsible for implementation, and timeline for those actions.



2. Growth Management Act - Element Goals

Chapter 36.70A RCW requires that Tumwater show how the Land Use Element meets the fifteen planning goals contained within the Act. The following is a listing of the fifteen applicable goals and an analysis of how the Land Use Element addresses each goal:

 Urban growth. Encourage development in urban areas where adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in an efficient manner.

The availability of services, including transportation, water and sewer facilities, and other utilities was considered when applying the land use designations in the Land Use Element. The density ranges for all residential land use designations are based on Tumwater's housing allocation across all income groups for the next twenty years and the associated population forecast and is consistent with available or planned public facilities and services.

 Reduce sprawl. Reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

The Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that encourage compact, efficient urban development and supports higher intensity urban growth to be phased outward from the urban core. These policies include minimum density requirements, clustering in sensitive areas, overall higher residential densities throughout Tumwater, and mixed residential and commercial areas.

Each residential designation in the Land Use Element provides adequate density for feasible transportation, water, and sanitary sewer service, while protecting sensitive areas.

 Transportation. Encourage efficient multimodal transportation systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled, and are based on regional priorities and coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.

The Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that ensure coordination with regional and local transportation plans.

The Transportation goal was updated in 2023 by the state legislature to add reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled per capita. Achieving this goal is done through a combination of goals, policies, and implementation actions in the Land Use Element, Climate Element, and Transportation Plan.

The Land Use Element also proposes higher intensity residential, mixed-use, and neighborhood commercial land use designations to encourage multi-modal, transit oriented development.

4. Housing. Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety of residential densities and housing types, and encourage preservation of existing housing stock.



How affordable housing is accommodated for all economic classes in Tumwater is more specifically set forth in the Housing Element. The Land Use Element plays a role in allocating sufficient land to ensure an adequate supply of buildable land for housing types serving every income group.

Each residential land use designation, including the mixed use designations, provides a variety of housing types at varying densities. Each Neighborhood subarea of the Land Use Element also contains sufficient variability in housing types to ensure that housing needs can be met for all segments of Tumwater 's population for the next twenty years.

5. Economic development. Encourage economic development throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state, especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.

The Land Use Element ensures the provision of adequate land for commerce and industry in Tumwater and accommodates Tumwater's twenty-year employment forecast.

The Economic Development Plan makes specific recommendations for economic development in Tumwater.

 Property rights. Private property shall not be taken for public use without just compensation having been made. The property rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and discriminatory actions.

The Attorney General is directed under RCW 36.70A.370 to advise state agencies and local governments on an orderly, consistent process that better enables the government to evaluate proposed regulatory or administrative actions to ensure that these actions do not result in unconstitutional takings of private property. Local governments that plan under the Growth Management Act must use this process.

Tumwater adheres to the most current version of the Attorney General's Advisory Memorandum and Recommended Process for Evaluating Proposed Regulatory or Administrative Actions to Avoid Unconstitutional Takings of Private Property, in its permitting and planning decisions. The Attorney General's memorandum provides local governments with a tool to assist them in the process of evaluating land use actions.

 Permits. Applications for both state and local government permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure predictability.

The Land Use Element provides the policy basis for Tumwater's development regulations to be developed in a systematic and fair manner. All jurisdictions fully



planning under the Growth Management Act must follow the permit procedures found in Chapter 36.70B RCW *Local Project Review* to administer permit application processes. Project permit processing standards are provided in TMC Title 14 *Development Code Administration*.

 Natural resource industries. Maintain and enhance natural resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural, and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage incompatible uses.

While this goal primarily applies to rural areas of Thurston County, the Land Use Element ensures the viability of natural resource industries that currently existing Tumwater, such as mineral extraction and limited forest production lands, through the identification of such lands in the Land Use Element text and maps. Additionally, the Conservation Element has specific goals and policies that ensure the viability of these natural resource industries and activities in Tumwater.

 Open space and recreation. Retain open space and green space, enhance recreational opportunities, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.

The state legislature updated this goal in 2023 to add the requirement to retain green space and enhance habitat and urban and community forests. The Land Use Element, in conjunction with the Parks, Recreation,

and Open Space Plan, designates areas of Tumwater that would be appropriate for future open space and recreation uses. The Land Use Element reinforces the recommendations of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan through land use designations and its goals and policies.

Additionally, the Conservation Element has specific goals and policies that enhance fish and wildlife habitat in Tumwater.

10. Environment. Protect and enhance the environment and enhance the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality, and the availability of water.

The state legislature updated this goal in 2023 to add the requirement to enhance the environment. Each designation in the Land Use Element is of an appropriate intensity for where it is applied. Areas of environmental sensitivity are designated as open space or a lower intensity designation than other areas of Tumwater.

The Conservation Element contains specific policies relating to protecting and enhancing air and water quality, water availability, and protection and preservation of critical areas. The Land Use Element also makes recommendations for clustering and other creative development techniques to protect sensitive environmental areas of Tumwater.

11. Citizen participation and coordination.

Encourage the involvement of citizens in the planning process, including the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities, and ensure coordination between



communities and jurisdictions to reconcile conflicts.

The state legislature updated this goal in 2023 to add the requirement to include the participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities. For the Comprehensive Plan update, Tumwater followed the strategy outlined in the Final Community Engagement Plan to involve the entire community in the update process.

12. Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.

All non-open space designations in the Land Use Element are applied to areas that either have adequate capacity for transportation, utilities, storm, and municipal services or will be provided with these facilities in the future concurrent with development. The Land Use Element ensures concurrency through coordination with the Lands for Public Purposes Element, the Capital Facilities Plan, the Transportation Plan, and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

13. **Historic preservation**. Identify and encourage the preservation of lands, sites, and structures that have historical or archaeological significance.

The Land Use Element designates an area of Tumwater as the New Market Historic District. The New Market Historic District Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in November of 1993. The Master Plan provides a framework for action and ensures the preservation of historic and archeological resources in the Historic District.

14. Climate change and resiliency. Ensure that comprehensive plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and strategies under RCW 36.70A.210 and chapter 47.80 RCW adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled; prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate impacts and natural enhance hazards; protect and environmental, economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental justice.

The state legislature added this goal in 2023. Land Use Element supports the goals of the new Climate Element primarily through land use goals, policies, and implementation actions that support compact urban development that reduce sprawl and allow for multimodal transportation.

15. Shorelines of the state. For shorelines of the state, the goals and policies of the shoreline management act as set forth in RCW 90.58.020 shall be considered an element of the county's or city's comprehensive plan. [Updated in 2023]

The state legislature added this goal in 2023. Tumwater's Shoreline Master Program was adopted in 2012 and updated in 2018. The next required state update of the Shoreline Master Program will be in 2030.

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The Shoreline Master Program addresses the land uses on all lands under the jurisdiction of the Shoreline Management Act in order to protect and preserve water dependent

activities and fish and wildlife habitat in the shorelines of the state.





County-Wide Planning Policies

The Growth Management Act requires that Tumwater's Comprehensive Plan be consistent with Thurston County's County-Wide Planning Policies, which were last amended in 2025.

The following is a list of the County-Wide Planning Policies that apply to the Land Use Element and a brief description of how the Element is consistent with these policies. All County-Wide Planning Policies are adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan and are found in Appendix A of the Plan Introduction.

I. General Policies

The Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that address the wide range of issues covered by County-Wide Planning Policies 1.1 through 1.17.

II. Urban Growth Areas

The Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that address County-Wide Planning Policies 2.1 through 2.6.

Thurston County established the urban growth area boundaries and planning for growth within Tumwater's urban growth area is consistent with the Tumwater and Thurston County Joint Plan. For more information, see the response to Policy IV below.

III. Promotion of Contiguous and Orderly Development, Provision of Urban Services, and Protection of Rural Areas

The Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that address County-Wide Planning Policies 3.1 through 3.4. These goals, policies, and objectives

encourage compact, efficient urban development that is phased outward from the urban core. It also proposes residential and mixed-use land use designations that encourage the development of compact urban areas.

To help address County-Wide Planning Policy 3.1, each residential designation in the Land Use Element and their geographic application in Tumwater meets this policy by providing for adequate density to accommodate the 20-year population growth in a sustainable manner. In doing so, the Plan uses of innovative development techniques such as clustering and Transfer of Development Rights to protect natural resource areas.

It has been demonstrated in Part 2 of the Land Use Element that Tumwater can meet its population projections over the planning period. The Tumwater and Thurston County Joint Plan also address these issues for Tumwater's urban growth area.

To address County-Wide Planning Policy 3.2, the designation of two to four residential units per acre in particularly unique sensitive areas is consistent with this policy in its entirety.

Any development will have services concurrent with development; and all areas of Tumwater are governed by the 1988 and 1995 Urban Growth Management Agreements, which prohibit extension of water or sewer outside the urban growth area except for public health reasons.

Coordination between Tumwater and adjoining jurisdictions is accomplished



through a number of documents and agreements including the Tumwater and Thurston County Joint Plan, the 1988 Memorandum of Understanding: An Urban Growth Management Agreement, the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding: Urban Growth Area Zoning and Development Standards, and the County-Wide Planning Policies including County-Wide Planning Policy 3.3.

To address County-Wide Planning Policy 3.4, Tumwater coordinates with existing service providers such as fire districts, utility providers, and Thurston County to ensure an orderly transfer before, during, and after annexations. Effective annexation of urban growth areas is encouraged in the Comprehensive Plan.

IV. Joint County & City Planning Within urban growth areas

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 4.1 through 4.5, Thurston County and Tumwater adopted the Tumwater and Thurston County Joint Plan. This plan, an element of both the Tumwater and Thurston County Comprehensive Plans, creates a process for joint planning within Tumwater's urban growth area.

V. Siting County-Wide and State-Wide Public Capital Facilities

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 5.1 and 5.2, Tumwater has development regulations TMC Chapter 18.56 that address the siting of essential public facilities under state law.

VI. Analysis of Fiscal Impact

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 6.1 through 6.3, each non-open space designation in the Land Use Element ensures that needed services can be provided at the most efficient cost to the taxpayer given the constraints and environmental sensitivity of the land.

The Land Use Element has been coordinated with the Capital Facilities Element and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Fiscal impacts are also addressed through the Capital Facilities Element.

VII. Economic Development and Employment

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 7.1 through 7.5, the Land Use Element ensures the provision of adequate land for commerce and industry in Tumwater to meet the twenty year projections for employment growth. The Economic Development Element also makes specific recommendations for economic development in Tumwater.

VIII. Affordable Housing

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 8.1 through 8.7, the Housing Element is the principal policy document concerning affordable housing. The Land Use Element interfaces with the Housing Element to provide adequate suitably zoned vacant land to further the policies of the Housing Element.

Each residential designation in the Land Use Element, including designations that allow for mixed use, provides a variety of housing types to ensure that affordable housing is provided for all economic segments of the Tumwater population. The Land Use Element, in conjunction with the Housing Element, includes policies and land use designations



designed to ensure the provision of affordable housing.

The Housing Element includes a variety of policies expressly designed to encourage housing affordability and availability for all income groups in Tumwater.

IX. Transportation

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 9.1 through 9.10, the Land Use Element contains goals, policies, and implementation actions that ensure coordination with regional and local transportation plans. The Land Use Element also proposes residential, mixed-use, and neighborhood commercial land use designations that encourage multi-model, transit-oriented development.

X. Environmental Quality

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 10.1 through 10.9, each land use designation in the Land Use Element has been applied based on specific criteria that include the sensitivity of certain areas to environmental disturbance. These sensitive areas either have received an open space designation or have received a

designation of a lower intensity. Additionally, most environmentally sensitive areas of Tumwater recommend that development be clustered away from the sensitive area.

Additionally, the Land Use Element contains goals and policies that ensure coordination of land use with TMC Chapter 13.12 and the Drainage Design and Erosion Control Manual for Tumwater. The Conservation Element, as a part of the Comprehensive Plan, also contains specific policies relating to air and water quality and water availability. The Land Use Element also makes recommendations for clustering and other creative development techniques in sensitive areas of Tumwater.

XI. County-Wide Policies which Establish a Process to Develop Future Policies

To address County-Wide Planning Policies 11.1 through 11.3, the Land Use Element is designed to be an adaptable document. As conditions and circumstances change, or as regional plans and policies are amended, the Land Use Element can be revised accordingly.



4. Summary of Element Goals

The Land Use Element establishes fourteen goals grouped under five types for addressing land use in the Tumwater. Goals are not listed in order of priority.

A. Growth Management Goals

- Goal LU-1 Ensure the Land Use Element is implementable and coordinated with other City, neighboring jurisdictional, and regional plans.
- Goal LU-2 Ensure development occurs in an orderly and cost-efficient manner to best utilize available land and public services, conserve natural resources, protect and enhance critical areas and open space, address equity and climate change, and reduce sprawl.
- Goal LU-3 Ensure adequate public services, facilities, and utilities are available to proposed and existing development.

B. Equitable Community Goals

- Goal LU-4 Create land use patterns that increase the availability of affordable housing for all income groups.
- Goal LU-5 Ensure land use patterns support efficient multimodal transportation systems in coordination with City and regional transportation plans.
- Goal LU-6 Ensure physical limitations of the land are considered during the development process.



C. Specific Land Use Type Goals

- Goal LU-7 Support development of all types of residential uses.
- Goal LU-8 Support development of commercial and mixed uses in appropriate areas.
- Goal LU-9 Support development of manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse uses in appropriate areas.
- Goal LU-10 Retain and enhance open space, parks, trails, and space for recreational opportunities.

D. Public Facilities Goals

- Goal LU-11 Support development of public facilities in appropriate areas.
- Goal LU-12 Provide for the location of essential public facilities.
- Goal LU-13 Protect the Olympia Regional Airport from incompatible land uses and activities that could affect the use of airport facilities and operations while reflecting the existing urban environment adjacent to the Airport.

E. Historic Preservation Goal

Goal LU 14 Preserve and protect significant historical and cultural sites.



5. Element Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

A. How to Read These Tables

The Land Use Element's goals, policies, and associated implementation actions are not in priority order.

Implementation actions that can only be undertaken by other entities are not included in this plan.

1) Department Leads

Implementation of the Land Use Element's policies and implementation actions are associated with four different Tumwater departments:

CDD	Community Development Department
PRD	Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department
TED	Transportation & Engineering Department
WRS	Water Resources & Sustainability Department

B. Growth Management Goals

Goal LU-1 Ensure the Land Use Element is implementable and coordinated with other City, neighboring jurisdictional, and regional plans.

Plans that can be put into immediate action with appropriate resources provide better outcomes for communities. Tumwater will prioritize implementation actions and monitor progress toward the goals it sets together with community members.

When resources, timelines, and responsibilities can be coordinated with other partners, more work can be done with fewer resources.

Ensuring all partners and community members have a voice in the plan also inspires a sense ownership and belonging.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
w	nsure the Land Use Element is consistent with adopted County- ide Planning Policies and integrates transportation onsiderations into land use decisions.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-1.1.1	Implement the County-Wide Planning Policies as adopted by Tumwater through the Land Use Element.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM2]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-1.

Commented [BM3]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-1.1.

Commented [BM4]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-1.1.1.

Part 1 – Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-1.2 Implement the following City plans and maps through the Land Use Element: 1. Capital Facilities Plan 2. Economic Development Plan 3. Housing Action Plan 4. Shoreline Master Program 5. Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan 6. Transportation Improvement Plan 7. Tumwater Historic District Master Plan 8. Tumwater – Thurston County Joint Plan 9. Urban Forestry Management Plan 10. Zoning Code and Map	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS
LU-1.2.1 Ensure that zoning designations and regulations are consistent with the overall City Land Use Map and Land Use Element goals and policies.	Review Every 5 Years	CDD
LU-1.3 Make capital facilities and transportation improvement decisions consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS
LU-1.3.1 On a biennial basis, invest in public improvements through the Capital Facilities Plan to facilitate and complement private development including streetscape improvements, green infrastructure, public open spaces, and other amenities.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS
LU-1.4 Coordinate the Land Use Element with all adopted regional plans and the plans of neighboring jurisdictions and special districts.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM5]: New policy that is derived from 2016 Land Use Element Policies LU-1.6, LU-1.7, LU-1.8, LU-1.9, LU-1.10, LU-1.11, LU-1.13, and LU-1.14 and 2016 Implementation Actions LU-1.7.1 and LU-18.1.

Also addresses 2016 Implementation Policies #9, #14, #15, and #16

Commented [BM6]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-1.9.1 and 2016 Implementation Policy #1.

Commented [BM7]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-1.10 and LU-1.11.

Commented [BM8]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #8 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM9]: New policy derived from 2016 Land Use Element Policy LU-1.5.

Part 1 – Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



	Policies and Implementation Actions						
LU-1.5 Su	pport the creation of a new city <mark>center</mark> .	Term of the Plan	CDD TED				
LU-1.5.1	Review and update the Tumwater Town Center Plan.	2026-28	CDD TED				
LU-1.5.2	Work with the Port of Olympia and the Federal Aviation Administration to remove their restrictions on residential development on Port owned land in the Town Center to allow full implementation of the Tumwater Town Center.	2026-28	CDD				

Commented [BM10]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-1.4.

Commented [BM11]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-1.4 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM12]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #12 as an implementation action.

Goal LU-2 Ensure development occurs in an orderly and cost-efficient manner to best utilize available land and public services, conserve natural resources, protect and enhance critical areas and open space, address equity and climate change, and reduce sprawl.

Land is a limited resource. To use land efficiently, all the uses should be considered and balanced to support the needs of the community. Developing city spaces into rural areas leaves less space for local agriculture and habitats

which provide important benefits to people. Allowing the right use in the right place protects the water and soil resources into the future.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
pe lav	eview and update Tumwater's development review and ermitting system on a regular basis for consistency with state wand adopted plans to ensure predictability and allow ocessing of development permits in a timely and fair manner.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.1.1	Prepare annual reports on the number and review times for development permits and post them on Tumwater's website.	Annually	CDD
LU-2.1.2	Using the information generated by annual reporting and the experiences of applicants and permit review staff assess and update Tumwater's permit processing system.	Every Three Years	CDD

Commented [BM13]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-2.

Commented [BM14]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #11 as a policy.

Commented [BM15]: New implementation action.

Commented [BM16]: New implementation action.

Land Use Element
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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
	Use innovative land use techniques, such as 15-minute neighborhoods, to create and maintain vibrant centers, corridors, and neighborhoods while accommodating growth and protecting and enhancing critical areas.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.2.	.1 Review and update Tumwater's development standards, guidelines, and Citywide Design Guidelines on a regular basis.	Annually	CDD
LU-2.2.	.2 Develop and adopt an adaptive management plan for the protection and enhancement of critical areas.	2027-28	CDD WRS
LU-2.2.	.3 Provide staff with resources and training to support improvements.	Term of the Plan	CDD
	Support vibrant neighborhoods with a range of affordable housing, strong and resilient economies, healthy people and habitats, unique spaces for recreation, and engagement and inclusion.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.3.	.1 Assess neighborhood vibrancy every five years based on the following criteria: housing, economy, health, recreation, and engagement.	Every Five Years	CDD
LU-2.3.	.2 Incentivize the creation of activity nodes in each neighborhood along transit corridors that support housing, jobs, services, and all transportation modes.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.3.	.3 Promote equitable access to human services by allowing these uses in suitable locations near transit and housing.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.3.	 Protect or create open spaces in each neighborhood within a walkable distance of housing. 	Term of the Plan	CDD
	Support complete neighborhoods consisting of healthy, connected, transit-oriented communities with a range of transportation choices for all residents.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.4.	.1 Regularly update development standards and guidelines to support the creation of pedestrian-oriented transit supportive	Every Five	CDD

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		Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-2.5	Ens	Term of the Plan	CDD	
LU-2.5	5.1	Monitor new annexations for the first five years on an annual basis and provide resources for compliance.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.7		otect designated mineral resource lands from incompatible velopment.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-2.7	7.1	Separate mineral lands from incompatible land uses by utilizing buffer areas and other techniques to lessen environmental impacts on adjacent uses.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM28]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-2.4.

Commented [BM29]: New implementation action.

Commented [BM30]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-2.7.

Commented [BM31]: New implementation action.

Goal LU-3 Ensure adequate public services, facilities, and utilities are available to proposed and existing development.

Providing public services and facilities is Tumwater's responsibility. As Tumwater grows, it is important for programs to anticipate growth and provide services so that they are available as needed. Working with internal and external partners is key to coordinating the resources

available and ensuring services are available to residents. To use resources efficiently at urban densities also requires efforts to replace private sewer and water systems with public systems.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
F	Insure capital budget decisions in the six-year Capital Facilities Plan are coordinated with the Land Use Element, Lands for Public Purpose Element, Climate Element, Parks, Recreation, and Open space Plan, and Transportation Plan.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS
LU-3.1.1	Ensure the Capital Facilities Plan can be implemented through the Land Use Element's projected uses and densities.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS

Commented [BM32]: 2016 Goal LU-3.

Commented [BM33]: Update of the 2016 Policy LU-3.1.

Commented [BM34]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-3.1.1.

Land Use Element
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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
LU-3.1	Direct the timing and location of development with the provision of adequate facilities and services within Tumwater's urban growth area, through periodic updates to the Tumwater and Thurston County Joint Plan and Thurston County Code Title 22 Tumwater Urban Growth Area Zoning.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS	Commented [BM35]: Update of 2016 Implement Policy #7.
	Ensure development conforms with the Water System Plan and Sanitary Sewer Comprehensive Plan.	Term of the Plan	CDD TED WRS	Commented [BM36]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-3
	Analyze all proposed projects for anticipated impact on public services as part of development and environmental review.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS	Commented [BM37]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-3
	Work with developers to determine where and when new public facilities are to be placed to permit proper development of current and future projects and meet concurrency.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS	Commented [BM38]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-3
	Require existing development utilizing permitted septic tanks for sewerage disposal to hook up to the sanitary sewer when a septic system fails, needs replacement, or requires major repairs as sanitary sewer laterals become available.	Term of the Plan	CDD TED	Commented [BM39]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-3
LU-3.6	.1 Work with LOTT to prioritize connecting properties on septic systems to LOTT's sewerage treatment system to reduce impacts to groundwater and surface water quality and programs that support subsidies for lower income groups.	Term of the Plan	CDD TED WRS	Commented [BM40]: Update of 2016 Implement
	Require existing development utilizing permitted private wells for water to connect to Tumwater's water service when the well fails, needs replacement, or requires major repairs, where City water service available.	Term of the Plan	CDD WRS	Action LU-3.6.1. Commented [BM41]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-3



C. Equitable Community Goals

Goal LU-4 Create land use patterns that increase the availability of affordable housing for all income groups.

Providing sufficient land for residential development serving for all income groups ensures that all Tumwater residents can afford the cost of living and not have to sacrifice other needs to keep their home.

designated for housing. The Housing Element contains goals, policies and implementation actions that provide guidance for housing types for all income groups.

Goal LU-4 works together with the Housing Element to ensure sufficient land has been

Element to charte summer and has been						
Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead				
LU-4.1 Coordinate residential uses and densities in the Land Use Element with the housing allocations for all income groups in the Housing Element.	Term of the Plan	CDD				
LU-4.2 Use innovative techniques to support the provision of affordable housing.	Term of the Plan	CDD				
LU-4.3 Support regulations for residential development where amenities of open space, privacy, public health, and visual quality can be maintained or improved, and flexible solutions to land use challenges such as density, diversity, equity, and affordability can be achieved.	Term of the Plan	CDD				
LU-4.3.1 Use adaptive management to monitor and optimize development regulations for housing with community feedback and data.	Annual	CDD				
LU-4.4 Increase the variety of housing types to meet the needs of a changing population with supporting design guidelines.	Term of the Plan	CDD				

Commented [BM43]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-4.1.

Commented [BM42]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-4.

Commented [BM44]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-4.2.

Commented [BM45]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-4.4.

Commented [BM46]: New implementation action.

Commented [BM47]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-4.6.

Goal LU-5 Ensure land use patterns support efficient multimodal transportation systems in coordination with City and regional transportation plans.

Transportation of both people and goods throughout Tumwater requires coordination

Commented [BM48]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-5.

Part 1 – Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions



with providers and users to ensure services meet the needs of residents, businesses, and customers.

Multiple options for transportation allow residents to live independently regardless of

age, income, or abilities. Coordinating development with transit and active transportation options ensures increased access to transportation options for everyone.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
LU-5.1	Coordinate with the Transportation Plan, Regional Transportation Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Climate Element, and Thuston Climate Mitigation Plan.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD TED WRS	Commented [BM49]: Update of 2016 Policies LU-5.1, LU-5.2, and LU-5.3.
LU-5.1	Create an active transportation plan which meets goals in the Climate Element and the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan.	2026-28	CDD TED WRS	Commented [BM50]: New implementation action.
LU-5.2	Establish and maintain multimodal links between land <mark>uses</mark> .	Term of the Plan	CDD TED	Commented [BM51]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.4.
LU-5.2	Prepare and adopt a complete streets ordinance.	2028-30	CDD TED WRS	Commented [BM52]: New implementation action.
LU-5.2	2.2 Implement regulatory and capital project changes to incentivize high density residential and commercial development within neighborhoods near frequent transit.	2029-30	CDD TED	Commented [BM53]: New implementation action.
LU-5.2	2.3 Provide incentives for urban plazas when new construction or major renovation is proposed.	2029-30	CDD	Commented [BM54]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.5 as an
LU-5.2	2.4 Implement regulatory changes to require public and private development proposals to enhance the streetscape to maximize comfort for multimodal users.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM55]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.11 as an implementation action.
LU-5.3	Allow densities and mixtures of uses that reduce the number and lengths of vehicle trips and increase the opportunity to use transit and active modes of travel.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM56]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.6.

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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
LU-5.	3.1 Implement regulatory changes to require developments to place employment and living areas near multimodal transportation, minimize vehicle miles traveled, and optimize the use of existing and planned transportation systems and capital facilities to improve the jobs-housing balance.	2029-30	CDD	Commented [BM57]: New implementation action.
LU-5.4	Coordinate with transportation providers and developers to ensure that developments are designed to promote physical, mental, and social health, and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments.	Term of the Plan	CDD TED WRS	Commented [BM58]: New policy.
LU-5.	4.1 Update development regulations to ensure facilities and infrastructure to support active transportation modes are included in developments.	2026-28	CDD	
LU-5.5	Reinforce the link between land use and public transportation by encouraging development to occur at higher densities along designated transit corridors, nodes, and near commercial and employment centers.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM59]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.7.
LU-5.	5.1 Develop incentives for proposed developments located adjacent to transportation corridors where amenities for multimodal users are included.	2028-30	CDD	Commented [BM60]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.9 as a
LU-5.6	Prevent transportation improvements, regardless of their financing mechanisms that would trigger development inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan and implementing regulations.	Term of the Plan	CDD TED	implementation action. Commented [BM61]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-5.13.

Goal LU-6 Ensure physical limitations of the land are considered during development.

Historically cultures have built their communities around natural resources that support livelihoods. To preserve the environment and promote safety, Tumwater reviews the physical features of the environment during development review. Limiting development to lands which have suitable

environmental characteristics also protects residents from natural hazards such a landslides and flooding.

The Resiliency Subelement of the Climate Element also includes a number of actions that support this goal.

Commented [BM62]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-8.



Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
nsure development conforms with environmental standards and requirements.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM63]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-8.1
Update the Tumwater Appendix to the Thurston Hazards Mitigation Plan and floodplain regulations on a regular basis and ensure that development regulations are updated accordingly.	Every Five Years	CDD	Commented [BM64]: New implementation action.
Update the critical areas ordinance as new state guidance and best available science becomes available.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM65]: New implementation action.
eserve the right to prohibit or set conditions on development ased on anticipated adverse environmental or health impacts.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM66]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-8.2
tegrate design features of existing natural systems into the yout and siting of new development, including significant trees and noncritical ecological systems, where possible.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM67]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-8.3
	update the Tumwater Appendix to the Thurston Hazards Mitigation Plan and floodplain regulations on a regular basis and ensure that development regulations are updated accordingly. Update the critical areas ordinance as new state guidance and best available science becomes available. Esserve the right to prohibit or set conditions on development ased on anticipated adverse environmental or health impacts. Etegrate design features of existing natural systems into the yout and siting of new development, including significant trees	Term of the Plan Update the Tumwater Appendix to the Thurston Hazards Mitigation Plan and floodplain regulations on a regular basis and ensure that development regulations are updated accordingly. Update the critical areas ordinance as new state guidance and best available science becomes available. Update the right to prohibit or set conditions on development esserve the right to prohibit or set conditions on development the Plan tegrate design features of existing natural systems into the yout and siting of new development, including significant trees Term of the Plan Term of the Plan	Update the Tumwater Appendix to the Thurston Hazards Mitigation Plan and floodplain regulations on a regular basis and ensure that development regulations are updated accordingly. Update the critical areas ordinance as new state guidance and best available science becomes available. Update the right to prohibit or set conditions on development seed on anticipated adverse environmental or health impacts. Term of the Plan CDD Term of the Plan CDD Term of the Plan CDD Term of the Plan CDD

D. Specific Land Use Type Goals

Goal LU-7 Support development of all types of residential uses.

With the forecasted increase of population and housing need, ensuring Tumwater has sufficient land for a range of residential uses is a top priority. Different types of housing for all income groups support seniors, people with disabilities,

low income, and marginalized communities. Accommodating space for diversity strengthens our community.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-7.1	Ensure an adequate supply of residential land to support the development of housing affordable to all income groups.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-7.2	Protect residential uses from excessive noise, odors, dirt, glare, traffic, pollution, and other nuisances emanating from regional transportation facilities and commercial and industrial uses.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM68]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-9.

Commented [BM69]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-9.1.

Commented [BM70]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-9.2.

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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-7.3	Ensure residential development occurs in integrated centers to allow for multimodal access to services.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-7.4	Allow innovation in development regulations with newer forms of residential development where amenities of open space, privacy, and visual quality can be maintained or improved, and flexible solutions to land use problems can be achieved.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-7.5	Do not permit private residential gated communities.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-7.6	Support easy access to healthy food that is near residential uses.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-7.6	.1 Use the Food System Plan to guide implementation actions to improve access to food and abate waste.	2026-28	CDD
LU-7.6	.2 Allocate funding to fully implement the Food System Plan.	2029-30	CDD

Commented [BM71]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-9.3.

Commented [BM72]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-9.4.

Commented [BM73]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-9.4.1 as a new policy.

Commented [BM74]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-9.4.2 as a new policy.

Commented [BM75]: New implementation action.

Commented [BM76]: New implementation action.

Goal LU-8 Support development of commercial and mixed uses in appropriate areas.

A strong economy depends on adequate space for providing goods and services to serve residents. Finding the appropriate location for commercial uses in turns depends on the type of activity and intensity of use. Allowing flexibility in allowing smaller scale commercial uses close

to housing while buffering higher intensity commercial uses from residential uses is a key to making sure uses are compatible in neighborhoods.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-8.1	Ensure adequate supply of developable commercial land.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-8.2	Concentrate high intensity commercial uses in mixed use centers to ensure multimodal access and prevent single use strip development.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM77]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-10.

Commented [BM78]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10.3.

Commented [BM79]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10.4.

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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-8.2.1	Through the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations limit the linear length areas designated for commercial uses and incentivize mixed use centers with multimodal access and walkable features.	2029-30	CDD
LU-8.2.2	Through the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations, develop integrated high intensity mixed use commercial areas incorporating performance standards to address buffering, landscaping, parking facilities, and other elements of site design.	2029-30	CDD
	ocate high intensity commercial uses close to arterial routes and eeway access.	Term of the Plan	CDD
Tum serv	ate lower intensity neighborhood commercial uses throughout nwater to supply nearby residents with everyday goods and vices where these uses are small, do not generate excessive fic, and are compatible with nearby residences.	Term of the Plan	CDD
	ipport local small scale commercial opportunities such as food ucks and food truck courts.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-8.6.1	Identify and designate areas that are compatible with food trucks and food truck courts.	By 2035	CDD

Goal LU-9 Support development of manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse uses in appropriate areas.

Industrial uses can include manufacturing, research, warehousing, raw materials storage, and other activities. Allowing a range of industrial activities in Tumwater increases local job opportunities, decreases the transportation costs for those services. Designating land for

industrial uses considers space required for equipment, buffering for adjacent uses, proximity to transportation routes, and reducing environmental impacts.

Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-9.1 Ensure adequate supply of developable industrial land near primary transportation corridors.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM86]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-10.

Commented [BM87]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10.3.

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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
LU-9.2	Group manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse uses into centers in landscaped, urban park quality centers.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM88]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10
LU-9.3	Develop manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse areas following an integrated planning scheme incorporating performance standards regarding green belts, and buffering, landscaping, parking facilities, and design guidelines.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM89]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10
LU-9.4	Locate new manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse development close to arterial routes and freeway access and rail facilities in areas that minimize pollution and heavy trucking through residential and commercial areas.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM90]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10
LU-9.	4.1 Through development regulation amendments create a tiered system for industrial intensity where more intense uses that produce pollutants, high noise, high traffic are in the center of an industrial area and are farther from incompatible uses and less intense uses are allowed at the edges of industrial areas.	2029-30	CDD	Commented [BM91]: New implementation action.
LU-9.5	Ensure manufacturing, industrial, and warehouse structures are low profile and provide sustainable screening landscaping that also reduces environmental affects of such land uses.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM92]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10

Goal LU-10 Retain and enhance open space, parks, trails, and space for recreational opportunities.

Access to open space, parks, trails, and recreational opportunities improves quality of life and physical and social-emotional health. Underserved communities typically lack access to open spaces, parks, trails, and recreational opportunities. Ensuring that all community

members have access to these spaces is a priority. Additional goals and policies are found in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-10.1	Coordinate provision of open space, parks, trails, and space for recreational opportunities with the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD

Commented [BM93]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-7.

Commented [BM94]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-7.1.

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	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
	eserve and enhance environmentally sensitive lands by veloping compact urban areas.	Term of the Plan	CDD
sm	quire a variety of open spaces including landscaped buffers, all parks, plazas, and other community areas to balance higher nsity development and enhance quality of living.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-10.4.1	Evaluate the use of required dedicated open space every five years to make certain that areas dedicated to open space in development provide the functions intended.	Ongoing	CDD

Commented [BM95]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-7.3.

Commented [BM96]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-10.4.

Commented [BM97]: Update of 2016 Implementation Action LU-10.3.1.

E. Public Facilities Goals

Goal LU-11 Support development of public facilities in appropriate areas.

Public facilities are built and maintained by a government or agency for public use. They include transportation facilities, road lighting systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and open space, and transit stops. These facilities need adequate space as Tumwater grows. More goals and policies about the

processes by which public facilities are built and maintained are found in the Lands for Public Purposes Element, Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, and Transportation Plan.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead
LU-11.1	Ensure an adequate supply of developable land for public facilities.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-11.2	Distribute public facilities throughout Tumwater to ensure multimodal access.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Commented [BM98]: New goal.

Commented [BM99]: New policy.

Commented [BM100]: New policy.

Goal LU-12 Provide for the location of essential public facilities.

Essential public facilities are those that are typically difficult to site and are defined in RCW 36.70A.200 to include airports, state education facilities, regional transit authority facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste

handling and organic management facilities, and in-patient facilities including substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, and secure community transition facilities. In coordination with the development code, the

Commented [BM101]: New goal.

City of Tumwater 2025 Comprehensive Plan



Land Use Element describes the process for siting essential public facilities.

	Policies and Implementation Actions	Period	Lead	
LU-12.1	Ensure that the Comprehensive Plan and implementing regulations do not preclude the siting of essential public facilities.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM102]: New policy.
LU-12	 Utilize the following siting criteria for siting new or expansion of existing essential public facilities: Proximity to major transportation routes and essential infrastructure; Land use compatibility with surrounding areas; Potential environmental impacts; Effects on resource and critical areas; Public costs and benefits including operation and maintenance; Current capacity and location of equivalent facilities; The existence within Tumwater of reasonable alternatives to the proposed activity, and Other criteria as determined relevant to the specific 	Term of the Plan	CDD	
LU-12.2	essential public facility. Ensure that where possible, essential public facility sites are used jointly for public benefit.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM103]: New implementation action. Commented [BM104]: New policy.
LU-12.3	Given opportunities for residents, property owners, adjacent jurisdictions, and other interested parties for meaningful participation in decisions on siting essential public facilities.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM105]: New policy.



Goal LU-13 Protect the Olympia Regional Airport from incompatible land uses that could affect present and future use of airport facilities and operations while reflecting the existing urban environment adjacent to the Airport.

Airports are an important part of the transportation system that supports the local and regional economy. In urban areas, regulations around airports keep both airport users and local community members safe by only allowing compatible uses in airport safety

zone overlays. Development regulations that limit the heights of buildings, lights, and types of use can reduce the exposure to potential hazards near an airport.

Policies and Implementation Actions			Lead
enc use	mote safe operation of Olympia Regional Airport by couraging compatible land uses and activities and discouraging sor activities that impede safe flight operations or endanger lives of people on the ground.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-13.1.1	Update development regulations addressing aviation compatibility within the Airport Overlay Zone on a regular basis.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-13.1.2	Prohibit structures and trees from penetrating airspace surfaces as defined by Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 77, except as necessary and incidental to airport operations.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-13.1.3	Permit appropriate urban land uses compatible with airport and aviation uses.	Term of the Plan	CDD
LU-13.1.3	Encourage contiguous open space areas within the Airport Overlay Zone that provide functional open space needs for aircraft in cases of an emergency.	Term of the Plan	CDD

Goal LU 14 Preserve and protect significant historical and cultural sites.

Preserving local sites of historical and cultural significance is important to understanding the past and learning from our experiences. Physical

Historic Preservation Goals

reminders of our history honor those that have brought us to our current status. Working with local Tribes to preserve historical and cultural Commented [BM106]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-13.

Commented [BM107]: 2016 Policy LU 13.1.

Commented [BM108]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #3 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM109]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #4 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM110]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #4 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM111]: Update of 2016 Implementation Policy #4 as an implementation action.

Commented [BM112]: Update of 2016 Goal LU-12.

F.

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sites is an important component of recognizing our shared bond to this area.

Policies and Implementation Actions		Period	Lead	
LU-14.1	Coordinate the Land Use Element with Tumwater and Thurston County's historic preservation programs.	Term of the Plan	CDD PRD	Commented [BM113]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-13.1.
LU-14.2	Protect designated state and national landmarks listed by the State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and cultural or archaeological resources identified by the Tribes in land use decisions.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM114]: Update of 2016 Policy LU-13.2.
LU-14	P.2.1 Complete a Memorandum of Understanding with State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to gain access to the state database of historic resources for development review.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM115]: New implementation action.
LU-14	3.2.2 Work with the Tribes to determine the best process for cultural resource evaluation during development permit review.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM116]: New implementation action.
LU-14	1.2.3 Follow federal Code of Federal Regulation Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act guidance for all projects with federal funding.	Term of the Plan	CDD	Commented [BM117]: New implementation action.