

Skagit County 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update



PROCESS AND SCOPE OF REVIEW

What is the 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update?



- Periodic update required by state law
- To consider new laws, population & employment growth, & local conditions

What is under review?



- Countywide Planning Policy 1.1 (population and employment projections)
- Skagit County Comprehensive Plan
- Development regulations (SCC Title 14)
- Land Use & Zoning Map

What is the focus of the update?



- The Board of County Commissioners has already established a scope of work:
 - Focus primarily on what's required
 - Complete the update on time
- What are some of the key issues?

Population and employment growth



- Forecast to 2036
- Allocations among jurisdictions
- Developed among the County, Cities and Towns (GMA Steering Committee)
- Requires formal consideration and approval by each jurisdiction

Skagit County population: 2015 - 2036



- Current population and projected growth:

	2015	2036	Increase
County total	119,701	155,452	35,371
Urban	81,186	109,787	28,601
Rural	38,515	45,665	7,150

Skagit County employment: 2015 - 2036



- Current employment and projected growth:
 - Excludes farm employment and self-employed

	2015	2036	Increase
County total	51,764	70,617	18,853
Urban	43,868	61,274	17,406
Rural	7,896	9,343	1,447

Urban growth area (“UGA”) sizing



- Possible UGA expansions:
 - Sedro-Woolley
 - Burlington (limited, for farmworker housing)
- Mount Vernon and other cities and towns maintaining current UGA boundaries

Transportation Element



- Impacts of growth on traffic & transportation
- Needed expansions & how to pay for them
- Bicycle & pedestrian component required

- Focus of March 2015 workshop with Planning Commission

Housing Element



- Is there adequate housing to meet current needs and projected growth?
- How can the County, cities and towns work together to help provide adequate affordable housing?
 - Approx. 40% of Skagit County residents are “cost burdened”
- Focus of February 2015 workshop with Planning Commission

Rural Element



- Are permitted uses in Rural zones appropriate to maintain rural character, while providing adequate housing and economic opportunities?
- Particular focus on Rural Intermediate, Rural Reserve, and Rural Village Residential
- Focus of May 2015 workshop with Planning Commission

Community Outreach Meetings in 2015



- September 22: Fidalgo Elementary School
 - October 8: Concrete High School
 - October 27: Big Lake Fire Hall
 - November 10: Edison Elementary School
- Public comments from these meetings are posted at:
www.skagitcounty.net/2016update

Community Meeting Discussion Questions



- What do you value most about the community in which you live?
- What are your biggest concerns for the present and/or the future?
- What goals and policies should be emphasized in the Comprehensive Plan update process?

Process and Schedule



- **Subject to modification**

Department and Planning Commission hold public workshops	January – December 2015
County develops proposal, analysis, and documentation	January – February 2016
County releases proposal; formal public review and comment begins	March 2016
Planning Commission hearings and deliberations	April – May 2016
Board considers Planning Commission recommendations, adopts final 2016 Update amendments	June 2016

Ways to stay involved



- Sign up for email notifications
- Periodically check project website:
 - www.skagitcounty.net/2016Update
- Next spring: review proposal, submit comments, participate in public hearings

2016 Update Email Notices



- To sign up for email notifications:
 - Go to www.skagitcounty.net
 - On the right side under Notices, click on E-mail Subscription Lists
 - Fill in your name and e-mail address
 - Check Planning and Development News