

Proposed Ordinance Relating to Comprehensive Plan Update Cycle and Subarea Planning Restructure

This summary fulfills the state Growth Management Act and King County Ordinance 13147 requirement for a “plain language summary.”

Background

King County Comprehensive Plan Policies and King County Code govern the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Planning Programs.

The Comprehensive Plan is adopted per Revised Code of Washington Chapter 36.70A. Subarea Plans are Optional Elements of the Comprehensive Plan that are intended to provide a more detailed plan for a smaller geographic area. In 2015, King County reinitiated its subarea planning program. In 2016, the County Council requested that the Comprehensive Plan be moved off of the Biennial Budget adoption year. Regulations guiding these programs are found primarily in King County Code Title 20.

In 2017, the County Council adopted two provisos¹ directing the subarea planning program be restructured to address regulatory consistency, consistency with the budget, increased interdepartmental coordination and collaboration.

Proposed Ordinance

The ordinance proposes to modify King County Code Title 20 and the King County Comprehensive Plan policies in the following ways:

- Moves the Comprehensive Plan Major Four Year Update Cycle from an even year (e.g., 2016, 2020) to an odd year (e.g., 2023) to no longer be on the Biennial Budget adoption year
- Changes the major update of the Comprehensive Plan from the Four Year Cycle to an Eight Year Cycle, with the first Eight Year Cycle plan adopted in 2023, while continuing to allow for minor or technical annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan
- Moves the adoption month from December to June, consistent with the Growth Management Act Statutory Review timeline
- Shifts the deadline for one of the workplan action items adopted in the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan
- Restructures the County's Subarea Planning Program to provide greater clarity on the:
 - Scope of Subarea Plans is focused primarily on land use topics
 - Planning approach is defined to be more consistent with the Comprehensive Plan approach

¹ 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18409, Sections 19 and 88. As amended by Ordinance 18602, Section 5, Proviso P2, and Section 47, Proviso P3.

- Schedule for Subarea Plans for different areas in the County is defined
- The number of staff proposed to work in the program is increased (adds two staff for a total of three)
- The restructure is intended to accomplish the following:
 - Ensure consistency with current state law, the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan
 - Ensure consistency with adopted county budget direction and clarity where additional appropriations are needed for implementation
 - Improve coordination and collaboration between the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review and the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
 - Ensure other departments are consulted and concur with the recommended policies and implementing actions proposed in the executive-recommended subarea plans
 - Revise the subarea planning to allow time for public outreach; coordination, collaboration and consultation among King County departments; and refining recommendations to ensure compliance with the law
 - Eliminate a subarea plan from being transmitted with a major update to the Comprehensive Plan
 - Eliminate adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in the same year the Biennial Budget is adopted

Code Amendment Summary Table

2018 Comprehensive Plan Code Amendment Package				
Section	Code Cite	Current Code	Proposed Change	Comment
3	20.08.060	Definition of subarea plan	Amending definition of "subarea plan" to clarify that these plans refer to the plans prepared based on the geography of Community Service Areas, as defined in Chapter 11 of the King County Comprehensive Plan	Technical change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan
4	New	New section	Adding a new definition for "subarea study" consistent with policy direction in 2016 Comprehensive Plan	Consistent with policy changes made in 2016
5	20.12.010	Adopts comprehensive plans through 2016	Updating code to include 2018 amendment	
6	20.12.325	Vashon-Maury Island Community	Shifts the deadline for transmittal of one workplan action item adopted in	Shift schedule to allow other Subarea

2018 Comprehensive Plan Code Amendment Package				
Section	Code Cite	Current Code	Proposed Change	Comment
		Service Area Subarea Plan	the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan	Planning processes to start sooner
7	20.18.030	General Procedures for Comprehensive Plan updates	<p>Technical fix to delete language referencing the “priority areas map” that has not been part of the Comprehensive Plan for several years</p> <p>Changing the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years</p> <p>Allows annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan cycle if they are adopted by Ordinance and improve alignment with state Growth Management, multicounty and countywide planning timelines</p>	<p>Technical fix.</p> <p>Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan</p>
8 & 9	20.18.040	Site-specific land use map or shoreline master program map amendment classification	Changing the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years	Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan
	20.18.056	Shoreline environment redesignation		
10 & 11	20.18.060	Four-year cycle process	Specifying that the eight year cycle begins with the transmittal of the King County Comprehensive Plan on June 30, 2022 and continuing every eight years thereafter to correspond with the update cycle specified in the Growth Management Act	<p>Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan</p> <p>Better aligns Comprehensive Plan with Growth Management Act</p>
12	20.18.080	Subarea plan procedures	Referring to the subarea planning program and update schedule that is established in the King County Comprehensive Plan	Consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan
13	20.18.140	Provision for receipt, review of and response to the docket	Revising the calendar for the docket to correspond with the new schedule for amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan	Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan

2018 Comprehensive Plan Code Amendment Package				
Section	Code Cite	Current Code	Proposed Change	Comment
				Better aligns Docket with Comprehensive Plan schedule changes
14	20.18.170	Four to One Process	Changing reference to the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years	Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan