2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Agenda

• Welcome & Introductions
• Meeting Purpose & Participation
• Overview of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
• EIS Process and Milestones
• Land Use Alternatives
• Key Topics Discussion
• Questions & Answers
• How to Comment
• Next Steps
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Welcome & Introductions

• Welcome from Snohomish County staff
• Welcome to participants
Why did we ask you to join us today?

• Snohomish County is hosting two public meetings about the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) scoping process.

• Meeting goals:
  • Share more about the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, and upcoming milestones.
  • Learn about opportunities for how to stay involved and submit comments on key issues and concerns.
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Today’s Conversation

Learn
- Information about the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update, EIS Process, and Alternatives

Discuss
- Different EIS topics and share your vision for the future of the county

Q&A
- Ask questions, share feedback, and participate in polls

Wrap up
- Wrap up and next steps
Participation Ground Rules

Acceptable behavior
• Use welcoming and inclusive language
• Be respectful of differing viewpoints and experiences
• Try to frame comments positively
• Focus on what is best for the community
• Show empathy towards other participants

Unacceptable behavior
• Harassment, bullying, and intimidation
• Any activity meant to convey or cultivate hostility
• Insults, or other attacks
• Encouraging the above behavior
Technical Ground Rules

• Message Kizz Prusia through chat or at Kizz@berkconsulting.com with any technical difficulties

• The chat feature will be visible to the host and panelists only. Participants can submit questions to the host via the chat or Q&A*

• Want to learn more about the plan? Sign up for email updates online

*All information entered in the chat and Q&A is part of the public record and will be shared as part of the public meeting summary.
Pause for Polling
Overview of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

• Snohomish County is planning for a **resilient, vibrant, and inclusive future** where all residents have the opportunity to thrive.

• Based on state and regional estimates, Snohomish County is allocated a **population growth of approximately 308,000 individuals** countywide from 2020 to 2044.

• This presents opportunities as well as some challenges.
2024 Comprehensive Plan *Update*

The Comprehensive Plan includes the following topical elements:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Parks
- Housing
- Capital Facilities
- Natural Environment
- Economic Development
- Countywide Topics
EIS Process & Milestones
Purpose of EIS

• An **environmental impact statement (EIS)** provides information to the public and decision-makers about the environmental effects of plans or projects on the natural and built environment.

• The EIS will **identify environmental conditions, growth alternatives, potential impacts**, and **measures to reduce or mitigate** any significant, unavoidable adverse impacts.

Points of Public Input

• 30-day Scoping period upfront.

• 30–45 days for agencies and public to comment on the Draft EIS.

• A Final EIS will be prepared in response to public and agency comments.

• *See schedule on following page.*
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Integrated Plan & EIS Timeline

- **SEPA Scoping**
  - Fall 2021

- **Plan Visioning**
  - Fall 2021

- **Story Map/Survey**

- **Community Meetings**

- **Preliminary Draft EIS**
  - Winter 2023

- **Draft EIS**
  - Summer 2023
  - 45-Day + Comment Period

- **Alternatives and Draft Plan**

- **2044 Growth Targets & Final Docket**
  - Winter 2022

- **Draft Plan Documents**
  - Summer 2023

- **Planning Commission**

- **County Council**

- **Final EIS Issuance**
  - Winter/Spring 2024

- **Final Plan**
  - June 2024
Scoping is a process required by the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) intended to focus the scope of an EIS on the likely significant adverse impacts and reasonable alternatives, including mitigation measures. Scoping is a call for comments from the public, tribes, and agencies about EIS topics and alternatives.

What topics should be studied in the EIS?
Climate Change & Vulnerability

The EIS will develop performance metrics that allow current conditions and future alternatives to be screened for their advancement or hurdles to climate resilience.

Flood and Sea Level Rise: Low GHG Scenario 2050, UWCIG
Equity & Environmental Justice

The EIS will develop performance metrics that allow current conditions and future alternatives to be screened for their advancement or hurdles to equity.
2024 Comprehensive Plan *Update*

### Who is vulnerable?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Examples: Sea Level Rise, Flooding, Heat, Smoke</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity Examples: Age, Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity to Adapt Examples: Linguistic Isolation, Housing Condition, Tree Canopy, Green Space, Access to Transit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability = Exposure + Sensitivity + Capacity to Adapt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural/Resource</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated UGAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated UGAs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Speak Language other than English at Home*

*Only English at Home*
EIS & Alternatives

• An EIS is required so that the county can examine all the probable, significant adverse environmental impacts that could occur as a result of 2024 update and the growth coming by 2044.

• This scoping period is crucial to set the scope, or the shape, of the EIS to make sure we explore all of the right topics and range of growth alternatives and associated mitigation measures.

• The County benefits from hearing from you who live, work and play in Snohomish County to make sure we examine the right environmental topics, mitigation etc. etc.
Land Use Alternatives
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Testing Alternatives

The EIS will test the current plan and growth alternatives. The Alternatives will consider different land use and growth options and infrastructure investments.

What is an Alternative?
Alternatives are different ways of achieving objectives. The County’s objectives will be defined through visioning. Alternatives are likely to address:

- Inclusive and Equitable Communities
- Light Rail
- Parks
- Growth Targets and Available Buildable Lands
- Climate Change
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Mobility
2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

Growth Projections

Snohomish County Population

1990 - 2020 Avg Annual Pop Change (Actual): 12,078
2020 - 2044 Avg Annual Pop Change (RGS): 12,848
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**2020 Population**
This map shows the geographic distribution of Snohomish County’s 2020 Census population of 827,957 as a point of reference for the three alternatives.
Alternative 1: No Action

Adopted Plans – Lower Growth:

- Is SEPA-required.
- Continues current future land use designations, zoning, or other regulations.
- Assumes unincorporated UGAs grow to buildable capacity or 2044 Targets, whichever is less.
- Accommodates 8.5% of pop. growth in rural areas.
- Includes adopted transportation network + projects for growth 2035-2044.
- Considers lower population than Vision 2050 allocation for the county.
Alternative 2: Medium Growth
Focus on High-Capacity Transit Communities:

• Consistent with Vision 2050 growth allocations.
• Emphasis around high-capacity transit stations in SWUGA.
• Encourages a wider variety of housing types in single family neighborhoods in existing UGA.
• Rezones some lands UMDR in unincorporated High-Capacity Transit (HCT) Communities per Vision 2050.
• May include minor UGA adjustments.
• Accommodates 4.5% of county population growth in rural areas.
• Relies on multi-modal approach to transportation.
Alternative 3: Higher Growth

- Considers that population growth could be higher than Vision 2050 population total.
- Focuses a large share of growth in the core of the SWUGA near HCT stations.
- Encourages a variety of housing types in single family neighborhoods and allows for more UMDR in existing UGA.
- Includes any UGA expansion proposals per final docket.
- Accommodates 4.5% of county population growth in rural areas.
- Relies on a multi-modal approach to transportation.
Key Topics Discussion
The Comprehensive Plan includes the following topical elements:

- Land Use
- Transportation
- Parks
- Housing
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- Natural Environment
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- Countywide Topics
Pause for Polling
Opportunity for Questions & Answers
How to Provide Scoping Comments

You are invited to comment on EIS alternatives, topics the EIS should evaluate, potential impacts and mitigation, and the permits/approvals required.

Ways to give your input:

• Provide comments by 5:00 pm, November 30, 2021 to: 2024update@snoco.org.

• Respond to Vision survey questions as part of the online StoryMap.

• Attend meetings and events – check the project website for interactive meetings and activities.

This programmatic EIS is an opportunity to:

• Affect many future projects
• Address cumulative impacts
• Identify possible mitigation for future development
• Identify alternatives that meet the community’s vision for Snohomish County in 2024
Next Steps
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**Integrated Plan & EIS Timeline**

**We are here**

**SEPA Scoping**
Fall 2021

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**Final Plan**
June 2024
Next Steps

• Finally, if you have 30 seconds, we’d appreciate your feedback.

• This is the second of two scoping meetings, and the County is early in its planning process.

• Do you have suggestions for future public meetings?

• Your answers are anonymous and will not be shared with other participants.
Thank You