



City of Bellevue CAO Update

Public Engagement Plan

Introduction

The City of Bellevue is undertaking an Update of its Critical Areas Ordinance, as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). Per the requirements under the GMA, local jurisdictions are to evaluate and update adopted critical areas policies and regulations, as needed. In accordance with the GMA, the City last completed a comprehensive update of its critical areas policies and regulations in [insert date], pursuant to ordinance [insert reference]. The City is now required to update its critical areas policies and regulations by December 31, 2025.

This Public Engagement Plan is developed to outline the steps the City will take to provide opportunities for public engagement and public comment, as well as contact information and web addresses. This plan is in addition to any other minimum requirements for public participation required by Bellevue Land Use Code.

1.0 Public Engagement Goals

- To provide the public with timely information, an understanding of the process, and opportunities to review and comment on the CAO update process and potential amendments, and to have these comments forwarded to decision makers.
- Encourage the public to informally review and comment on the update throughout the process.
- Obtain feedback from a diverse sampling of the public, representative of multiple socioeconomic and cultural groups within the community.
- Provide public meetings for formal public comment prior to voting on the proposed CAO amendments by the City Council.
- Consult and consider recommendations from neighboring jurisdictions, federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes.

2.0 Team Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Organization	Role
Nick Whipple	City	Code and Policy Director
Kirsten Mandt	City	City Project Manager
Kristina Gallant	City	Code and Policy Planning Manager
Reilly Pittman	City	Core Team Member (Env. Plng. Mgr.)
Dan Nickel	Facet	Consultant Principal
Nell Lund	Facet	Consultant Project Manager
Katy Crandall	Facet	Environmental Planning Support
Dawn Spilsbury	Facet	GIS Analysis
Kyle Cotchett	Facet	Code Writing
Will Rosso	HWA Geosciences	Geotechnical Lead

3.0 Public Engagement Opportunities

The City is dedicated to offering diverse opportunities for the public to stay informed and engaged throughout the CAO update process, with a formal public comment period planned before local adoption. To ensure effective communication and encourage participation, the City will utilize a range of methods and adapt messaging to better reach minority and disadvantaged communities whenever feasible. Additionally, the City acknowledges that in-person public involvement may vary and that public engagement efforts may primarily depend on virtual and digital platforms. Opportunities will include:

3.1 City webpage

The City has developed a [CAO Update](#) webpage on their website where interested citizens and community members may visit for status updates, draft documents, official notices, meeting minutes, and other project information. This webpage will serve as the central hub for all details regarding the CAO update process. The City has provided an e-mail address (kmandt@bellevuewa.gov) for questions or comments from the public.

3.2 Public workshops

The City plans to host two in-person public events to help inform the public early regarding the CAO Update, including the use of best available science and requirements under the Growth Management Act.

3.3 Online public information session

The City will host an online public information session toward the latter part of the update once proposed amendments to the CAO have been developed. This session would be designed and facilitated to discuss the amendments with the community and how community feedback plays a role in the adoption process.

3.4 Public comments

The City will encourage ongoing public comment throughout the CAO update process, allowing community to share comments over email or mail to Kirsten Mandt, project manager, or Planning Commission and City Council. The City plans to hold a formal public comment period prior to formal adoption. This will allow interested members of the public to comment on draft amendment documents for the CAO update. The City will provide a summary of comments received and responses for Planning Commission and City Council review.

3.5 City Planning Commission

The City's Planning Commission will be the primary forum for detailed review of proposed amendments. The general public is encouraged to participate in Planning Commission meetings in alignment with Washington State health and safety guidelines and provide verbal comments to the City during the Planning Commission deliberations (as described in Section 4 "Public Comment" below). The City Planning Commission will make recommendations to the City Council. Official notices will be published as established in City policy.

4.0 Public Comment

The Planning Commission will hold at least one public hearing to consider public testimony on the CAO Update. Public notice of the public hearing with the Planning Commission will state the date/time, review body and location of the public hearing. Notices will be published per official policy.

5.0 List of Stakeholders

The City plans to outreach to the following stakeholders to provide notice of the CAO update.

Members of the Public

- Interested citizens
- Property owners
- Residents
- Tourists

Tribal Governments/Commissions

- Muckleshoot
- Snoqualmie
- Others

City Officials

- Planning Commission
- City Council

City Departments and Services

- Community Development
- Utilities
- Parks

Other Local Government

- Cities
 - Issaquah
 - Redmond
 - Kirkland
 - Medina
 - Clyde Hill
 - Beaux Arts Village
 - Newcastle

- King County
- Public utility district
- Sewer districts
- School districts

State Government

- Department of Ecology
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Department of Health
- Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Federal Government

- US Fish and Wildlife Services
- NOAA Fisheries
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Navy
- US Coast Guard

Businesses

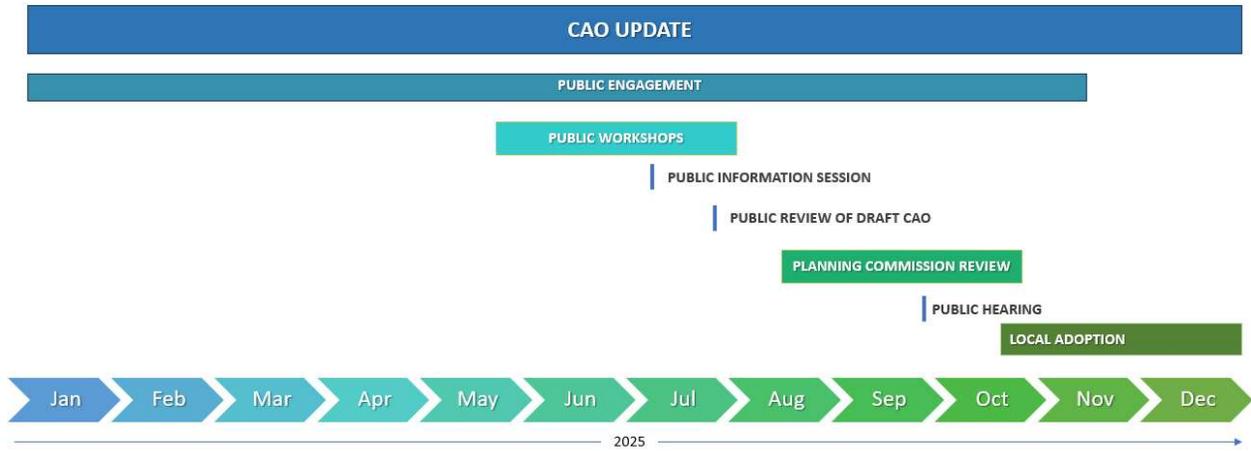
- Construction and real estate
- Tourism and lodging commercial
- BelRed Property Owners Group

Non-profit organizations

- People for Climate Action
- Trees4Livability

6.0 Timeline

The following is a general timeline. A similar timeline will be posted on the City's CAO Update website.



* This timeline is subject to change