



Bellevue Planning Commission

January 26, 2022

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Overview of the King County Countywide Planning Policies and Urban Growth Capacity Report

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

King County staff will present an overview of the process and framework as well as a high level summary of the updates to the 2012 King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). The CPPs were amended for consistency with PSRC’s VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies.

Tonight’s briefing is an opportunity for the Planning Commission to learn more about the process used to update the King County CPPs and range of amendments included in the update.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION

DIRECTION

INFORMATION ONLY

No direction is needed from the Commission at this time. King County staff will present background and information relating to the update of the King County CPPs and Urban Growth Capacity Report which informs the City’s Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update.

BACKGROUND

On December 14, 2021, the Metropolitan King County Council approved and ratified the [2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies \(CPPs\)](#) and [2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report](#) on behalf of unincorporated King County. The ordinances became effective early this year on January 6. The chapters of the CPPs have been updated with amendments to the 2012 adopted policies as well as inclusion of new policies to align with the Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs) and Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) contained in the Puget Sound Regional Council’s (PSRC) VISION 2050.

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is responsible for reviewing and recommending policy and map amendments to the CPPs to the King County Council. The GMPC is composed of elected officials from the King County Council, Seattle, Bellevue, Sound Cities Association and special purpose districts. Councilmember Robertson participated as Bellevue’s representative on the GMPC. Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), the CPPs serve as the framework for each local jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan, which ensures countywide consistency with respect to land use planning efforts.

On June 23, 2021, the GMPC unanimously recommended approval of the 2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report to the King County Council. The Urban Growth Capacity Report is a mid-planning cycle assessment on how jurisdictions are achieving the planning goals of their current 2035 comprehensive plans as required by the GMA. It implements the County's Review and Evaluation Program, previously referred to as "Buildable Lands", and includes findings from three key components:

- Analysis of 11 countywide and jurisdictional growth trends between 2006 and 2018 compared to the 2035 growth targets;
- Analysis of achieved densities by jurisdiction based on growth that occurred between 2012 and 2018, and
- Capacity for housing and job growth

On June 23, 2021 the GMPC also recommended approval of the 2021 King County CPPs to the King County Council. The CPPs create a shared and consistent framework for growth management planning for all jurisdictions in King County. The CPPs were last comprehensively reviewed and updated in 2012.

The guiding principles for the 2021 CPP update include centering social equity and health outcomes, integrating regional policy and legislative changes, implementing the Regional Growth Strategy, and providing clear, actionable direction for comprehensive plan updates. As a part of the CPP Update, new growth targets are included for the 2019-2044 planning period. Growth targets are policy statements about the amount of housing and jobs each jurisdiction, including Bellevue, will plan for in their Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update. These targets, combined with the county CPPs, are the major elements of countywide planning that will inform the upcoming Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update. All areas of Bellevue are within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) for King County. Housing and jobs targets for each jurisdiction within the region have been set in the CPP.

The GMPC also recommended that the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) of the GMPC be tasked with a separate workplan. Due to the complexity, overlapping nature, and GMPC members' desire for further discussion, several amendments regarding understanding and accommodating housing need, holding jurisdictions accountable, and prioritizing where and how resources should be allocated were not presented for a vote. GMPC members felt they would benefit from further refinement and development by the AHC and regional stakeholders and should be informed by forthcoming housing needs data from the state Department of Commerce. The GMPC's recommendation ultimately included a new workplan item for the AHC.

Next Steps

The King County Council approved and ratified the amendment on behalf of unincorporated King County on December 4, 2021. For the amendments to be adopted they must be ratified by at least 30 percent of city and county governments representing 70 percent of the population of King County within 90 days of the approval by the King County Council, or by April 6.

Under the provisions of the Countywide Planning Policies, cities in King County have 90 days to take formal action to either ratify or disapprove the amendment. No action is deemed to be the same as ratification. Cities are not allowed to modify the proposals as part of the ratification process.

A study session with City Council is scheduled for February 7 to obtain Council direction on ratification of the CPPs. Once Council provides direction to proceed, staff will prepare a Resolution for ratification of the proposed amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies for Council action at a future meeting. The ratification of the CPPs by the Council will inform the City's periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan which is to occur by 2024 and changes reflected in the CPP chapters will impact the scope of changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The CPPs adopt growth targets for jobs and housing units across cities, including Bellevue. The 2019-2044 Bellevue jobs target is 70,000 new jobs. This will accommodate anticipated market growth in the City. The 2019-2044 Bellevue housing target is 35,000 new units. This is significantly higher than the City's previous 25-year housing target of 17,000 new units for the period between 2006-2031 and provides a 2:1 jobs to housing unit ratio (70,000 jobs : 35,000 housing units) for the 2019-2044 Bellevue growth increment, thereby achieving a more equitable balance between jobs and housing.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A