

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
INCLUDING AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/ZONING MAP**

WHEREAS, The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires the County to update its Comprehensive Plans and implement development regulations every 10 years (RCW 36.70A.130). Skagit County's deadline for this periodic update is December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County's last periodic update to the Comprehensive Plan was completed in 2016; and

WHEREAS, The update revises the goals and policies of the previously adopted 2016 Comprehensive Plan to be compliant with recent changes to state laws governing Comprehensive Plans including a new Climate Element, revisions to the Housing Element to accommodate housing at all income levels based on the 20-year population projections, and updates to the Transportation Element to include a transportation inventory, land use assumptions, travel forecasts, Multimodal Level of Service standards, current and future transportation needs, and a transportation financial plan; and

WHEREAS, The update revises all goals and policies to adequately address recent changes to regional Countywide Planning Policies (O20250002) including the updates to the County's 20-year population, housing, and employment projections; and

WHEREAS, The GMA requires Skagit County to review Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) per RCW 36.70A.130(3); and

WHEREAS, The City of Anacortes submitted a docket petition (LR24-05) to expand its UGA as part of the 2025 Skagit County Periodic Comprehensive Plan update which only includes city-owned parcels and will not be used to accommodate City population, housing, or employment growth targets and will only be used for recreational and city operational uses; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.067 requires that the effective date of an UGA expansion be 60 days after the date of publication of notice of adoption; and

WHEREAS, A public participation program for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update was prepared and reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County held numerous opportunities for public engagement by hosting community surveys, open houses, tabling events, stakeholder interviews, public hearings and outreach to various community groups and by creating a project website and providing regular project update notifications; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County held a two-step policy review process. First, preliminary draft policy amendments, for each comprehensive plan element, were prepared and brought to the Planning Commission for initial comments between July and October 2024. In addition, a 30-day comment period was provided each month for the public to provide early comments. Second, a full draft comprehensive plan was released to the public for comment and the Planning Commission from February 13, 2025, to March 13, 2025. A public hearing was held by the Planning Commission to receive public testimony on March 11, 2025; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission deliberated and issued a Recorded Motion and recommendation for approval of the 2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan update, with suggested amendments on April 15th, 2025 (**Attachment 1**); and

WHEREAS, A second public comment period was held from May 28, 2025, through June 13, 2025, and a second public hearing was held by the Board of County Commissioners on June 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Skagit County issued a Determination of Non-Significance under the State Environmental Policy Act for the 2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations, and Critical Areas Ordinance update on May 15, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Critical Areas Ordinance and development regulations updates were updated as part of the periodic update, but will be adopted by separate ordinances; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners has reviewed the public comments and the Planning Commission Recorded Motion for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan update.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

Section 1. The May 29, 2025 version of the 2025-2045 Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, attached as **Attachment 2**, is adopted as the Comprehensive Plan for Skagit County.

Section 2. Zoning Map amendments for the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan/, shown in **Attachment 3**, are adopted.

Section 3. The Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map adopted in this Ordinance will be effective 60-days from the date notice of adoption of this ordinance is published.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Peter Browning, Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:

Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Approved as to Content:

Department Head