



TO: Jack Moore, Planning and Development Services Director
Robby Eckroth, Senior Planner
Tara Satushek, Senior Planner

FROM: Erin O’Kelley,
Clay White, Director of Planning

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: February 18, 2025, Planning Commission briefing – 2025 Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update – TOPIC

The Kimley-Horn team looks forward to the opportunity to brief the Skagit County Planning Commission on February 18, regarding the Skagit County Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update. The briefing will focus on the following objectives:

- Land Use Element Final Proposed Recommendations
- Rural Element Final Proposed Recommendations
- Transportation Element Final Proposed Recommendations
- Economic Development Final Proposed Recommendations
- Land Use Changes, Anacortes Urban Growth Area Changes
- Discuss next steps

PROJECT TIMELINE

Below is a list of upcoming meeting dates to participate in Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update discussions.

<i>[Tentative schedule below, please see the Planning Commission website for confirmed dates]</i>	
February 18, 2025	Planning Commission: Land Use, Transportation, Environment, Economic Development Elements
February 25, 2025	Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners Joint Meeting
March 11, 2025	Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing (with 30-day comment period)
March 12, 2025	Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing (if needed)
April 8, 2025	Planning Commission Deliberations and Recommendations
April 15, 2025	Comprehensive Plan Deliberations and Recommendations (if needed)
April 22, 2025	Planning Commission Critical Areas Ordinance and Development Regulations Briefing

May 6, 2025	Planning Commission Critical Areas Ordinance and Development Regulations Public Hearing
May 20, 2025	Planning Commission Critical Areas Ordinance and Development Regulations Deliberations
June 2025	Board of County Commissioners Process Schedule Separately – dates for public meetings, comment periods, and public hearing to be scheduled separately

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Skagit County to update its Comprehensive Plans and implementing development regulations every 10 years ([RCW 36.70A.130](#)). Comprehensive Plans are 20-year policy documents that guide and plan for growth (population and employment), housing, transportation, capital facilities and utilities, parks, recreation and open space, rural areas, and protection of natural resource lands ([RCW 36.70A.070](#)). Skagit County is required to complete the periodic comprehensive plan update by December 30, 2025. However, the project schedule is focused on completing the project by June 30, 2025. Comprehensive Plan updates are an opportunity to revise the existing Plan to ensure consistency with state laws/case law since the last update and Best Available Science (BAS) for incorporation into critical areas regulations. This update also provides a great opportunity to balance state requirements with community vision to shape the future for Skagit County.

