

#12
Res. 31370

Tom Hauger
DPD Comp Plan Major Review RES
March 16, 2012
Version # 3

RESOLUTION 31370

A RESOLUTION identifying principles and a revised schedule to guide the review and update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

WHEREAS, the state Growth Management Act requires the City to have a comprehensive plan and to review that plan on a regular schedule;

WHEREAS, the City adopted its Comprehensive Plan: Toward a Sustainable Seattle in 1994;

WHEREAS, the City most recently completed a major review of the Comprehensive Plan in 2004;

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Puget Sound Regional Council adopted Vision 2040, which provides guidance for growth planning in the four county region that encompasses Seattle;

WHEREAS, in the eight years since the most recent review the city has experienced net growth of over 25,000 housing units, more than 50% of the 47,000 housing units expected over the Comprehensive Plan's 20-year projected horizon, while national economic conditions have made it difficult for the City to achieve the 84,000 new jobs expected in the current Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, the King County Growth Management Planning Council in 2010 adopted new growth assumptions showing Seattle is expected to receive approximately 70,000 housing units and 115,000 jobs over the coming 20 years;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature has extended until 2015 the requirement for the City to review and update its Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, the nation and local area continue to suffer from a prolonged economic downturn that has hindered job growth and diminished government's ability to deliver increasingly needed services;

WHEREAS, since the last major review of the Comprehensive Plan in 2004, the first phase of regional light rail service has opened service in Seattle, and voters have approved expansion of that service to include additional stations in the city, suggesting the need for the City to define development expectations and focus infrastructure investment in these areas;

1 WHEREAS, there is growing awareness of the effects of climate change, and the City Council
has established a goal of achieving zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

2 WHEREAS, the fundamental principle underlying the Comprehensive Plan is the desire for the
3 Seattle to grow in ways that are sustainable for Seattle and the region;

4 WHEREAS, the City's Comprehensive Plan is an appropriate document in which to articulate
5 how the City will address both causes and effects of climate change;

6 WHEREAS, in order for Seattle to continue being competitive for the knowledge-based
7 industries that are expected to fuel future economic growth, the City must find ways to
retain family-wage jobs and encourage innovative job-producing businesses;

8 WHEREAS, to maintain economic resilience, the City must continue to promote its economic
9 diversity, including the healthy import/export and industrial sectors that provide
employment for large numbers of area residents;

10
11 WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) published a Public
12 Participation Program for the major review of the Comprehensive Plan in October 2011
that included a schedule through 2013 and summarized the additional outreach DPD will
13 take to solicit feedback and comments on potential changes to the Comprehensive Plan;

14 WHEREAS, in light of the State's extended deadline for the City to comply with its major
15 review, DPD recommends a modified "phased" approach to its major review of the
16 Comprehensive Plan and development regulations that would allow the City to review
and, if needed, update portions of the Comprehensive Plan and its development
17 regulations concurrently with the annual update process in 2013, in 2014 and in 2015;

18 WHEREAS, DPD conducted significant public outreach in 2011 as part of its Public
19 Participation Program to learn the opinions of city residents and business owners
regarding issues that the City should consider as part of the major review of the
20 Comprehensive Plan;

21 WHEREAS, DPD will publish a revised version of the Public Participation Program that will
22 correspond with the schedule for the phased major review of the Comprehensive Plan and
that may augment the public participation used in the annual amendment process as set
forth in Resolution No. 31117;

23 WHEREAS, DPD will consider and incorporate the public comments that have been received in
24 2011 as part of the Comprehensive Plan major review, as amendments are developed
each year between 2012 and 2015;

25
26 NOW, THEREFORE,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
2 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

3 Section 1. The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires municipalities to adopt a
4 Public Participation Program (Program) that provides for early and continuous public
5 involvement when reviewing and amending their Comprehensive Plan. The GMA also allows
6 the Program to be modified to meet changing schedules and deadlines. The State extended the
7 City's deadline to complete its Comprehensive Plan review until 2015. The City,
8 correspondingly, will modify its Program to reflect the schedule change and will conduct
9 additional public outreach in 2013, 2014 and 2015 to solicit feedback and public comment on
10 any proposed modifications to the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.

11 Section 2. The Executive should proceed with a major review of the City's
12 Comprehensive Plan in order to address these themes which were informed by a broad and
13 inclusive public outreach process:

- 14 a. Promote economic opportunity. Foster a business environment where employers
15 are encouraged to stay in or to move to Seattle because of the available labor pool, the
16 amenities and services provided, and the regulatory environment.
- 17 b. Leverage growth. Encourage shops and services to locate where existing or
18 planned residential and employment densities are sufficient to make delivery of
19 services efficient; and where the City and the private sector can collaborate on further
20 enhancements to the urban environment.
- 21 c. Become a climate-friendly city. Guide the form and location of growth and
22 transportation infrastructure to reduce greenhouse gases produced in the city, even as
23 the city grows, and identify strategies for coping with the likely effects of a changing
24 climate.
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- 1 d. Build healthy, complete communities. Develop policies that further the
2 Comprehensive Plan's current Urban Village strategy by improving the availability of
3 services within convenient walking and bicycling distance of where people live.
- 4 e. Create housing choices. Continue to encourage a sufficient land base that is
5 appropriately zoned and with regulations in place that allow a wide variety of
6 attractive and affordable housing types in sufficient quantity to serve current and
7 future Seattle residents and workers.
- 8 f. Balance transportation investments. Continue to maintain existing transportation
9 facilities, while encouraging expansion of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and
10 increasing transit service to densely developed neighborhoods.
- 11 g. Build on transit. Encourage appropriate levels of development near existing and
12 planned high-capacity transit stations in order to make it possible for more people to
13 easily take advantage of the access that transit service can provide to jobs, services
14 and entertainment.
- 15 h. Invest strategically in neighborhoods. Direct public improvements in
16 neighborhoods where growth is occurring, so that those neighborhoods can continue
17 to serve current residents and attract additional ones.
- 18 i. Encourage great design and innovation. Identify ways that new development can
19 respect the natural beauty and unique neighborhood identities that make Seattle an
20 attractive city. At the same time, look for ways to attract new industries that can
21 thrive in the city.

22 Section 3. In reviewing and revising the Comprehensive Plan, the Executive should look
23 for ways to make the document more accessible and usable for citizens and policy makers,
24 including by:

- 1 a. Explaining how the Comprehensive Plan is related to other plans, including
- 2 Vision 2040, the King County Countywide Planning Policies, and various City plans
- 3 such as the Transportation Strategic Plan, the Climate Action Plan and capital
- 4 investment plans.
- 5 b. Revising current policies to increase clarity, remove redundancy and ensure
- 6 relevance to the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan.
- 7 c. Producing an electronic version of the Comprehensive Plan and revising the
- 8 format to make it easier for readers to find relevant information and to understand
- 9 policies.

10 Section 4. The Executive should continue to work collaboratively with the Planning
11 Commission to encourage broad public engagement about the following objectives and in order
12 for the 2015 major review of the Comprehensive Plan to build on the values and creativity of city
13 residents, businesses and other stakeholders:

- 14 a. Update the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the community's values and
- 15 aspirations.
- 16 b. Provide objective information to assist the public in understanding issues and
- 17 solutions.
- 18 c. Provide opportunities for the public to contribute ideas and provide feedback
- 19 through all phases of the Comprehensive Plan major review.
- 20 d. Improve the involvement of traditionally under-represented audiences.
- 21 e. Make the major review accessible and engaging to interested participants by using
- 22 a variety of media, plain English and easy-to understand materials.
- 23 f. Make the major review racially and culturally inclusive.

24 Section 5. To facilitate review by the public and the Council, the Executive should
25 generally adhere to the following schedule:

1 Fall 2012: Recommend for early 2013 City Council action, as part of the annual
2 Comprehensive Plan amendment process, amendments adding more explicit urban design
3 considerations; policies related to the City's Climate Action Plan; policies regarding appropriate
4 development types and densities near existing and planned transit investments; and policies that
5 encourage equitable access to healthy food.

6 2013: Develop background analysis, identify particular issues, work with City
7 departments to identify citywide policy issues requiring further review; and request public
8 comments on key issues. Reconfigure online Plan format to improve readability, cross-references
9 and topical searching. Develop appropriate recommendations for further amendments resulting
10 from the Executive's review and recommend those to City Council as part of the annual
11 amendment cycle, as appropriate, for Council consideration in early 2014.

12 Spring 2014: Publish draft revised Comprehensive Plan, including new citywide growth
13 expectations and appropriate policy revisions, for public review and comment; begin
14 environmental review of proposed changes to the Plan not already adopted by Council as part of
15 the 2013 and 2014 annual amendments.

16 Fall 2014: Submit Recommended Comprehensive Plan to Council.

17 2015: Council consideration of updated Plan in first half of year.

1 Section 6. The Executive and City Council should review amendments suggested as part
2 of the annual Comprehensive Plan processes for 2013 and 2014 to determine whether those
3 amendments fit with the schedule and guidance described in this resolution.

4 Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2012, and
5 signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this _____ day
6 of _____, 2012.

7 _____
8 President _____ of the City Council

9
10 THE MAYOR CONCURRING:
11 _____
12 _____

13 Michael McGinn, Mayor

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15 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2012.

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17 _____
18 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

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20 (Seal)

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FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
DPD	Tom Hauger 4-8380	Kristi Beattie 4-5266

Legislation Title: A RESOLUTION identifying principles and a preferred schedule to guide the review and update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Summary of the Legislation:

This Resolution describes the themes and schedule for the mandated major review of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Background:

The state has changed the deadline for completing a major Comp Plan Review twice in recent years. DPD had been planning to complete the review in time for Council action in early 2013. However, as part of the 2012 budget, Council restricted the amount of resources that DPD could use toward this review to \$150,000 and directed DPD to take advantage of the time the state has allowed by extending the deadline until June 2015.

Please check one of the following:

 X **This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

(Please skip to "Other Implications" section at the end of the document and answer questions a-h. Earlier sections that are left blank should be deleted. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each question.)

 This legislation has financial implications.

(If the legislation has direct fiscal impacts (e.g., appropriations, revenue, positions), fill out the relevant sections below. If the financial implications are indirect or longer-term, describe them in narrative in the "Other Implications" Section. Please delete the instructions provided in parentheses at the end of each title and question.)

Other Implications:

a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**
No.

b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**
The Resolution helps clarify expectations about the work that will be conducted on the Comprehensive Plan over the next three years and may therefore help control expansion of the project's scope and future expenditures for staff and consultants.

c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
Several other departments are partnering with DPD in reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. These include

SDOT, OH, OSE, SPU, SCL and OED. The schedule in the Resolution revises the timing for the departments' involvement in reviewing, and preparing amendments for, the Comp Plan.

- d) What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?** A statement of legislative intent is an alternative way for the Council to articulate its desires about the contents and schedule for the major review of the Comprehensive Plan; however, the proposed Resolution provides a more collaborative approach for the executive and Council to define the review process.
- e) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No
- f) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No
- g) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No
- h) Other Issues:**

List attachments to the fiscal note below:



City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

April 3, 2012

Honorable Sally J. Clark
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Clark:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed Resolution describing the City's approach to the major review and update of the Comprehensive Plan. The Resolution describes the themes the review should address, ways the Plan could be more accessible, the objectives of public engagement associated with the review, and provides a general schedule for developing an update of the Plan.

The state Growth Management Act originally required that the City complete a major review of its Comprehensive Plan by December 2011, but the state legislature has amended that requirement twice in recent years, so that the deadline is now June 2015. Anticipating an earlier date, executive staff, led by DPD, initiated outreach to the public in the summer of 2011. During budget deliberations, Council expressed a desire for the City to take advantage of the full time allowed by the state. So as not to lose the public interest and project momentum generated during 2011's outreach phase, the schedule in the attached Resolution proposes that the City use each of the regular annual Comprehensive Plan amendment cycles up until 2015 to review individual portions of the Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is the City's guide for managing growth in the physical environment. It is important that we take advantage of this opportunity to adjust the Plan to provide direction for the next 20 years of growth. Should you have questions, please contact Tom Hauger at 684-8380.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council