

2021 CPP Update – *Interim* Chapter Summaries

The chapters of the King County Countywide Planning Policies are proposed to be updated with amendments to existing 2012 policies and with the inclusion of new policies to align with VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies. Below, is a summary of the concepts guiding the proposed changes, organized by chapter.

1. Environment

- Emphasize climate change by adding a new subsection.
- Update the greenhouse gas reduction goals to correspond to the goals set by the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C).
- Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon.
- Address fossil fuel facilities to protect public health, safety, and welfare; and to protect the natural ecosystem to reduce climate change.
- Address environmental justice issues across several policies including access to a healthy environment, community resilience, and reduction of pollution.
- Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents prioritizing underserved communities.
- Call for the use of best available science when establishing and implementing environmental standards.

2. Development Patterns

- Integrate social equity and public health into local and countywide planning.
- Ensure a stable urban growth area boundary.
- Codify growth target and urban growth capacity report processes.
- Link growth targets to land use assumptions in comprehensive plans.
- Address four-to-one program provisions, clarifying the process for reassigning potential annexation areas.
- Establish a Centers Designation Framework consistent with the PSRC regional framework (note: this is related to the GMPC approved process for identifying Candidate Countywide Centers by the end of 2021. These candidates will be in effect until 2025-26, at which time GMPC will finalize the designations.)
- Ensure better understanding in local planning of past housing and land use practices have led to inequities by race and ethnicity.
- Develop new growth targets with a planning horizon to 2024.
- Strengthen city-county collaboration around annexation area planning.
- Recognize the role of Cities in the Rural Area consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan.

3. Housing

The Housing Chapter is being updated to support efforts of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force (RAHTF) to address the shortfall of 156,000 affordable homes needed in 2018 and another 88,000 affordable homes by 2040 and other housing and affordable housing needs. The Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) expects to adopt a recommendation to the GMPC at their next meeting on January 29, 2021. The draft amendments shared with the GMPC were developed by the Affordable Housing Committee's Housing Interjurisdictional Team (HIJT).

In response to stakeholder feedback, the HIJT developed CPP amendments to achieve the following:

- Align with existing plans, including VISION 2050 and the RAHTF recommendations;
- Strengthen methods of local and regional accountability; and
- Achieve health and equity outcomes.

Align with Existing Plans

- *VISION 2050*: Proposed amendments to the CPP Housing Chapter reflect changes in VISION 2050, including addressing displacement, supporting moderate density housing development, acknowledging historic inequities in access to homeownership, and planning for affordability near transit.
- *Regional Affordable Housing Task Force Final Report and Recommendations*: The proposed CPP Housing Chapter amendments align with and advance the goals recommended by the Task Force.

Strengthen Methods of Local and Regional Accountability

- *New Definition of Countywide Need*: The proposed amendments adopt the RAHTF report's approach to defining housing need as the number of homes needed today and in the future to ensure that no low-income household is cost burdened.
- *Revised Learning Model*: The proposed Housing Chapter policies guide cities and the county through a four-step continuous improvement process to meet the countywide need:
 - Conduct a housing inventory and analysis;
 - Implement policies and strategies to equitably meet housing needs;
 - Measure results and provide accountability; and
 - Adjust strategies to meet housing needs.
- *More Effective Regional Monitoring System*: The proposed chapter revisions seek to:
 - Establish regular monitoring of regional and jurisdictional progress through the Affordable Housing Dashboard; and
 - Minimize the reporting burden on local jurisdictions by leveraging the new centralized data infrastructure created by King County staff that support the AHC.

Achieve Health and Equity Outcomes

- The CPP policy amendments are structured to achieve health and equity outcomes. In terms of equity, the proposed amendments promote:
 - Distributional equity: An individual's income race, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, ability, or income doesn't impact their ability to access housing in the neighborhood of their choice;
 - Cross-generational equity: The impact of the housing policies created result in fair and just distribution of benefits and burdens to future generations;
 - Process equity: The housing policy development, decision-making, and implementation process is inclusive, open, fair, and accessible to all stakeholders; and
 - Reparative policies: The policies implemented will actively seek to repair harms cause by racially biased policies.
- The policies are grouped in the "implement policies and strategies to equitably meet housing needs" section of the chapter into five key equity objectives:
 - Equitable processes and outcomes;
 - Increased housing supply, particularly for households with the greatest needs;
 - Expanded housing options and increased affordability accessible to transit and employment;
 - Expanded housing and neighborhood choice for all residents; and
 - Housing stability, healthy homes, and healthy communities.

4. Economy

- Support the Regional Economic Strategy.
- Support advanced manufacturing throughout the county.
- Foster a supportive environment for locally owned and women and minority owned businesses.
- Reduce historic and ongoing disparities in income and employment opportunities for communities that have been economically disadvantaged.
- Call for the development of a system that provides a safety net during economic downturns.
- Prioritize a diversity of middle-wage jobs.
- Encourage the public and private sectors to incorporate environmental stewardship and social responsibility into their practices.

5. Transportation

- Emphasize creating an equitable transportation system.
- Improve the safety of the system for all users.
- Encourage alternatives to driving along including transit and active transportation.
- Minimize displacement and impact on affected communities.
- Strengthen connections between land use and transportation.
- Promote a sustainable system by encourage transit use, active transportation and alternative fuels.

6. Public Facilities and Services

- Address impacts of climate change on fisheries and water reuse and reclamation.
- Make investments in renewable and alternative energy sources.
- Make the provision of telecommunication infrastructure a focus on broadband service to businesses and households of all income levels.
- Further continue King County's ahead-of-the-curve approach to school siting policy with specific RCW acknowledgement, and requirements for district-jurisdiction review meetings with reports to the GMPC.
- Establish a process for public capital facilities of regional or statewide importance to incorporate equity in determining impacts and benefits.
- Prioritize investments for affordable and equitable access to public services in this chapter.
- Consider climate change, economic and health impacts when siting and building essential public facilities.
- Establish a new Public Facility and Service Disaster Preparedness topic area to plan for such preparedness and ensure a resilience and recovery focus in facilities site selection.