

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission

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Planning and Community Development

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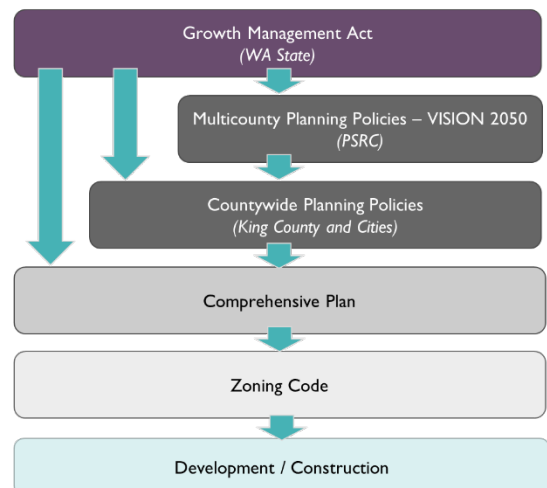
Subject: Required Updates to Housing and Economic Vitality Elements

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this briefing is to describe required updates to the Housing and Economic Vitality Elements of the Redmond Comprehensive Plan. Required updates are those updates arising from state, regional, and county mandates.

BACKGROUND

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires all planning done under the GMA to be consistent both within plan documents and across plan documents. This means that when there are changes to state law or binding regional or countywide policies, the Redmond Comprehensive Plan must be updated for consistency.



REQUIRED HOUSING UPDATES

At a high level, required updates to Housing policies include:

1. Aligning with the Regional Housing Strategy found in VISION 2050;

2. Accommodating planned population growth;
3. Mitigating displacement of disenfranchised populations;
4. Promoting housing security and encouraging community stability, particularly for lower income households; and
5. Achieving a more balanced jobs-to-housing ratio.

The countywide planning policy updates have a strong focus on equity and program evaluation. There is a strong theme of removing barriers that have disproportionately impacted Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities. The countywide planning policies also require jurisdictions to pursue implementation strategies and regulations that will generate housing for people at all income levels. In addition, the countywide planning policies identify data collection requirements that will allow organizations to evaluate their programs and compare results across the region.

These updates reflect the Redmond 2050 themes of Equity and Inclusion and Technology Forward. Equity policies include promoting the adoption of anti-displacement policies. Further, jurisdictions are required to document the local history of racially exclusive and discriminatory housing practices, implement strategies to address those impacts, and repair past harms. Technology Forward policy direction includes collecting data to monitor progress towards meeting countywide housing targets and providing information for use in the King County Affordable Housing Dashboard.

REQUIRED ECONOMIC VITALITY UPDATES

At a high level, required updates to Economic Vitality policies include:

1. Aligning with the Regional Economic Strategy found in VISION 2050;
2. Accommodating planned employment growth;
3. Mitigating the impacts of growth to reduce displacement of small businesses and encourage the preservation of manufacturing land uses and job opportunities; and
4. Achieving a more balanced jobs-to-housing ratio.

Countywide planning policy updates have a strong focus on equity and sustainability, which aligns with Redmond 2050 themes. Equity policies include an effort to reduce historic disparities in income and employment, support for BIPOC-, women-, and locally-owned businesses, and prioritizing the development of middle-wage job opportunities. Sustainability policies include encouraging more neighborhood retail and accessible transportation, promoting the natural environment as an economic asset, and encouraging private sector environmental stewardship.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will incorporate required updates into the Comprehensive Plan drafting process. The Planning Commission will see how required updates are incorporated when it reviews policy options and alternatives for each Plan element, and again when it reviews drafts of each element.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A : Staff Presentation