



Comprehensive Plan Update Public Participation Plan

RCW 36.70A.140 of the Washington Growth Management Act requires that each city "establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program...for early and continuous public participation in the development" of the city's comprehensive plan.

Consistent with the recommendations of the GMA which emphasize the involvement of the broadest cross-section of the community, including the involvement of groups not previously involved, the City of Washougal adopts the following program for citizen participation in the comprehensive plan update process:

1. Goals
 - a. Ensure broad participation by identifying key interest groups, soliciting input from the public, and ensuring no single group or interest dominates the process.
 - b. Accommodate budgetary and staffing constraints by ensuring resources are focused on elements of the update process likely to be of greatest interest to the public.
 - c. Distribute information and post notices efficiently.
 - d. Notify the citizens of all public meetings, hearings, workshops and legislative actions.
2. Coordination with Clark County. The City of Washougal will continue to collaborate with the Board of Clark County Counselors and Clark County Planning Staff as the lead agency for the overall County Comprehensive Plan Update.
3. Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will play a key role in establishing the City's dialogue with community members, hosting a series of meetings and workshops during the Plan update. The Planning Commission will evaluate information provided by the community and develop recommendations for submission to the City Council.
4. Public Meetings. The City will conduct a series of public meetings hosted by the Planning Commission on the preliminary comprehensive plan update. This ensures that the City will meet the requirement for "early and continuous" public participation in the comprehensive planning process.
5. Public Hearings. Public hearings will be held before the Planning Commission and City Council to discuss the Plan update. It is anticipated that at least two public hearings will be held by the governing body prior to adoption of the Plan update.
6. Public Notice. The City will provide notice of all meetings and hearings pursuant to the requirements of RCW 36.70A.035 and .140 and WMC 18.94.080.

7. Written Comment. The public will be invited to submit written comments on the Plan update as part of any workshops or community meetings. Comments will be specifically solicited from residents, special interest organizations and business interests. Comments may be in the form of letters and other correspondence to the City regarding the plan update or comments received electronically on the city's website. A log will be kept of all written comments received according to specific areas of the Plan update.
8. Communications Programs & Informational Services - As staff and budgetary resources allow, the following activities will be undertaken to ensure broad-based citizen participation:
 - a. Website – The City will update the community on planned meetings, workshops or other significant comprehensive plan events via the City's website. This could include articles on topics related to the plan update and it could request feedback from the community on topics related to the plan.
 - b. Interest Groups - Contact local interest groups (i.e., Chamber of Commerce, home builders, environmental, neighborhoods, etc.) and if requested arrange to meet and discuss relevant comprehensive plan update issues.
 - c. Community Workshops - Conduct community workshops hosted by the Planning Commission to encourage neighborhood participation in the comprehensive plan update.
 - d. Press Releases - Work with the local newspapers to advertise and promote any significant events related to the comprehensive plan update.
 - e. Develop a database of interested citizens and provide regular correspondence concerning the status of the Plan update.
 - f. Identify key resource personnel representing agencies and groups whose plans are integrated into the Comprehensive Plan, including but not limited to fire districts, school districts and utilities.
 - g. Maintain a log of all public participation meetings, events and actions that the City engages in to provide documentation on the City's effort to meet the requirements of the GMA.