

OUR VANCOUVER **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Revised Washington State Environmental Policy Act Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement

The City of Vancouver invites you to comment on the environmental topics that will be analyzed as part of its Comprehensive Plan update. The City is issuing this revised notice to clarify proposed future growth levels, the number of alternatives that will be analyzed in the Draft EIS, and the role of desired community outcomes and goals in the Comprehensive Plan update and SEPA process. *All comments received during the previous scoping period (July-September 2024) remain valid and will be considered as part of the SEPA review process.*

Date of Issuance: October 22, 2024

Deadline for Comments: November 21, 2024 (no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific time)

Lead Agency: City of Vancouver

Description of Proposal: City of Vancouver Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of Vancouver is updating its Comprehensive Plan, which will establish a vision that guides the City's growth and development for the next 20 years, from 2025 to 2045. Since the plan was last updated in 2011, Vancouver has experienced substantial growth, as well as demographic, economic and social changes.

To meet the requirements of the Washington State Growth Management Act, the City is currently conducting a full rewrite of the existing Comprehensive Plan. As part of this process, the City is developing a detailed strategy for implementing the goals, policies, and strategies outlined with the revised plan, and modifying the existing zoning code (Title 20 of the Vancouver Municipal Code [VMC]), which regulates the scale, size and location of buildings and uses, to reflect the goals and policies identified in the revised plan.

The City is engaging in extensive community outreach and engagement to help planners address key questions about housing; land use, development and infrastructure; economic development; equity and opportunity; and climate and environment. The proposed update to the City's Comprehensive Plan will plan for growth of at least 38,000 new housing units and 43,100 new jobs by the year 2045. These growth targets are the minimum necessary to plan for long-term housing and employment needs based on population projections from the Washington State Office of Financial Management, recent trends, state law, and City policy. The Comprehensive Plan Update must be adopted by December 31, 2025.

Proponent: City of Vancouver

Location of Proposal: Vancouver, Washington (citywide)

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Required:

The City of Vancouver has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. This means the proposal has a reasonable likelihood of negative effects on environmental quality that could be considered more than moderate. An EIS is required under state law [Revised Code of Washington RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c)] and will be prepared, including proposed mitigation measures. Mitigation measures are changes or conditions to a proposal that are intended to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential adverse impacts.

The EIS is a document that will provide information for the public, agencies, and tribal governments to consider during the decision-making process for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The EIS will describe potential alternatives, existing environmental conditions, potential significant environmental impacts, and potential measures to mitigate impacts.

The City currently plans to review a scenario of future conditions if no changes to the current Comprehensive Plan and associated plans and regulations are made, called a No Action Alternative, and up to two Action Alternatives that outline different land use and growth scenarios in specific areas of the city. The City intends for the land use and growth scenarios analyzed in the Action Alternatives to align with the Goals Framework developed with community partners for the Comprehensive Plan Update. The Goals Framework identifies numerous desired community outcomes, including connected and accessible neighborhoods; affordable, accessible housing choices; equity and inclusion; economic opportunity; and climate adaptability, sustainability, and resiliency.

The City has identified the following elements of the built and natural environment for discussion in the EIS in accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11-444:

- Land and shoreline use
- Housing
- Aesthetics (including light and glare)
- Historic and cultural resources
- Transportation
- Noise
- Public services and utilities (including emergency services, water, sewer, schools, parks and recreation)
- Earth (geologic hazard areas, soils, topography)
- Air quality, greenhouse gases, and climate
- Water resources
- Plants and animals

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Request for Comments:

Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Licenses and approvals may include potential required permits from state, local, and federal agencies.

Scoping comments may be provided via email or postal mail to the following addresses:

Email: OurVancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us

Postal Mail:

Attn: Meredith Herbst
City Hall
PO Box 1995
Vancouver, WA 98668

The deadline for scoping comments is November 21, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. *Note: If you submitted a comment during the previous scoping period (July–September 2024) your comment remains valid and will be considered as part of the SEPA review process.*

For More Information:

Please visit the city’s Comprehensive Plan website for more information about the ongoing process of plan development and the schedule for upcoming outreach events:

<https://www.beheardvancouver.org/plan2045>

Agency Contact Information:

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SEPA Responsible Official:

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(360) 487-7882

Date: October 22, 2024

Signature:

