

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INTRODUCTION

The public participation process is an essential component in the development of a comprehensive plan. The requirements for public involvement in state law and the Growth Management Act (GMA) allow each community to determine the process that is most appropriate for them. However, the GMA does require that cities establish procedures for providing early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans. The procedures shall provide for broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion, communication programs, information services, and consideration of response to public comments.

The public participation process and background information for development of the 2005 comprehensive plan included:

- Use of 2002 citizen survey for Marysville performed by the National Citizen Survey;
- Business stakeholder summaries from focus groups during development of the City's economic development strategy;
- Community workshops and task force meetings for the Downtown Vision Plan, completed in 2004;
- City of Marysville economic development committee feedback and minutes from 2003 and 2004;
- Planning Commission workshops to develop and review the comprehensive plan and development regulations between 2004 and 2005;
- Public input, letters and correspondence received between 2003 and 2005, during development of the comprehensive plan;
- The Draft Integrated Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) were formally distributed to agencies and interest groups on January 14, 2005 for a 60-day comment period;
- The Integrated Plan, Development Regulations, and EIS were publicly available at the Marysville Library, on the City's website, and available for purchase in hardcopy and CD;
- Over 21,000 notices were mailed to area property owners and residents within the Marysville Planning area notifying them of the availability of the draft plan, open houses, and Planning Commission public hearings;
- Public notice and articles in area newspapers and public buildings;
- Comments were received at six open houses held in Marysville neighborhoods in advance of public hearings. Between 150 and 200 people attended the open houses; and
- Official Public Hearing and adoption process before the Planning Commission and City Council.

The public participation process and background information for the 2015 comprehensive plan update included:

- Planning Commission workshops to develop and review the comprehensive plan and development regulation between 2013 and 2015;
- Public input, letters and correspondence received between 2013 and 2005, during development of the comprehensive plan;
- An Addendum to the Draft Integrated Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was formally distributed to the Department of Commerce and agencies for a 60-day comment period on May 26, 2014;
- The Addendum was made publicly available at the Marysville Library, on the City's website, and available at the Community Development offices;
- Public notice was posted in area newspapers, public buildings, and on the City's public webpage;
- Comments on the development of the Lakewood Master Plan were received at open house(s) in advance of public hearings; and
- Official Public Hearing and adoption process before the Planning Commission and City Council.

A. PUBLIC WORKSHOPS AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Public workshops and presentations were made by city staff and the consultants. These included presentations made at numerous workshops held for the general public. During development of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, Community Meetings were held in locations throughout the Urban Growth Area to obtain comments and direction from the various areas covered in the plan. With the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update, workshops were held before the Planning Commission; however, neighborhood community meetings were limited to the Lakewood Neighborhood as no major land use changes were anticipated within other neighborhoods.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL

Throughout the research, drafting and finalizing of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, and the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update, City staff met with the Planning Commission. With the development of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan, two joint workshops were held with the Planning Commission and the City Council in the process of developing the concept, and reviewing the direction of the Comprehensive Plan. The public frequently attended these presentations and workshops. Public comment was taken and incorporated into the comprehensive plan document.

C. SEPARATE PROCESSES

Various elements of the plan were developed and updated between 2002 and 2004 and are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference, or in part following review and amendments for consistency with the overall plan. These included the Transportation Element and the Economic Development Element. The Parks & Recreation Element was updated as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update but entailed additional public participation as part of its update. The public involvement efforts of each element are hereby described.

Transportation

Through development of the draft plan, between 2001 and 2003, the consultants and staff met with the Public Works committee to prioritize planned improvements and review the draft transportation plan. Public workshops and hearings were held with the Marysville Planning Commission in 2002. With the 2015 update, public workshops and hearing were held with the Marysville Planning Commission in 2015. The Marysville City Council held workshops and a public hearing to adopt the Transportation Plan in January 2003, and July 2015 for the 2015 update.

Parks and Open Space

The Parks and Recreation element updates in 2005 and 2015 each included a community survey on parks and recreation facilities and services. The draft plan was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board prior to workshops with the Marysville Planning Commission as part of the Comprehensive Plan workshops and hearings.

Economic Development

The Economic Development Plan for the City was developed under the leadership of the Marysville City Council and Administration. The consultants Gardner/Johnson employed focus groups to identify key issues for the City related to economic development. Implementation of the plan included creation of various economic development committees to address key areas including: 1) Image and Identity, 2) Business Attraction and Retention, 3) Land Use, Permitting and Infrastructure, 4) Tourism & Recreation, and 5) Workforce Education and Training. The committees are composed of business and citizen representatives, city appointed and elected officials, and staff. With the 2015 Comprehensive Plan update, the direction of the Economic Element remains the same; however, Economic Development Element was updated to reflect current wage, employment, and other economic conditions.

D. AMENDMENTS

The public participation process for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan will consist of the following actions:

- Notice of proposed amendments by publication in newspaper of general circulation, and solicitation of public input, letters, and correspondence. Notice may also be provided by posting at public buildings, the city local access cable channel, city newsletter, and/ or city website, etc.;
- The Community Development Department conducts an initial review and evaluation of proposed amendments and assesses the extent of review that is required under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) prior to planning commission and/or city council action. Distribute any SEPA decisions to agencies and interest groups as necessary;
- Planning Commission workshops to develop and review amendments to the comprehensive plan;
- Proposed amendments are available for review in the project file at the Community Development Department and may also be available via the City's website;

- Focus groups, open houses, surveys, community workshops, or task forces may be used, if deemed necessary;
- Notice of the public hearing will be provided at least 10 days prior to the date of the public hearing by publishing in a newspaper of general circulation;
 - If the proposed amendment relates to text, language, maps, graphics, etc. revisions, notice may also be provided by posting on the city local access cable channel, city newsletter, or city website;
 - If the proposed amendment impacts a specific property, and is not an area-wide change, notice signs will be posted on the subject property, and mailings will be sent to neighboring property owners within 300 feet of the boundary of the subject property; and
 - Notice is mailed to each person who has requested such notice (party of record).
- Planning Commission public hearing(s). The public may participate in any public hearing by submitting written comments to the Community Development Director prior to the hearing, or by submitting written comments or making oral comments at the public hearing. Any comments received by the Community Development Director will be provided to the Planning Commission and/or City Council no later than the date of the public hearing;
- After the public hearing, the planning commission will provide its recommendation to the City Council through the Community Development Department; and
- Official adoption process before City Council.