**Proposed Ordinance Relating to Comprehensive Plan Update Cycle and Subarea Planning Restructure**

This summary fulfills the state Growth Management Act and King County Ordinance 13147 requirement for a “plain language summary.”

# Background

King County Comprehensive Plan Policies and King County Code govern the Comprehensive Plan and Subarea Planning Programs.

The Comprehensive Plan is adopted per Revised Code of Washington Chapter 36.70A. Subarea Plans are Optional Elements of the Comprehensive Plan that are intended to provide a more detailed plan for a smaller geographic area. In 2015, King County reinitiated its subarea planning program. In 2016, the County Council requested that the Comprehensive Plan be moved off of the Biennial Budget adoption year. Regulations guiding these programs are found primarily in King County Code Title 20.

In 2017, the County Council adopted two provisos[[1]](#footnote-1) directing the subarea planning program be restructured to address regulatory consistency, consistency with the budget, increased interdepartmental coordination and collaboration.

# Proposed Ordinance

The ordinance proposes to modify King County Code Title 20 and the King County Comprehensive Plan policies in the following ways:

* Moves the Comprehensive Plan Major Four Year Update Cycle from an even year (e.g., 2016, 2020) to an odd year (e.g., 2023) to no longer be on the Biennial Budget adoption year
* Changes the major update of the Comprehensive Plan from the Four Year Cycle to an Eight Year Cycle, with the first Eight Year Cycle plan adopted in 2023, while continuing to allow for minor or technical annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan
* Moves the adoption month from December to June, consistent with the Growth Management Act Statutory Review timeline
* Shifts the deadline for one of the workplan action items adopted in the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan
* Restructures the County's Subarea Planning Program to provide greater clarity on the:
  + Scope of Subarea Plans is focused primarily on land use topics
  + Planning approach is defined to be more consistent with the Comprehensive Plan approach
  + Schedule for Subarea Plans for different areas in the County is defined
  + The number of staff proposed to work in the program is increased (adds two staff for a total of three)
* The restructure is intended to accomplish the following:
  + Ensure consistency with current state law, the Countywide Planning Policies and the King County Comprehensive Plan
  + Ensure consistency with adopted county budget direction and clarity where additional appropriations are needed for implementation
  + Improve coordination and collaboration between the Department of Permitting and Environmental Review and the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget
  + Ensure other departments are consulted and concur with the recommended policies and implementing actions proposed in the executive-recommended subarea plans
  + Revise the subarea planning to allow time for public outreach; coordination, collaboration and consultation among King County departments; and refining recommendations to ensure compliance with the law
  + Eliminate a subarea plan from being transmitted with a major update to the Comprehensive Plan
  + Eliminate adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in the same year the Biennial Budget is adopted

**Code Amendment Summary Table**

| 2018 Comprehensive Plan Code Amendment Package | | | | |
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| Section | Code Cite | Current Code | Proposed Change | Comment |
| 3 | 20.08.060 | Definition of subarea plan | Amending definition of “subarea plan” to clarify that these plans refer to the plans prepared based on the geography of Community Service Areas, as defined in Chapter 11 of the King County Comprehensive Plan | Technical change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan |
| 4 | New | New section | Adding a new definition for "subarea study" consistent with policy direction in 2016 Comprehensive Plan | Consistent with policy changes made in 2016 |
| 5 | 20.12.010 | Adopts comprehensive plans through 2016 | Updating code to include 2018 amendment |  |
| 6 | 20.12.325 | Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan | Shifts the deadline for transmittal of one workplan action item adopted in the Vashon-Maury Island Community Service Area Subarea Plan | Shift schedule to allow other Subarea Planning processes to start sooner |
| 7 | 20.18.030 | General Procedures for Comprehensive Plan updates | Technical fix to delete language referencing the “priority areas map” that has not been part of the Comprehensive Plan for several years  Changing the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years  Allows annual amendments to the Comprehensive Plan cycle if they are adopted by Ordinance and improve alignment with state Growth Management, multicounty and countywide planning timelines | Technical fix.  Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan |
| 8 & 9 | 20.18.040  20.18.056 | Site-specific land use map or shoreline master program map amendment classification  Shoreline environment redesignation | Changing the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years | Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan |
| 10 & 11 | 20.18.060 | Four-year cycle process | Specifying that the eight year cycle begins with the transmittal of the King County Comprehensive Plan on June 30, 2022 and continuing every eight years thereafter to correspond with the update cycle specified in the Growth Management Act | Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan  Better aligns Comprehensive Plan with Growth Management Act |
| 12 | 20.18.080 | Subarea plan procedures | Referring to the subarea planning program and update schedule that is established in the King County Comprehensive Plan | Consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan |
| 13 | 20.18.140 | Provision for receipt, review of and response to the docket | Revising the calendar for the docket to correspond with the new schedule for amendments to the King County Comprehensive Plan | Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan  Better aligns Docket with Comprehensive Plan schedule changes |
| 14 | 20.18.170 | Four to One Process | Changing reference to the update cycle of the King County Comprehensive Plan from four years to eight years | Schedule change consistent with proposal in Restructure Plan |

1. 2017-2018 Biennial Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 18409, Sections 19 and 88. As amended by Ordinance 18602, Section 5, Proviso P2, and Section 47, Proviso P3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)