



Satpal Singh Sidhu
Whatcom County Executive



To: Honorable City Mayors, City Managers, and City Council Members
Honorable County Council Members

From: Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive

Date: October 11, 2023

Subject: 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update and UGA Review

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires Whatcom County and the seven cities within the County to update our comprehensive plans and review urban growth areas by June 30, 2025. The GMA expects the County and cities to work cooperatively in this endeavor, and it is to our advantage to do so. That is why each interlocal agreement for planning, annexation and development signed in 2022 includes a clause that the County Executive may convene a group of elected officials from the County and cities to discuss and review issues associated with growth management planning.

It is critical to coordinate planning efforts between the County and cities for this important endeavor. Therefore, I am inviting elected officials from the County and the cities to a series of informal meetings to discuss matters relating to growth planning and the urban growth area review. The 1st meeting date and location is:

- **Wednesday November 8, 2023** - Lynden City Hall, 300 4th Street, Lynden at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. (this will be a hybrid meeting, so a virtual option will be provided).

I am requesting that each city and the County Council provide representation at these meetings. The purpose of the meetings will be to engage in discussions, come to mutual understanding of the goals and issues of each jurisdiction, and coordinate land use planning activities. However, there will not be voting or final decisions made at these meetings. Rather, elected officials will take the information back to their respective jurisdictions for consideration in their own decision making processes. While there is no set number of representatives from each jurisdiction, it must be less than a quorum of the legislative body.

Thank you for considering my invitation and I hope to see representatives from each city and the County Council at these meetings. Staff will send out a meeting agenda prior to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Satpal Singh Sidhu
County Executive