



MEMORANDUM

TO: Whatcom County Council
FROM: Council Staff
RE: Compiled Comprehensive Plan Review Schedule
DATE: June 24, 2026

Background

Council began discussions on the Comprehensive Plan in June, 2024. Since then, the Council has held several meetings, including joint Planning Commission meetings and Whatcom County Elected Officials meetings. Planning and Development Services officially transmitted the Planning Commission's recommended draft Comprehensive Plan to the County Council on February 10, 2026.

The below list shows the meetings held by Council related to review of the Comprehensive Plan since officially receiving the Planning Commission draft. The Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for public hearing and final action on July 14, 2026. The draft being considered was developed with feedback from county, city, and tribal staff and elected officials, consultants, county advisory groups, the Planning Commission, the County Council, and countless other organizations and individuals involved in the process.

Council Comprehensive Plan Review Schedule 2/10/2026 – 7/14/2026

- **2/10 – Committee of the Whole**
 - Receive comprehensive plan submittal from Planning Commission and discuss next steps
- **2/17 – Council Informational Retreat**
 - Review amendment process
- **2/24 – Committee of the Whole**
 - UGA discussion
- **3/3 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 1 – Introduction (and Preface)
 - CH 2 – Land Use
 - CH 3 – Housing
 - **Special Public Comment: Chapters 1, 2, 3**
- **3/10 – Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 1 (and Preface) – Introduction
 - CH 2 – Land Use
 - CH 3 – Housing
- **3/17 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 2 – Land Use
 - CH 4 - Capital Facilities
 - CH 5 – Utilities
 - CH 6 – Transportation
 - CH 7 – Economic Development
 - **Special Public Comment: Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6, 7**

- **3/24 - Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 4 - Capital Facilities
 - CH 5 – Utilities
 - CH 6 – Transportation
 - CH 7 – Economic Development
- **3/31 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 8 – Natural Resource Lands
 - CH 9 – Parks and Recreation
 - **Special Public Comment: Chapters 8, 9**
- **4/7 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 5 – Utilities
 - CH 7 – Economic Development
 - CH 8 – Natural Resource Lands
 - CH 9 – Parks and Recreation
 - CH 10 – Environment
 - *Note: CH 11 – Shorelines (council updated in 2024, no changes)*
 - CH 12 – Climate
 - Appendices and Foothills Subarea Plan
 - **Special Public Comment: Chapters 10, 12, Appendices, Foothills Subarea Plan**
- **4/14 - Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 10 – Environment
- **4/28 – Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 2 – Land Use
- **5/5 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - Preface
 - **Special Public Comment: Preface**
- **5/12– Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 2 – Land Use
- **5/19 - Special Committee of the Whole**
 - Preface
 - CH 2 – Land Use (UGAs)
 - CH 8 – Natural Resource Lands
 - CH 10 – Environment
 - CH 12 - Climate
 - Appendices and Foothills Subarea Plan
 - Technical Amendments – CH 1, 3, 7, 9
 - **Special Public Comment: All chapters**
- **5/26- Committee of the Whole**
 - Review of Appendix K and associated amendments

- **6/2 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - CH 2 – Land Use
 - CH 5 - Utilities
 - CH 8 – Natural Resource Lands
 - CH 10 - Environment
 - Review zoning map amendments
 - Review PDS updated items in Chapters 3 and 7 and Appendix I
 - **Special Public Comment: Any Comprehensive Plan item**
- **6/9– Committee of the Whole**
 - Review draft adoption ordinance (including findings of fact)
 - Review zoning code amendments
- **6/16 – Special Committee of the Whole**
 - Continue all chapters and appendices
 - Appendix L: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Subelement- Washington State Department of Commerce Approval
 - **Special Public comment – Any Comprehensive Plan item**
- **6/23– Introduction of all ordinances relating to the Comprehensive Plan/Periodic Update**
 - AB2026-488 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan amendments relating to Periodic Update and Urban Growth Area review requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
 - AB2026-489 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Title 20 development regulation amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
 - AB2026-490 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Zoning Map amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
- **7/14 - Public hearing and final action on all ordinances**
 - AB2026-488 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan amendments relating to Periodic Update and Urban Growth Area review requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
 - AB2026-489 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Title 20 development regulation amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
 - AB2026-490 - Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Zoning Map amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
 - **Public Hearing – Above items**

Status of Comprehensive Plan Items as of 6/24/2026

| ITEM | AGENDA BILL FILE | STATUS |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Preface | AB2026-273 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 1 - Introduction & Growth Projections | AB2026-185 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 2 – Land Use | AB2026-186 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 3 – Housing | AB2026-188 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 4 – Capital Facilities | AB2026-216 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 5 - Utilities | AB2026-217 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 6 - Transportation | AB2026-218 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 7 – Economic Development | AB2026-231 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 8 – Natural Resource Lands | AB2026-250 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 9 – Parks & Recreation | AB2026-251 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 10 - Environment | AB2026-261 | See AB2026-488 |
| Chapter 12 - Climate | AB2026-262 | See AB2026-488 |
| Appendices & Foothills SAP | AB2026-263 | See AB2026-488 |
| Appendix K | AB2026-298 | See AB2026-488 |
| Appendix L | AB2026-473 | See AB2026-488 |
| Periodic Update Related Code Amendments | AB2026-426 | See AB2026-489 |
| Urban Growth Area and Rural Lands Zoning Map Amendments | AB2026-419 | See AB2026-490 |
| FINAL ORDINANCES FOR CONCURRENT REVIEW | | |
| <u>Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan Amendments</u> Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan amendments relating to Periodic Update and Urban Growth Area review requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals) | AB2026-488 | Introduced on 6/23 Scheduled for Public Hearing on 7/14 |
| <u>Development Regulations Amendments</u> Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Title 20 development regulation amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals) | AB2026-489 | Introduced on 6/23 Scheduled for Public Hearing on 7/14 |
| <u>Zoning Map Amendments</u> Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Zoning Map amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals) | AB2026-490 | Introduced on 6/23 Scheduled for Public Hearing on 7/14 |