

Whatcom County

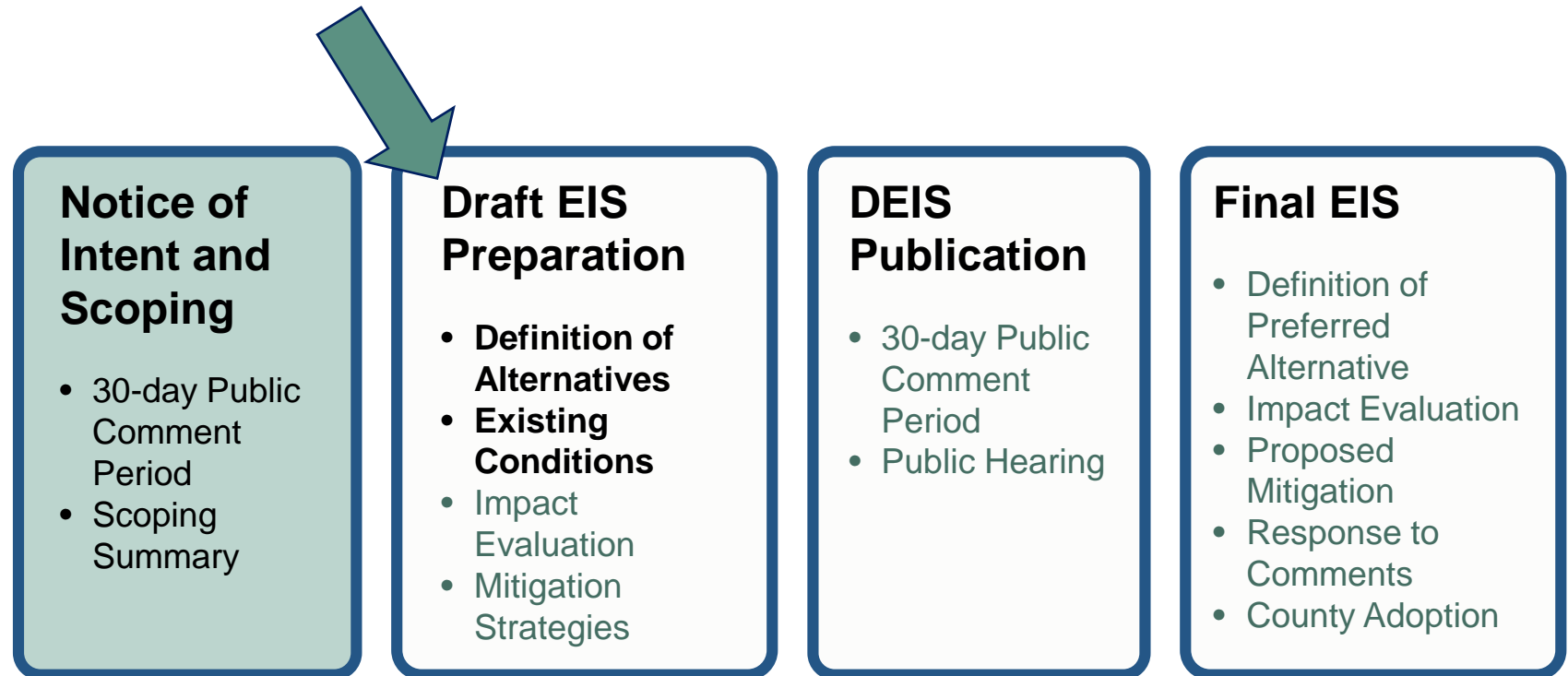
# 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Update & Urban Growth Areas Review

EIS Update | May 8, 2024



# SEPA Process

# SEPA Process



## Growth/Land Use Alternatives

- The **No-action Alternative** would assume that the existing Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and growth projections are carried forward, which represents a **lower growth option** (275,450 total County population in 2045).
- **Alternative 1** would use the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) **medium population projection** (292,714 total County population in 2045) and allocate growth to each UGA and the area outside the UGAs **using recent historic population shares**.
- **Alternative 2** would use a **population projection and allocations** to each UGA and the area outside the UGAs **requested by the cities and County**.
- **Alternative 3** would use a **higher population projection** than both the OFM medium projection and the population projection requested by the cities and County for 2045 and allocate growth to each UGA and the area outside the UGAs similar to the growth allocations requested by the cities and County.
- Alternatives may include, where appropriate, changes to land use/zoning designations, residential densities, and/or urban growth area boundaries to accommodate projected housing and employment growth through the year 2045.

## Existing Conditions

- SEPA required element for baseline evaluation
- Areas of the environment included in the EIS:
  - Earth
  - Air Quality/Climate
  - Water Resources
  - Plants and Animals
  - Land and Shoreline Use
  - Plans and Policies
  - Population, Housing, and Employment
  - Environmental Justice
  - Cultural Resources
  - Transportation
  - Public Services and Utilities
- Input from County departments on existing issues

# Next Steps in the EIS Process



Complete impact analysis/comparison of the alternatives and mitigation strategy development.



Publication of the Draft EIS for public comment is anticipated in early fall of 2024.



Public hearing on the Draft EIS



Publication of the Final EIS is anticipated in the first quarter of 2025.

# Timeline

## Project Duration

## December 2023

## June-July 2024

## Aug-Oct 2024

## Fall 2024

## 2025

Topic-Specific Citizen Advisory Committees

Project Kickoff

Orientation Interviews

Interactive Community Survey

Regional Pop-Ups and Workshops

Planning Commission Meetings

County Council Meetings

Draft EIS Release

Planning Commission Meetings

County Council Meetings

Non-binding multi-jurisdictional resolution regarding allocation of growth to UGAs

Open House: Plan Recommendations

Planning Commission Meetings

County Council Meetings

Final EIS

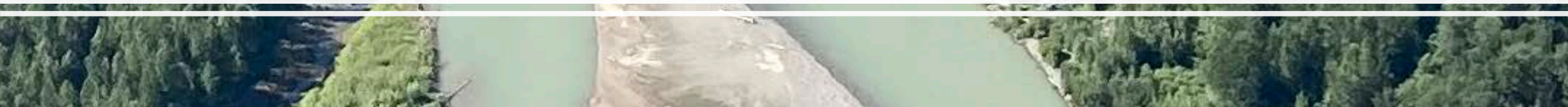
Planning Commission Work Sessions, Hearings, and Recommendations

County Council Meetings, Hearings and Adoption





Questions on the Process?





# Project Contacts

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## Project Website



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<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/4218/2025-Comprehensive-Plan-Updates>