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Mark Personius
Director

Memorandum

April 24, 2022

TO: The Honorable Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive
The Honorable Whatcom County Council

FROM: Matt Aamot, Senior Planner

THROUGH: Steve Roberge, Assistant Director

RE: Resolution - Schedule for Joint County and City Review of UGAs

The Growth Management Act (GMA) indicates that county and city comprehensive plans must be coordinated and consistent (RCW 36.70A.100). The GMA also requires that Whatcom County, in conjunction with the cities, complete the urban growth area (UGA) review by June 2025 (RCW 36.70A.130).

Interlocal agreements between Whatcom County and the cities concerning planning, annexation and development within the UGAs were signed in 2022. Section 2.A of these interlocal agreements, relating to inter-jurisdictional coordination, states that the County and the cities will coordinate the comprehensive plan and UGA reviews required by the GMA through ". . . Approving, by resolution of the respective legislative bodies, a schedule for joint County and City review of the UGA. . . "

County and city planners have developed a draft resolution format and schedule for consideration by each jurisdiction in order to facilitate coordination of the UGA review. The draft Resolution sets forth main tasks for 2023 – 2025 to guide coordinated planning efforts. However, because time-lines may change over the span of this multi-year project, the schedule is general in nature and the Resolution recognizes the possibility of departing from the schedule.

We look forward to discussing the proposed Resolution at the Council's Planning and Development Committee on May 9. We request that Council consider a motion at the evening meeting on May 9 to approve the Resolution indicating the County and cities should utilize the UGA Review Schedule to guide coordinated planning efforts for the UGA review. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.