

Public Involvement Plan

Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan 2011 Update (Phase 1 & 2) ■ Whatcom County ■ October 2009

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Whatcom County has initiated a multi-year project to update its Comprehensive Plan by 2011, as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA). The update will represent the county's vision for the next twenty years. This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is intended to guide the County, partner cities and consultant team in completing the 2011 comprehensive plan update, and will serve as the basis for the required ten-year UGA review. It was prepared in December 2008 and updated in October 2009.

Consistent with GMA, the update will involve:

- Revising vision statements to reflect community aspirations for twenty years for both urban and rural areas;
- Developing population and employment forecasts and methods to allocate growth;
- Developing alternative growth scenarios that capture the range of visions for the future and allow for informed decision-making;
- Conducting environmental review of alternatives to consider how alternative growth scenarios could affect the natural environment and built environment;
- Reviewing and updating County-wide Planning Policies; and
- Reviewing and updating County Comprehensive Plan elements.

Phase 1 of this coordinated planning and community involvement effort will generally occur between August and December 2008. During that time, the County and partner cities will implement an inclusive, interactive PIP to encourage countywide participation in the visioning and growth forecasts and methods. Phase 2 will generally occur between January and December 2009, and build on Phase 1 efforts through growth allocations, plan amendments, alternatives formulation, SEPA

review, technical analysis, and a public participation process. This effort will also contribute to the 7-year full Comprehensive Plan review by 2011.

Prior to the completion of Phase 2 in December 2009, the project team will revisit and revise this PIP as appropriate to address the remaining Comprehensive Plan Update outreach tasks through the year 2011.

This third and final phase is scheduled to occur from January 2010 to December 1, 2011. This effort will involve countywide planning policy ratification, county plan and regulation analysis, inventory and analysis, draft Comprehensive Plan/regulation amendments, public workshops, SEPA review, and the Comprehensive Plan/regulation adoption process.

The PIP is designed to meet the following objectives:

- The PIP is intended to facilitate a community supported plan that will guide Whatcom County's growth over the next 20 years;
- Inform the community about the update effort, including the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan, steps in the update process, and state requirements;
- Communicate clearly about constraints, values, and trade-offs associated with the Comprehensive Plan update;
- Generate trust, confidence and credibility in the project team, process and project;
- Obtain input from a broad range of community members through all aspects of plan development;
- Coordinate public involvement with the planning work so that citizen participation is meaningful and timely;
- Encourage two-way communication between the County and community stakeholders;
- Continually identify interests, concerns and issues to ensure a smooth process;
- Ensure that elected officials, staff and consultants are fully aware of and understand community and stakeholder concerns;
- Ensure that community values, as they are established in this process and other public involvement activities, are incorporated in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan;
- Gain community input on visions for the future, conceptual regional growth alternatives, population and economic projections, and land supply, demand, and monitoring methodologies; and
- Ensure public input is considered, is discussed at follow-up outreach activities, and incorporated into the UGA and Comprehensive Plan products.

1.1. Regulatory Context

The GMA has two distinct requirements for Comprehensive Plan review and update:

- RCW 36.70A.130(3) requires the County to review, at least every ten years, its urban growth area or areas, and the densities permitted within. This review will be completed in 2009.
- RCW 36.70A.130(4) requires review and update of the comprehensive plan and development regulations every seven years. Whatcom County was required to complete this review in 2004 and will be required to complete another review and update in 2011.

1.2. Public Involvement Plan Format

To meet PIP objectives consistent with GMA goals, the remainder of this document addresses the following:

- Key Messages
- Audiences
- Phases 1 and 2 Outreach Activities
- Phase 3 Outreach Activities

Chapter 2. Project Key Messages

Consistent key messages are the foundation of a successful outreach program. The following messages will guide the overall effort and will be reemphasized through project materials and outreach activities facilitated by County staff, city staff, and the consultant team.

- The Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update process is designed to comply with the State Growth Management Act (GMA), which guides population growth into urban areas and seeks to protect agricultural and forest lands, critical areas, open spaces, and rural character.
- Public involvement is a state requirement and key component of the plan update. The County desires an open and welcoming process to involve the public and to identify and/or affirm a collective future vision for Whatcom County.
- Though the Plan Update is directed by state law as to the elements it must address, there is a degree of latitude to prescribe how and where the county will grow.
- The plan update is not the only opportunity to review the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. The County and cities have had comprehensive plans in place since the mid-1990s. This Comprehensive Plan Update is part of a periodic review cycle, and coordinates city and community plans with the County plan. Over time, the County and cities will regularly revisit their plans to ensure they reflect changing circumstances and visions within the GMA framework.
- Easy and convenient access to project information is critical; County staff, city staff and consultants will ensure that information is easy to obtain, useful, timely, pertinent and easy to understand.
- Public involvement will be important through all phases of the plan update.

- The Growth Management Hearings Board and/or courts will decide the outcome of the urban and rural cases before them, and will seek assurance that the update was developed with the community's input.

Whatcom 2031 Theme

In addition to ensuring consistent messages, it is important that project materials and documents convey a cohesive identity or theme. "Whatcom 2031" is the key phrase for the plan update process. It invites the community to collectively participate in formulating the County's vision for the next twenty years. This phrase, together with a consistent graphic identity, will be used on all project materials developed by the consultants, the County's project Web page, and for any outreach activities conducted by the partner cities.

Chapter 3. Audiences

The PIP is designed to reach all audiences that may have an interest in the Comprehensive Plan Update process. It is also designed to reach out to other groups and individuals—those that may not yet have an interest or be inclined to participate—to encourage their awareness, understanding and involvement in the process. The PIP also promotes use of existing communication networks to encourage involvement in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update process. Subsections 3.1 to 3.7 describe the audiences that the public involvement program is designed to reach. Appendix A provides an initial stakeholder list that will be refined, expanded and updated as appropriate. A matrix of methods to reach the various audiences is provided in Subsection 3.8.

3.1. General Public

The general public is defined as members of the community including residents, property owners, businesses and any others that might be interested in the Comprehensive Plan Update process. An outreach challenge is identifying and implementing a cost-effective method for reaching a broad range of the public.

Outreach Approach

Outreach activities associated with the general public will be focused on generating awareness, confidence and interest in the plan update process. Outreach should be focused on keeping the general public informed and updated as to project progress, meetings and key decision-making points.

3.2. Interested Property Owners and Developers

Interested property owners and developers are defined as members of the community that have an interest in growth and development regulations, especially as they relate to their private property rights. They may have an interest in developing or preserving their property. This might include real estate and development groups and other related professionals.

Outreach Approach

The outreach approach associated with the general public applies to interested property owners and developers. In addition, based on their area of interest and focus, some real estate and development associations may help spread information about Comprehensive Plan Update activities through their Web sites, newsletters, announcements and meetings.

3.3. Community Organizations

Community organizations are loosely defined as groups, associations, or committees that come together for a common interest or cause. This includes service groups, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, community councils, neighborhood associations, local granges, social service organizations, religious organizations, and others.

Outreach Approach

There are two key outreach tactics that will be used to reach these groups. The first is to communicate with them in a similar fashion as the groups identified above—making sure that they have basic information about the purpose of the project, project updates, meeting announcements, milestones—the who, what, why, when and where.

The second outreach tactic is to coordinate with their existing outreach activities to promote the Comprehensive Plan Update effort. For example, local organization Web sites and newsletters may at their discretion include a project fact sheet, article, public meeting notice, or link to the County project Web site.

3.4. Schools, Colleges and Universities

Schools, colleges, universities and educational organizations offer unique opportunities to raise awareness and actively involve young people in the Comprehensive Plan Update process.

Outreach Approach

The first outreach tactic is to communicate with them in a similar fashion as the general public and organizations identified above—making sure that they have the basic information about the purpose of the project, project updates, meeting announcements, milestones.

The second tactic is to leverage the classroom environment and create interactive learning opportunities. For example, students could participate in the public workshops, a journalism student could run a story in the school newspaper, or a student DJ could conduct an interview.

3.5. Environmental Groups

Public involvement activities will include environmental groups that have an interest in the update process, such as those that are related to conservation, preservation and protection of Whatcom County natural resources. Some may be helpful in distributing information; others will be direct participants in the process.

Outreach Approach

These groups will be reached through similar outreach activities as those described above. Based on their area of interest and focus, some may help spread information about Comprehensive Plan Update activities through their Web sites, newsletters, announcements and meetings.

Others will be interested in activities that may affect a particular location or natural resource. These groups will likely participate in Comprehensive Plan Update public workshops and may be interested in hosting special or regular meetings for project-related presentations. In addition, some groups develop and distribute newsletters and conduct regular meetings and other outreach activities with their membership.

3.6. Governmental/Quasi-Governmental Groups

Governmental and quasi-governmental groups are defined as organizations that have a connection to local government, including the multi-jurisdictional Growth Management Coordinating Council (GMCC); Whatcom Council of Governments; Whatcom County Council; City Councils; Whatcom County and individual cities' Planning Commissions; area tribes; local special districts; and others. Groups typically consist of elected officials, appointed community members, or jurisdictional staff. It will be important to coordinate with these groups early on to confirm meeting dates and ensure adequate time for Comprehensive Plan Update discussions.

Outreach Approach

These groups will be reached through all of the outreach methods described above. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan Update process may be a periodic topic at their regularly scheduled meetings, providing progress updates and seeking input at key plan milestones. The GMCC meetings in particular will be a key forum for multijurisdictional issues associated with the Comprehensive Plan Update.

3.7. Media

Key Whatcom County media include newspaper and radio stations in the various communities.

Outreach Approach

Media relations will be handled by the County. News releases and calendar announcements can be used as a method for communicating important project information. It is recommended that the County continue its positive dialogue with the local media, be responsive and available to answer questions, participate in media interviews, and be open and forthcoming with as much information as possible to keep the media informed. It is also recommended that the County invite reporters to participate in meetings and other public involvement activities and generally encourage media-directed interest in the plan update process.

3.8. Methods

The following matrix lists the audiences and the key methods used to reach them. Outreach activities are further described in chapters 4 and 5.

Matrix of Audiences and Methods of Outreach

Method	General Public	Property Owners and Developers	Community Organizations	Schools, Colleges, Universities	Environmental Groups	Government/ Quasi-Government	Media
Email and mail outreach materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Outreach materials at government counters and high-traffic areas (e.g. libraries)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Web page postings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Display boards/posters	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Key Topic Questionnaire	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Interactive Regional Public Workshops	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
City-sponsored workshops or informational meetings	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Government body meetings, e.g. GMCC	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Media relations: calendar announcements, news releases, and outreach	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Chapter 4. Phase 1 and 2 Outreach: Visioning and UGA Review

The visioning and growth forecasting tasks will provide the framework for Phase 1 public outreach (August through December 2008), and will serve as the basis for the required ten-year UGA review. Growth allocations, alternatives formulation, planning and UGA environmental review build on Phase 1 and occur in Phase 2. The outreach activities will guide and inform the project team as they develop population and economic projections, and land supply, demand, and monitoring methodologies.

The intent of Phase 1 and Phase 2 outreach efforts are to develop and implement the PIP; design an identifiable graphical look; prepare communication materials; develop the schedule; coordinate and participate in the visioning and conceptual regional growth alternatives workshops; and identify formal public involvement opportunities through comment periods and public hearings. The project team will coordinate outreach with the cities of Bellingham, Blaine, Everson, Ferndale, Lynden, Nooksack, and Sumas, and other interested communities including Birch Bay and Columbia Valley. Additionally, the project team will coordinate with other public planning processes including the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan rural element update, Birch Bay Watershed Characterization project, agricultural committee work, and Whatcom Legacy Project.

4.1. Outreach Activities

Phase 1 and 2 activities generally follow key project milestones outlined in Appendix B, Whatcom 2031 UGA Review Process Summary:

- August to July 2009: GMCC meetings first Wednesday each month. Phase 1 discussion topics may include: population projections, economic projections,

and methodologies and potential results for land supply, and demand. Phase 2 discussion topics may include growth allocations, alternative growth concepts, and regional policies.

- August 2008: Develop Draft Phase 1 PIP.
- September 2008: Finalize Public Involvement Plan
Develop Key Topic Questionnaire
Develop outreach materials
Develop Project Web page
Outreach and awareness-raising conducted by partner cities.
- October 2008: Visioning outreach and workshops.
- December 2008: Develop Draft Phase 2 PIP.
- February 2009: Birch Bay Steering Committee Workshop for UGA Update.
- March 2009: Growth alternatives workshops.
- May 2009: 45-day Draft EIS public and agency comment period.

Birch Bay Steering Committee Workshop, UGA Alternatives
- June to November 2009: Public hearings and UGA Review
Comprehensive Plan Amendment adoption.
- August to October 2009 60-day state agency notification.
- December 2009: Revise PIP to incorporate Phase 3 outreach.

4.2. Outreach Tools

4.2.1. Project Graphics and Identity

ICF Jones & Stokes will develop a consistent graphic look that will be used on all Comprehensive Plan Update communication materials. The look will include a graphical treatment including consistent use of fonts, colors and project tag line, “Whatcom 2031”.

4.2.2. Project Fact Sheet

ICF Jones & Stokes will write, review edits, and make final recommendations on a project fact sheet. Distribution methods will include public workshops, community libraries and public counters, and outreach efforts conducted by the partner cities.

4.2.3. Key Topic Questionnaire

The project team will prepare a one-page questionnaire in order to gather community input on key project-related topics. This will consist of key “visioning” questions to ensure focused and consistent feedback. The questionnaire will be distributed at public workshops, through outreach efforts conducted by the partner cities, and by GMCC members and elected officials. The questionnaire results will inform the team’s analysis and formulation of the conceptual regional growth alternatives. The questionnaire will be posted on County Web pages and made available to cities to post or distribute as appropriate.

4.2.4. Meeting Announcement

A meeting postcard will be used to publicize the Phase 1 visioning and Phase 2 conceptual regional growth alternatives public workshops. It will be written and designed to reflect the Whatcom 2031 graphical look. The meeting postcard will be distributed to all stakeholder database contacts through email or direct mail. The meeting announcements will be posted on County Web pages and made available to cities to post or distribute as appropriate.

4.2.5. Comment Card

A comment card will be designed for use throughout the life of the project. It will include a return address. It will be distributed in the same manner as the project fact sheet. Comments will be reviewed and incorporated into the County and consultant work and be reviewed for common questions, themes or issues. The comment card will be posted on County Web pages and made available to cities to post or distribute as appropriate.

4.2.6. Display Boards or Posters

Designed for high visibility, one graphic board or poster for each set of workshops will be developed to communicate Phase 1 and 2 Comprehensive Plan Update activities. The boards/posters will announce upcoming meeting dates and provide general information and be placed in high traffic areas such as government offices, libraries, post offices and other locations.

4.2.7. Stakeholder Database

The County will develop a project stakeholder database that will be used for direct mail and/or email distribution of project materials. The database will include public meeting attendees, community organizations, environmental groups, schools, colleges, universities, elected officials, media representatives and any other groups that may be interested in the Comprehensive Plan activities. The County will update the database as necessary throughout the project, to reflect new public meeting attendees, additional stakeholders and others that become engaged in the process.

4.3. Outreach Meetings

Outreach meetings fall into four categories:

Regional Workshops

These interactive meetings will focus on visioning and conceptual regional growth alternatives, as well as population and economic projections, and land supply, demand, and monitoring methodologies, and will be conducted by County and consultant staff. These meetings also include Birch Bay-specific meetings to focus completely on the issues of that urban growth area.

Public Hearings

These include city council, County Council, and planning commission hearings during the formal comment periods as required for legislative actions such as comprehensive plans.

Partner City Outreach

City staff will either present at regularly scheduled stakeholder group meetings or host separate gatherings as appropriate. They will utilize the outreach tools developed by the consultant.

Interjurisdictional Meetings

These include GMCC meetings at which the Technical Advisory Group (County and city planning directors and others) and consultant team present various Comprehensive Plan Update materials for discussion.

4.3.1. Regional Workshops

The County and consultant team will conduct workshops focused on visioning, conceptual regional growth alternatives, and population and economic projections, and land supply, demand, and monitoring methodologies. Working closely with County and Technical Advisory Group staff, the consultant team will develop

workshop exercises to encourage active citizen participation. Meetings will be hosted in the evening and in the morning in order to provide options for people.

Visioning Workshops

ICF Jones & Stokes will conduct three public visioning workshops in October 2008, two in the evening and one in the morning. The consultant will hold a strategy and planning session with County staff, develop a workshop format, coordinate logistics with the County, manage the development of the fact sheet and display boards, facilitate the public workshops, and prepare a summary of each workshop.

The three workshops will be held in the north county, in the south county, and possibly the east county. The purpose of the visioning workshops are to 1) share input about the Comprehensive Plan Update process; 2) identify issues, concerns and questions of participants; 3) share information about the County's and cities' existing vision concepts; and 4) obtain feedback about the relevance and/or revisions necessary to reflect a current county vision. The format will consist of small interactive work groups and question and answer sessions led by County staff and consultants. A pre-meeting coordination session will be held with the County and cities prior to the workshop dates.

Regional Growth Alternatives Workshops

The second round of public workshops will be held in March 2009 in local UGA areas. Three interactive workshops will focus on collecting citizen ideas about UGA boundary adjustments and growth allocations to help formulate mitigation measures to be included in an environmental impact statement (EIS). . The format will consist of question and answer sessions with County staff and consultants, small working groups, and hands-on mapping exercises. The consultant will hold a strategy and planning session with County staff, develop a workshop format, coordinate logistics with the County, manage the development of outreach materials, facilitate the public workshops, and prepare a summary of each workshop. As needed, a pre-meeting coordination session will be held with the County and cities prior to the workshop dates.

Based on the results of the visioning and alternatives workshops, the project team will formulate EIS mitigation measures.

Birch Bay Meetings

Throughout the regional workshop process, meetings will be held specifically to address Birch Bay planning issues. Birch Bay is one of two unincorporated UGAs with residents in Whatcom County. The other, Columbia Valley UGA, has recently been the subject of a subarea plan update with ample public participation. Birch Bay

will have some additional workshops to address their specific issues and plan for the growth they are expected to receive over the planning period.

4.3.2. Public Hearings

Comprehensive Plan Amendments and SEPA Public Meetings

Consistent with WAC 197-11, a 21-day State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) scoping period will be held during which time a public workshop and hearing will be held. The purpose is to determine the appropriate environmental topics and alternatives to address in an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Following this, the project team will prepare a draft EIS to evaluate the proposed regional growth alternatives. A 30-day public and agency comment period is required; however the County has provided for a 45-day comment period. During the comment period, the project team will solicit written comments. The Final EIS will respond to comments received during the comment period.

UGA Proposals

Following preparation of environmental analysis and initial growth allocations, meetings and a hearing have been scheduled allowing cities and county representatives to present their UGA proposals.

Comprehensive Plan Update Public Hearings

As required, one or more public hearings will be held before the Planning Commission and County Council prior to adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

4.3.3. Partner City Outreach

Partner city meetings are intended to raise awareness and spread the word about the update process, and reach out to diverse stakeholders that may not be interested or able to attend the regional workshops. These partner city meetings, where appropriate and desirable, will be led by city staff or officials. The format may include:

- Conducting meetings in local communities using similar materials and approaches as the regional workshops. For example, the cities could hold their own vision or alternatives workshops with the same questions, handouts and exercises utilized at the regional workshops.
- Attending regularly scheduled stakeholder meetings (e.g. Planning Commissions, schools, community or environmental organizations). City staff and officials can inform these groups about the plan update process at their regular meetings,

identify what information is available, identify how to comment, and invite stakeholders to regional meetings.

- Using the Key Topic Questionnaire developed in Phase 1 to gather stakeholder comments.

4.3.4. Interjurisdictional Meetings

The primary body that will make decisions about the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Update is the County Council consistent with its GMA responsibilities. The County Council and individual city councils will hold public meetings periodically as they consider elements of the Plan Update that affect their communities.

However, since several plan update aspects involve county-city consultations, a special regional forum—the Growth Management Coordinating Council, or GMCC—has been created to serve as an advisory body to the County Council and city councils. The GMCC meetings are open to the public and will provide another opportunity for public involvement. Between June 2008 and July 2009, the GMCC has typically met the first Wednesday of the month. Discussion topics have included: regional policies, alternative growth concepts, population and economic projections, and methodologies for land supply, demand, and monitoring. It is anticipated that the GMCC will resume meetings in Phase 3 in 2010.

4.4. County-Initiated Public Involvement

Several public involvement activities will be led by County staff. These include:

- Development of the project Web page on the County's Web site.
- Providing notice to stakeholder groups.
- Identifying and securing locations for display board/poster placement.
- Identifying and securing locations for public workshops and meetings.
- Printing and distributing outreach materials.
- Media relations.
- Coordination and execution of open house activities associated with the County Executive's Proposal.

4.5. City-Initiated Public Involvement

Several public involvement activities will be led by city staff. These include:

- Posting of project materials and meeting announcements on city Web sites.

- Management and coordination of the city-specific stakeholder outreach activities. It is expected that the cities will contact interested stakeholder groups and coordinate with County staff as appropriate. City staff will take the lead in making presentations to stakeholder groups.
- Identifying and securing locations for display board placement.

4.6. Other Initiatives

The project team will maintain a schedule of events for other relevant regional planning efforts in order to coordinate activities where appropriate.

To date the team has identified the following:

- Rural LAMIRD (Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development): This effort began August 2008. The LAMIRD project team has developed a public outreach plan. Public participation approaches have been shared.
- Birch Bay Watershed: The project team will coordinate with the Birch Bay Watershed efforts as appropriate.
- Agriculture Committees: There are three agricultural committees. Outreach at the committee meetings may be possible.
- Legacy Partnership: Their Web site is: www.whatcomlegacy.org/index.html. Some of the group's efforts will parallel the County's Comprehensive Plan Update.

Chapter 5. Phase 3 Outreach: Comprehensive Plan Update Adoption Process

5.1. Outreach Activities

Prior to the completion of Phase 2 in December 2009, the project team will revise this PIP to address the specific Comprehensive Plan Update outreach tasks through the year 2011. Phase 3 activities will revolve around key project milestones outlined in Whatcom 2031 Tasks: January 2010 – December 2011 (Appendix B). These correspond to the following key topics and dates (preliminary, approximate and subject to change):

- January 2010 to December 2011: GMCC meetings continue as needed.
- January 2010 to December 2010: Countywide planning policy preparation and ratification by city decision-makers.
- January 2010 to March 2010: County plan and regulation analysis and prioritization. Review with Planning Commission and County Council at regular meetings.
- April 2010 to June 2010: Preliminary inventory and analysis and policy updates. As appropriate, develop policy concepts with one or more of the following: Planning Commission, Ad Hoc committees, or focus groups.

- July to December 2010: Draft Comprehensive Plan/regulation amendments, public workshops and hearings
- January to February 2011: SEPA comment period and 60-day agency review.
- March to June 2011: Prepare revised Comprehensive Plan and regulation amendments and final SEPA analysis; develop with Planning Commission and County Council at public meetings.
- July 2011 to December 2011: Public hearings and Final Comprehensive Plan and regulations update adoption process.

5.2. Outreach Tools

Throughout Phase 3, the project team will utilize many of the outreach tools developed in previous phases, including project graphics and identity, project fact sheet, meeting announcement, comment card, display boards and posters, and stakeholder database. Materials will be updated and new displays will be developed to inform and engage the public throughout the final Comprehensive Plan Update adoption process.

5.3. Outreach Meetings

We anticipate three key milestones which may include the following outreach activities:

Preliminary Comprehensive Plan Amendment Development

- County Planning Commission and County Council meetings
- Ad Hoc meetings such as GMCC and Technical Advisory Group; other Ad Hoc groups could be formed by topic or geography (e.g. Ad Hoc committees on sub-areas or Comprehensive Plan Element topics)
- Focus groups as appropriate
- Public workshops

Draft Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- Ad Hoc meetings (see above)
- Public workshops

- Public hearings
- Formal agency comment period
- SEPA Environmental Review public comment period

Final Comprehensive Plan Amendments

- County Planning Commission and County Council meetings
- Public hearings

Appendix A: Stakeholder Outreach List

September 2008

This represents an initial list of stakeholder organizations. As the Comprehensive Plan Update proceeds, it will be updated as appropriate.

Agricultural Community

- Agriculture Advisory Committee
- Bellingham Farmers Market
- Conservation District
- Food Bank
- Purchase of Development Rights Oversight Committee
- Sustainable Connections/KCLT (Food and Farming Program Partnership)
- USDA-NRCS and FSA Office
- Whatcom Farm Friends
- Whatcom Farmers Co-Op
- WSU Cooperative Extension

Affordable Housing Organizations

- Affordable Housing Task Force
- Bellingham-Whatcom County Housing Authority
- Habitat for Humanity
- Kulshan Community Land Trust
- Northwest Youth Services
- Opportunity Council
- Whatcom/Skagit Self-Help Housing

Builders/Realtors

- Building Industry Association of Whatcom County
- Whatcom County Association of Realtors

Cities/Urban Growth Areas

- Bellingham
- Birch Bay/Birch Bay Village
- Blaine
- Columbia Valley
- Everson
- Ferndale
- Lynden
- Nooksack
- Sudden Valley
- Sumas

Community Groups

- Bellingham City Club
- Bellingham Community Food Co-Op
- Citizens of the Columbia Valley
- Economic Development Councils
- Foothills Friends
- Glacier Chamber of Commerce
- Kendall Watch
- Migrant Council
- Mount Baker Foothills Chamber of Commerce
- Mount Baker Foothills Economic Development Association
- Opportunity Council
- Rotary
- Whatcom Coalition for Healthy Communities

Educational Institutions

- Bellingham Technical College
- Northwest Indian College
- Public School Districts (7)
- Western Washington University
- Whatcom Community College

Environmental Groups

- Conservation Northwest
- Futurewise
- Lake Whatcom Advocacy Groups
- Lummi Island Heritage Trust
- Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
- Sustainable Connections
- Whatcom Land Trust
- Whatcom Legacy Project

Governmental/Quasi-Governmental

- Birch Bay Steering Committee
- Community Transportation Advisory Groups
- CTED
- Department of Ecology
- Fire Districts
- Flood Advisory Committee
- Lummi Island Community Association
- Port of Bellingham
- Public Utility District
- Small Cities Caucus
- Tribes
- Water Districts
- Watershed Advisory Groups
- Whatcom Council of Governments
- Whatcom Transportation Authority
- WSDOT – Mount Baker Office

Media

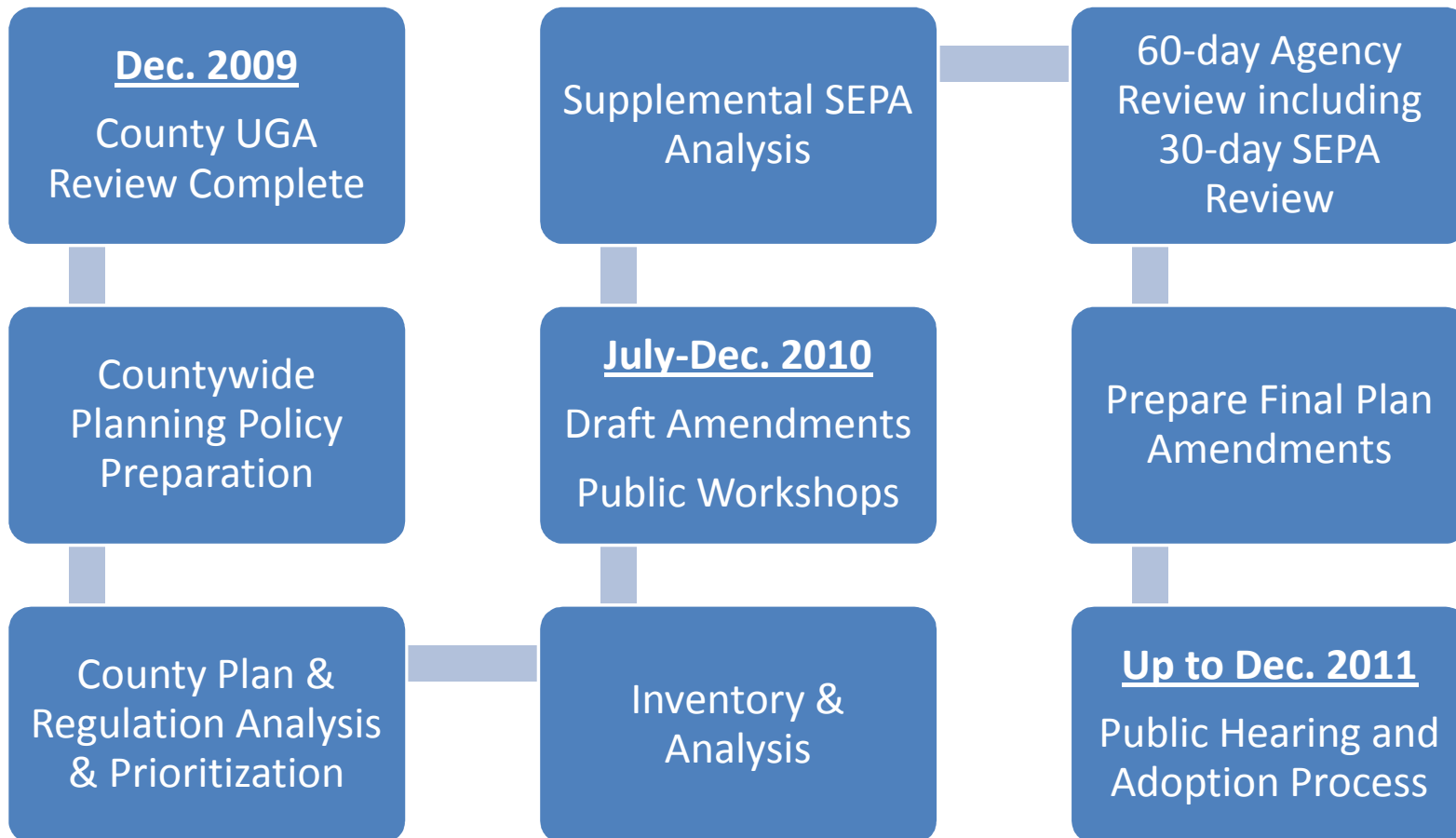
- All Point Bulletin (Point Roberts)
- Bellingham Herald
- Cascadia Weekly
- Ferndale Record-Journal
- Foothills Gazette
- KGMI 790 AM
- Lynden Tribune
- Northern Light (Blaine)
- Western Front
- Whatcom Watch

Whatcom 2031 UGA Review Process Summary



Whatcom 2031: 7-Year Review

January 2010-December 2011



2010-2011: Cities implement CPPs and UGA Review including detailed infill strategies, subarea planning, and capital plans

Appendix C: Whatcom 2031 Phasing Schedule

