

CFP Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies

The CFP is a required element of our 20-year Comprehensive Plan. The following are long-term goals and policies to guide the CFP:

- **Goal 1**

The Capital Facilities Plan provides the public facilities needed to promote orderly compact urban growth, protect investments, maximize use of existing facilities, encourage economic development and redevelopment, promote private investment, increase public well-being and safety and implement the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Policy 1.1**

Annually review, update and amend a six-year Capital Facilities Plan that:

- a. Is subject to annual review and adoption, respectively, by the Planning Commission and City Council.
- b. Is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, master plans and adopted investment strategies.
- c. Defines the scope and location of capital projects or equipment.
- d. States why each project is needed and its relationship to established levels of service.
- e. Includes project construction costs, timing, funding sources and projected operations and maintenance impacts.
- f. Serves as the City's plan for capital project development.
- g. Includes an inventory of existing capital facilities and a forecast of capital facility needs.
- h. Monitors the progress of capital facilities planning with respect to rates of growth, development trends, changing priorities and budget and financial considerations.
- i. Considers needs and priorities beyond the six-year time horizon.
- j. Is coordinated with Thurston County and the Olympia School District if school impact fees are being charged.

- **Policy 1.2**

Encourage active community member participation throughout the process of developing and adopting the Capital Facilities Plan. Provide the public with adequate time to review and respond to the Plan and related proposals.

- **Policy 1.3**

Support joint development and use of facilities such as parks and museums, and protection of shared resources such as critical areas and open space.

- **Policy 1.4**

Coordinate with other capital facilities service providers to keep each other current, maximize cost savings and schedule and upgrade facilities efficiently.

– **Policy 1.5**

Evaluate and prioritize proposed capital improvement projects using the following long-term financial strategy principles and guidelines:

- a. Do projects well or not at all.
- b. Focus programs on Olympia residents and businesses.
- c. Preserve and maintain physical infrastructure.
- d. Use an asset management approach to the City’s real estate holdings.
- e. Use unexpected one-time revenues for one-time costs or reserves.
- f. Pursue innovative approaches.
- g. Maintain capacity to respond to emerging community needs.
- h. Address unfunded mandates.
- i. Selectively recover costs.
- j. Recognize the connection between the operating and capital budgets.
- k. Utilize partnerships wherever possible.
- l. Stay faithful to City goals over the long run.
- m. Think long-term.

– **Policy 1.6**

Ensure that capital improvement projects are:

- a. Financially feasible.
- b. Consistent with planned growth patterns provided in the Comprehensive Plan.
- c. Consistent with State and Federal law.
- d. Compatible with plans of State agencies.
- e. Sustainable within the operating budget.

– **Policy 1.7**

Give priority consideration to projects that:

- a. Are required to meet State or Federal law.
- b. Implement the Comprehensive Plan.
- c. Are needed to meet concurrency requirements for growth management.
- d. Are already initiated and to be completed in subsequent phases.
- e. Renovate existing facilities to remove deficiencies or allow their full use, preserve the community’s prior investment or reduce maintenance and operating costs.
- f. Replace worn-out or obsolete facilities.
- g. Promote social, economic and environmental revitalization of commercial, industrial and residential areas in Olympia and its Growth Area.
- h. Are substantially funded through grants or other outside funding.
- i. Address public hazards.

– **Policy 1.8**

Adopt each update of this Capital Facilities Plan as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

- **Policy 1.9**
Adopt by reference updates of the Olympia School District Capital Facilities Plan as part of this Capital Facilities element. Identify and recommend to the District that it revise any elements of the School District’s plan that are inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Policy 1.10**
Monitor the progress of the Capital Facilities Plan on an ongoing basis.
- **Policy 1.11**
Recognize the year in which a project is carried out, or the exact amounts of expenditures by year for individual facilities, may vary from that stated in the Capital Facilities Plan due to:
 - a. Unanticipated revenues or revenues that become available to the City with conditions about when they may be used.
 - b. Change in the timing of a facility to serve new development that occurs in an earlier or later year than had been anticipated in the Capital Facilities Plan.
 - c. The nature of the Capital Facilities Plan as a multi-year planning document. The first year or years of the Plan are consistent with the budget adopted for that financial period. Projections for remaining years in the Plan may be changed before being adopted into a future budget.
- **Goal 2**
As urbanization occurs, the capital facilities needed to direct and serve future development and redevelopment are provided for Olympia and its Urban Growth Area.
 - **Policy 2.1**
Provide the capital facilities needed to adequately serve the future growth anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan, within projected funding capabilities.
 - **Policy 2.2**
Plan and coordinate the location of public facilities and utilities to accommodate growth in advance of need, and in accordance with the following standards:
 - a. Coordinate urban services, planning and standards by identifying sites for schools, parks, fire and police stations, major stormwater facilities, greenbelts and open space consistent with goals and policies promoting compact growth in the Comprehensive Plan prior to development. Acquire sites for these facilities in a timely manner and as early as possible in the overall development of the area.
 - b. Assure adequate capacity in all modes of transportation, public and private utilities, municipal services, parks and schools.
 - c. Protect groundwater from contamination and maintain groundwater in adequate supply by identifying and reserving future supplies well in advance of need.
 - **Policy 2.3**
Use the type, location and phasing of public facilities and utilities to direct urban development and redevelopment consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Consider the level of key facilities that can be provided when planning for various densities and types of urban land use.
 - **Policy 2.4**
Ensure adequate levels of public facilities and services are provided prior to or concurrent with land development within the Olympia Urban Growth Area.

- **Policy 2.5**
When planning for public facilities, consider expected future economic activity.
- **Policy 2.6**
Maintain a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities consistent with State law and County wide Planning Policies.
- **Goal 3**
The City prudently manages its fiscal resources to provide needed capital facilities.
 - **Policy 3.1**
Ensure a balanced approach to allocating financial resources among: (1) maintaining existing facilities, (2) eliminating existing capital facility deficiencies, and (3) providing new or expanding facilities to serve development and encourage redevelopment.
 - **Policy 3.2**
Use the Capital Facilities Plan to integrate all of the community’s capital project resources (grants, bonds, city funds, donations, impact fees and any other available funding).
 - **Policy 3.3**
Allow developers who install infrastructure with excess capacity to use latecomers agreements wherever reasonable.
 - **Policy 3.4**
Pursue funding strategies that derive revenues from growth that can be used to provide capital facilities to serve that growth. These strategies include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Collecting impact fees for transportation, parks and open space, and schools.
 - b. Allocating sewer and water connection fees primarily to capital improvements related to urban expansion.
 - c. Developing and implementing other appropriate funding mechanisms to ensure new development’s fair share contribution to public facilities.
 - **Policy 3.5**
Assess the additional operations and maintenance costs associated with acquisition or development of new capital facilities. If accommodating these costs places a financial burden on the operating budget, consider adjusting the capital plans.
 - **Policy 3.6**
Achieve more efficient use of capital funds through joint use of facilities and services by utilizing measures such as inter-local agreements, regional authorities and negotiated use of privately and publicly owned land.
 - **Policy 3.7**
Consider potential new revenue sources for funding capital facilities, such as:
 - a. Growth-induced tax revenues.
 - b. Additional voter-approved revenue.
 - c. Regional tax base sharing.
 - d. Regional cost sharing for urban infrastructure.
 - e. County-wide bonds.
 - f. Local Improvement Districts.

- **Policy 3.8**
Choose among the following available contingency strategies should the City be faced with capital facility funding shortfalls:
 - a. Increase general revenues, rates, or user fees; change funding source(s).
 - b. Decrease level of service standards in the Comprehensive Plan and reprioritize projects to focus on those related to concurrency.
 - c. Change project scope to decrease the cost of selected facilities or delay construction.
 - d. Decrease the demand for the public services or facilities by placing a moratorium on development, developing only in served areas until funding is available, or changing project timing and/or phasing.
 - e. Encourage private funding of needed capital project; develop partnerships with Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston County (the metropolitan service area approach to services, facilities or funding); coordinate regional funding efforts; privatize services; mitigate under the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA); issue long-term debt (bonds); use Local Improvement Districts (LID's); or sell unneeded City-owned assets.
- **Policy 3.9**
Secure grants or private funds, when available, to finance capital facility projects when consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Policy 3.10**
Reassess the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan if probable funding for capital facilities falls short of needs.
- **Goal 4**
Public facilities constructed in Olympia and its Growth Area meet appropriate safety, construction, durability and sustainability standards.
 - **Policy 4.1**
Adhere to Olympia's Engineering Development and Design Standards when constructing utility and transportation related facilities.
 - **Policy 4.2**
Regularly update the Engineering Development and Design Standards.
 - **Policy 4.3**
Ensure that the Engineering Development and Design Standards are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
 - **Policy 4.4**
Apply value engineering approaches on major projects in order to efficiently use resources and meet community needs.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Capital project?

A structure, improvement, piece of equipment, or other major asset, including land, that has a useful life of at least five years. Examples of capital projects include public streets, City parks and recreation facilities, public buildings such as libraries, fire stations and community centers, public water systems and sanitary sewer systems. While capital projects do not cover day-to-day maintenance, it can include major repairs or reconstruction like a roof repair on a City-owned building.

There are a lot of projects in the CFP. How does the City decide which projects are a priority?

The projects in the CFP are identified because they meet the goals of the 20-year Comprehensive Plan and are reflected in the applicable master plan. The City uses several criteria to prioritize, including:

- Public health and safety
- Regulatory requirements
- Available funding, including State and Federal grants
- Council and Community priorities
- Public health and safety

It seems likely that a capital project may affect future operating budgets. Does this have an impact on whether or not a project will be approved and funded?

Yes. It is important that on-going maintenance needs are considered for capital improvements, as these annual expenses impact the City's operating budget.

Can money from the various funds be used on any capital facility?

No. Certain funding sources have restrictions on how they can be used. For example, revenue collected from the Olympia Metropolitan Park Fund can only be used to fund Park projects.

What is the Utility Tax and what projects does it fund?

The City Council has authority to approve, without voter approval, up to a six percent utility tax on private utilities. Five percent of the utility tax collected goes to the General Fund Operating Budget and one percent goes to fund Capital Projects.

In addition, in 2004 the City presented Olympia residents with a ballot measure to raise the utility tax to from six to nine percent. This Voted Utility Tax was approved and provides an additional two percent funding for Parks and one percent funding for Transportation to fund pathways and sidewalks.

Once a project has been approved and funded, can any part of the money be used for another project?

Yes. The City Council can, by simple majority, vote to appropriate funds to a different project. However, they are limited by the funding source and any restrictions. For example, utility funds cannot be used to build park improvement projects. In most cases, this happens when the City needs money to match a State or Federal grant. Leveraging State and Federal grants helps the City implement more capital projects for the community.

If a project was identified in the CFP and funded, will it continue to be listed until the project is completed?

If the project is in progress and continues to need funding, it will be listed. For example, some projects require funding for design. Once the design is funded and complete, the project continues to be in the CFP because money is needed for construction.

Individual project financial information seems to indicate that a specific dollar amount can be expected to be spent on the project over the next six years. Is this a correct interpretation?

No. The planning period for a CFP project is 20 years. Only expenditures and revenues proposed for the first year of the program are incorporated into the Annual Capital Budget (adopted in December of each year). It is important to note that the CFP is a planning document that includes timeline estimates based on changing dynamics related to growth projections, project schedules, new information, evolving priorities, or other assumptions. The Capital Facilities Plan is reviewed and amended annually to verify the availability of fiscal resources. Therefore, project cost estimates and timelines may change.

What happens if a project does not receive the anticipated funding over the next six years?

To address a funding shortfall, the City may delay the project, re-scope or phase the project to help reduce the cost, lower the adopted level of service standards, or reassess the land use element of the Comprehensive Plan. Such decisions are made in a public process.

Are all projects in the listed in CFP completed within six years?

No. The Capital Facilities Plan is a financial plan. The City uses it to verify that resources are available to build the facilities needed to achieve our 20-year comprehensive plan vision. Capital facilities fluctuate based on population growth, existing deficiencies, major facility maintenance and repair needs, internal operations, and Council and Community priorities. The plan is reviewed and updated annually.

What is the difference between State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) mitigation fees and Olympia impact fees?

SEPA mitigation fees may be required for new, major developments to cover their direct impact on the natural or built environment. The specific impacts are identified in an environmental analysis completed for the project. Transportation and parks SEPA mitigation fees for developments proposed within the Urban Growth Area are the most common sources. These fees are collected from specific

development projects in or outside of the City that are likely to have an impact on facilities in the City of Olympia, and the funds can only be spent on the identified project's need to address impacts from the project.

Olympia's impact fees are charged to new development only within the City limits. The City is able to spend these fees on "system improvements" for transportation or park projects. System improvements can include physical or operational changes to existing streets, as well as new street connections that are built in one location to benefit projected needs at another location. Funds collected can only be used for projects that are specifically identified as part of the impact fee calculation. Olympia does collect impact fees on behalf of the Olympia School District and North Thurston Public Schools, based on the District's Capital Facilities Plan and forwards the fees on to the District.

Can the City collect impact fees in the Urban Growth Area?

No, the City of Olympia may not collect impact fees for projects in the Urban Growth Area.

When Olympia annexes an area where the County has a County-funded project underway, does the City assume responsibility for the project and associated project costs?

When an annexation includes capital projects that will add to Olympia's asset base, the City may negotiate related project costs as part of an interlocal agreement between the City and the County.