

Olympia Draft Comprehensive Plan

Policy Issues Referred by City Council to Staff at Feb. 25, 2014 Meeting

Updated Staff Recommendations

At its February 25, 2014, meeting, the Olympia City Council directed further of 19 policy issues from the Planning Commission-recommended Draft Comprehensive Plan. The five issues below were referred to staff to develop new policy language for each issue for the Council to consider including in a public hearing draft of the Comprehensive Plan.

Each issue includes a summary of the Olympia Planning Commission recommendation, the city manager recommendation that was presented at the February 25 meeting, and the new staff recommendation incorporating the direction of the City Council from its February 25 meeting. **Staff requests Council approval to include the “new staff recommendation” in the Public Hearing draft. The “new staff recommendation” is underlined.**

1. Action Plan Process

OPC Recommendation in Draft Plan:

PP1.1 and PP1.2 in the Public Participation and Partners Chapter in the draft Comprehensive Plan describe specific roles for staff, Council, and the Commission in the development and ongoing management of the Implementation Strategy (Action Plan). In PP1.1, the Council and Commission are charged with identifying actions with a special emphasis on the priorities of advisory groups. PP1.2 specifically outlines how the Plan will be managed and updated, including the creation of a committee, the make-up of that committee, and what bodies the committee will report to on an annual basis.

Proposed City Manager Recommendation:

Staff recommends that proposed policies PP1.1 and PP1.2 be replaced with one policy that identifies that there will be an Implementation Strategy. However, the details regarding how it will be developed and maintained would not be specified .

- Replace PP1.1 with: *PP 1.1 Engage partners in the development and regular updating of an implementation strategy to fulfill Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. This strategy will include a monitoring and reporting process.*
- Delete PP1.2.

NEW STAFF RECOMMENDATION (based on Council feedback received 2/25/14):

PP1.1

Develop a strategy to implement the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. Collaborate with partners, including City Advisory Committees and Commissions, neighborhoods, and other community groups, so that the strategy reflects community priorities and actions.

PP1.2

Annually measure and highlight progress towards achieving the Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. Engage the community in updating the strategy, publish performance reports, and recognize community partners who contribute to achieving the vision.

2. Disaster Planning (Subduction Earthquake Policies)

OPC Recommendation in Draft Plan:

Adopt a new set of policies addressing the risk of a ‘Cascadia subduction zone earthquake,’ specifically:

- *Policy S13.9: Educate citizens about the possibility, and potential impacts, of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and actions they can take to prepare for such an event.*
- *Policy S13.10: Address the severe and extended impacts of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake in the City’s emergency response plans and preparations.*
- *Policy S13.11: Continue to gather best available information on the impacts of a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake, including the potential magnitude and impacts of vertical movements and tsunamis*

Proposed City Manager Recommendation:

Do not adopt the language in the recommendations; instead, continue policy of coordinating City’s efforts related to disaster risks through the accepted standard of all-hazard formatting in cooperation with the region’s other Emergency Management programs. Revise policy S13.11 to state:

Continue to gather best available information on earthquakes, and the potential magnitude and impacts of vertical movement, while educating citizens on the impacts of all hazards.

NEW STAFF RECOMMENDATION (based on Council feedback received 2/25/14):

PS13.7

Coordinate the City's preparation, mitigation, response and recovery to disasters through an all-hazard Emergency Management program that includes planning for major catastrophic events.

PS13.9

Educate citizens on how to sustain their households without outside assistance for a minimum of 72 hours during an emergency event, and that some events, such as a severe earthquake, may require them to sustain themselves for five to ten days or more.

3. Locating underground utilities

OPC Recommendation in Draft Plan:

Draft policy PU3.6 states that utilities will be grouped, and to include in the Engineering Design and Development Standards (EDDS) a guidance drawing with street trees and public and private utilities co-located in the public right-of-way.

Proposed City Manager Recommendation:

Revise policy PU3.6 as follows:

Locate public and private utilities in public rights-of-way and/or easements on private property in a manner to facilitate safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair. Provide a guidance drawing within the Engineering Design and Development Standards that shows how and where public and private utilities should be located.

NEW STAFF RECOMMENDATION (based on Council feedback received 2/25/14):

PU3.6

Locate public and private utilities in public rights-of-way and/or easements on private property in a manner to facilitate safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, and to minimize conflicts. Provide guidance within the Engineering Design and Development Standards that shows how and where public and private utilities should be located, including opportunities for co-location.


4. Parks Maintenance and Operations Funding Consideration

OPC Recommendation in Draft Plan:

Draft policy PR6.5 states:

Ensure adequate park maintenance and operation funding before new facilities are developed.

Delete reference at end of chapter:


The current [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#)  contains a detailed list of proposed projects and programs for the next 10 years.

Proposed City Manager Recommendation:

Revise Policy 6.5 to read:

Ensure adequate maintenance and operation funding before new park facilities are acquired and developed.

Delete reference at end of chapter:


The current [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#)  contains a detailed list of proposed projects and programs for the next 10 years.

NEW STAFF RECOMMENDATION (based on Council feedback received 2/25/14):

PR6.5

[Establish a strategy for funding maintenance and operation of new park facilities before they are developed.](#)

Amend reference at end of chapter:

~~The For more information on proposed park projects and programs, see the current [Parks, Arts and Recreation Plan](#)  contains a detailed list of proposed projects and programs for the next 10 years.~~