

2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendments Final Review and Evaluation Assessment

There are three Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposals from the City of Olympia for consideration in 2021. These proposals are briefly described as:

Part A: Text amendments requested by the Public Works Department regarding transportation concurrency.

Part B: Text and transportation map amendments requested by the Public Works Department regarding street connections in the southeast portion of Olympia, in the area known as “LBA Woods”.

Part C: Text amendments requested by Council to improve language around equity and inclusion.

18.59.040 Final review and evaluation

A. The Department shall distribute the final docket of proposed amendments, including rezones, to any state or local agency which is required by law to receive notice of proposed amendments and revisions to the Comprehensive Plan and implementing development regulations within the time required. In addition, the Department shall distribute the final docket of proposed amendments to recognized neighborhood associations and other affected interests identified by the City Council. The Department shall include issues identified in amendment proposal analyses and conduct any review required by SEPA of the proposed amendments, including rezones, listed on the final docket.

Staff Response: The proposed amendments were submitted to state agencies pursuant to the requirements in RCW 36.70A.106 on April 20, 2021. The proposed amendments were routed to all Recognized Neighborhood Associations on April 23, 2021. Environmental review began on April 20, 2021 when the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist was submitted for review. When the City issued its Threshold Determination under SEPA on June 3, 2021, which was a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS), the documents were sent to reviewers for consideration and comment.

B. The Department shall prepare a report including any recommendations on each proposed amendment, including rezones, on the final docket and forward the report to the Planning Commission. At a minimum the Planning Commission recommendation and the Council decision should address the following:

- 1. Does the proposed amendment or revision maintain consistency with other plan elements or development regulations? If not, are amendments or revisions to other plan elements or regulations necessary to maintain consistency with the current final docket that will be considered by the Planning Commission and the City Council?**

Part A, Staff Comments: Staff believes the proposed amendments reflect the City’s recently adopted Transportation Master Plan and new transportation concurrency requirements. The Comprehensive Plan contains goals and policies that support mobility for all modes of travel and for reducing dependency on automobiles.

Part B, Staff Comments: *Because the proposal includes text acknowledging that in approximately ten years there will be an analysis regarding the transportation needs in this area, staff believes the proposed amendment retains consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations.*

Part C, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposed language is a better representation of the City of Olympia values for equity and inclusion.*

2. Is the proposed amendment or rezone consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan?

Part A, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.*

Part B, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.*

Part C, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.*

3. Is the proposed amendment or revision consistent with the county-wide planning policies?

Part A, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the county-wide planning policies.*

Part B, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the county-wide planning policies.*

Part C, Staff Comments: *Staff believes the proposal is consistent with the county-wide planning policies.*

4. Does the proposed amendment or rezone comply with the requirements of the GMA?

Part A, Staff Comments: *The proposed amendments comply with the requirements of the GMA as long as they are consistent with the processing requirements in OMC 18.59, Olympia Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process.*

Part B, Staff Comments: *The proposed amendments comply with the requirements of the GMA as long as they are consistent with the processing requirements in OMC 18.59, Olympia Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process.*

Part C, Staff Comments: *The proposed amendments comply with the requirements of the GMA as long as they are consistent with the processing requirements in OMC 18.59, Olympia Comprehensive Plan Amendment Process.*