

Tumwater City Plan 2035

Community Outreach Element

Growth and Opportunity:

Aligning efficient infrastructure investment and sustainable community development



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What is Tumwater's City Plan 2035?

The City of Tumwater has a long history of successful community involvement. We pride ourselves on having a small town atmosphere and a culture of working together. This collaborative spirit is fundamental to how the city is governed and it is reflected in our approach to updating the city's Comprehensive Plan.

–Mayor Pete Kmet



What are Tumwater's 10 goals for community outreach?

1. Provide information to help public understanding of issues;
2. Seek early and continuous involvement from people who care about the plan and the community;
3. Offer opportunities for people to provide feedback to staff and appointed and elected officials;
4. Make the process accessible and engaging for everyone;
5. Make community-driven planning the priority for this plan;
6. Highlight projects implemented since the last Comprehensive Plan update;
7. Use a flexible, phased approach;
8. Integrate and consolidate goals from all elements of this plan and resource plans;
9. Develop a citizen's guide to the Comprehensive Plan that summarizes the most important parts of the plan in an easy to read and understand format;
10. Rely on multiple communication media to share information.

Who are the people who care about Tumwater’s City Plan?

Residents and Employees

Residents
Neighborhoods and Homeowner’s Associations
Civic groups
Parent-Teacher Associations
Employees
Students
Seniors

Regulatory and Advisory Agencies or Bodies

Washington State Department of Commerce
City Council
Planning Commission
Thurston County Council and Planning Commission
Historic Preservation Commission
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Thurston Regional Planning Council

Other Public Agencies

Port of Olympia
South Puget Sound Community College
Thurston County Planning and Development Services
Thurston County Public Health Department
Intercity Transit
Tumwater School District Board
Puget Sound Energy
LOTT Clean Water Alliance
Chehalis Tribal Nation
Squaxin Tribal Nation
State Agencies located in Tumwater – Department of Health, Department of Corrections, etc.
Thurston Economic Development Council
Timberland Regional Library
Thurston Regional Planning Council

Social Service Agencies

United Way
Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County
Behavior Health Resources
Thurston Mason Lewis Area Agency on Aging

Business/Development

Building Industry Association
Association of Realtors
Tumwater Chamber of Commerce

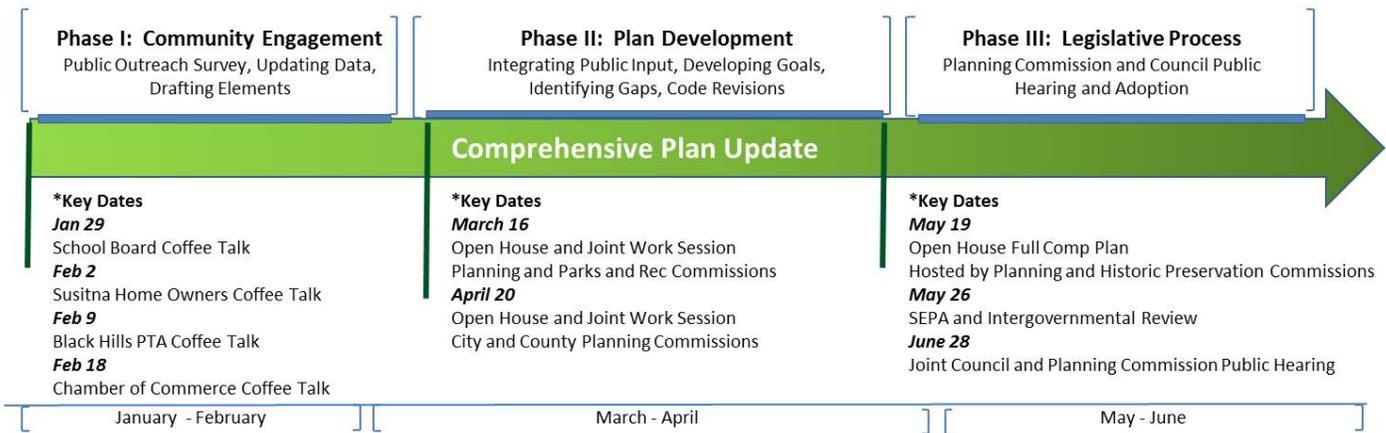
Thurston Chamber of Commerce
Employers

Arts/Culture/Hospitality

Libraries
Farmers Market
Hotels
Explore Thurston County
Olympia Lacey Tumwater Visitor and Convention Bureau

2016 Community Engagement Timeline

City of Tumwater – Comprehensive Plan 2035



What is our community outreach process?

The objective of the Community Outreach Element is to establish how the city will engage the public throughout the Comprehensive Plan update. Tumwater will use a range of public participation strategies to encourage and facilitate community participation in the planning process. The process is flexible and may be changed to take advantage of events and opportunities that may arise. The communication strategy will employ multiple tools and platforms to inform and engage the community and stakeholders in the update of Tumwater’s City Plan 2035.

Phase I: Community Engagement

Winter 2015- 2016

Phase I, staff will begin to review the visions, goals, and policies in the existing Comprehensive Plan and consolidate redundant information where needed. The public and stakeholders will be introduced to the plan update process through a series of communications and asked to prioritize the plan's vision, goals, and policies via "Coffee Talks," various surveys (including a statistically valid telephone survey), an online survey, a utility bill insert questionnaire, and some social media outreach.

"Coffee Talks" or coffee with your City Planner will be a core strategy for engaging people in Tumwater's City Plan 2035. These talks or meetings will target local community groups, neighborhoods, homeowner's associations, PTAs, boards, clubs, organizations, etc. to gather feedback and provide information in a comfortable setting.

Early public opinion surveys were delivered to all city and Tumwater Urban Growth Area (UGA) addresses in the Fall of 2015.

What communication strategies will Phase I include?

Email Contact List

Staff will maintain a list of interested members of the public and stakeholders who will be notified of key meetings and other information related to the update process via email. The city's established email list will also be used to communicate with stakeholders.

Planning Commission and City Council

Staff will present information on the update process and community outreach effort during Planning Commission meetings from December 2015 through June 2016 or the end of the process. The public will be notified of key meetings and open houses via the city's website, the Olympian newspaper, social media, Tumwater On-Tap e-newsletter, and city email list.

Surveys

An online survey will be available on the city website from Fall 2015 through Spring 2016 to assess community priorities. The visions, goals, and policies in the existing Comprehensive Plan will serve as a starting point when developing the survey questions. City staff will take the lead in its development. Members of the public will be notified of the survey via email, the city's Facebook page, and at the Coffee Talks.

Telephone surveys giving an accurate and statistically valid sample of public opinion across the city will be conducted by the Thurston Economic Development Council in cooperation with St. Martin's College, using students from St. Martin's, Evergreen State College, and South Puget Sound Community College as callers. This survey will be conducted in January/February 2016.

Utility bill insert questionnaires will be distributed city-wide in Winter 2016 and late Spring 2016 to sample public opinion through another avenue that reaches a full spectrum of Tumwater residents and businesses.

Website

All materials associated with the plan update, including a list of frequently asked questions, will be posted on a prominent project-specific webpage on the city's website. Additionally, feature stories will be posted on the homepage of the city's website.

Facebook page

Process updates and notice of public meetings will be posted on the city's Facebook page.

Flyers

Flyers advertising the survey and key public meetings will be posted in strategic locations throughout the city, including city-owned sites and well known venues.

Press Releases and Media Advertisements

The city will issue press releases and advertise the survey, key open houses, and public meetings in the Olympian and on the local cable television channel, TCTV 26.

Phase II: Plan Development

Spring 2016

In Phase 2, feedback gathered through the Coffee Talks, surveys, Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and other means (e.g. emails, Facebook page, letters, etc.) will be incorporated into the draft Comprehensive Plan. Staff will present the draft language to city advisory boards and commissions as well as focus groups comprised of subject-area experts.

What communication strategies will Phase II include?

In addition to continuing to employ the strategies started in Phase I, Phase II will include:

Consultation with Advisory Boards, Planning Commission, and Other Advisors

City advisory boards and commissions will be engaged throughout the update process. These groups, including the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, and Parks and Recreation Commission, TRPC Planners Advisory Groups, Thurston County Planning Commission will review and provide feedback on components of the draft plan (e.g. transportation, land use, conservation, etc.). Results of the survey, as well as other public input, will also be shared with these advisors.

Focus groups

Four to six technical experts will provide an avenue for discussion of the plan's key topic areas that aren't represented through the city's existing advisory boards or commissions (e.g. land use and the environment). The focus groups will review and provide input into relevant draft plan chapters. Results of the survey, as well as other public input, will also be shared with the groups.

Phase III: Legislative Process

Summer 2016

City of Tumwater will finalize draft versions of all chapters of the Comprehensive Plan during Phase III. Several public open house meetings will provide an opportunity to see the draft plan prior to the Joint Council - Planning Commission public hearing. Relevant city advisory boards and commissions will develop recommendations that will be forwarded to the Planning Commission. All the focus group members will have an opportunity to review the work, as well.

Phase III is also the legislative process, which includes Planning Commission and City Council public hearings. The process will culminate in the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan by the GMA deadline of June 30, 2016.

What communication strategies will Phase III include?

In addition to continuing to employ the strategies started in Phases I and II, Phase III will include:

Open Houses

Open house will allow city staff to present the draft updated Comprehensive Plan to the public prior to the start of and during the legislative process. Staff will provide an overview of the process to date, draft goals, and next steps. Information about open house dates and other key meeting dates will be widely distributed through press release, the Olympian, ThurstonTalk blog, the city's website, the city's Facebook page, and the email contact lists.

Planning Commission Public Hearing and Work Sessions

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to gather public comment on the draft Comprehensive Plan before developing findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations that will be forwarded to City Council.

Public notice of the public hearing will be published in accordance with state law and Tumwater Municipal Code at least 30 days prior to the date of the hearing. Several Planning Commission work sessions will be held after the initial public hearing. In addition to the required noticing procedures, notice will also be provided through press release, the Olympian, the city's website, the city's Facebook page, and the email contact lists.

City Council Planning Committee

The City Council's General Government Committee and Public Works Committee will periodically review and discuss the Comprehensive Plan update. All meeting dates and materials will be posted on the city's website.

City Council Public Hearing and Work Sessions

The City Council will conduct a public hearing to gather public input on the draft plan forwarded by the Planning Commission. Public notice of the public hearing will be published in accordance

with state law and Tumwater Municipal Code on the city's website at least 30 days prior to the date of the hearing. Several City Council work sessions will be held after the initial public hearing. In addition to the required noticing procedures, notice will also be provided through press release, the Olympian, ThurstonTalk blog, the city's website, the city's Facebook page, and the email contact lists.

Where do I send my comments?

Written comments are welcome at any time during the Comprehensive Plan update process. To be considered for the Planning Commission and City Council public hearings, formal written comments should be submitted by the deadline included in the public notices published in the Olympian. Staff will address and publish all formal comments.

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To be notified of up-coming meetings and process updates, send an email to:
compplan@ci.tumwater.wa.us

All documents related to the Plan update are located on the City of Tumwater Website:
www.ci.tumwater.wa.us/Updating-the-comp-plan