

2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS PAPER

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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This paper highlights selected policy considerations related to the Office of Planning and Community Development’s (OPCD’s) 2025-2026 Proposed Budget. Considerations included here are not intended to be exhaustive and others may surface as Central Staff continues its analysis of the proposed budget. For more information about OPCD’s 2025-2026 Proposed Budget, please see the 2025-2026 Proposed Budget Overview Papers.

Policy Considerations

1. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

OPCD’s 2025-2026 Proposed Budget includes \$350,000 in JumpStart Payroll Expense Tax funds for development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to analyze changes to zoning in Regional and Urban Centers in response to new policy direction in the Mayor’s One Seattle Comprehensive Plan. The SEIS is intended to “support proposed zoning changes within existing Regional and Urban Centers with the goal of allowing more height and development capacity for housing.” These changes were not part of the scope for the One Seattle Comprehensive Plan EIS, scheduled to be released in December 2024, and were therefore not analyzed.

If funded, the Executive will determine the scope of the SEIS. If and when the Executive proposes legislation to increase height and density in Regional and Urban centers, the scope of changes studied under the SEIS will determine the types of changes the Council can consider. If the Council supports this work moving forward, it may want to add a proviso to guide the scope of the SEIS either by imposing limits on the changes that can be considered or by adding additional topics that the Council believes should be considered in conjunction with height and density increases, such as protecting the City’s tree canopy, increasing access to grocery stores, support for job growth, or new opportunities for homeownership.

Options:

- A. Reallocate proposed funding for the SEIS to other Council priorities.
- B. Impose a proviso on the SEIS dollars to provide additional guidance regarding the topics or alternatives to be studied in the SEIS.
- C. No change.