

March 18, 2022

MEMORANDUM

To: Land Use Committee
From: Eric McConaghy, Analyst
Subject: Ratification of 2021 Countywide Planning Policies - Resolution 32048

On March 23, 2022, the Land Use Committee (Committee) will discuss and possibly vote on Resolution (RES) 32048. The resolution would ratify for Seattle the 2021 amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) that King County Council approved and ratified on behalf of unincorporated King County on December 14, 2021, via [King County Ordinance 19384](#). The 2021 CPPs are Attachment A to the resolution.

This memorandum provides background on the CPPs and contextualizes Council's decision on the adoption of the resolution.

Background

The CPPs, established in 1992, guide how all jurisdictions in King County manage growth as they develop and amend their Comprehensive Plans, as required by [the State Growth Management Act](#). King County and the jurisdictions of King County last ratified and completed an update to the CPPs in 2012. The [Growth Management Planning Council \(GMPC\)](#) guided the work of King County and City staff as they developed the 2012 CPPs update, interim amendments to specific policies, and the 2021 CPPs update.

The GMPC was established in 1992 by interlocal agreement. It is comprised of local officials, including three representatives from Seattle. In 2021, Councilmembers Strauss and Juarez, with Councilmember Mosqueda as alternate, were members of the GMPC along with the Mayor. Currently, Councilmembers Strauss and Morales, with Councilmember Mosqueda as alternate, are members along with the Mayor.

2021 CPPs Amendments

GMPC directed staff to develop recommendations for a limited-scope update of the CPPs in accordance with a set of guiding principles that included:

- using the 2012 CPPs update as a base;
- centering social equity and health;
- integrating regional policy and legislative changes;
- providing clear, concise, and actionable direction for comprehensive plans; and
- implementing the Regional Growth Strategy of the Puget Sound Regional Council's [Vision 2025 plan](#) with 2044 growth targets that will form the land use basis for periodic comprehensive plan updates.

Staff from King County and the cities in King County worked cooperatively to analyze and recommend updated policies, including the 2019-2044 housing and employment targets, for consideration by the GMPC. Staff shared the Public Review Draft of the 2021 CPPs with the public and comments were received from numerous stakeholders. Staff reported the GMPC considered comments and adjusted the Public Review Draft.

The GMPC [adopted Motion No. 21-1](#) in June 2021 to recommend the 2021 CPPs, including updated growth targets, to the King County Council. The King County Council amended the 2021 CPPs to make technical changes and amend the growth targets for the City of Sammamish. On December 14, 2021, the King County Council approved and ratified the amended 2021 CPPs on behalf of unincorporated King County.

General Policy-1 (G-1) of the [current CPPs](#) requires that amendments to CPPs must be ratified within 90 days of King County approval. Ratification is either by an affirmative vote of the city's or town's council or by no action being taken within the ratification period. The affirming jurisdictions, including the county, must represent at least 70 percent of the county population and 30 percent of the number of those jurisdictions.

By adopting RES 32048, the Council and Mayor would positively affirm Seattle's ratification of the 2021 CPPs. Adoption of this resolution would be consistent with the City's past practice and ongoing efforts to cooperate on shared planning goals with King County and other cities within the county, as well as the larger Puget Sound region.

Relationship with Seattle's Comprehensive Plan Update

When amending policies of Seattle's Comprehensive Plan or conducting a major update to the Comprehensive Plan overall, the City must do so in a manner consistent with the CPPs. The 2021 CPPs and the included growth targets for Seattle will guide the City's development of the major update to the Comprehensive Plan, known as [One Seattle](#). The 2019-2044 housing and jobs targets for Seattle are 112,000 net new housing units and 169,500 new jobs.

The Office of Planning and Community Development, coordinating with Seattle Department of Transportation and other City departments, has begun the multi-year effort leading to planned adoption of One Seattle in 2024. The Committee is anticipated to discuss the development of One Seattle in subsequent meetings in 2022.

Next Steps

If the Committee votes to recommend adoption of the resolution on March 23, then City Council could take final action as early as March 29.

cc: Aly Pennucci, Deputy Director
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