

# THURSTON



# 2045

## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

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February 15, 2023

# Today's Work Session

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Scope of Work
- ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Next Steps
  - ▶ Ask of Planning Commission: **For March 15 meeting,** rank the optional updates in order from highest priority to lowest priority. Each Commissioner will provide rank. Information will go to the BoCC.

# Thurston 2045: the County's Periodic Update

- ▶ Required to periodically (ten-year cycle) update the comprehensive plan and development regulations
- ▶ Plans for the next 20 years to 2045
- ▶ Ensures consistency with the Washington State Growth Management Act
- ▶ Not a full repeal and replace, or a full re-visioning
- ▶ Next periodic update due June 30, 2025

# Periodic vs. Annual Updates

## Annual Amendments (Optional)

- ▶ Pathway for the community to request changes
- ▶ Thurston County takes applications on an on-going basis
- ▶ The BoCC sets a two-year docket of annual amendments
- ▶ Amendments are prioritized by the BoCC
- ▶ Changes to the comprehensive plan can only be adopted once per year

## Periodic Update (Required)

- ▶ Required by Growth Management Act, RCW 36.70A
- ▶ Brings up to date with state law
- ▶ Plans for next 20 years
- ▶ Updates land use, population, building and housing data
- ▶ Occurs on a ten-year cycle
- ▶ Due June 30, 2025

# What is a Comprehensive Plan?

- ▶ The Comprehensive Plan sets the guiding principles and vision for how and where development occurs
- ▶ Guided by 13 Planning Goals:
  1. Concentrate urban growth
  2. Reduce sprawl
  3. Transportation
  4. Affordable housing
  5. Economic development
  6. Property rights
  7. Predictable permitting
  8. Natural resource industries
  9. Open Space and recreation
  10. Environmental protection
  11. Citizen participation and coordination
  12. Public facilities and services
  13. Historic preservation

# Background

## ► Thurston County Comprehensive Plan Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Land Use
3. Natural Resource Lands
4. Housing
5. Transportation
6. Capital Facilities
7. Utilities
8. Economic Development
9. Environment, Recreation & Open Space
10. Archeological and Historic Resources
11. Health
12. Amendments
13. Glossary

2/15/2023

# Scope of Work – Required and Optional Updates

# How was the Scope of Work drafted?

- ▶ WA Dept. of Commerce Critical Areas and Planning Checklists
- ▶ Priorities of the community as identified through public survey
- ▶ Anticipated future changes to state law
- ▶ Changing local trends within Thurston County



# Survey Report

## ► Top priorities of the community identified in survey:



Protect sensitive areas like wildlife habitat, flood areas, landslide areas, and surface and ground water (57%).



Prepare for climate change and take actions towards reducing impacts (47%).



Protect agriculture (36%).



Increase availability of affordable housing (33%).

# Required Updates

- ▶ Updates needed to meet changes in state law
- ▶ Updates needed to bring Plan up to date with new planning documents
  - ▶ Land Use Element
  - ▶ Natural Resources Element
  - ▶ Housing Element
  - ▶ Capital Facilities Element
  - ▶ Utilities Element
  - ▶ Rural Element
  - ▶ Transportation Element
  - ▶ Parks and Recreation Element
  - ▶ Land Use and Zoning Corrections
  - ▶ Joint Plan Updates (Tenino and Rainier)
  - ▶ Development Regulations to meet changes in state law

# Optional Updates

- ▶ Updates that are not required to meet changes in state law, but may add value
- ▶ Based on community priorities, anticipated changes in state law, and local trends
  - ▶ Implementation Plan
  - ▶ Future Land Use Update
  - ▶ Incorporate Countywide Industrial Lands Study Findings
  - ▶ Climate Change Element
  - ▶ Economic Element
  - ▶ Health Element

# Optional Updates

## ► **Implementation Plan**

- New changes to state law require county to submit a progress report after 5 years
- Develops a plan of action for implementing goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan
- Identifies measurable metrics to track the Plan's implementation
- Helps to set the stage for a 5-year progress report

# Optional Updates

## ► **Future Land Use Update**

- Updates future land use designations and map to serve as general, broad categories that multiple zones may fall into
- Would result in procedural changes for how some site-specific requests are reviewed
- Pairs well with incorporating new information from industrial lands study
- Reduces time and cost burden to applicants for some types of rezone requests

# Optional Updates

## ► **Incorporate Countywide Industrial Lands Study Findings**

- Consider and incorporate information from countywide industrial lands study that is under way (timing dependent)
- May include land use and zoning amendments, policy changes, or updates to the Thurston County Code (Titles 20, 21, 22, 23)
- Pairs well with future land use update
- Priority of the community

# Optional Updates

## ► **Climate Change Element**

- Not currently a required element but may be in coming years
- Builds off existing work in Plan and Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan to incorporate goals and policies on mitigation and resilience
- Includes greenhouse gas inventory/estimate and hazards planning
- High priority of the community

# Optional Updates

## ► **Economic Element**

- Robust update done with Plan in 2019
- Reviews and revises based on recent work in the community



# Optional Updates

## ► **Health Element**

- Robust update done with Plan in 2019
- Reviews and revises based on any new information and data

# Next Steps

- ▶ Ask of Planning Commission
  - ▶ March 15, 2023 – Each Planning Commissioner Rank Optional Updates from your highest to lowest priority

