

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Draft-Citizen Participation

The Citizen Participation Element emphasizes the following Framework Goals:

FRAMEWORK GOALS

- FG1: Accommodate anticipated levels of growth and enhance the quality of life within the City of Shoreline.
- FG2: Promote quality building and development that is compatible with the surrounding environment.
- FG3: Support diverse and affordable housing opportunities which provide for Shoreline's population growth.
- FG4: Pursue a strong and diverse economy and assure economic development that complements neighborhood character.
- FG5: Protect the natural environment and preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- FG6: Promote improvements to human services.
- FG7: Assure effective and efficient public investment for quality public services, facilities, and utilities.
- FG8: Improve multi-modal transportation systems which provide for Shoreline's present and future population.
- FG9: Provide for wide involvement in community planning decisions.

Intent

The Citizen Participation Element is intended to provide opportunities for public involvement in the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. This Element is consistent with legal guidelines for citizen participation and with community interest in planning for growth in Shoreline.

Background and Context

In recognition of the importance of public participation, the City offered a wide variety of activities to make certain that all citizens had opportunities to participate in planning efforts. The public involvement process for the Comprehensive Plan began prior to incorporation and will continue until the plan is adopted. Because the Comprehensive Plan will guide development in Shoreline for the next 20 years, public participation is vital for appropriate and effective planning for the City.

Citizen participation prior to incorporation included:

- ***King County Shoreline Community Plan:*** Prior to Shoreline's incorporation, King County prepared a Shoreline Community Plan. Plan preparations began in April of 1977, when the King County Executive and Council appointed a Shoreline Citizen Planning Committee. The Committee and King County staff worked with local residents to develop the Community Plan.

This planning effort included identifying and classifying the social and economic characteristics of the community, inventorying its natural and man-made environments, identifying the community issues and concerns, and proposing policies designed to implement the desired goals and community improvements. Recommendations were made in the areas of land use, transportation, and parks and recreation.

- ***The Vision of the Transition Team:*** The Team was a group of citizens dedicated to creating the City of Shoreline. The Team worked together for several months and issued a report that made recommendations for goals, policies and objectives to be considered in the Comprehensive Plan. Recommendations were made for land use and zoning issues, residential areas, commercial areas, transportation issues, and parks and recreation issues.

Shoreline began the process of preparing its own Comprehensive Plan shortly after the City incorporated. The City's objective is to meet State Growth Management Act requirements by completing the Comprehensive Plan and adopting implementing ordinances by August 1999. The Comprehensive Plan and

implementing ordinances are intended to foster community health and welfare consistent with the community vision.

This draft Comprehensive Plan is based on an extensive public involvement process that included Community Wide Events, Citizens' Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committees (CPACs), and public review by the Planning Commission and City Council. Public involvement activities have included:

Shoreline's Community Wide Events: Six community-wide open houses and six Community Shoreline Summits were held to consider issues specific to the Comprehensive Plan. These events have regularly brought together hundreds of residents, students, business owners and employees to discuss issues facing the City.

At Open Houses and Summits, participants met together to hear speakers and to discuss the issues and solutions. Trained professionals and volunteers provided information and led the discussion. Everyone has had the opportunity to comment and each participant was invited to fill out a survey form to describe ideas, questions and concerns. The City collected the surveys and published the results for community members, City staff, and the Planning Commission.

In addition, two community-wide surveys on comprehensive planning issues were distributed to each household in Shoreline. These survey results were also collected and published for the benefit of community members, City staff, and the Planning Commission.

These meetings and surveys helped the City to develop a general approach to address issues raised by the community and the Growth Management Act

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committees (CPACs): CPACs included a group of 150 citizens who participated in monthly meetings from April 1996 to June 1997. CPACs did in-depth explorations of key issues facing Shoreline. The CPACs helped City staff to consider issues important to City residents and businesses in the development of the draft Comprehensive Plan. The CPACs prepared a series of recommendations which the City staff and the Shoreline Planning Commission used in developing the draft Plan. The CPACs then reviewed the key elements of the Comprehensive Plan and made recommendations to City Staff and the Commission.

Planning Commission Activities (Workshops, Meetings and Hearings): The Shoreline Planning Commission is composed of nine Shoreline residents who volunteer their time to advise the City on land use matters, including comprehensive planning and development activities. The Commission has considered public input on comprehensive planning issues and specific content of the draft Comprehensive Plan on a regular basis from February 1996 to June 1998.

The Commission has reviewed recommendations from CPACs, Open House visitors and Summit participants. The Commission has also considered input from residents, business owners, students, employees and other interested parties. The Commission has reviewed recommendations from consultants and other trained experts in planning, architecture, engineering, education and the natural environment.

The Planning Commission has sent a series of four newsletters to all of Shoreline's residents and businesses describing the various aspects of the Comprehensive Plan and requesting public input. The newsletters included notices of approximately 24 meetings which included opportunities for public comment on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. Every citizen in Shoreline also received a notice summarizing the Comprehensive Plan and an invitation to attend a Public Hearing before the Planning Commission on the Draft Comprehensive Plan.

Based upon input from a variety of sources, including public comments, the Planning Commission developed its recommendations to the Shoreline City Council.

In summary, the public participation process for Comprehensive Planning in Shoreline has included more than 300 public information/participation activities between Autumn, 1995 and December 1997. Public activities have included:

Two-day Kick-Off Workshop to introduce the Comprehensive Plan history, theory, concept, and options.

Six City-sponsored community-wide open houses addressing City-wide and special district planning issues, each attended by more than 300 people.

35 monthly City-sponsored Comprehensive Plan Community Advisory Committee meetings to address City-wide planning issues, each consistently attended by up to 50 participants.

Special district meetings (e.g. Aurora Corridor Commercial District, Fircrest School Campus), to consider district planning issues. Each of the more than 30 meetings was consistently attended by 25 - 40 participants.

Six special topic workshops (e.g. residential subdivision, commercial design) attended by up to 50 participants.

55 visits to neighborhood meetings to discuss local issues.

60 meetings with government agencies to discuss regional planning issues.

25 meetings with business groups (e.g. Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Korean Chamber of Commerce, North City Business Association) to discuss commercial planning issues.

A bus trip with 50 participants to visit other cities to see results of planning for livable, attractive development.

Two Public Hearings and 16 public meetings related to Comprehensive Plan

Goals and Policies

Goal CP I: To maintain and improve the quality of life in the community by offering a variety of opportunities for public involvement in community planning decisions.

Policies

- CP1:** Encourage and facilitate public participation in all planning processes and make those processes user-friendly.
- CP2:** Consider the interests of the entire community and the goals and policies of this Plan before making planning decisions. Proponents of change in planning guidelines should demonstrate that the proposed change responds to the interests and changing needs of the entire City, balanced with the interests of the neighborhoods most directly impacted by the project.
- CP3:** Ensure that the process which identifies new planning goals and policies or expands existing planning goals and policies considers the impacts of potential changes on the community and results in decisions that are consistent with other policies in the Comprehensive Plan.
- CP4:** Balance the interests and needs of the community when considering modifications to zoning or development regulations.
- CP5:** Make planning and development decisions only after consideration of the following:
- The effects of a proposed change on the natural and built environments;
 - The compatibility with, and impact on, other Plan elements (e.g. transportation; parks, recreation and open space; utilities; environmental);
 - The need for the proposed goal, policy or regulation; and
 - The benefit to the neighborhoods, City, and/or region.
- CP6:** Encourage and emphasize open communication between developers and neighbors about compatibility issues.
- CP7:** Utilize a variety of approaches, representing a broad spectrum of public viewpoints wherever reasonable to oversee major revisions to the general elements and sub-areas of the Comprehensive Plan.