



City of Tukwila

Department of Community Development

Jim Haggerton, Mayor

Jack Pace, Director

PROJECT TITLE:

City of Tukwila Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement: Addendum Addressing the Elements Adopted in 2014 as part of the 2015 Update to the Comprehensive Plan (File #E14-0012)

PROPOSED ACTION:

The City of Tukwila is proposing amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Development Code to address changes in the Growth Management Act, and desired revisions. Comprehensive Plan amendments can be adopted by the City Council once per year, except in cases of emergency, as authorized by the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and the Tukwila Municipal Code Chapter 18.80. The amendments discussed in this Addendum will be adopted prior to June 30, 2015. This is a non-project (programmatic) EIS Addendum.

PROPONENT AND LEAD AGENCY:

City of Tukwila Department of Community Development
6300 Southcenter Boulevard, Tukwila, WA 98188

SEPA RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

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LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS:

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6300 Southcenter Boulevard, Tukwila, WA 98188
Office hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Online at: <http://www.tukwilawa.gov/dcd/dcdcompplan.html>

SEPA COMPLIANCE:

The Draft EIS (DEIS) for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan was issued on June 27, 1995. It was circulated to adjacent jurisdictions, affected agencies and other parties with an interest. Comments were due on August 11, 1995 (extended from July 27, 1995). After comments were reviewed, the Final EIS (FEIS) (File # E92-0053) was issued on October 9, 1995. An addendum to the FEIS addressing Zoning Code amendments was issued on November 15, 1995. Both the Comprehensive Land Use Plan and Zoning Code were adopted on December 4, 1995. In 2004, an addendum to the FEIS was prepared. The addendum addressed: 1) revisions to the sensitive areas ordinance incorporating Best Available Science; and 2) limited technical revisions to several other elements to reflect changes to the Growth Management Act. The addendum to the FEIS was issued on April 4, 2004.

Tukwila is performing the periodic update required per RCW36.70a.130 in phases. The City prepared an addendum to the 1995 FEIS that addressed changes to the Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Natural Environment, Southcenter and Shoreline (narrative only) elements that were adopted in 2013.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW—SCOPE OF EIS ADDENDUM (File #E14-0012):

The 1995 FEIS analyzed environmental impacts of the Comprehensive Plan in order to assess the impacts of the Plan on Tukwila and its growth area. The EIS did not analyze the significance of site-specific impacts; rather it focused on area-wide impacts for this non-project/programmatic document.

The City of Tukwila is using phased environmental review in preparing an Addendum to the EIS as it amends the Comprehensive Plan in phases to address changes to the Growth Management Act, and regional growth policies, as required by RCW36.70a.130. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and rules established for the act, WAC 197-11, outline procedures for the use of existing environmental documents and preparing addenda to environmental decisions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

All environmental elements were adequately addressed by the 1995 Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the City of Tukwila Comprehensive Plan (File #L92-0053), and 2004 Addendum. Subsequent “project” actions resulting from policy changes will require the submittal of separate environmental review. These will be analyzed for consistency with the original mitigating conditions and could require new mitigation based on specific conditions. The changes to Comprehensive Plan policies that are addressed in the 2014 Addendum (File #E14-0012) reflect regional policies contained in documents (Vision 2040 and King County Countywide Policy Plan) that have received environmental review, and whose intent is to minimize environmental impacts through sustainable development and compact regional growth patterns. Impacts of proposed development in the Tukwila South area, including the Tukwila South Master Plan and Development Agreement, are addressed in the FEIS prepared for the Tukwila South Project (2005).

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

The proposed amendments discussed in this addendum address amendments to five of the Comprehensive Plan’s 15 elements that will be adopted in 2014. Overall Comprehensive Plan priorities remain unchanged. In general, the elements have been reorganized and the policies regrouped and edited for greater clarity. Issue statements have been added to preview groups of policies. Some policy language from the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Vision 2040, and King County’s Countywide Planning Policies (2012) has been incorporated. Policies are revised to align them with the priorities identified in Tukwila’s Strategic Plan (2012).

A new Parks, Recreation and Open Space element has been added, and incorporates the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (2014). A rewritten Tukwila South element reflects the development agreement that was adopted in 2009. Environmental review for Tukwila South development has been completed.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space:

The proposed policy changes will serve as the city’s first Comprehensive Plan element dedicated to the parks, recreation and open space system. These policies are based on the City’s Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, adopted 2014. Specifically, the proposed element will:

- Relocate and consolidate parks, recreation and open space-related goals and policies from other Comprehensive Plan elements into a single and specific element related to the parks, recreation and open space system;

- Provide clear and cohesive policies to guide the orderly development of the parks, recreation and open space system;
- Address the physical capacity for additional recreation facilities in existing park lands.

- Build on the citywide vision identified in the City’s Strategic Plan;
- Address the key parks and recreation needs identified by the public, including:
 - a. Improving nearby access to park land and recreation opportunities, calling for linkages among streets, trails and parks;
 - b. Creating safe and inviting spaces and more connected parks and facilities to strengthen neighborhoods, community identity and economic vitality; and
 - c. Fostering a common sense of ownership by encouraging parks and programs that foster social interaction, gathering and use of the city’s park and recreation system.
- Embrace the diversity of the city by encouraging interpretation, design and public programs and services.
- Support the plans, policies, projects and programs that will increase access to parks and recreation opportunities in the Southcenter/Tukwila Urban Center, Tukwila South and Tukwila International Boulevard areas.
- Support healthy lifestyles, play and learning through a variety of park and recreation facilities and programs.
- Encourage environmentally-sustainable practices.

Community Image and Identity Element:

This element addresses a variety of topics that fall broadly under the “sense of place”/community image/community identity category. The recommended element touches upon historic preservation, city boundaries, residential areas, commercial areas, transportation corridors, Tukwila urban center, open space and parks, and urban forestry as they relate to the appearance or impression a community presents to its residents, visitors and workers.

Recommendations include:

- Relocate parks and open space goals and policies to the new Parks, Recreation and Open Space element;
- Delete Tukwila Urban Center goal and policy as this topic is now addressed in its own element;
- Add selected policies pertaining to historic preservation, business districts and parking standards from the Transportation Corridors element;
- Move Urban forestry policies to the Natural Environment element (addressed during the 2013 Comprehensive Plan update);
- Add policies that embrace cultural diversity;
- Add policies that encourage taking proactive steps to establish a positive image for Tukwila; and
- Add policies that promote healthy living and access to nutritious food.

Roles and Responsibilities Element:

This element focuses on the social, rather than the physical, environment. It offers options to ensure basic needs are met, safety and security provided for, and that communication is extensive and clear. Increased communication to the diverse community and the goal of increasing involvement are emphasized. It also acknowledges Tukwila’s involvement in regional issues and partnerships.

Recommendations include:

- Emphasize effective partnerships both across City departments and with a range of organizations to meet community needs;
- Enhance policies relating to emergency management planning;
- Broaden policies that relate to safety and security to include long-term environmental security;
- Add flood management policies previously found in the Utilities element;
- Emphasize increased communication and engagement via new techniques to build meaningful connections between the City and the diverse communities that make up Tukwila;
- Provide the public with greater access to information by increasing the City's cultural and linguistic competency in the way it does business; and
- Emphasize the benefits of regional collaboration to Tukwila.

Tukwila South Element

Significant progress has occurred in Tukwila South over the last ten years to make the current Tukwila South element outdated. It has been revised to reflect these changes.

The recommended element:

- Uses the Tukwila South Master Plan as a basis for the policies provided. Certain parts of the Sensitive Areas Master Plan (SAMP) and Development Agreement are included in the revised Comprehensive Plan element;
- Removes outdated language referencing the need for a master plan since the City has approved a master plan for the area;
- Updates the "Background Section" to discuss the entitlements and agreements that are approved by the City.

Economic Development Element

The Economic Development element has been rewritten to reflect changed conditions and priorities. The recommended element:

- Adds significant language that addresses improving the "employability" of City residents;
- Updates the "Economic Setting" section with current data from the City's Strategic Plan and from the Puget Sound Regional Council;
- Removes references to code enforcement. Economic Development does not conduct code enforcement activities;
- Includes goals and policies from the City's Strategic Plan where applicable.
- Removes duplicate language that is found in other Comprehensive Plan Elements;
- "Implementation Policies" that have either been completed or which are outdated have been removed. For example, language regarding completing overall environmental impact statements has been refined to only discuss West Valley Highway and Tukwila International Boulevard, since area-wide environmental impact statements have been completed for the Manufacturing Industrial Area, Southcenter, and Tukwila South.

RECOMMENDATION:

The City of Tukwila Draft and Final EIS provided extensive analysis of the environmental impacts associated with implementing the 1995 Comprehensive Plan. The nature of the proposed changes is such that none results in significant impacts, some reduce potential environmental impacts and all remain within the range of alternatives examined in the DEIS and FEIS.

The City of Tukwila has reviewed and proposed amendments and has found that they are consistent with the scope of the EIS. Therefore, this action will not create additional or significant impacts and does not warrant separate environmental review as outlined in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), WAC 197-11.

Signature: _____

Jack Pace, Responsible Official



Dated: _____

8/11/14

