Public Participation

1. INTRODUCTION

Public participation has been a foundational component of the City of Sequim's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update. Consistent with RCW 36.70A.140, the City conducted early and continuous public participation throughout development of the Comprehensive Plan and associated development regulations. The City's engagement program was designed to provide multiple opportunities for residents, businesses, community organizations, partner agencies, property owners, and other interested parties to learn about the update, provide feedback, and participate in shaping the community's vision for the next twenty years.

Public engagement occurred between 2024 and 2026 through workshops, community events, online surveys, stakeholder interviews, Planning Commission meetings, City Council workshops, newsletters, presentations to community organizations, and an online project website. Public comments received throughout the process informed development of the Comprehensive Plan policies, Future Land Use Map, housing strategies, development regulations, and implementation actions.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

The City of Sequim used a variety of public participation methods during the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update to provide opportunities for residents, businesses, community organizations, partner agencies, and other interested parties to engage throughout the planning process.

Project Website. The Sequimagine project website served as the primary information hub for the Comprehensive Plan update. The website provided access to draft chapters, meeting materials, workshop presentations, survey information, schedules, public notices, and opportunities to submit comments.

Online Open House. An online open house was conducted during the public review period for the draft Comprehensive Plan and development regulations. The online format allowed community members to review materials and provide comments remotely and at their convenience.

Community Survey. Online surveys were used to gather broad community input regarding the City's vision, growth priorities, housing needs, transportation issues, and community character. Surveys provided an accessible opportunity for participation by individuals who were unable to attend meetings in person.

Planning Scenario Workshops. A series of community workshops early in the process was held to discuss the City's vision statement, planning goals, growth alternatives, and future land use scenarios. These workshops allowed participants to interact directly with planning staff and consultants while evaluating potential approaches for accommodating future growth.

Transportation Open House. A dedicated transportation open house was conducted to present transportation priorities, mobility challenges, and potential improvements. The event included opportunities for attendees to discuss transportation issues with staff and the City's transportation consultant.

Farmers Market Outreach. Planning staff conducted outreach at the Sequim Farmers Market to engage residents in an informal setting and reach individuals who may not typically participate in public meetings. Market outreach provided opportunities for one-on-one conversations and distribution of project information.

Stakeholder Interviews. Targeted stakeholder interviews were conducted with representatives from community organizations, housing providers, business groups, public agencies, and other partner organizations. These interviews helped identify community needs, implementation challenges, and opportunities related to housing, economic development, infrastructure, and development regulations

Housing Focus Group. The City convened a focused discussion with housing professionals and development representatives to obtain technical feedback regarding the feasibility of different housing types, affordability considerations, and barriers to housing production.

Advisory Board and Commission Engagement. Draft Comprehensive Plan chapters were presented to the Planning Commission, Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board, and Sequim Arts Commission for review and discussion. These meetings provided subject-matter feedback related to parks, open space, urban forestry, community character, transportation, housing, and other plan elements.

City Council and Planning Commission Joint Workshops. City Council joint workshops with the Planning Commission were conducted to review housing and land use analyses that informed policy and development regulation updates. These meetings provided opportunities for public observation and comment while informing policy direction.

Community Organization Presentations. Staff presented project information to community organizations including the Clallam Economic Development Council, Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and other public forums. These presentations helped expand awareness of the update process and encouraged additional participation.

City Newsletters, Email Notifications, and Public Notices. Project updates were distributed through City newsletters, email notification lists, website postings, and legally required public notices. These communication methods informed the public of upcoming meetings, workshops, draft document releases, public hearings, and opportunities to submit comments.

Public Hearings and Written Comments. Formal public hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council provided opportunities for oral testimony and written comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan and associated development regulations. Comments received during the public review process were considered as part of the City's evaluation and refinement of the proposed plan.

Together, these participation methods created multiple avenues for engagement throughout the Comprehensive Plan update and helped ensure that community input informed the development of the City's vision, policies, future land use decisions, housing strategies, and implementation actions.

3. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

Community members participated in workshops, surveys, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, online open house and public hearings throughout the planning process. Collectively, these engagement efforts provided valuable insight into community priorities and helped inform preparation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Several common themes emerged consistently throughout the public participation process:

*Preserving Community Character***.** Participants expressed a strong desire to maintain Sequim's unique identity, small-town character, and sense of place while planning for future growth. Community members emphasized preserving established neighborhoods, scenic qualities, cultural resources, and the City's welcoming atmosphere as Sequim continues to evolve.

Housing Opportunities. Housing availability and affordability were recurring topics throughout the planning process. Participants identified a need for a greater variety of housing types to meet the needs of residents at different stages of life and income levels while recognizing the importance of compatible neighborhood design and infrastructure planning.

Transportation and Mobility. Community members emphasized improving transportation safety and connectivity for all users. Comments addressed roadway improvements, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, accessibility, traffic operations, and maintaining a transportation system that supports anticipated population and employment growth.

Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources. Participants consistently identified parks, trails, open spaces, urban forestry, and protection of environmental resources as defining features of the community. Public input supported continued investment in recreational opportunities while protecting environmentally sensitive areas and enhancing community resilience.

Economic Vitality. Residents, business owners, and stakeholders emphasized supporting local businesses, expanding employment opportunities, and maintaining a vibrant commercial environment that contributes to the City's long-term economic health. Public discussion also recognized the relationship between housing availability, workforce needs, and economic development.

Infrastructure and Public Services. Participants expressed the importance of ensuring that public facilities, utilities, transportation infrastructure, and community services keep pace with future growth. Comments supported thoughtful planning and coordinated investment to maintain community quality of life.

The Planning Commission and City Council also provided extensive policy direction through numerous public meetings and workshops during development of the Comprehensive Plan. Public comments received throughout the planning process were considered alongside technical analyses, state Growth Management Act requirements, countywide planning policies, and agency coordination in preparing the final Comprehensive Plan.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIMELINE

The Planning Commission served as the primary advisory body throughout preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. Between 2024 and 2026, the Commission reviewed individual plan chapters, supporting technical analyses, development regulations, and the Future Land Use Map during publicly noticed meetings. This chapter-by-chapter review allowed policies to evolve over time and provided multiple opportunities for public comment before release of the complete draft Comprehensive Plan.

Public participation occurred alongside preparation of numerous technical studies that informed policy development, including the Housing Needs Assessment, Land Capacity Analysis, Housing Adequate Provisions, Housing and Economic Market Analysis, Capital Facilities Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and other supporting analyses. These studies provided a factual basis for discussions and helped evaluate options throughout the planning process.

The Comprehensive Plan periodic update was conducted over approximately two years through a series of coordinated engagement activities designed to build upon one another. Early outreach focused on understanding community values, opportunities, and challenges. The following timeline summarizes the major milestones and public participation activities completed during the update process.

Phase 1 2024 Project Initiation and Community Visioning	
March 2024	2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update initiated.
March 5-6	Stakeholder Interviews: Consultant SCJ Alliance conducted in-person and video interviews with ~25 local stakeholders (community organizations, nonprofits, public agencies, business groups), to gather early input on priorities, issues, and ideas for the Comprehensive Plan.
April	Comprehensive Plan Update website launched
June	Public Participation Plan Developed
June 11	Vision Studio and Evening Session: informal studio session with consultant to review the existing vision and gather feedback; evening presentation and workshop focused on refining community vision and planning goals.
June 12	Land Use and Transportation Open House: full-day studio session with consultant and transportation consultant; evening presentation and transportation open house to discuss transportation priorities and recommendations.
June 13	Planning Scenarios Workshop: daytime studio session with consultant focused on refining planning scenarios and alternatives; evening scenario workshop discussed thematic approaches to achieve the vision.
July 13	Farmers Market Outreach
Aug 10	Farmers Market Outreach

July-Sept	Website Online Survey
September 17	Future Land Use Alternates Workshop at Guy Cole Community Center: Session with consultant held concurrent with Planning Commission to consider different scenarios to address planned growth.
September 18	Middle Housing Focus Group: consultant convened a focus group of housing professionals and facilitated discussion.
December 2	Planning Commission discussed draft Vision Statement
Phase 2 2025 Technical Analysis and Policy Development	
February 24	City Council Retreat: Comprehensive Plan Update Overview
March 18	Planning Commission: Comprehensive Plan Update Overview
April 14	City Council: Resolution Public Participation Plan
April 15	Planning Commission: Preliminary Land Use Policies and Introduction
May 6	Planning Commission: Future Land Use Map Review and Discussion
May 8	Clallam County Attainable Workforce Housing Summit Panelist
May 19	Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board: Draft Chapter 7 Parks and Open Space
May 20	Planning Commission: Chapter 1 Introduction + Vision
June 3	Planning Commission: Chapter 3 Community Character
June 16	Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board: Chapter 9 Natural Environment Urban Forestry
June 17	Planning Commission: Chapter 9 Natural Environment
June 23	Sequim Arts Commission: Chapter 3 Community Character
July 15	Planning Commission: Chapter 5 Transportation
July 21	Parks, Arbor and Recreation Board: Chapter 7 Parks and Open Space
July 24-25	Stakeholder Interviews: Leland Consulting Group conducted in-person interviews with local stakeholders to inform a Housing and Economic Market Analysis.
July 24	Joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop: Leland Consulting Group facilitated joint workshop to inform Housing and Economic Market Analysis.
July 28	Sequim Arts Commission: Chapter 3 Community Character
August 5	Planning Commission: Chapter 7 Parks and Open Space
August 26	Planning Commission: Chapter 10 Climate and Resiliency
September 2	Planning Commission: Chapter 6 Capital Facilities and Utilities
September 16	Planning Commission: Site Specific Redesignations Requests to Future Land Use Map by property owners
September 30	Clallam County EDC Forum Panelist: Where is the Housing Market Headed?
October	Comprehensive Plan Update featured in City Newsletter
October 7	Planning Commission: Future Land Use Map designations and staff recommendations
October 21	Planning Commission: Chapter 2 Land Use
November	City Council/Planning Commission Joint Session featured in City Newsletter
November 17	Joint City Council and Planning Commission Workshop: Leland Consulting Group presented in joint workshop results of the Housing and Economic Market Analysis.
November 18	Planning Commission: Chapter 3 Housing
December 2	Planning Commission: Housing Appendix A: Housing Needs Assessment, Adequate Provisions, Land Capacity Analysis, and Racially Disparate Impacts Analysis
December 10	Guest Speaker at Clallam EDC Coffee with Colleen
December 16	Planning Commission: Chapter 8 Economic Development

December 16 & 19	Affordable Housing Providers Stakeholder Interviews: Leland Consulting Group conducted online interviews/discussion with local affordable housing providers.
December 31	Planning Commission Redlined Draft Comprehensive Plan policy document posted on website
Phase 3 Development Regulations and Future Land Use Map January-July 2026	
January 2	Public Release of Draft Title 17 Land Divisions Ordinance
January 6	Planning Commission: Draft Title 17
January 12	City Council: Comprehensive Plan Status Update
January 20	Planning Commission: Draft Title 17
January 22	Developers Forum: Draft Title 17
January 23	Public Release of Chapter 18.21 Supplemental Housing Requirements
February	Proposed Updates to Development Regulations featured in City Newsletter
February 3	Planning Commission: Draft Chapter 18.21
February 9	City Council Workshop: Draft Future Land Use Map and Land Use Designations Overview
February 17	Planning Commission: Public Hearing on Draft Title 17 and Chapter 18.21
February 23	City Council: Draft Title 17 and Chapter 18.21 First Touch
March 3	Planning Commission: Draft Future Land Use Map Overview
March 19	Developers Forum: Draft Title 18 Zoning - Residential District overview
March 23	City Council: Public Hearing on Draft Title 17 and Chapter 18.21
March 24	Guest Speaker at Sequim-Dungeness Valley Greater Chamber of Commerce
April	Comprehensive Plan update and new video featured in City Newsletter
April 7	Planning Commission: Draft Title 18 Zoning - Residential District overview
April 17	Guest Speaker at League of Women Voters
April 21	Planning Commission: Draft Title 18 Zoning - Non-Residential Zoning Districts (Commercial, Business and Employment zones)
May 5	Planning Commission: Draft Title 18 Zoning – Site Plans, Design Review, Off-Street Parking and Landscaping
May 19	Planning Commission: Draft Title 18 Zoning – Essential Public Facilities, Day Care Facilities, Home Occupations, Conditional Uses and Temporary Uses
June 2	Planning Commission: Draft Title 18 Zoning – Nonconforming, Signs, Wireless Communication Facilities, Accessory Dwelling Units/Transitory Accommodations, Mobile Food Vendors, Annexations, Variances
June 16	Planning Commission: Future Land Use and Zoning Map – Site Specific, Rereview Chapter 5 Transportation (with consultant comments)
Phase 4 Draft Plan Review and Adoption July-September 2026*	
July	Public Release of Draft Comprehensive Plan package featured in City's Newsletter
July 13	Public Release Draft Comprehensive Plan, Draft Future Land Use Map, Draft Development Regulations and DSEIS
July 13- Aug 13	Online Open House
July 21	Drop-In Community Open House 4:30-5:30
July 21	Planning Commission: Capital Facilities Plan overview
~~July 30~~	~~Developers Forum – Future Land Use Map/Zoning Map, Title 18~~
August 4	Drop-In Community Open House 4:30-5:30
August 4	Planning Commission Meeting: Title 18 overview
August 10	City Council: Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations overview
August 13	End of statutory 30-day SEIS comment period; end of online open house
August 13	Developers Forum – Draft Title 18, Draft Zoning Map

August 18	Planning Commission: Final review
September 1	Planning Commission Public Hearing
October 6	Planning Commission Continued Public Hearing; Recommended to City Council
October 26	City Council: Overview of PC Recommended 2025 Comprehensive Plan + Development Regulations, FSEIS
November 9	City Council Public Hearing
November 23	Deliberations and Ordinance Adoption
~~September 14~~	~~Transmit PC Recommended Comprehensive Plan + Development Regulations, FSEIS to Council~~
~~September 14~~	~~City Council: Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations~~
~~September 21~~	~~City Council Special work session, if needed~~
~~September 28~~	~~City Council Public Hearing~~

** The activities listed as Phase 4 are scheduled as of publication of the ~~Draft~~ Planning Commission Recommended Comprehensive Plan (October ~~July 13~~, 2026). The final adopted Comprehensive Plan will document the actual public review and adoption activities and dates for Phase 4.*

The 2025 Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Periodic Update reflects an extensive collaborative planning effort involving residents, community organizations, partner agencies, advisory boards, the Planning Commission, and the City Council. Public participation occurred throughout each phase of the update and, together with technical analysis, state Growth Management Act requirements, regional planning policies, and agency coordination, informed development of the Comprehensive Plan.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

The City adopted a Public Participation Plan at the outset of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update to guide community engagement throughout the planning process. The plan established the overall outreach strategy, identified opportunities for public participation, outlined communication methods, and provided a framework for achieving early and continuous public involvement consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act. While the outreach program evolved throughout the update to respond to emerging planning topics and additional engagement opportunities, the Public Participation Plan served as the foundation for the City's comprehensive public engagement efforts.

Attachments: Public Participation Plan
A-1: July 2024 Comprehensive Plan PPP
A-2: Resolution 2025-011 PPP for Comprehensive Plan
A-3: Resolution 2025-026 PPP for Development Regulations

6. SUPPORTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DOCUMENTS

The following documents were prepared during the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and are incorporated by reference as part of the administrative record supporting this appendix. These materials document the public outreach activities, comments received, and supporting analyses that informed preparation of the Comprehensive Plan. The documents, as well as the agenda packets, minutes and videos of Planning Commission and City Council meetings, are maintained by the City of Sequim as part of the official legislative record and are available through the City's Comprehensive Plan project webpage and public records.

B-1 March 2024 Stakeholder Interviews Summary
B-2 June 2024 Outreach Summary
B-3 July-Sept. 2024 Online Survey Summary
B-4 September 2024 Scenarios Workshop Summary
B-4 September 2024 Scenarios Workshop Presentation
B-5 September 2024 Middle Housing Focus Group Summary
B-6 October 2025 Housing and Economic Analysis – Appendix A Stakeholder Engagement
B-7 Coffee with Colleen Presentation, Dec. 2025
B-8 Chamber of Commerce Presentation, March 2026
B-9 League of Women Voters Presentation, April 2026

See Public Participation Timeline for dates of Planning Commission and City Council meetings.