RESOLUTION NO. R2025-011

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEQUIM, WASHINGTON ADOPTING A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND SCHEDULE FOR UPDATING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) of 1990, RCW Chapter 36.70A, establishes statewide goals, guidelines, and procedural requirements to guide development, coordination, and implementation of long-range plans; and

WHEREAS, the GMA requires the City of Sequim to review and, if needed, revise the Comprehensive Plan by December 31, 2025, to ensure compliance with the requirements of the GMA; and

WHEREAS, part of the Comprehensive Plan update includes a new climate action plan requirement and the City anticipates being able to meet the December 31, 2025 deadline for preparing that plan; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.70A.035 requires reasonable public participation efforts to be conducted whenever comprehensive plans or development regulations are amended; and

WHEREAS, the City must adopt a Public Participation Plan (PPP) as part of its compliance with the GMA; and

WHEREAS, delays in receiving and finalizing the required information from Clallam County and internal transitions within the City's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) have delayed adoption of the PPP; and

WHEREAS, the City directed its consultant to create a website for anyone interested in the work being conducted on the City's Comprehensive Plan even though the PPP has not yet been formally adopted; and

WHEREAS, a proposed PPP, attached as Exhibit A, provides the public with an opportunity to learn about, comment on the review, and contribute to the revisions of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the PPP has been updated to identify work that has already been accomplished and to include a new proposed general Work Plan to complete revisions needed in the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the PPP is intended to broadly disseminate information about the procedures employed to amend the Comprehensive Plan and provides for early and continuous opportunities for the public to participate in the update process, consistent with RCW 36.70A.130(2)(a) and RCW 36.70A.140; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the proposed PPP and Work Plan is reasonably calculated to provide notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals and businesses, government agencies, the Sequim School District, and other organizations;

NOW THEREFORE the City Council of the City of Sequim, Washington, hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. Adoption of Findings. The recitals above are considered findings by the City Council and are adopted by this reference.

Section 2. Adoption of Plans and Schedules. The Public Participation Plan and conceptual schedule attached and incorporated as Exhibit A are adopted and will guide public participation efforts during completion of the Comprehensive Plan amendment cycle.

APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Sequim at a regular meeting thereof this 14th day of April 2025.

Brandon Janisse, Mayor

Attest:

Heather Robley, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

Kristina Nelson-Gross, City Attorney

CITY OF SEQUIM

2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Public Participation Plan | 2024-2025

Sequim, WA

March 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Sequim is undertaking a periodic review and update of its comprehensive plan, as required by the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), RCW 36.70A.130(5). The GMA sets forth that Clallam County and its cities should review and revise, if needed, their comprehensive plans to ensure the plan comply with GMA requirements. The periodic review shall continue for every ten years thereafter. The updated Sequim Comprehensive Plan is due December 30, 2025.

The GMA requires that local governments manage growth, protect their resources, and strengthen their ability to meet evolving community needs by periodically updating their plans and goals and implementing them through capital investment and development regulations. The updated Comprehensive Plan we're developing now is expected to guide Sequim through the year 2045.

As part of this process, the City has adopted a Public Participation Plan (PPP) designed to engage the community, gather feedback, and ensure that our residents and businesses are involved in decision-making about Sequim's future. The City's Public Participation Plan was prepared in 2024 by City's consultant SJC Alliance, in coordination with staff; this is an update prepared to reflect our ongoing engagement activity (and includes the initial PPP by reference).

This PPP may be revised as needed during this update process and activities not anticipated may occur or be added without revision of this plan. Errors in exact compliance with this specific public participation program shall not constitute grounds for invalidation of legislation adopted under the update, so long as the spirit of the procedures are observed, unless otherwise provided by state or federal law.

2.0 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OUTREACH 2024

Website

In early 2024, City staff and the SCJ Alliance team created the "Sequimagine" website to inform the public about the Comprehensive Plan update, housing needs, climate resilience, and a planned update of development regulations. Through this website, the team also collected feedback through online survey, quick poll, and invitations to workshops.

Stakeholder Interviews

In March 2024, SCJ conducted orientation interviews with community representatives, collaborators, and other interested parties. These were a combination of in-person and virtual meetings scheduled in a way

to accommodate diverse working schedules and home life responsibilities. The consultant team held interviews with 25 people or groups and collected valuable feedback.

Community Workshops

Between June 11-13, 2024, we held three workshops – Vision, Vision to Scenarios, and a Transportation Open House, that were well attended and resulted in a great deal of input on the community's vision for Sequim for the next twenty years. At the same time, the City conducted a storefront studio featuring drop-in access to talk to the consultant team and a project gallery.

On September 17, 2024, another community workshop was held with the community, Sequim Planning Commission and members of the City Council on potential growth scenarios developed by SCJ. The Future Scenario Workshop was well attended at Guy Cole Center and engaged in an evaluative discussion on the opportunities and challenges with the planned growth.



Community members gather during a Future Land Use Workshop hosted by the Comprehensive Plan consultants and City Staff on September 17, 2024.

Other community engagement included City staff attendance at Sequim Farmers Market in summer of 2024 promoting the Sequimagine comprehensive plan update with educational materials and upcoming workshop notices.

Middle Housing Focus Session

On September 18, 2024, SCJ held a two-hour focus group with local housing professionals to discuss the comprehensive plan update and the requirement by the state legislature to support a variety of housing types within the City's housing stock. The focus session has twelve participants who engaged with SCJ and City staff and the challenges and opportunities of providing housing.

3.0 ONGOING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN 2025

3.1 *Continue Meeting Public Participation Objectives in the initial 2024 PPP, as appropriate in 2025:*

- **Inform residents of the Comprehensive Plan update**, the process, and outcomes, using outreach methods to alert residents and property owners of the variety of participation opportunities.
- **Conduct collaborative events** which use conversation to exchange ideas and information, giving participants more ownership in the outcomes and producing more effective planning documents.
- Include a **range of perspectives**, engaging residents in unique ways to reach a broader audience and understand their goals, needs, and desires.

- Provide **access to engagement opportunities**, events, and participation for all residents within Sequim, including disadvantaged groups and individuals and those who have historically been left out of community planning processes.
- Be transparent and **openly reflect a variety of viewpoints** within the community and the City's process for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.

3.2 *Continue to utilize the established communication channels as appropriate in 2025*:

- Project website: sequimagine.org or City website
- Social media posts
- Press releases
- Mailers and other City communications (flyers, notice boards, etc.)
- Sequim Gazette advertising
- Email lists
- Written comment

3.3 *Utilize the Sequim Planning Commission as the City's designated advisory board on the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update*.

The Sequim Planning Commission is designated as the responsible advisory board for advising the City Council on comprehensive plan and land use issues. Accordingly, the Planning Commission will be the primary source of public involvement in guiding the 2025 update. All Planning Commission meetings are open to the public and interested community members are welcome to attend. Additional information about Planning Commission meetings can be found at sequimwa.gov/223/Planning-Commission, including how to attend meetings virtually.

3.4 *Public hearings on the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update will be held before both the Sequim Planning Commission and City Council.*

Public hearings will be conducted by the Planning Commission and the City Council. This will include opportunities for verbal and written comments. Public notices will be provided consistent with Sequim Municipal Code for legislative actions.

4.0 SCHEDULE

A schedule of community outreach events, Planning Commission meetings on the draft Sequim Comprehensive Plan, and public hearings will be posted and updated regularly on the City's and the Sequimagine websites.

SEQUiMAGINE
PLANNING TODAY, SHAPING TOMORROW