
SENATE BILL 5661

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner and McDonald

Read first time 01/30/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to planning for recreational facilities; and
2 amending RCW 36.70A.070 and 36.70A.080.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.070 and 1998 c 171 s 2 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 The comprehensive plan of a county or city that is required or
7 chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall consist of a map or maps,
8 and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards
9 used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an
10 internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent
11 with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted
12 and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140.

13 Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for
14 each of the following:

15 (1) A land use element designating the proposed general
16 distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land, where
17 appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing, commerce,
18 industry, (~~recreation~~) open spaces, general aviation airports,
19 public utilities, public facilities, and other land uses. The land use

1 element shall include population densities, building intensities, and
2 estimates of future population growth. The land use element shall
3 provide for protection of the quality and quantity of ground water used
4 for public water supplies. Where applicable, the land use element
5 shall review drainage, flooding, and storm water run-off in the area
6 and nearby jurisdictions and provide guidance for corrective actions to
7 mitigate or cleanse those discharges that pollute waters of the state,
8 including Puget Sound or waters entering Puget Sound.

9 (2) A housing element ensuring the vitality and character of
10 established residential neighborhoods that: (a) Includes an inventory
11 and analysis of existing and projected housing needs; (b) includes a
12 statement of goals, policies, objectives, and mandatory provisions for
13 the preservation, improvement, and development of housing, including
14 single-family residences; (c) identifies sufficient land for housing,
15 including, but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for
16 low-income families, manufactured housing, multifamily housing, and
17 group homes and foster care facilities; and (d) makes adequate
18 provisions for existing and projected needs of all economic segments of
19 the community.

20 (3) A capital facilities plan element consisting of: (a) An
21 inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities,
22 showing the locations and capacities of the capital facilities; (b) a
23 forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities; (c) the
24 proposed locations and capacities of expanded or new capital
25 facilities; (d) at least a six-year plan that will finance such capital
26 facilities within projected funding capacities and clearly identifies
27 sources of public money for such purposes; and (e) a requirement to
28 reassess the land use element if probable funding falls short of
29 meeting existing needs and to ensure that the land use element, capital
30 facilities plan element, and financing plan within the capital
31 facilities plan element are coordinated and consistent.

32 (4) A utilities element consisting of the general location,
33 proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities,
34 including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication
35 lines, and natural gas lines.

36 (5) Rural element. Counties shall include a rural element
37 including lands that are not designated for urban growth, agriculture,
38 forest, or mineral resources. The following provisions shall apply to
39 the rural element:

1 (a) Growth management act goals and local circumstances. Because
2 circumstances vary from county to county, in establishing patterns of
3 rural densities and uses, a county may consider local circumstances,
4 but shall develop a written record explaining how the rural element
5 harmonizes the planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020 and meets the
6 requirements of this chapter.

7 (b) Rural development. The rural element shall permit rural
8 development, forestry, and agriculture in rural areas. The rural
9 element shall provide for a variety of rural densities, uses, essential
10 public facilities, and rural governmental services needed to serve the
11 permitted densities and uses. In order to achieve a variety of rural
12 densities and uses, counties may provide for clustering, density
13 transfer, design guidelines, conservation easements, and other
14 innovative techniques that will accommodate appropriate rural densities
15 and uses that are not characterized by urban growth and that are
16 consistent with rural character.

17 (c) Measures governing rural development. The rural element shall
18 include measures that apply to rural development and protect the rural
19 character of the area, as established by the county, by:

20 (i) Containing or otherwise controlling rural development;

21 (ii) Assuring visual compatibility of rural development with the
22 surrounding rural area;

23 (iii) Reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land
24 into sprawling, low-density development in the rural area;

25 (iv) Protecting critical areas, as provided in RCW 36.70A.060, and
26 surface water and ground water resources; and

27 (v) Protecting against conflicts with the use of agricultural,
28 forest, and mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170.

29 (d) Limited areas of more intensive rural development. Subject to
30 the requirements of this subsection and except as otherwise
31 specifically provided in this subsection (5)(d), the rural element may
32 allow for limited areas of more intensive rural development, including
33 necessary public facilities and public services to serve the limited
34 area as follows:

35 (i) Rural development consisting of the infill, development, or
36 redevelopment of existing commercial, industrial, residential, or
37 mixed-use areas, whether characterized as shoreline development,
38 villages, hamlets, rural activity centers, or crossroads developments.
39 A commercial, industrial, residential, shoreline, or mixed-use area

1 shall be subject to the requirements of (d)(iv) of this subsection, but
2 shall not be subject to the requirements of (c)(ii) and (iii) of this
3 subsection. An industrial area is not required to be principally
4 designed to serve the existing and projected rural population;

5 (ii) The intensification of development on lots containing, or new
6 development of, small-scale recreational or tourist uses, including
7 commercial facilities to serve those recreational or tourist uses, that
8 rely on a rural location and setting, but that do not include new
9 residential development. A small-scale recreation or tourist use is
10 not required to be principally designed to serve the existing and
11 projected rural population. Public services and public facilities
12 shall be limited to those necessary to serve the recreation or tourist
13 use and shall be provided in a manner that does not permit low-density
14 sprawl;

15 (iii) The intensification of development on lots containing
16 isolated nonresidential uses or new development of isolated cottage
17 industries and isolated small-scale businesses that are not principally
18 designed to serve the existing and projected rural population and
19 nonresidential uses, but do provide job opportunities for rural
20 residents. Public services and public facilities shall be limited to
21 those necessary to serve the isolated nonresidential use and shall be
22 provided in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

23 (iv) A county shall adopt measures to minimize and contain the
24 existing areas or uses of more intensive rural development, as
25 appropriate, authorized under this subsection. Lands included in such
26 existing areas or uses shall not extend beyond the logical outer
27 boundary of the existing area or use, thereby allowing a new pattern of
28 low-density sprawl. Existing areas are those that are clearly
29 identifiable and contained and where there is a logical boundary
30 delineated predominately by the built environment, but that may also
31 include undeveloped lands if limited as provided in this subsection.
32 The county shall establish the logical outer boundary of an area of
33 more intensive rural development. In establishing the logical outer
34 boundary the county shall address (A) the need to preserve the
35 character of existing natural neighborhoods and communities, (B)
36 physical boundaries such as bodies of water, streets and highways, and
37 land forms and contours, (C) the prevention of abnormally irregular
38 boundaries, and (D) the ability to provide public facilities and public
39 services in a manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

1 (v) For purposes of (d) of this subsection, an existing area or
2 existing use is one that was in existence:

3 (A) On July 1, 1990, in a county that was initially required to
4 plan under all of the provisions of this chapter;

5 (B) On the date the county adopted a resolution under RCW
6 36.70A.040(2), in a county that is planning under all of the provisions
7 of this chapter under RCW 36.70A.040(2); or

8 (C) On the date the office of financial management certifies the
9 county's population as provided in RCW 36.70A.040(5), in a county that
10 is planning under all of the provisions of this chapter pursuant to RCW
11 36.70A.040(5).

12 (e) Exception. This subsection shall not be interpreted to permit
13 in the rural area a major industrial development or a master planned
14 resort unless otherwise specifically permitted under RCW 36.70A.360 and
15 36.70A.365.

16 (6) A transportation element that implements, and is consistent
17 with, the land use element.

18 (a) The transportation element shall include the following
19 subelements:

20 (i) Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;

21 (ii) Estimated traffic impacts to state-owned transportation
22 facilities resulting from land use assumptions to assist the department
23 of transportation in monitoring the performance of state facilities, to
24 plan improvements for the facilities, and to assess the impact of land-
25 use decisions on state-owned transportation facilities;

26 (iii) Facilities and services needs, including:

27 (A) An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation
28 facilities and services, including transit alignments and general
29 aviation airport facilities, to define existing capital facilities and
30 travel levels as a basis for future planning. This inventory must
31 include state-owned transportation facilities within the city or
32 county's jurisdiction boundaries;

33 (B) Level of service standards for all locally owned arterials and
34 transit routes to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system.
35 These standards should be regionally coordinated;

36 (C) For state-owned transportation facilities, level of service
37 standards for highways, as prescribed in chapters 47.06 and 47.80 RCW,
38 to gauge the performance of the system. The purposes of reflecting
39 level of service standards for state highways in the local

1 comprehensive plan are to monitor the performance of the system, to
2 evaluate improvement strategies, and to facilitate coordination between
3 the county's or city's six-year street, road, or transit program and
4 the department of transportation's six-year investment program. The
5 concurrency requirements of (b) of this subsection do not apply to
6 transportation facilities and services of statewide significance except
7 for counties consisting of islands whose only connection to the
8 mainland are state highways or ferry routes. In these island counties,
9 state highways and ferry route capacity must be a factor in meeting the
10 concurrency requirements in (b) of this subsection;

11 (D) Specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance
12 locally owned transportation facilities or services that are below an
13 established level of service standard;

14 (E) Forecasts of traffic for at least ten years based on the
15 adopted land use plan to provide information on the location, timing,
16 and capacity needs of future growth;

17 (F) Identification of state and local system needs to meet current
18 and future demands. Identified needs on state-owned transportation
19 facilities must be consistent with the statewide multimodal
20 transportation plan required under chapter 47.06 RCW;

21 (iv) Finance, including:

22 (A) An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against
23 probable funding resources;

24 (B) A multiyear financing plan based on the needs identified in the
25 comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as the
26 basis for the six-year street, road, or transit program required by RCW
27 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795
28 for public transportation systems. The multiyear financing plan should
29 be coordinated with the six-year improvement program developed by the
30 department of transportation as required by RCW 47.05.030;

31 (C) If probable funding falls short of meeting identified needs, a
32 discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or how land use
33 assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that level of service
34 standards will be met;

35 (v) Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an assessment
36 of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on
37 the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions;

38 (vi) Demand-management strategies.

1 (b) After adoption of the comprehensive plan by jurisdictions
2 required to plan or who choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, local
3 jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit
4 development approval if the development causes the level of service on
5 a locally owned transportation facility to decline below the standards
6 adopted in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan, unless
7 transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of
8 development are made concurrent with the development. These strategies
9 may include increased public transportation service, ride sharing
10 programs, demand management, and other transportation systems
11 management strategies. For the purposes of this subsection (6)
12 "concurrent with the development" shall mean that improvements or
13 strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial
14 commitment is in place to complete the improvements or strategies
15 within six years.

16 (c) The transportation element described in this subsection (6),
17 and the six-year plans required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW
18 36.81.121 for counties, RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation
19 systems, and RCW 47.05.030 for the state, must be consistent.

20 (7) A recreation element showing a comprehensive system of areas
21 and public sites for recreation, natural reservations, parks, parkways,
22 beaches, playgrounds, and other recreational areas, including their
23 locations and proposed development. The recreation element shall allow
24 recreation uses regardless of zoning designations when located inside
25 or within two miles of an urban growth boundary and when no paving or
26 permanent structures are sited thereon.

27 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.080 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 17 s 8 are each
28 amended to read as follows:

29 (1) A comprehensive plan may include additional elements, items, or
30 studies dealing with other subjects relating to the physical
31 development within its jurisdiction, including, but not limited to:

- 32 (a) Conservation; and
33 (b) Solar energy(~~and~~
34 ~~(c) Recreation~~)).

35 (2) A comprehensive plan may include, where appropriate, subarea
36 plans, each of which is consistent with the comprehensive plan.

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