

# Memorandum

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**To:** Steering Committee

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**From:** Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)

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**CC:** Spokane County Building and Planning

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**Date:** September 21, 2022

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**Re:** PTAC Recommendation, Countywide Planning Policies

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The Planning Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) is established by an interlocal agreement to advise and support the Steering Committee of Elected Officials (SCEO) on proposed changes to the Countywide Planning Policies (CPP). The PTAC is composed of staff from Spokane County, cities within Spokane County, Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Spokane Transit Authority, and representatives from the tribes and Fairchild Airforce Base.

The CPP are required by Growth Management Act (GMA) and provide a regional framework for jurisdictions to develop their comprehensive plans. The CPP and the coordinated effort to develop them help ensure consistency between the comprehensive plans of the county and the cities.

On May 18, 2022, the subcommittee of the SCEO requested the PTAC review and provide recommended updates to the CPP in preparation for the mandated periodic update scheduled for June 30, 2026. The PTAC began its review in June of 2022 and has been meeting regularly to review each Policy Topic in the CPP. The PTAC is pleased to present its recommended updates to the CPPs. The proposed changes are attached to this memo for the SCEO's consideration as they develop their own recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC).

Today, the PTAC is requesting the SCEO consider the draft CPP as presented by the PTAC and by consensus to move the draft forward to the SCEO's public hearing currently scheduled for October 19, 2022.

Below is a summary of the proposed amendments and identification of additional considerations and issues that the PTAC recommends be addressed in 2023. It is recommended that the SCEO continue to engage the PTAC about these additional issues.

## Statement of Principals

- Update language to reflect changes since 2009
- Add a statement of principal on climate resiliency
- Add a statement of principal on environmental justice and equity

## Policy Topic 1 – Urban Growth Areas (UGAs)

- Ensuring growth occurs where governmental and utility services are already provided or where they could be provided at low-cost
- Promoting collaboration in preserving critical areas
- Update the land quantity analysis (LQA) methodology to include nonresidential uses to accommodate growth

## Policy Topic 2 – Joint Planning within UGAs

- The County, in cooperation with cities, shall formally identify unincorporated UGAs that are similar in character to adjacent cities as a joint planning area
- Cities and the County should/shall establish formal agreements to conduct joint planning

- UGAs adjacent to local municipalities should be suitable for future growth, require consistent development regulation, and ensure the ability to expand urban governmental services
- After joint planning has occurred consider assignment of UGAs

**Policy Topic 3 – Contiguous and Orderly Development and Urban Services**

- Remove the level of service goals in the CPP allowing level of service to be managed by individual jurisdictions’ capital facilities plan(s) (CFPs)

**Policy Topic 4 – Parks and Open Space**

- Not required by the GMA, but the PTAC recommends preserving the policy topic and related policies with no substantive recommended changes

**Policy Topic 5 - Transportation**

- Promote SRTC and STA’s involvement in regional transportation planning
- Add a policy around transit-oriented development (TOD)
- Add a policy to consider the implementation of best practices to reduce vehicle miles travelled

**Policy Topic 6 – Siting of Capital Facilities of Countywide or Statewide Nature**

- Delete redundancies but no substantive changes

**Policy Topic 7 – Affordable Housing**

- PTAC recommends tabling this policy topic while awaiting further guidance from the Department of Commerce on implementing HB 1220.

**Policy Topic 8 – Economic Development**

- Maintain a local perspective to economic analysis within the comprehensive plan
- Ensure adequate provision of commercial and industrial land to support employment growth

**Policy Topic 9 – Fiscal Impacts**

- Preserve the policy topic and related policies with no substantive changes

**Policy Topic 10 – Tribal Cultural Resources**

- This is a new requirement for CPP and is not included in the existing CPP. The PTAC recommends tabling this policy topic while awaiting further guidance from the Department of Commerce.
- Recommend Spokane County make a formal request be made to the tribes with reservations or ceded lands.

**Glossary**

- Various updates to definitions to reflect current practice and clarify meaning.

**Considerations and issues for 2023**

**Updates to the CPP as required by GMA**

- Review and update Policy Topic 7 – Affordable Housing to reflect changes related to the GMA by House Bill 1220.
- Add new policy topic to the CPP to include Tribal Cultural Resources

**Review and Update the Land Quantity Analysis (LQA)**

- Historically the LQA has been adopted by the SCEO though not part of the CPP
- The cities and the County should work together to update the LQA methodology and return to the SCEO for adoption in 2023

Enclosures: PTAC Recommendation to the SCEO, PTAC Powerpoint presentation