



# CITY OF YAKIMA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## Environmental Review | Outreach Update

### What is the Proposal?

The City of Yakima is updating its Comprehensive Plan by June 2017 in accordance with Growth Management Act (GMA). An updated Comprehensive Plan and policies will mean more housing choices, new places to work, better connected roads and parks, new recreation opportunities, and improved public services. As part of the process, it is anticipated that the land use and zoning map will be amended to reflect alternative land use patterns. Some of these changes may include:

- Consolidated plan designations with few categories and greater allowance to change underlying zoning designations if appropriate,
- New policies or map changes to ensure neighborhoods have appropriately defined mixed use commercial centers and a range of housing types, and
- Potentially some zoning changes to better match current land use patterns or alternatively advance the refreshed Comprehensive Plan vision.

### What is An EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a document prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) that provides City decision makers with information about the potential physical impacts to the natural and built environment as a result of projects and future development allowed by plans and policies (non-project actions). The EIS also provides a way for residents, businesses, and other government agencies to comment on the proposal. Contents of an EIS include:

- Proposed actions and alternatives
- Existing conditions of the study area
- Impacts that may occur if an alternative were implemented
- Mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate impacts, and
- Impacts that are significant, unavoidable, and adverse



### Project Information

More information about the project can be found at the following site:

<https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/comprehensive-plan-update/>

### Project Contact

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The Yakima Comprehensive Plan Update SEPA process will include an amended Plan Appendix A (EIS), which will contain environmental analysis of potential impacts up to the level of an EIS. A SEPA Scoping Notice will be prepared and distributed (see schedule) prior to preparation of the Draft EIS to obtain comments on the scope of the analysis and alternatives. Following the Draft EIS issuance and a public comment period, a Final EIS will be completed that responds to comments and corrects or updates the analysis.

### What are the benefits of an Integrated Comprehensive Plan/EIS?

GMA and SEPA have similar requirements to inventory current conditions and test the implications of future growth, as well as consider ways to protect the environment. An integrated Plan and EIS is allowed by SEPA Rules (WAC 197-11-210 to 235). Benefits of the Integrated Plan/EIS include:

- Combined Comprehensive Plan Update and SEPA processes, analysis, and documents
- Reducing duplicated efforts through preparing the Plan and EIS together
- Efficient use of resources through the combined effort

The Integrated Plan/EIS will offer a fresh analysis and integration with the public review process. The Draft Plan and EIS will be issued concurrently and be available to the Planning Commission, while the Final Plan and Final EIS will go to the City Council. A 60-day comment period is required and will provide the opportunity for Yakima residents and business owners, stakeholders, and agencies to give input on the Draft Plan and its impacts. Mitigation may include amended policies or codes.

### What is the status of the Schedule and Outreach activities?

The SEPA process takes place parallel to the Comprehensive Plan update and adoption processes. In the second half of 2016, the Draft Plan and Draft EIS will be developed. A workshop on the Draft Elements will take place in the fall, and an open house on the proposed Draft Plan will occur before the end of 2016, following the issuance of the Draft EIS. A 60-day comment period will occur into January 2017. The Comprehensive Plan Update will move through the Planning Commission and Council in the first half of 2017. Final Adoption is targeted for June 30, 2017.

