

Public Engagement Summary

Yakima Comprehensive Plan | June 2026

Introduction

This document provides an overview of public engagements that took place for the Yakima Comprehensive Plan update from April 2025 to June 2026. Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) (RCW 36.70A.140) requires “an early and continuous public participation” during the Comprehensive Plan update process. A city planning under the GMA is required to establish procedures for “broad dissemination of proposals and alternatives, opportunity for written comments, public meetings after effective notice, provision for open discussion, communication programs, information services, and consideration of and response to public comments.”

The City developed a public participation plan in early 2025 and undertook public engagement at various levels to disseminate information, gather input, and incorporate them throughout the planning process. The process allowed multiple methods of communication such as, in person, virtual and written communication and via English and Spanish translations.

Outreach Efforts

Public engagement incorporated two interrelated public engagements: public engagement under the Climate Planning Grant to meet specific outreach goals while developing the new Climate Element, and public engagement meeting specific GMA requirements for the overall Comprehensive Plan. Additionally, a web-based information hub was developed by the City to provide readily-available education and information services, as well as a two-way communication tool with community surveys. The Planning Commission workshop was a venue for overall update review.

Public engagement efforts included and continue to include the following:

- Participation in meetings and surveys
- Public open houses on visioning, policy review and draft Plan review
- Targeted outreach to specific groups (Resilient Yakima, Bike and Ped Committee), local tribes
- Communication of information via website
- Public meetings after effective notice
- Opportunity for written comments

Translation Services

The City engaged Yakima's Spanish-speaking community by providing Spanish interpreter in public workshops, reaching out to Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and making notifications available in Spanish.

Public Open Houses

Open House 1: Visioning

The City of Yakima hosted an Open House at the OIC Henry Beauchamp Community Center on April 16, 2025. Roughly 20 people were present. The purpose of this open house was to publicly kick off the Comprehensive Plan periodic update and create a broad vision for the city. The goal was to ensure public feedback to develop a clear vision for Yakima for the next 20 years.

The Open House started with a presentation, which provided an overview of what a Comprehensive Plan is and the key topics that will be discussed. After the presentation, meeting participants were divided into three small groups, with one group focused on individuals who spoke Spanish as a primary language. The majority of the meeting was centered around two exercises:

- A **Map Exercise** to identify opportunities for housing and job growth in Yakima, as well as the opportunities and challenges present
- A **Visioning Exercise** to better understand what makes Yakima a unique place to live.

Map Exercise

The Map Exercise asked questions about Land Use and Housing; as well as Natural Hazards. Key takeaways are below:

Land Use and Housing

- Landmarks are historic structures, parks, and other noticeable locations within a city that generates local and regional draw. When asked about key landmarks within Yakima, there was general consensus across all groups that these include parks, the neighborhood greenway, and downtown. All commercial nodes were also identified as key places within the city.
- With regards to commercial uses specifically, there was a desire to see Downtown activated. People noted that there has been an increase of vacancies, and safety issues, which impact commercial success in Downtown. New commercial uses have also been growing in the western part of the city.
- When asked where the city should build more housing, several key areas were brought up:
 - Around areas where transit lines intersect. Most notable, S 16th Ave was brought up as a key area for additional homes.
 - More housing near commercial areas in west Yakima.
- The UGA east of downtown has seen an influx of new housing development. There was support for more housing in the UGA.

Natural Hazards

- Natural Hazards include severe weather events such as wildfires, smoke, flooding, drought and more. There was a comment that flooding is more prevalent on the north side of the City.
- Many participants noted that there is a new 5th season in Yakima- wildfire season. Wildfire smoke has a city-wide impact, especially on people with health conditions such as asthma, COPD etc.

Visioning Exercise

The goal of the visioning exercise is to understand through the community members' lived experiences, what makes Yakima a great place to live, and challenges faced. Key Takeaways are described below. Exhibit 1 includes the markup of the maps and notes during the open house.

Opportunities

When asked what opportunities were present in Yakima, the following themes were identified:

- People love how centrally Yakima is located, and the City's residents. Furthermore, people noted the economy (particularly hops and wine), and the lack of traffic.
- Yakima is a great place to live because of its proximity to nature, as well as parks and open space.
- Opportunities for Hispanic communities to live in Yakima
- The airport is great for economic opportunities.

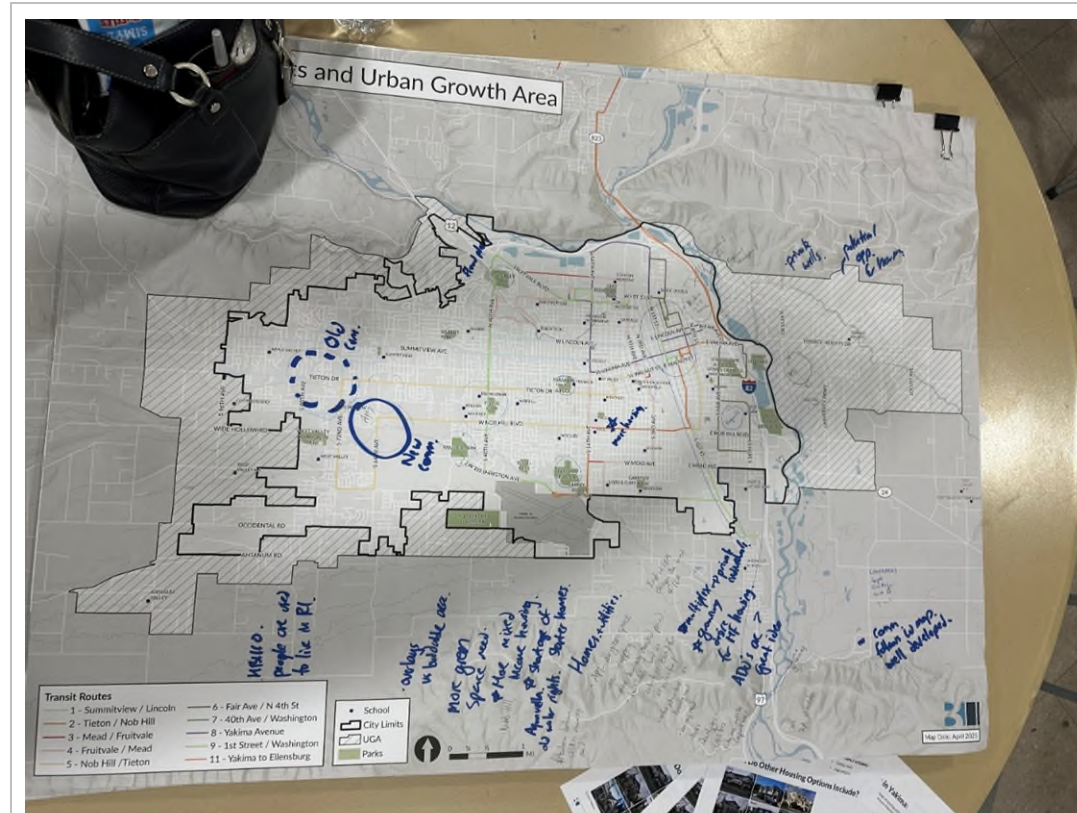
Challenges

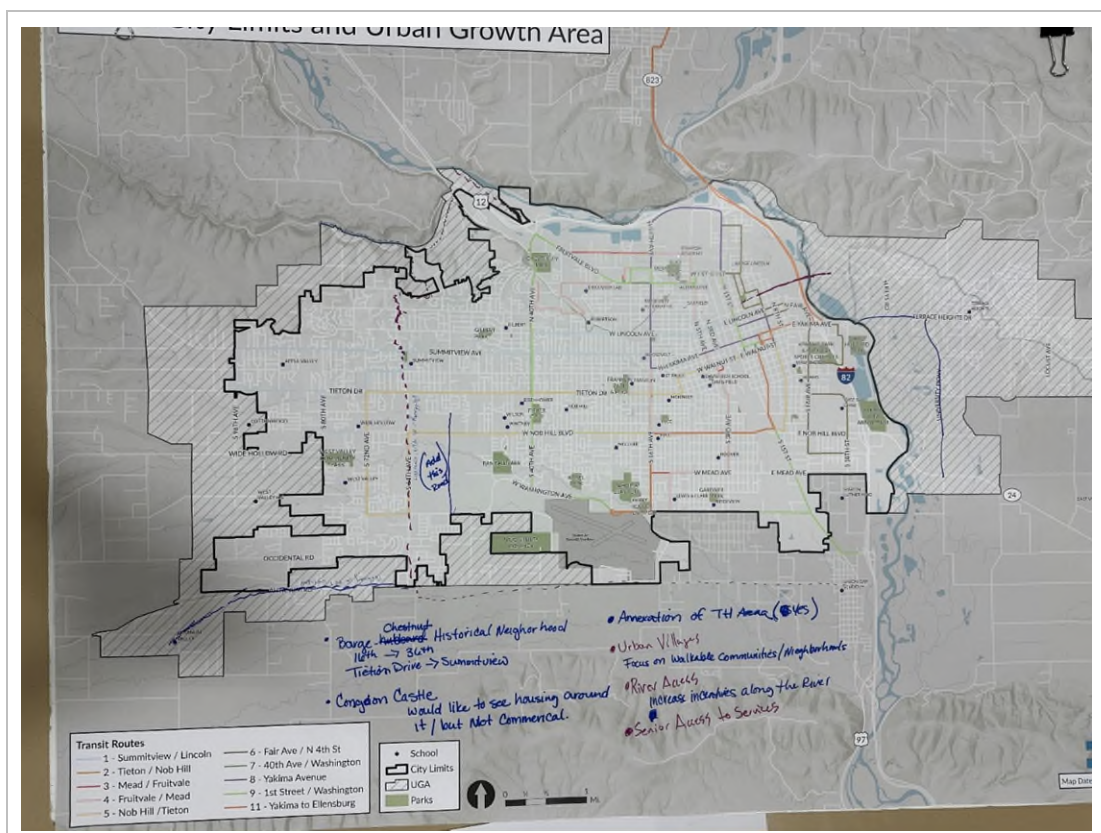
When asked what challenges were present in Yakima, the following themes were identified:

- The Yakima Mall closure was an economic loss for the City
- There is a need for more infrastructure and capital investment. High impact fees and costs make affordable housing more difficult
- The cost of business is high (energy, infrastructure, irrigation)
- Lack of safety in the Downtown area
- Increasing housing price for younger people
- An overall need for more transit

Big Ideas for Yakima

- The airport provides a unique opportunity for future economic development opportunities. Investments should be made to support air travel, to make Yakima into a destination
- Invest in agritourism opportunities
- Address barriers for housing- particularly for first time homebuyers. Strategies include adding more housing options (multifamily, ADU's), financial incentives, and home maintenance programs.
- The agriculture industry is changing and requires new technology. The City should invest in education and job training for youth to support them staying in the City and be successful.

[illegible]



- HB 1110- People are used to living in areas like the R1 zoning designation
- Overlays vs buildable areas
- More green space needed
- More mixed income housing needed
- Shortage of starter homes
- Balance between utilities and housing needed (note: there are a lot of utility districts in the area)
 - Infrastructure makes development tough
 - Developers have to carry the cost – makes cost of affordable housing more difficult
- Apartments have no green space
- More homes near shopping areas are needed
- More housing is needed
- Buildable land vs what is zoned for residential
- Infrastructure vs housing needed
- More trees
- Impact fees are expensive for developers- makes affordable housing tough
- More housing east of 16th
- Multiplex – private individuals
- Growing desire for MF housing

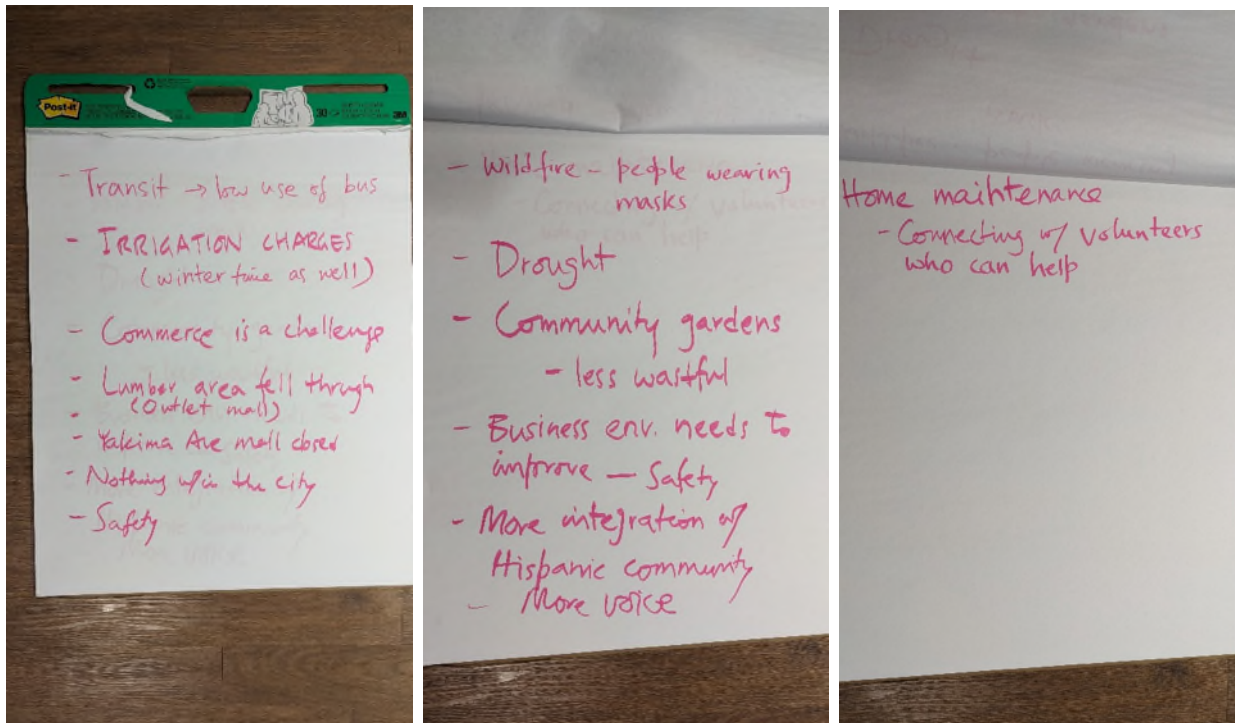
- ADU's are great idea
- Downtown
- Central place for shopping and residential around it
- Activate downtown
- Things to improve:
 - Create more community gardens- city donating land lots so people can grow their own vegetables and provide training
- Community clean-up day – where people can donate time to pick up garbage/debris around communities
- Thing I like about Yakima:
 - A big city with a small town feel
 - A lot of farm work available
 - Work opportunities for a lot of people regardless of education
 - Feel safe in the sense of not being discriminated
 - Were able to buy first home through habitat for humanity
- Challenges for young people buying homes
 - Prices too high
 - Not enough for down payment
- Weather
 - Higher utility bills for heating and AC- cannot afford to choose between grocers-utilities
- Other housing options
 - More affordable housing
 - Young people look for low maintenance housing affordable for first time ownership
- Programs to engage young kids and seniors
- Attract new businesses
- Safety affects new businesses.
- Make recycling centers
- Programs for first time ownership + financial education
- Yakima needs more healthcare
- More homes to west valley
- Barge-Chestnut Historical Neighborhood (16th -> 36th)
- Congdon Castle – see more housing around it, but not commercial
- Annexation of TH area (yes)
- Urban villages - focus on walkable communities/neighborhoods
- River Access - increase incentives along the River

- Senior access to services.

Group Discussion Notes

Exhibit 2, Exhibit 3, and Exhibit 4 shows group discussion notes.

Exhibit 2. Group Discussion Note - Group 1



Challenges

- Transit- low use of bus
- Irrigation charges (wintertime as well)
- Commerce is a challenge
- Lumber area fell through (outlet mall)
- Yakima Ave Mall Closed
- Nothing within the city
- Safety

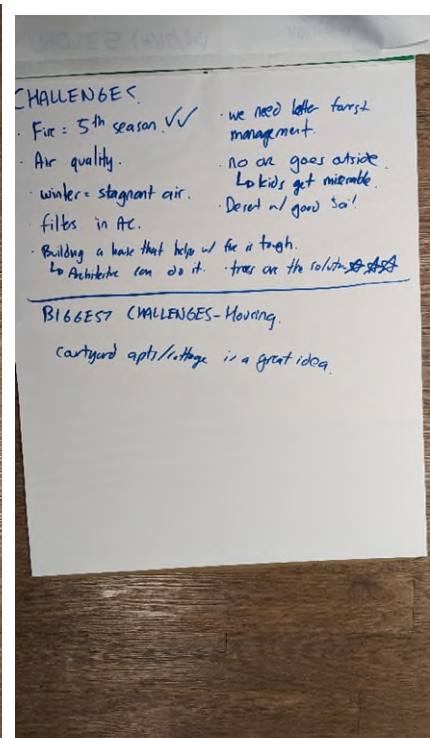
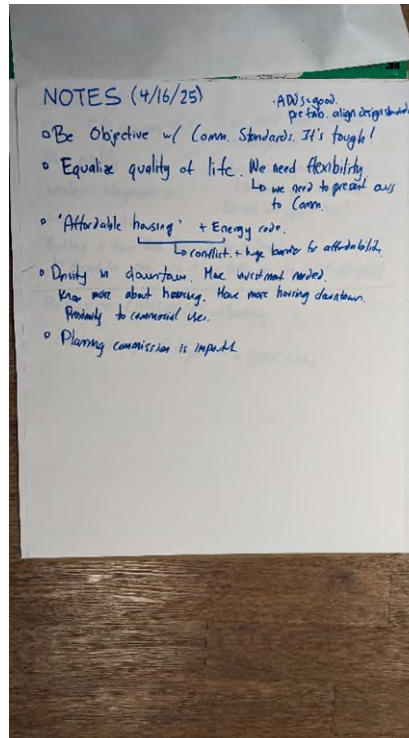
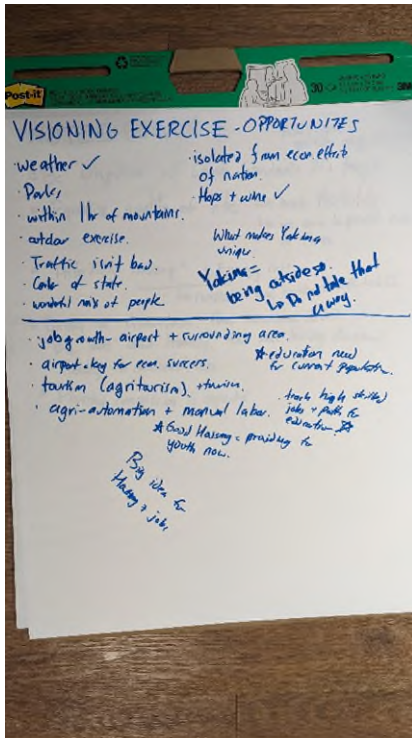
Natural Hazards and Climate

- Wildfire- people wearing masks
- Drought
- Community Gardens (less wasteful)
- Business environment needs to improve – safety
- More integration of Hispanic community (more voice)

- Home maintenance (connecting with volunteers who can help)

Group 2

Exhibit 3. Group Discussion Note - Group 2



Opportunities

- Weather
- Parks
- Within 1 hour of mountains
- Outdoor exercise
- Traffic isn't bad
- Center of state
- Wonderful mix of people
- Isolated from economic effects of nation
- Hops and wine
- Planning Commission is important

Challenges

- Be objective with Commerce standards – it's tough
- Equalize quality of life. No need flexibility

- Affordable housing and energy code – conflict + huge barrier for affordability
- Density in downtown – more investment needed. Know more about housing. Have more housing downtown – proximity to commercial uses

Big ideas

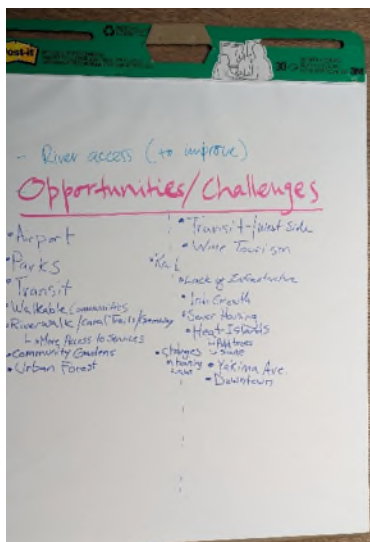
- Job growth – airport and surrounding area
- Airport – key for economic success
- Tourism (agritourism)
- Agri-automation and manual labor
- Education needed for current population
- Teach high skilled jobs + paths for education
- Good housing = providing for youth now
- Courtyard apartments and cottage housing are great ideas.

Weather & Natural Hazards

- Fire – 5th season
- Air quality
- Winter = stagnant air
- AC filters
- Building a house that helps with fire is tough
 - Architecture can do it
- We need better forest management
- No one goes outside – kids get miserable
- Desert with good soil
- Trees are the solution

Group 3

Exhibit 4. Group Discussion Note - Group 3



Opportunities

- River access
- Airport
- Parks
- Transit
- Walkable communities
- Riverwalk/canal trails/ greenway
 - More access to services
- Community gardens
- Urban forest

Challenges

- Transit on westside
- Wine tourism
- Lack of infrastructure
- Job growth
- Senior housing
- Heat island (add trees/shade)
- Changes in housing law
- Yakima Ave
- Downtown

Open House 2: Planning Commission Workshop & Policies Review

The City of Yakima hosted a public meeting for the City's Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update on September 24th, 2025 at the Harman Senior Center. The goal of this meeting was to continue to inform the public about project updates for the Comprehensive Plan, facilitate conversations around housing and land use; and allow for community members to review the proposed goals and policies for the comprehensive plan update. The Open House included a small group discussion, and a poster session where meeting participants were able to review all goals and policies. There were roughly 50-60 people in attendance at the Open House.

Small Group Discussion Summary

The first half of the open house was dedicated to small group discussions. Four small groups were formed with about 10-15 people in each group. Key themes include:

Housing and Land Use

- **Supply:** Build more diverse housing typologies, including: more starter homes for first-time buyers, middle housing, and ADU's.
- **Affordability:** Develop housing incentives to support affordable housing development. Mixed income neighborhoods
- **Standards:** Minimize design standards for housing, including colors, and facades.
 - Middle housing can and should look like single family homes.

Transportation

- **Safety:** Improve traffic safety to address speeding, and prioritize improvements for walking and biking.
 - Freight routes should be enforced and encouraged to minimize trucks, and their impacts on air quality/public health.
- **Walkability and biking:** expand the city's sidewalk and biking network to improve local connectivity.

Climate Resilience

- **Parks and Green Space:** There was overwhelmingly huge support for the creation of new parks and green space as a public amenity. Park access should have safe routes to them.
- **Maintenance:** Home weatherization, street maintenance.
- **Extreme temperatures:** The City should provide cooling/heating centers during the events of extreme temperatures, and additional shade infrastructure (i.e. trees). The City should explore solar energy as a future source of energy as well.

Poster Session Summary

The last section of the Open House was a poster section where meeting participants can provide direct feedback on proposed goals and policies in the Comprehensive Plan. Each board showed all changes to existing goals and policies. Any policies, or text, removed were indicated with a ~~red cross through~~. Added language was shown through a blue underline.

Meeting participants had two ways that they could provide comment:

- Direct edits to the policies, or with a post it note (pens and markers were provided)
- Leave a dot next to a goal or policy to indicate support (a visual +1 symbol)

The section below, shows photos of each board at the open house. The tables below share all feedback received on goals and policies of the Comprehensive plan.

Full Small Group Discussion Notes

Group 1

- CBD- zoning
- Broad policies
 - Not regulations
 - Too specific
- Land Use Element
 - 2.3.5 -> Design Standards
 - 2.3.7 -> Provide zoning incentives
- Housing Element
 - Affordable housing
 - Lack of inventory (how to get to the next step)
 - Progression/transition
 - Diversity of Housing stock
 - House sits vacant
 - Incentives?
 - ADUs
 - More education
 - Maintenance -> has improved
 - Weatherizing homes – non profit
 - Encourage neighborhood level maintenance – how to enforce?
 - Absentee land lord- does not take care of properties
 - Short term rental
 - Not enough family wage jobs

Group 2

- Centrally located (hub)- Upper Valley
- Skiing, biking
- More entertainment
- Walkable
- Great for getting involved + make a difference
- Convenient
- Bike friendly
- Diversity
- ADA Compliance (with transit and buildings)
- Land Use
 - 15 minute neighborhoods
 - Less SF zoning, more amenities and parks
 - Housing affordability
 - A little of everything (we need more)
- Housing
 - Unhoused- we need more human services with housing
 - Work with other agencies and seek funding
 - Duplexes that look like SF – many folks think it does not look disruptive
 - Don't create more liability (community shouldn't pay)
 - Support for Middle Housing
 - Housing affordability more starter homes and mixed income neighborhoods
 - Not enough profit margins for affordable housing
 - Space
 - Sustainable
- Big Ideas
 - More bike paths and sidewalks
 - Do more things
 - Yakima Ave- more like 2nd st. pedestrian friendly + accessible
 - Revitalize downtown
 - Freight- enforce freight routes (Yakima Ave should not be a truck route)
 - Improve air quality and potholes
 - Address health disparities
 - Clean air authority
 - Safe affordable homes, sustainable

- Higher density in Yakima + spaces for gathering (more programming i.e. concerts)
- More community involvement and organizing (foster community)
- Tree code
- Solar (in parking lots)
- More use centers (youth)

Group 3

- Urban Forest
- Greenway- burnt down
- Annexation of Terrace Heights
- Pacific Power – notice of unplanned outages for fires, extreme heat/cold (more discussions needed)
- Identify heating/cooling centers
- Better notifications (for land use decisions- could be improved)
- Back up power for resiliency
- What is the city's responsibility for notifying people re: extreme weather
 - Siren for community
- Streets can be dangerous
- Speeding is a problem
- Not enough housing
- More homes / smaller lots
- Parking on street
- Not enough bus routes (and slower service in the evenings).
- No sidewalk connectivity- more people need to walk
- Preserving existing residential neighborhoods
- ADUs are good
- Need to have more sidewalks – how do we require more sidewalks
- We need better parking
- Parks are important – how to get to them safely (more green space)
 - Should be required
- New development should require sidewalks
- Sidewalks vs walking paths
 - People in wheelchairs struggle
- Roads different from city to county- standardize
- Private green spaces should not count (i.e. golf courses)

- Services close to people
- More/safer crosswalks
- Pedestrians need to be able to cross commercial streets like Nob Hill

Group 4

- Code compliance – working with violators. Complaint driven- not just complaints
- Provide usable open space- do not delete [parks element 2.2.5]
- Update 2.4.4 2013 Downtown Plan – Update Plan
- More public open space
- Vacant building into apartments
- Adopt a flower pot
- Lack of code enforcement
- Design standards for historic buildings/districts
- More events downtown like used to happen on front street
- Strike language about trolley (2.4.4) – note: not everyone agreed
- Shade infrastructure 2.4.3
- Maintain your greenspace
- Drought resistant plants
- 2.5.5. keep or put somewhere else
- No design standards for color, façade, etc.

Open House 3: Draft Comprehensive Plan

The City conducted an open house on the draft Comprehensive Plan on June 2023 at Harman Center, located at 101 N 65th Ave, Yakima, WA 98908. This was conducted in coordination with the Planning Commission workshop. Roughly 20 people were in attendance. Multiple stations were set up based on topics and issues (land use/housing, downtown/economic development/historic preservation, parks and recreation, etc.). City staff and the BERK consulting team presented the various topics on the draft Plan. Discussion was grouped in four broad categories:

- Comprehensive Plan overview
- Land Use and Housing
- Transportation
- Parks and Recreation and Capital Facilities

General comments

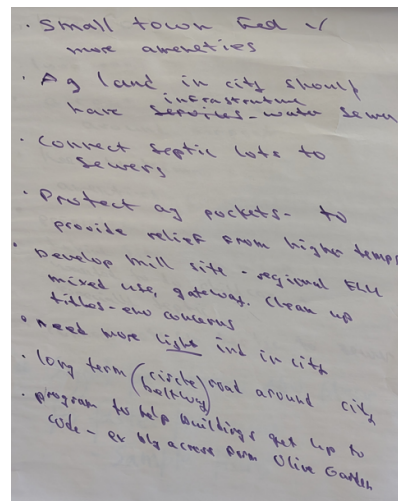
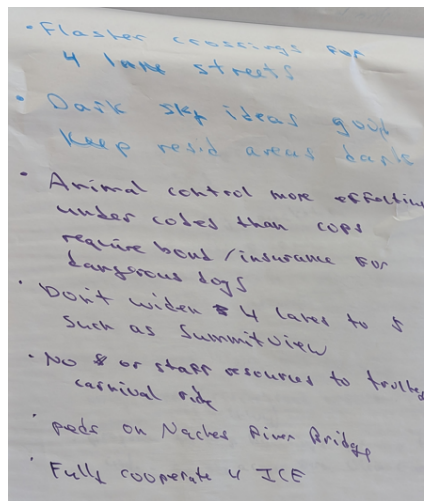
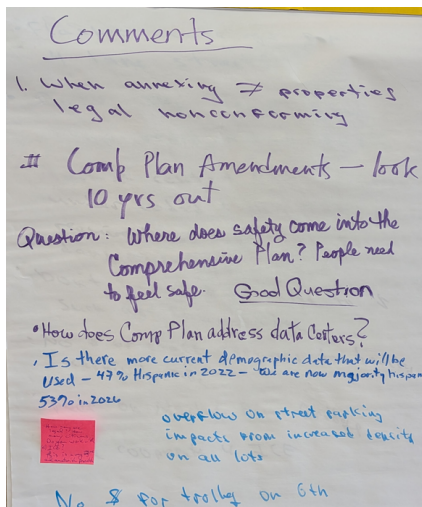
General comments received from the open house are as follows:

- Overview

- Use more updated data year, if possible, for instance Hispanic community comprises of 53% of the total population in 2026.
 - Ensure annexation of properties doesn't increase more legal non-conformity.
 - Density increase impacting overflow of parking
 - Staff resources needed
 - Maintain dark sky ideas especially for residential areas
- Infrastructure and public services
 - Add infrastructure, e.g. water and sewer in Ag lands in the city
 - Connect sewer to lots that are on septic
 - Small town feel with more amenities
 - Keep Yakima's amenities such as parks and trails
 - Prioritize and connect lots with septic to sewer
 - Judge a city by how it cares for all its people; prioritize budget decisions to shift in that direction; find ways to fund parks and recreation, senior centers etc. without depending on donations.
 - Improved healthcare with increased number of seniors
 - Need to encourage usage of solar energy, solar panel in residential and industrial uses
- Land use
 - Clean up environmental issues and develop Mill site, add regional facilities, mixed use, gateway design
 - Need more light industrial in the City
 - Airport related developments around the airport
- Climate related
 - Protect Ag pockets in the city to provide relief from higher temperature
 - Future planning on water quality and availability given the increasing drought years
 - Put more focus on mitigating the "heat islands" that impart
- Housing
 - Suggest pre-approved ADU plans for faster processing; provide sample plans
- Energy
 - Include encouragement or incentives for warehouse and large buildings to install rooftop solar panel
 - Energy goal 12.3 – conservation of energy – do not allow data centers – they consume massive amounts of electricity
- Environment
 - Strict adherence to SEPA, no bypassing rules; SEPA reports by a 3rd party
- Transportation

- Four lane roads design – faster crossing
- Keep roads to four lanes, not to expand to five lanes
- Allow pedestrian on Naches River bridge
- Consider long term beltway (loop road) around the city
- Loop road in NE Terrace Heights
- Future para transit
- Sync traffic signal timing
- Accessibility in the transportation Plan
- Repair roads that are without road base; not just chipseal
- Development regulations:
 - CUPs and animal controls issues – should require bond for dangerous animals
 - Set up a program to bring buildings up to the code
 - Zoning flexibility for marijuana retailers and make better use of taxes generate
 - Consider moratorium on data centers until its impacts are further studies
 - Work on the code barking ordinance; need code enforcement

Exhibit 5. Open House 3 Public Comments



Outreach to Specific Groups

Yakima Pedestrian and Bike Group

BERK team (Transpo) and City staff met with the City's Ped/Bike Group on February 11, 2026. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the multimodal level of service (MMLOS), and specifically discuss the active mode (pedestrian and bicycle) components. Transpo shared the City's active mode LOS standards (which essentially adopt the pedestrian and bicycle master plans), and then asked for feedback from members. Generally, members were in favor of the approach, but noted that some of the recommendations in those master plans should be revisited. The group members also noted that shared streets (sharrows) were a recommended "low hanging fruit" to be prioritized. Transpo staff then met with ped/bike group members again during the presentation of the draft plan at the June 23, 2026 public open house. Ped/bike group members provided a thorough review of the planned projects, and recommended tweaks to a few projects as well as some deletions for projects that were carry-overs from the 2015 transportation element that had already been constructed.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Neighborhood Groups

City staff reached out to Yakima Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Staff presented the Comprehensive Plan update process during the Chamber's meeting during in 2025. Staff also participate in a "coffee with the community" and shared the Comprehensive Plan update process with the community.

Resilient Yakima Meetings

The City and consultant team worked with Resilient Yakima, the Climate Policy Advisory Team (CPAT). A total of three meetings took place from Summer to Fall of 2025. Meetings were planned as follows:

- Overview of Climate Element requirements,
- Discuss community assets, hazards and impacts
- Vulnerability assessment
- Policy audit

See Appendix A for CPAT meeting details.

Local Tribe

The City reached out to Yakama Nation starting in Fall of 2025. Several outreach attempts took place and the City staff met with staff from the Tribe. Yakama Nation discussed topics to be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan. See attachment and timeline of the communication in Appendix B.

Public Survey

The City conducted a public survey in 2025. Overall questions were designed to familiarize the community about the Comprehensive Plan update process and collect input from the community. The survey asked the community input in the following areas:

- Community priorities
- Goals and policies
- Land use preferences
- Bike and pedestrian facilities
- Housing
- Infrastructure
- Facilities and services
- Economic development

A total 141 people responded to the survey. Most of the participant were 35 years of older, 13% responders were Hispanic.

Majority of the participants expressed an overall agreement with the proposed goals and policies. They identified the need of the community to focus on economic development, public health, and safety. Participants felt that the City doesn't have sufficient bike and pedestrian infrastructure facilities. Majority of the participants responded that Yakima needs more affordable housing. In terms of infrastructure - road network and sidewalks were prioritized by the participants. Participants also prioritized police, fire, and parks and recreational facilities. Among employment industries, the community felt medical, manufacturing and technology should be given priority. The participants felt that the City's needs to support local business more.

Online Portals

Ongoing updates of the Comprehensive Plan and material are available at the City's portal at: <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/cpas/>

Additionally, all planning Commission workshop materials (Comprehensive Plan discussion) are available on the Planning Commission webpage: <https://www.yakimawa.gov/services/planning/ypc/>

Conclusion

The City received feedback on visions, policies and contents of the Comprehensive Plan. The updated Comprehensive Plan reflects the community's visions and values.

Appendices

Appendix A: Resilient Yakima Engagement Details

Appendix B: Communication between the City and Yakama Nation

Appendix A

Resilient Yakima Meeting #1

Agenda and notes | June 13th, 2025 | 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Agenda

2:30-2:40 - Welcome and introductions

2:40-2:55 – Explanation of the Comprehensive Plan Climate Change and Resiliency Element

2:55-3:05 - Review of the Critical Steps Memo

3:05-3:20 – Review of Assets and discussion time

3:20-3:30 – Schedule following Meeting on Hazards and Impacts

Notes

2:30-2:40 - Welcome and introductions

- Kamal Raslan, BERK
- Oneza, BERK
- Laura Baetscher, Cascadia Consulting
- Trevor Martin, City of Yakima planning manager
- Keith Wolf, RY member
- Daniel Shapiro, RY member
- Sy Ruiz, RY member
- Phil Hoge, RY member

2:40-2:55 – Explanation of the Comprehensive Plan Climate Change and Resiliency Element

The [Comprehensive Plan](#) for the city of Yakima is a 20 year plan that provides a roadmap for the city's growth and the changes that need to happen to accommodate this growth. The Climate Change and Resiliency Element is a new requirement of the Comprehensive Plan from the State of Washington that ensures that planning jurisdictions are effectively preparing for potential hazards in their town and addressing ways to alleviate the impacts of these hazards. Yakima is taking an “integrated” climate element approach that is further

explained in the attached critical steps memo. The reason for the formation of this group is that the City wants to ensure that people who are interested and invested in improving the resilience of Yakima to certain hazards have a chance to contribute to this work.

Question from Keith related to making sure that we are using the best available science for our work.

Answer: we are using information from the [University of Washington Climate Impacts Group](#) as well as scientific data from the IPCC.

Comment from several members noting that extreme heat is a major concern and asking how we are hoping to address this concern.

Answer: we have identified extreme heat as a significant hazard in our pre-work which includes a Hazard Impacts Assessment (attached)

Comment from several members noting that while wildfire smoke is an identified concern, the labor day fire has put the direct risk of wildfire in the forefront of concerns for the town and asking how we are hoping to address this concern.

Answer: We have also identified the City's [wildland urban interface](#) in our Hazard Impacts Assessment and hope to discuss strategies to increase the resilience of identified assets to the town.

2:55-3:05 - Review of the Critical Steps Memo

No additional comments on the critical steps memo at this time. Members are welcome to provide additional feedback via email.

3:05-3:20 - Review of Assets and discussion time

Several additional assets that are unlisted have been identified and will be added as assets of concern in the critical steps memo. These assets are highlighted in the attached asset list and further analysis will be done as part of meeting #2.

- Canals, Ditches, and Citywide irrigation system – some outside of Yakima that the city still depends on for conveyance
- Community Centers
- Youth Centers

Additional Thoughts:

Question: If resilience strategies and policies are to be interspersed throughout the Comprehensive Plan, where in the comprehensive plan are we hoping to put hazards that pose a threat to Yakima?

Answer: it will likely make the most sense to put these in the Natural Environment Element of the comprehensive plan or in the introduction section depending. We can discuss this more later. Please review the existing Comprehensive Plan and see which element you think would make the most sense to incorporate hazards into.

To Dos before next meeting (all members):

- Review Hazard Impact Assessment (attached) and come prepared to meeting #2 to discuss your thoughts
- Review existing Comprehensive Plan ([linked here](#)) and come prepared to meeting #2 to discuss your thoughts

To Dos before next meeting (RY members who were not able to attend meeting #1)

- Review Asset List (attached) and provide additional thoughts via email
- Review Critical Steps memo (attached) and provide additional thoughts via email

Resilient Yakima Meeting #2

Notes | July 17th, 2025 | 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Participants

Trevor Martin, PM City of Yakima

Jason Radtke, Sr. Planner City of Yakima

Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District

Dan Schapiro, Teacher at YBC, former member Sustainable Yakima

Phil Hoge, Planner with County of Yakima

Marcelino Osorio, Pacific Power, former member of Sustainable Yakima

Kamal Raslan, Juan Haeckermann-Godoy, Casey Bradfield (BERK)

Notes

Welcome and introductions

- Phil Hoge is retiring at the end of the month, but he is willing to stay on as a community participant.

Review of Climate Hazards Impacts Assessment

- Kamal shared CCG's presentation
 - It was reported that the input this group shared about local assets has been integrated into the assessment.

Discussion

- How do the hazards resonate?
 - How does agricultural risk relate to the City of Yakima?
 - There is an economic connection.
 - Small-scale food sources could be affected.
 - The risk can affect the local workforce, as there are more hotter days for people working on farms.
 - State level L&I requirements for worker protection are a tool for protection; could look like rest/water/shade based on temperature of the day.

- State mandates are already coming forward – the idea isn’t to adopt stronger local standards, but more about ensuring consistency and awareness of the new standards.
- The housing market is also putting pressure on agricultural and undeveloped lands -in addition to climate stress reducing local agricultural production.
- Phil Hoge asked a question about the level of detail of the hazards analysis.
 - Wildfires can lead to power blackouts, which then leads to a loss of cooling. People then rely on generators.
 - Question: Is there a concern that the water could be so low in the Naches River that it will be hard to extract water?
 - Question: What will the budgetary impacts be?
- Dan Schapiro wondered how energy supply and efficiency ties into hazard risk. Is this something the City can address?
 - Trevor Martin: We want to be on the same page as the state; what can we do at the local level?
 - The City council may not have an appetite for local policies for EVs or clean appliances, but they want to support farm workers.
- Flooding
 - Major rivers are protected by dams, while smaller tributaries and creeks (like White Hollow) are more of an issue.
 - Snowmelt + rain event is a risk, as are major cloudburst thunderstorms
 - There is a lack of management of simple waterways. People put sandbags on their lawn, which can divert water in unexpected ways.
 - There may be a need to expand the stormwater system. **Coordinate with Perteet**
- Question: Is there any data showing that winter cold-snaps will be more frequent? **KFR to ask CCG**
- Mike Tobin and Phil Hoge agreed with the four hazards identified. No concerns were voiced by others.
- Do the populations resonate?
 - There was a question about population group totals.
 - KFR clarified that some people are in more than one group.
 - There was a request for the percentage of the total population that are classified in one or more of these groups. – **KFR to request from CCG**
 - Marcelino Osorio: Are homeless individuals included in low-income groups? Many homeless folks can be seen around the City, struggling to keep cool on hot days, and using sprinklers to get some relief.

- KFR: Low-income group includes people with \$0 income, including homeless people.
 - Mike agreed with the population groups. No concerns were voiced by others.
- Is there anything missing?
 - Mike doesn't see any major gaps in hazards that directly impact the City of Yakima.
 - Phil: Around the US, streets are getting so hot they are buckling.
 - This could have a budgetary impact.
 - Mitigation option = white top asphalt to reduce heat capture/cooler
Coordinate with Transportation Dept.
 - Vulnerability Assessment
 - Federal funding cuts could create a lack of resources for vulnerable groups (energy assistance programs, etc.)
 - Concern of vulnerable populations expanding over time.
 - Jason Radtke asked if there should be a policy for early warning systems for flooding/fires/etc.
 - Mike suggested piggybacking on the Yakima County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – policy for coordination. **Check policy audit**
 - ◆ Trevor reported that the City is working on more advanced warning systems for fires.
 - ◆ KFR added about the importance of public education/awareness of early warning systems, and how to respond to them.
 - How do these climate hazards impact the vulnerable groups; how do they deal with extreme heat/cold, smoke, etc.?
 - KFR mentioned that we track probability as well as risk in vulnerability assessment. Some things have a big impact but are less likely to happen.

Next Steps

- Notes from this meeting to be sent out by next week, along with slides.
- Resilient Yakima Meeting #3 – mid August: Review draft goals and policies.
 - KFR will send a poll next week to schedule this meeting (aiming for week of Aug 11 or 18); possibly on a Thursday, since this day seems to work for folks.

Resilient Yakima Meeting #3

Notes | September 4, 2025 | 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Participants

Trevor Martin, PM City of Yakima

Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District

Dan Schapiro, Teacher at YBC, former member Sustainable Yakima

Phil Hoge, Planner with County of Yakima

Kamal Raslan, Juan Haeckermann-Godoy, Casey Bradfield (BERK)

Notes

Welcome and Agenda Overview

- Kamal welcomed the group
- This is the last Resilient Yakima meeting
- Today's focus is discussing the goals and policies drafted to support climate resilience

Discussion

- All the goals and policies are a little overwhelming
- Question about whether the City will be tracking vehicle miles traveled or GHG emissions
 - Currently City of Yakima is not required to have a GHG Sub-element
 - There are several draft policies that support resiliency and also GHG emissions
- Resiliency to the Conservation District means a lot of things: land use, housing, natural environment
 - Emphasis on minimizing water use. We live in the desert. If everyone shares, we can do more with limited resources.
 - Ex) Heritage garden program supporting change in landscaping practices.
 - Habitat. Already fractured and degraded. The only way to improve the situation is to enhance remaining habitat areas.
 - Fires. Some plants greatly increase fire risk (more explosive/flammable). Planting regulations and fuel breaks should be provided to reduce risk of catastrophic fire. Big gap in goals and policies.

- Active management of properties to reduce fire risk and enhance habitat. Either by City or other property owners.
- **Review goals/policies to integrate this feedback/we may be able to pull some language from Tri-Cities Regional Climate Element**
- Trevor spoke in support of strengthening wildfire prevention in draft policies
- Immediate threats to prioritize: fires/parts of city burning down, water availability
- Water sector: what is the City's water system resiliency? What are our water rights and how senior are they? Reserve rights up in Rattlesnake Valley.
- Floodplain boundaries change.
- Concern over having a plan but no implementation. Support for actionable policies that can be monitored and that allow community organizations to see how they can partner with the City to take action.
- More goals and policies with measurable things we can do, focus on implementation and follow up
 - NYCD wants to actively partner with City on things like property management to reduce wildfire risk.
 - Need policy to maintain/enhance/expand water rights. We are like Las Vegas and they have no water.
 - Ensure pipes are big enough for fire flow in event of a large fire
- **Review goals/policies to integrate this feedback/we may be able to pull some language from Tri-Cities Regional Climate Element**
- BERK's best practice is to develop implementation strategy with responsible parties and metrics to track progress.
 - For Yakima, we are planning to provide a few bullet points at the end of each element to support implementation and 5-year reporting **KFR it sounds like you promised to do this – how do we do this for integrated Climate Element?**
- 7.4.13: waste stream management has implications on GHG emissions and reducing trash. Interest in improving recycling and composting services.
 - Trevor mentioned City has received requests for starting additional municipal services. City would have to partner with providers and update contracts and coordinate with state agencies and find budget. City solid waste doesn't currently collect construction waste or recycling.
- **Review policy to see if language should be updated**
- We will also consider feedback provided by members via email who couldn't attend this meeting.

Next Steps

- Incorporate feedback into draft goals and policies

- Sept 24 public open house
- Finalizing the comprehensive plan

Thank You!

- Thank you for sharing your time and all the thoughtful feedback and local expertise. This has been a huge help for the planning effort!

Appendix B

Timeline of Contacts with the Yakama Nation

- 10/21/25: Jason Radtke (JR) reached out to Byron Gumz (BG) via email regarding whom to contact at the Yakama Nation.
- 10/27/25: JR emailed BG again regarding a Yakama Nation contact. BG responded, naming Lydia Bitsoi (LB) as a contact, and provided a phone number. JR called and left a voicemail. No response.
- 11/3/25: JR called again. Still no response.
- JR asked BG for an email address for LB. No response.
- ~11/4/25: JR contacted LB on LinkedIn.
- 11/26/25: LB responded via LinkedIn with her email address. JR emailed her about setting up a meeting.
- 12/17/25: JR emailed about the timing of the meeting.
- 1/5/26: LB responded, requesting a meeting that Thursday or Friday.
- 1/8/26: JR suggested a meeting for 1/9/26 at 3 pm.
- 1/9/26: Lydia responded and requested the meeting be moved to next week.
- 1/12/26: JR suggested Thursday afternoon for the meeting date and time. LB responded that due to medical issues that would not be possible. JR responded by suggesting 8:30 am on Wednesday, 1/21/26. Virtual meeting set for that date and time.
- 1/13/26: JR provided an agenda.
- 1/21/26: Virtual meeting. In attendance: JR, LB, Trevor martin (TM), Anthony Johnson (AJ). Discussion topics included changes or amendments the Yakama Nation would like to see incorporated into the current Yakima Comprehensive Plan and language the Yakama Nation would like included in the updated Comprehensive Plan. Next meeting set for 2/18/26.
- 2/18/26: Second meeting. LB not in attendance.
- 3/31/26: JR contacted LB about a next meeting.
- 4/1/26: LB responded, inquiring about an email from Aaron Cohen (AC). JR asked if she would like AC added to the meetings.
- 4/16/26: JR emailed regarding the timing of the next meeting. LB responded affirmatively.
- 4/17/26: JR suggested 8:30 am that Friday. Received an automated response that LB was out of the office.
- No further contact with the Yakama nation.