



King County

Dow Constantine

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www.kingcounty.gov

March 25, 2022

The Honorable Claudia Balducci
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed Ordinance that would, if adopted, amend King County Code Title 20 to accommodate changes needed to complete the planned environmental review of the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan update, including the timing of establishing the scope of work for the update.

The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) requires King County to review and, if needed, update the King County Comprehensive Plan and development regulations at least once every eight years to ensure compliance with GMA goals and requirements. The next state-mandated update to the Comprehensive Plan is due in 2024. The state recently extended the deadline for this update from June 2024 to December 2024. The County has begun this work and anticipates concluding the review and update activities by the state-mandated deadline of December 31, 2024. As part of this process, the County will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate environmental impacts of the plan update under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Regional Planning staff worked closely with Council central staff to develop the 2024 update schedule. King County Code 20.18.060 currently requires the Executive proposed scope of work for the 2024 update to be transmitted to Council by June 30, 2022, with a deadline for potential Council approval of September 15, 2022. However, due to the EIS process and associated timelines, establishing the scope of work for the 2024 update must occur sooner. Given this, I am transmitting the Motion for the 2024 update on March 31, 2022, and the deadline for potential Council approval would accordingly be June 15, 2022. This proposed Ordinance reflects this change in the code, the new state timeline, and other clarifying changes to SEPA regulations regarding project and non-project environmental review.

The proposed Ordinance advances the efficient, accountable regional and local government goal of the King County Strategic Plan by improving our comprehensive planning regulations to ensure that County government operates efficiently and effectively.

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

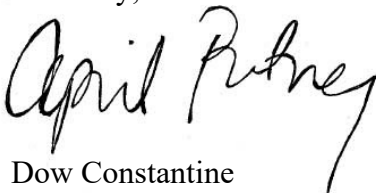
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Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Ordinance. While technical in nature, it is an important step in ensuring success of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan update.

If your staff have any questions, please contact Lauren Smith, Director for Regional Planning at the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, at 206-263-9606.

Sincerely,

 for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Janine Weihe, Acting Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB)

Lauren Smith, Director for Regional Planning, PSB