



CHECKING IN ON OUR FUTURE



Environmental Impact Statement – Scoping OPEN HOUSE

Purpose of this open house

Clark County is revising its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. As part of the process, the county will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The review process will keep the public informed about environmental impacts anticipated under each of the proposed growth alternatives.

Agencies, affected tribes and the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. The scope determines the range and kinds of issues studied in the EIS. You can comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, or other relevant issues.

You can submit comments using the comment form or submit them in writing on the county website at www.clark.wa.gov/planning/2016update/comments.html.

Comments must be received by September 1, 2014.

How it works

The open house will start with an explanation of the purpose of an environmental impact statement and description of input helpful to determine what an EIS should include. You can then walk through the room to ask questions at any of the seven stations featuring information on relevant topics.

The stations are:

- Station 1:** Welcome; purpose
- Station 2:** Current Comprehensive Plan zoning map
- Station 3:** Planning assumptions
- Station 4:** Possible alternatives
- Station 5:** Environmental constraints and the built environment
- Station 6:** Transportation system
- Station 7:** Parks Master Plan update



Context for comprehensive planning

Since the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan was updated and adopted in 2007, conditions in the county, as well as state and federal laws, have changed, requiring corresponding changes to the plan. In addition, we now have better mapping and more accurate information about buildable lands. This additional data might change conclusions in the previous plan about the current urban growth areas' capacity to accommodate future population and jobs. As a result, in early 2014, the Board of Clark County Commissioners issued planning assumptions and policy direction for reviewing and updating the growth management plan.



Environmental Impact Statement – a general statement of impacts

SEPA requires potential impacts of proposed changes as part of a comprehensive plan update to be evaluated in an environmental impact statement. As allowed by SEPA, analyses are not detailed to specific sites, but instead give an overview of what could be expected under any alternative.



SEPA allows adoption of other documents when researching existing conditions and anticipated impacts. Because growth hasn't occurred as predicted in the 2007 EIS, the county will re-adopt that document and supplement it with additional information for the 2016 update.

Alternatives in the EIS will be considered based on requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA), objectives of the comprehensive plan, and county planning policies.

STATIONS

STATION 1: Welcome; Purpose

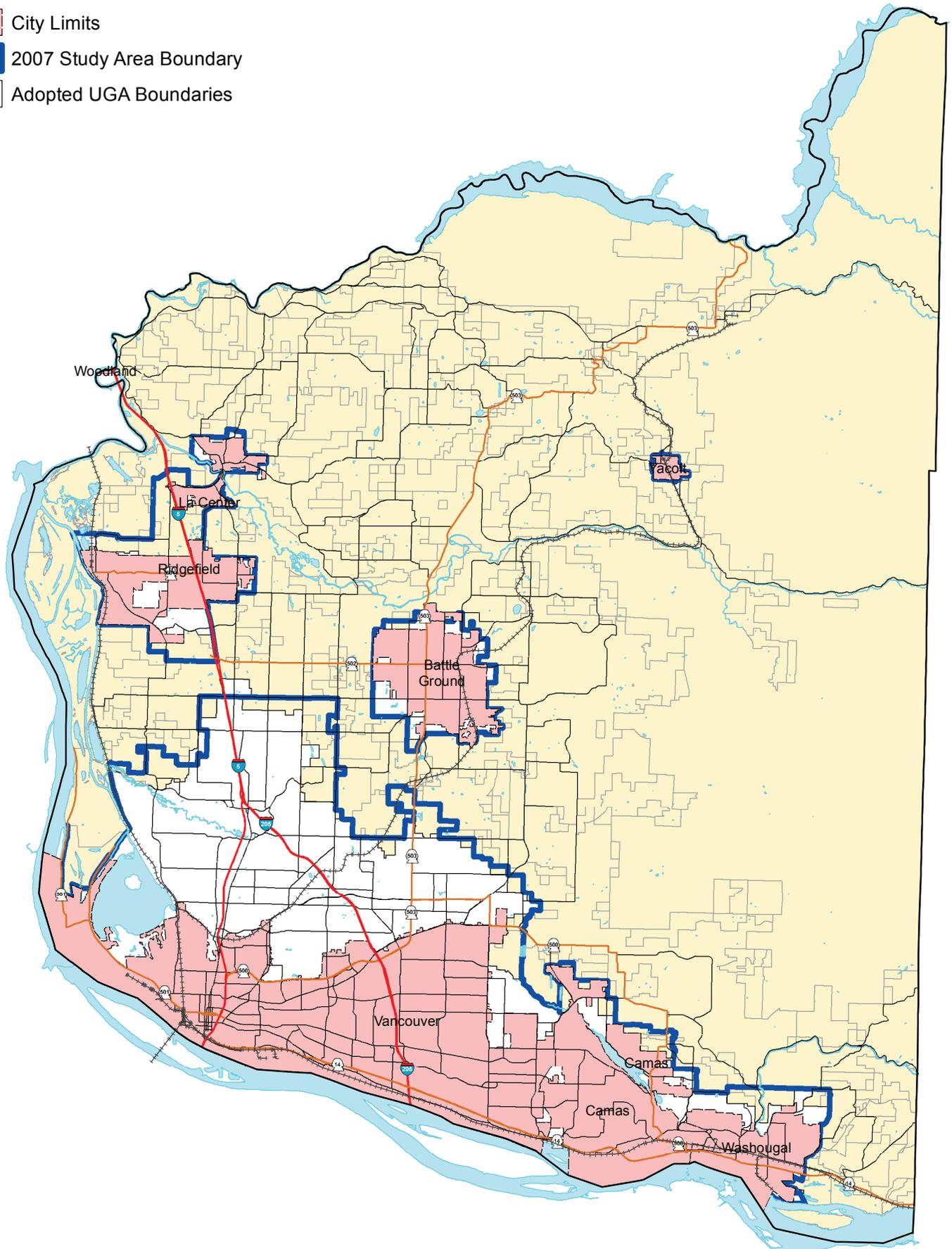
To provide you with information about the alternatives Clark County is studying to accommodate the population and employment growth expected over the next 20 years.

STATION 2: Current Comprehensive Plan zoning map

This map shows the current zoning in unincorporated areas of Clark County.

2007 EIS STUDY AREA AND CURRENT URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARIES

-  City Limits
-  2007 Study Area Boundary
-  Adopted UGA Boundaries





STATION 3: Planning assumptions

Planning assumptions guide the amount of land needed for future growth. Assumptions, for example, predict how many people might live or work in Clark County, how densely they will live, and how much land must be set aside to avoid wetlands and other environmentally critical areas. The Board of Clark County Commissioners approved the following key assumptions:

Policy assumptions

- Base year for the plan is 2015; end year is 2035.
- Population forecast is 562,207, an increase of 1.12 percent annually.
- Jobs forecast is 91,200, an increase of more than 2 percent annually.
- Urban/rural population split is a 90:10.
- Employment density is 20 employees per commercial acre, nine employees per industrial acre.
- Add a market factor of 15 percent to acreage needed for residential lands.
- Add a market factor of 15 percent to acreage needed for industrial and commercial lands.

Consultative assumptions, county planning policies

- Housing densities of eight units per acre in the Vancouver urban growth area; six units per acre in the Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield and Washougal urban growth areas; and four units per acre in the La Center urban growth area.
- New housing will be no more than 75 percent of any one product type, such as detached or attached housing.
- 2.66 persons per household.

Data-driven assumptions

- For every new acre of residential land inside an existing urban growth area, 27.7 percent will be used for infrastructure. This set-aside rate includes both onsite and offsite infrastructure.
- For commercial, industrial and business park zones, 25 percent overall will be used for infrastructure.
- 10 percent of vacant residential inventory will not convert to accommodate growth over the 20-year plan.
- 30 percent of underused residential inventory will not convert to accommodate growth over the 20-year plan.
- Underused commercial and industrial parcels have a building value per acre of \$50,000 or less.
- Future development on critical lands is based on excluding the portion of land hindered by critical areas. The portion not hindered by critical areas is included in the buildable lands inventory.

Values and principles articulated by the Board of County Commissioners

The Board of Clark County Commissioners stated its values for the revised plan and lands to be included in urban growth areas. The complete text and details of the planning assumptions are available from Community Planning at www.clark.wa.gov/planning/2016update/index.html.

STATION 4: Possible alternatives

The county population forecast for 2035 is 562,207, lower than the 2024 forecast of 584,310. Because of this lower forecast, the county has determined that most, if not all, of the expected population and jobs can be accommodated within existing urban growth boundaries.

For this scoping, the county has identified a range of options for land use changes instead of options for adding land to urban growth areas. They are:

- **No Action Alternative**, which would be the adopted 2007 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan, as amended, including current urban growth boundaries, planning assumptions, policies, and implementation ordinances.
- **County-initiated changes**, such as recent work to update application of the surface mining overlay, creation of a public facilities zone, and review of minimum parcel size for agriculture and forest lands; and areas proposed for change by property owners within existing boundaries.

New planning assumptions, policy direction, changes in land use/zoning, and principles and values defined by the commissioners would be used for this alternative.

- **Expansion of urban growth areas proposed by cities.**

The cities of Battle Ground, La Center, and Ridgefield are considering expanding their urban growth areas to support job growth.

After EIS scoping, a preferred alternative will be developed based on technical analysis, input from cities, principles and values, and results of the environmental scoping and analysis. The preferred alternative is expected to include areas roughly equivalent to current urban growth boundaries, plus lands selected from within the 2007 EIS Study Area (see map on the page 3) sufficient to meet 2016 planning assumptions and policy directions.





STATION 5: Environmental constraints and the built environment

ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

By adopting the 2007 EIS, the county will use much of its data and analyses as a starting point for additional study. Interested parties are invited to comment on the elements commonly included in SEPA, as well as other issues of concern. These elements are listed below.

Natural environment

1. Earth

- a. Soils

2. Water

- a. Surface waters
- b. Floods
- c. Groundwater and aquifer recharge areas
- d. Public water supplies

3. Fish and wildlife habitat

- a. Habitat, numbers, diversity of plant, animal species
- b. Wetlands
- c. Threatened and endangered species
- d. Migratory species and migration routes

4. Energy and natural resources

- a. Amount required, rate of use, efficiency
- b. Source, availability
- c. Conservation and renewable resources

Built environment

1. Land and shoreline use

- a. Relationship to existing land use plans and to estimated population
- b. Housing
- c. Economy
- d. Resource lands

2. Transportation

- a. Roadway network, including freight
- b. Transit
- c. Non-motorized modes

3. Public services and utilities

- a. Fire
- b. Police
- c. Schools
- d. Parks or other recreational facilities
- e. Libraries
- f. General government facilities
- g. Public water supplies
- h. Solid waste
- i. Sanitary sewer

4. GMA requirements

- a. State statutes
- b. County-wide planning policies
- c. Concurrency
- d. Fiscal impacts
- e. Public involvement

STATION 6: Transportation system

Transportation is a key aspect of the comprehensive plan, shaping Clark County's development patterns. Clark County's transportation network connects state highways, neighboring city streets and adjacent county roads. It connects to transportation facilities operated by other special purpose districts, such as sewer and water districts, and for-profit businesses. The public does not experience a series of separate transportation systems, but a single, unified system. This starts with coordinated planning as required by GMA. The transportation system must be affordable and minimize environmental impacts to maintain quality of life. It must serve all users and modes, despite mobility, age or income issues. A safe, efficient transportation system can work to enhance economic development in conjunction with supporting land use plans.



STATION 7: Parks Master Plan update

Clark County Parks is updating the Parks Plan. It shows current parks, open spaces and trail systems in unincorporated areas. During the next few months, we will ask for public input regarding the Parks Plan update, looking at topics such as levels of service, amenities and locations of future parks, open spaces and trails.



HOW TO HELP SHAPE THE SCOPE

We need your input about what to discuss in the supplemental environmental impact statement and potential impacts of the alternatives. Most likely, urban growth boundaries would change minimally, if at all. What concerns do you have about planning issues? Do you see areas with important physical characteristics that should be recognized or areas with built features that need special attention? Look at the list of factors for the natural and built environment. Are there special issues for the scoping area? Please identify them.

Ways to submit a comment:

- **Fill out a comment sheet and leave it with staff.**
- **Submit a comment** on the county's website at www.clark.wa.gov/planning/2016update/comments.html or mail it to Comprehensive Plan EIS Scoping, Community Planning, P.O. Box 9810, Vancouver WA 98666.

Please direct questions to

Oliver Orjiako, (360) 397-2280 ext. 4112 or to comp.plan@clark.wa.gov

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION



Clark County Community Planning

Planning for Clark County's promising future

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