

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PLANNERS) MEETING

Thursday, June 10, 2021
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[GoToMeeting Remote Meeting](#)
Toll-Free Phone: [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)
Access Code: 758-127-149

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions – *All*
2. [Boundary Review Board](#) – *Katie Bunge*
3. Roundtable (Planning Updates from Members) –
All
4. Other – *All*

Please contact [Kevin Murphy](#) at (360) 416-7871 if there are any other items that need to be brought up for discussion.

GMA SUPPORT WORK PROGRAM: BOUNDARY REVIEW BOARD

Recommendation

The Growth Management Act Technical Advisory Committee (GMATAC) recommends against adoption of the amended Countywide Planning Policy (CPP) 12.17 language requested by the Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC) at its March 2021 meeting. The GMATAC intends to bring forward alternate amendment language for consideration at a future GMASC meeting.

Background

The 2021 GMA Support Work Program and Budget includes the following task:

“GMA Task 3.1 – Boundary Review Board:

Continue discussions started in 2020 regarding the dissolution of the Boundary Review Board (BRB) with County and City/Town staff in context with CPP 12.17. This work will be led by the GMA TAC. The GMA TAC anticipates gathering information from various special purpose districts to inform analysis and options for consideration by the GMASC or other agencies. SCOG staff would assist in the information gathering.”

Work on Task 3.1 began in February 2021. At its March 2021 meeting, the GMASC passed a motion to direct staff to draft an amendment to CPP 12.17. This amendment removes criteria in the adopted countywide planning policies which exceed the requirements of RCW 36.93.230 to disband a boundary review board. This amendment requested by the GMASC is included below with additions underlined (“additions”) and deletions struck through (“~~deletions~~”):

12.17 The Washington State Boundary Review Board for Skagit County ~~should~~ may be disbanded pursuant to RCW 36.93.230 provided that ~~the following tasks are accomplished: (a) that~~ ALL cities and towns and the County have adopted comprehensive plans and development regulations consistent with the requirements of these Countywide Planning Policies and RCW 36.70A. ~~including appropriate urban levels of service for all public facilities and services; (b) that ALL cities and the County have adopted a concurrency ordinance that requires the adopted urban levels of service addressed in (a) above be accomplished in time frames that are consistent with RCW 36.70A.; (c) that special purpose districts that serve UGAs have adopted urban levels of service standards appropriate for their service areas; (d) that ALL cities and the County have an adopted capital facility plan for urban levels of service that indicates sources of revenue and a timeline for meeting such service; and (e) that ALL cities and special purpose districts have in place adopted “interlocal agreements” that discuss arrangements for transfer of assets and obligations that may be affected by transference of governance or annexation of the service area consistent with the requirements of applicable RCWs.~~

The GMATAC reviewed the requested amendment language at their April and May 2021 meetings and recommends against adopting the amendment language presented. In general, the GMATAC supports the inclusion of stronger language reflecting an intent to disband the Skagit County Boundary Review Board, along with criteria to facilitate this process.

The GMATAC is currently working on drafting alternate amendment language for CPP 12.17, which may be available for the scheduled September 2021 GMASC meeting.

Next Steps

Task 3.1 reflects a desire by the GMATAC and GMASC to continue discussions regarding the dissolution of the Skagit County Boundary Review Board in the context of CPP 12.17. Draft amendment language to CPP 12.17 is presented which would remove some barriers to possible dissolution of the Boundary Review Board; however, the GMATAC recommends against amending CPP 12.17 without further expression of a regional intent to disband the BRB and discussions on how that may be accomplished.

As the recommending authority to the Board of County Commissioners, the GMASC may choose to recommend changes to the countywide planning policies at any time. The GMASC may choose to recommend the language as requested at the March 2021 meeting, language recommended by the GMATAC, or alternate language on the CPPs.

County Commissioners may take one of two actions on any CPP recommendation from the GMASC:

1. Adopt any new CPP or CPP amendment proposed by the GMASC, but not change the proposed CPP or CPP amendment in any manner whatsoever; or
2. Decline to adopt any new CPP or CPP amendment proposed by the GMASC.

The [2002 Framework Agreement](#) includes a CPP dispute resolution process that any member of the GMASC may invoke, included in Section 9: Dispute Resolution (Page 9-11). A notice of dispute can occur after any GMASC CPP recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

In accordance with the [2002 Framework Agreement](#), draft CPPs should be referred to member jurisdictions at the earliest possible time, to provide meaningful opportunity for public comment and input from city-town councils and the Board of County Commissioners. The Framework Agreement states that the GMA Committee, which is composed of the GMASC and GMATAC, shall not substitute for or replace duties and responsibilities of member jurisdiction legislative bodies.

In its 2019 CPP cleanup work, members of the GMA Committee facilitated a review of recommended amendments to the CPPs through local processes and feedback from legislative bodies and the public was gathered. Staff recommends that any recommended amendment to CPP 12.17 or other CPPs again be reviewed by the legislative bodies through this process.