Comprehensive Plan Update
Racial Equity Analysis of Seattle 2035 and Urban Village Strategy

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Office of Planning and Community Development
City of Seattle

Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee, Seattle City Council
July 14, 2021
Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan

A 20-year plan to guide how our city grows, informed by four core values:

1. Race and Social Equity
2. Environmental Stewardship
3. Community
4. Economic Opportunity and Security

Next update due in 2024
Racial Equity Analysis of Seattle 2035

- Office of Planning and Community Development with Department of Neighborhoods and Office of Civil Rights
- Assistance from PolicyLink
- Foundational work before the Comprehensive Plan update process
- Response to SLI 29-4-B-1

Policy and Data Review
Early 2020

Focus Groups and Equity Workshop
Fall 2020

Racial Equity Analysis Report
Spring 2021

Launch Comp Plan Update
Late 2021
## Overview of Plan Update Process

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- **Project planning**
- Research and analysis
- Racial equity analysis

- **Public launch**
- Research and analysis
- Develop plan concepts

- **Finalize and evaluate alternatives**
- Goals and policies
- Draft plan and EIS

- **Final EIS**
- Mayor's plan
- Council adoption

← Community engagement, Racial Equity Toolkit (RET) →
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Informed by:

- Outreach to stakeholders and neighborhoods citywide
- Priority engagement with BIPOC and other marginalized communities
- State law (GMA) and regional policies and targets
- Data and analysis, including EIS
Racial Equity Analysis Deliverables

#1  
Community Engagement Report  
(OPCD)

#2  
Racial Equity Analysis Findings and Recommendations  
(PolicyLink)
Background: Urban Village Strategy

- Seattle’s growth strategy since 1994
- Focuses housing and jobs within compact walkable mixed-use neighborhoods linked by transit
- Most land outside of urban villages zoned single family
- Shaped by land use patterns that reflect history of racial exclusion (e.g., redlining, racial covenants)
PolicyLink review of relevant data
Informed by early engagement

Early targeted community and stakeholder engagement for Racial Equity Analysis:

• Trained cohort of Community Liaisons
• Five focus groups
• Citywide workshop in October 2020 with PolicyLink
Policylink key findings

Persistent racial disparities related to:

• Housing affordability, choice, and ownership

• Access to neighborhoods of opportunity (incl. parks, schools, healthy environment)

• Housing insecurity and displacement risk

• Access to Seattle’s economic prosperity
Policylink recommendations for Comp Plan update

- **Growth strategy:** Allow more housing types across the city with equitable access to wealth building and neighborhood opportunities

- **Affordable housing:** Support tools to increase supply of affordable housing with community control and long-term affordability

- **Displacement:** More and stronger anti-displacement policies and tools, including preservation of cultural communities

- **Inclusive economy:** Data-informed tools to promote equitable economic opportunity, e.g., training and hiring preferences

- **Community engagement:** Provide financial/technical support for sustained BIPOC involvement around comp plan update
Next steps for the Comp Plan update

Housing and Neighborhood Choice

• Study range of growth strategy alternatives, including single family zoning changes (per 2021 budget proviso)

• Explore policies/tools to create more housing, including:
  • Broader range of market rate housing
  • Affordable and mixed-income housing
  • Strategies that benefit BIPOC hhlds
Next steps for the Comp Plan update

Anti-Displacement

• Incorporate anti-displacement in growth strategy alternatives

• Update and enhance displacement risk mapping and data

• Address housing, small business, cultural displacement in Plan

• Identify policies to mitigate displacement risk
Next steps for the Comp Plan update

Equitable Inclusive Economy

• Enhanced data on economy and race in background research
• Identify policy gaps and opportunities for more integrated approach
• Education and job training
• Promote middle-wage jobs, including through Industrial and Maritime strategy recommendations
Next steps for the Comp Plan update

Community Engagement

• Broader/deeper engagement with BIPOC communities through RET
• Explore options for resourcing equitable community engagement
• Citywide engagement to stakeholders and neighborhoods
• Community engagement plan to Council later in 2021
Thank you.

Questions?