

Seattle Comprehensive Plan Update

Planning Commission Briefing – May 2020

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Overview for today

- Comprehensive Plan update schedule changes
- Regional context and current work
- Implications of COVID-19
 - Planning for long-term recovery, resilience, and adaptation
 - Community engagement
 - Other issues, question, and early thinking

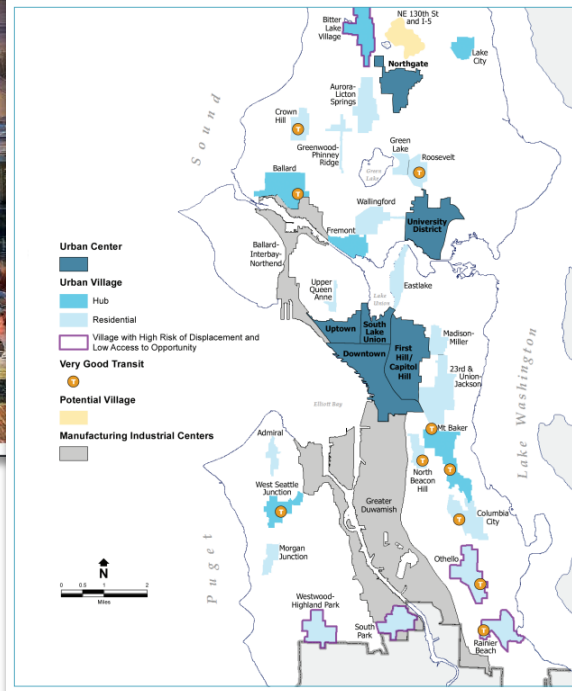
Seattle
2035

Comprehensive Plan

Managing Growth to Become an
Equitable and Sustainable City
2015-2035

Growth Strategy Figure 4

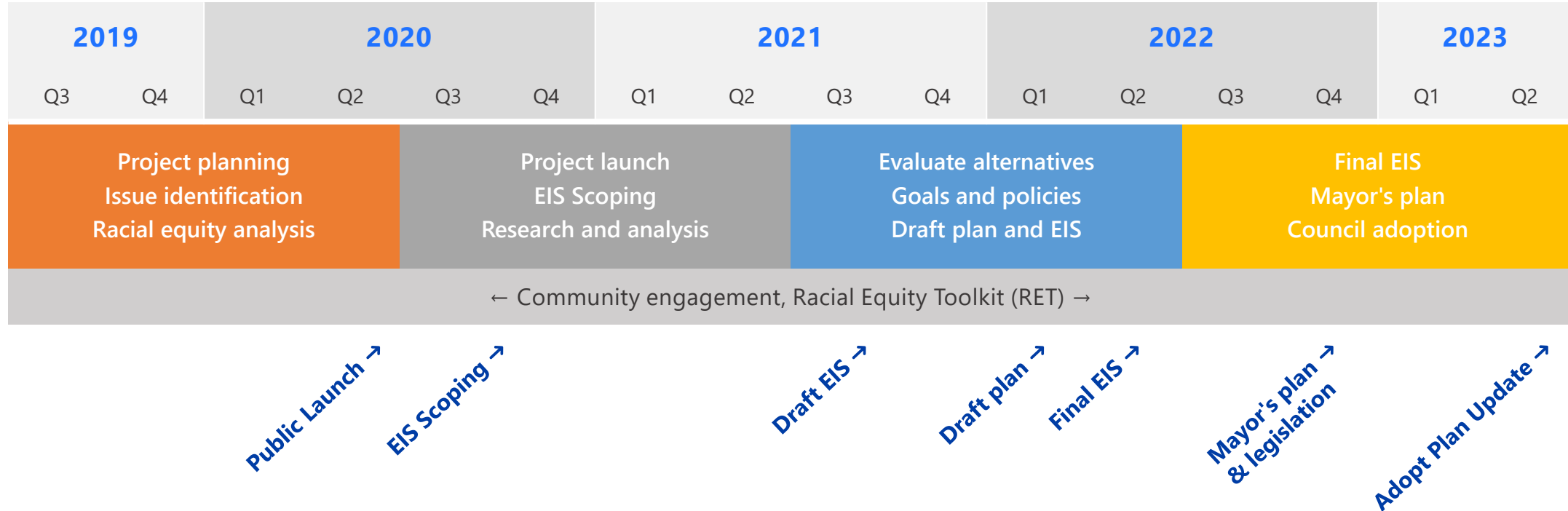
Urban Centers, Urban Villages, Manufacturing/Industrial Centers



Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan

- Vision for a livable, sustainable, prosperous, and equitable city
- Growth strategy based on urban centers and villages
- Goals and policies guide City plans, programs, and investments
- Major periodic update is a multi-department effort with robust community engagement over several years

Preliminary Schedule (September 2019)



GMA Deadline Change

- HB 2342 adopted in 2020 legislative session
- Deadline for completing comprehensive plan update pushed back from 2023 to 2024
- Affects jurisdictions in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties
- What does this mean for Seattle's plan update timeline?

Potential impact on update timeline

Paused:

- Racial Equity Analysis

Likely pushed back to 2021/22:

- Community engagement plan and public launch
- Background reports
- SEPA process, incl. scoping and plan alternatives

Growth Management Policy Framework



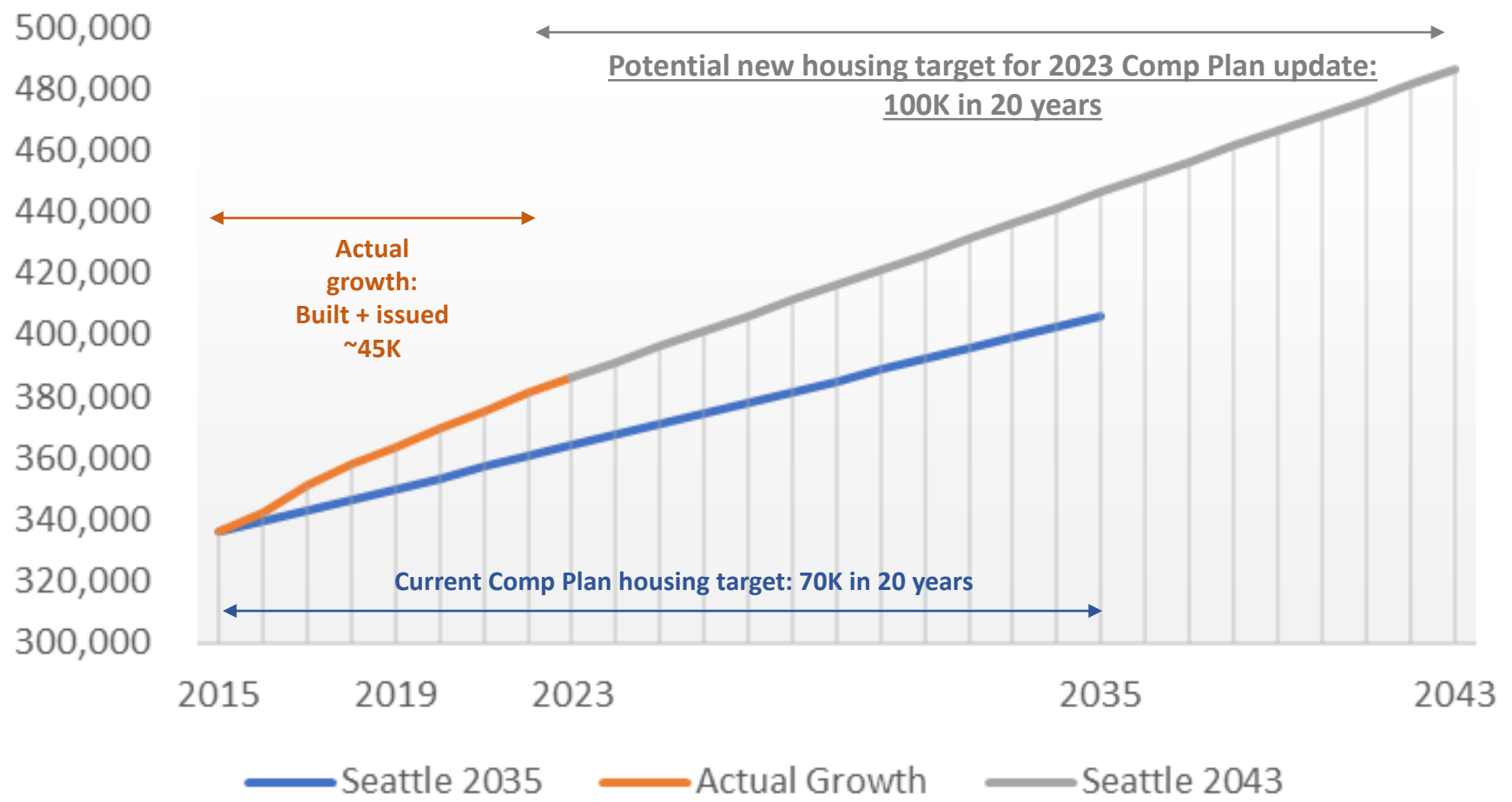
- ▶ **State Legislature (RCW 36.70A)**
 - Requires local jurisdictions to adopt Comprehensive Plans
 - Allows annual amendments
 - Requires major periodic update every 8 years
- ▶ **Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)**
 - Enacts Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs)
 - Establishes Regional Growth Strategy
 - Will adopt “VISION 2050” update in 2020
- ▶ **Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC)**
 - Enacts Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs)
 - Establishes Urban Growth Area (UGA) boundary
 - Allocates local growth targets (housing and jobs)
- ▶ **Seattle 2035 (adopted in 2015/2016)**
 - Establishes goals and policies (Citywide and Neighborhood)
 - Enacts strategy to accommodate 20-year growth projections
 - Guides City functional plans, programs, regulations (e.g., zoning)

Regional Planning continues in 2020/2021

- Fall 2020: Puget Sound Regional Council adopts final VISION 2050
- June 2021: Growth Management Planning Council adopts Countywide Planning Policies, along with...
 - 20-year growth targets
 - Urban Growth Capacity Report (Buildable Lands evaluation)

Current vs. Potential Housing Unit Target

DRAFT ESTIMATE



Actual growth has exceeded current projections

Potential new target = 100k more households by 2043

Technical Notes

Growth targets are required under GMA to guide local comprehensive planning. Targets, which are adopted collaboratively through countywide planning, reflect both policy and projections.

This is an estimate of potential future targets derived from most recent forecast data and assumptions, including OFM pop forecasts for King Co (2017) and draft VISION 2050 (adoption by PSRC in 2020).

Actual growth targets for City of Seattle will be developed and adopted by the King County Growth Management Planning Council in 2021.

Data analysis in 2020-21 to support Comp Plan

Analysis of Housing Needs and Supply

- OPCD with OH, consultant supported (BERK)
- Focus on market rate housing gaps
- Short-, medium-, and long-range projections
- Additional focus on COVID-19 impacts over next 5 years

Buildable Lands Evaluation

- Feeds into countywide analysis and City's comp plan
- Capacity, densities, growth rate
- New GIS tools; consultant support
- New work on market factors and relationship to housing needs/affordability

Potential Policy Themes (2019 Early Thinking)

Race and Equity

- Robust RET process
- Update growth and equity analysis
- Anti-displacement

Growth Strategy

- Evaluate Centers and Villages
- Capacity for growth
- Racial equity outcomes
- TOD around ST3 and other transit

Livability

- Services to meet needs of growth
- Multimodal mobility and new technologies
- Community and open space
- Health equity

Housing

- Assessment of housing need and supply
- Housing supply, choice, and affordability
- Homelessness

Economic Opportunity

- Industrial and Maritime Strategy
- Education and workforce training
- Supports for small businesses

Resilient, Carbon-Neutral City

- Benchmark for plan performance
- Support City initiatives toward emissions reductions
- Protect vulnerable communities

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How does COVID-19 impact potential policy focus??

BIG QUESTION: How can the Comprehensive Plan update address COVID-19 recovery, resilience, and adaptation? Issues include:

- Disproportionate impacts on communities of color rooted in historical inequities
- Fallout from economic downturn on housing, employment, businesses, institutions
- Uncertainty about growth and land use needs
- Uncertain future for mobility and transit (e.g., impact of telecommuting)
- Elevated importance of public health and impacts on services, public space, etc.
- What else should we be thinking about?
- How might our vision for the city of the future change?

BIG QUESTION: How can the Comprehensive Plan update fulfill its promise of robust and equitable citywide community engagement?

- In a post-COVID environment, there are challenges and perhaps opportunities

Consider...

- Heightened need to support robust racial equity toolkit through update
- New or enhanced approaches to online engagement? Small and large audiences? Address digital divide and equity?
- New ways to engage community where they are now? Create space for community driven work around the update?
- Timing/phasing of community engagement under new schedule?
- What ideas do you have?

Conclusion

The challenge: To plan for a new, different, more equitable, more sustainable and resilient future through this comprehensive plan update.

How can we best work with the Commission as this work evolves?