

[February 27, 2023]

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION confirming the chartering process and Council decision making framework for the Comprehensive Plan Update, as described below in Exhibit A attached herein.

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70a.040, the City of Vancouver is a jurisdiction that is required to formally adopt a comprehensive land use plan for managing urban growth and development under the framework defined in the Washington State Growth Management Act, guided by the land use planning goals set forth in RCW 36.70a.020, and first adopted as the Vancouver Comprehensive Plan under this framework in 1994; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70a.130, the City of Vancouver is obligated to perform a periodic review of its existing Comprehensive Plan, associated policies, and implementing land use and development regulations on a recurring basis, with the current review cycle requiring final adoption and approval of proposed changes to occur on or before June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Vancouver Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2011, and the City's implementing land use regulations under Title 20 of the Vancouver Municipal Code (VMC) have not been significantly updated since 2004; and

WHEREAS, since the last update occurred, significant development, demographic and socio-economic trends have shifted in the community, necessitating a significant re-write of the Comprehensive Plan to ensure it reflects the community's vision and values, current development trends and patterns, and reflects Council's priority goals of climate, equity, and safety, leading the City to identify the Comprehensive Plan update process as a high priority effort; and

WHEREAS, since the last review cycle in 2011, the City has updated, or is in the process of updating several policy frameworks that are adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan update by reference, which include the Transportation System Plan, the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Comprehensive Plan, and a number of subarea and corridor plans; and

WHEREAS, additional policy guidance that has been recently adopted or is in the process of being updated, including the Strategic Plan, Climate Action Framework, Commercial Corridors Strategy, Reside Vancouver, and homelessness response efforts have established new policy and guidance that need to be incorporated more holistically into the Comprehensive Plan in order to provide consistent policy implementation; and

WHEREAS, to ensure that policy outcomes resulting from this effort do not continue to perpetuate past harms and inequities that exist as a result of past policy choices, it will be critical that the Comprehensive Plan update process is designed and executed with equity as a central focus, to ensure the update is reflective of City Council's stated goal of prioritizing equity and inclusion within the City; and

WHEREAS, with the goal of developing a robust, equitable, and co-creative policy design process with disproportionately impacted and vulnerable community members, stakeholders, and the public at large, it will be essential to establish a clear, concise, and transparent decision-making framework and chartering process to create shared understanding about how cumulative decision making will occur throughout the process, and what decision making components will be formally endorsed by City Council, as outlined in this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF VANCOUVER:

City Council hereby endorses the following chartering framework and sequentially ordered structure for Council decision making during the Comprehensive Plan update process, and supports the inclusion of the following elements:

- A framework for equity within the Comprehensive Plan that includes a defined process to ensure disproportionately impacted and historically marginalized populations drive the overall policy design process through co-creation;
- A community partnership framework that provides details on how the City will engage entities on a variety of levels throughout the Comprehensive Plan update process, formalized within a detailed public participation plan;
- A framework for overarching goals to inform the Comprehensive Plan, identifying chapters and elements and constructed with input from scenario planning and overall community partnership efforts;
- A land use framework that mobilizes a strategy to manage both the built and natural environment within the City to achieve goals previously defined in the process, based on capital facility and infrastructure needs to support the overall vision and input from co-creative partners, and proposing three (3) alternatives to be evaluated during the Environmental Impact Statement process, with the preferred alternative adopted as part of the final plan;
- A policy framework that identifies tangible and achievable policies that mobilize the overall plan goals and reinforce the land use framework established in the Comprehensive Plan.

- An initial set of regulatory concepts for updating Title 20 of the Vancouver Municipal Code based on the established policy and land use frameworks, which may include the opportunity to identify implementation of early action regulatory items;
- A framework for mobilizing policy objectives of the Comprehensive Plan otherwise not covered in revisions of Title 20, with a methodology for measuring long term implementation and success and outcomes of the Comprehensive Plan and an accountability matrix structure for incorporation of feedback into those outcomes;
- A final regulatory framework for updating Title 20 of the Vancouver Municipal Code, that builds upon the initial set of regulatory concepts established in the process;
- Final Council approval of the following by ordinance:
 - The final Comprehensive Plan document that is submitted to the Washington Department of Commerce, which includes all appendices, matrices, and the preferred land use alternative defined in the Environmental Impact Statement Process;
 - Ordinance amending Title 20 of the Vancouver Municipal Code, based on policy established within the Comprehensive Plan;

ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the Vancouver City Council this 27th day of February, 2023.

Anne McEnery-Ogle, Mayor

Attest:

_____, City Clerk
By: _____, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____, City Attorney

EXHIBIT A: Chartering Framework

Endorsement	Elements	Review / Action	Time Window
Equity Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure to ensure disproportionately impacted and historically marginalized populations drive policy design process • Other key process design goals from Council and Planning Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint PC / Council Workshop • Council Resolution 	1 st / 2 nd quarter of 2023
Community Partnership Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The details on how we Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate, and Empower Co-Creative Partners • The who, how, and when this occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Workshops • Council Workshops • Council Resolution 	1 st / 2 nd quarter of 2023
Goals Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Scenario Planning and Community Partnership efforts • Identification of Plan Chapters & Elements • Prioritization of goals against each other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Workshops • Council Workshops • Council Resolution 	2 nd / 3 rd quarter of 2023
Land Use Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Scenario Planning and Community Partnership efforts • Consideration of Capital Facility and Infrastructure needs to support vision • Minimum of 3 alternatives established for EIS process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMC Workshops • Joint PC / Council Workshop • Additional PC & Council Workshops as needed • Council Resolution 	4 th quarter of 2023 / 1 st quarter of 2024
Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tangible policies to mobilize objectives of Goals + Land Use Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Workshops • Council Workshops • Council Resolution 	1 st quarter of 2024
Code Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level concepts for mobilizing the established policy framework through the Land Use Code • Identification of potential early action items, structure, arrangement, and content of code. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint PC / Council Workshop • Additional PC & Council Workshops as needed • Council Resolution 	2 nd / 3 rd quarter of 2024
Implementation Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework for mobilizing policy items not covered under the Land Use Code (dashboards, program development, incentive structures, future sub-area planning) • Framework for measuring success and outcomes of the plan effort • Final review of accountability matrix structure for incorporation of feedback into plan outcomes, and long term follow up on implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Workshops • Council Workshops • Council Resolution 	3 rd / 4 th quarter of 2024

Code Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Co-Creative partners on Code Concepts • Relevant inputs from Draft EIS • More detailed framework for mobilizing the established policy framework through the Land Use Code 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Workshops • Council Workshops • Council Resolution 	4 th quarter of 2024 / 1 st quarter of 2025
Plan Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final EIS completed 60 days prior to adoption • Final Comp Plan Document, Appendices, and Land Use Framework • Final Code Language • Final Implementation Matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Recommendation • Adopted by Ordinance (Council) 	June 2025