



CITY OF BLACK DIAMOND
December 6, 2016 Special Joint Meeting Agenda
City Council and Planning Commission
25510 Lawson St., Black Diamond, Washington

6:10 P.M. – CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE, ROLL CALL

WORK SESSION -

1. City's Comprehensive Plan Update
 - a. Review of Draft Capital Facilities and Utilities Element

ADJOURNMENT:

***DRAFT* CAPITAL FACILITIES AND UTILITIES ELEMENT**

INTRODUCTION

The Washington Growth Management Act (GMA) requires cities to prepare a Capital Facilities Element consisting of:

- An inventory of current capital facilities owned by public entities showing the location and capacities of those public facilities and identifying any current deficiencies;
- A forecast of the future needs for such capital facilities;
- The proposed capacities of expanded or new capital facilities;
- At least a 6-year plan that will finance capital facilities within the projected funding capacities and clearly identify sources of public money for such purposes; and
- A requirement to reassess the Land Use Element if probable funding fall short of meeting existing needs, and to ensure that the Land Use Element, Capital Facilities Element, and finance plan within the Capital Facilities Element are coordinated and consistent.

Under the GMA, a Capital Facilities Element is required to address all public facilities except transportation facilities, which are to be addressed separately under the Transportation Element of the Plan. Accordingly, this Comprehensive Plan contains a separate Transportation Element and it also places Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space facilities in a separate Element. The required inventories, forecasts of future needs, and proposed capacity of expanded or new facilities are housed in the supporting Capital Facilities and Utilities Appendix. The GMA also contains requirements pertaining to the concept of *concurrency*, which seeks to mandate that the City adequately demonstrate within this plan that public utilities and modes of transportation will be available to support growth at the time such development occurs. Thus, the financial planning section included herein (as required by GMA) identifies a financial program for implementing improvements.

Purpose of the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element

This Capital Facilities and Utilities Element has been prepared in accordance with Section 36.70A.070 of the GMA to address the need for and the financing of capital facilities and utilities in the City of Black Diamond and the surrounding Potential Annexation Area (PAA). The GMA requires all comprehensive plans to include a Capital Facilities Element that analyzes the need for future capital improvements to support the development goals stated in the Land Use Element, as well as the funding mechanisms available for implementation. The City of Black Diamond defines Capital Facilities to mean any city-owned, operated or contracted facility including but not limited to parks, utilities, recreational facilities, schools, libraries, playgrounds, streets, transportation facilities, open space, police, fire or other buildings, including their related equipment which can be capitalized.

This Element provides the overall policy direction for the different capital facility plans and programs provided by the City. It is the intent of the GMA that all development requiring urban services will be in the Urban Growth Area (UGA), and that these services will be available to them in a timely and financially feasible manner. The Capital Facilities and Utilities Element is intended to guide the City in its decision-making process to achieve the community's goals; to provide utility service at an acceptable standard or approved minimum level of service (LOS), without compromising the existing levels of service that are currently provided.

This Element addresses the following capital facilities and utilities:

- Potable Water
- Sanitary Sewer
- Stormwater
- Police
- Fire/Emergency
- Public Schools
- City Administrative Offices

LOS and Phasing

The establishment of LOS standards provides a useful basis to inform the assessment of future staffing and facilities needs based on anticipated population growth. GMA states that cities must adopt LOS standards for transportation and that they may develop concurrency standards for other facilities deemed to be necessary for development. If a local government adopts LOS levels for these other facilities, they either 1) must be in place prior to occupancy or 2) a financial commitment must be in place to complete them within 6 years of occupancy. GMA also establishes that "those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve that development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current levels below locally established standards" (RCW 36.70A.0202.12).

Fiscal Considerations

It is important to ensure a fiscal balance between capital expenditures, utility revenues, and adequate LOS. This balance requires that developers pay for the portion of capital improvements related to their level of demand on the system. At the same time, the existing capital facilities and utility infrastructure requires ongoing maintenance and restoration. Taking advantage of renewable resources and using efficient technologies can curb some of the need for new infrastructure. A commitment to sustainable infrastructure ensures the least possible strain on the region's resources which boosts the prosperity of the community in the long term.

Environmental Considerations

Minimizing environmental impacts due to construction is important for the protection of natural resources. Locating facilities and utility routes should avoid environmentally sensitive

locations such as wetlands, habitat, rivers and creeks, and forested areas. Infrastructure projects should include an alternatives analysis that compares the impacts to the natural environment and cost. In some cases, it is not economically feasible to avoid these locations and therefore special construction techniques are necessary to minimize impacts. Restoration is particularly critical to ensure that the resource is restored to its original condition or better. Strict design and construction standards ensure that proper restoration is incorporated into construction documents. Those standards also ensure that construction activity will not pollute natural resources such as air, soil, and water.

CAPITAL FACILITY AND UTILITY GOALS

G1: Ensure that public services are available to support development consistent with the Land Use Element.

General Capital Facility and Utility Policies

Policy GCFU-1: Engage in joint use transportation rights-of-ways and utility corridors, where possible.

Policy GCFU-2: Design and construct construction standards that are environmentally sensitive, safe, and cost effective.

Policy GCFU-3: Facilitate the development all utilities at the appropriate LOS to accommodate growth that is anticipated to occur in the City.

Policy GCFU-4: Facilitate the provision of utilities and ensure environmentally sensitive, safe, and reliable service that is aesthetically compatible with the surrounding land uses and results in a reasonable economic cost.

Policy GCFU-5: Coordinate among adjacent jurisdictions and service providers to provide reliable and cost-effective services to the public.

Policy GCFU-6: Conduct City operations in a manner that leads by example through activities such as recycling, water conservation, energy conservations and low impact development whenever possible.

Policy GCFU-7: Require underground installation of existing utility lines when significant site improvements or development occur, with street improvement projects, or through a local improvement district

Policy GCFU-8: Require architectural screening for above-ground utility structures such as transformers and vaults.

Policy GCFU-9: Create and maintain adequate reserve funds to pay for replacement of existing facilities and equipment.

UTILITIES

The GMA and the PSRC and King County planning policies supply a framework for establishing local utility policies. GMA (RCW 36.70A.070.4) requires that comprehensive plans contain a utilities element which includes “the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities.” The PSRC and Countywide Planning Policies similarly require that local jurisdictions address utilities and consider public health, safety, the environment, phasing, and service extension among other issues. This Utilities section of the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element with the supporting Appendix is consistent with state, regional, and Countywide Planning Policies.

The Capital Facility and Utilities Appendix includes a characterization and relevant information of all public and private utilities serving the City. These include water, sanitary sewer, stormwater, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, and solid waste. This Comprehensive Plan specifically considers the location, condition, LOS (Level of Service) and funding of all existing and proposed City utilities including water, sanitary sewer and stormwater. Other public providers of water and sewer within the City include the Covington Water District and Soos Creek Water and Sewer District. Electricity, natural gas, telecommunications and solid waste services are from private and investor-owned utilities. Private utilities are regulated by the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). State law regulates the rates, charges, service, facilities and practices of investor-owned utilities.

Black Diamond must ensure the phasing of its utility system improvements to meet the growing or changing needs of the community. The anticipated growth from the Master Planned Developments (MPDs) will substantially expand the size and population of the City over the next 20 years. The City has executed development agreements that require the MPD developers to fund capacity adding utility improvements as development occurs to maintain the City’s adopted LOS standards. Every expansion of the City’s utility systems will be planned, designed, and constructed to increase reliability and sustainability. Expansion, maintenance and operations of the City’s utility systems will follow general capital facility and utilities policies as well as the utility specific policies listed below.

General Utility Policies

Policy U-1: Consider utility permits simultaneously with development proposals and ensure all utilities necessary to support development are adequate and available prior to approving development.

Policy U-2: Track water and sewer hook-ups to monitor available capacity in the City’s utility systems.

Policy U-3: Strive to upgrade existing system deficiencies within 6 years upon identification.

Policy U-4: Regularly update water and sewer plans to ensure compliance with state rules and maintain consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

Policy U-5: Include alternative design and construction techniques in the City's design standards to minimize sensitive area impacts and allow for new technologies that have proven efficiencies.

Policy U-6: Locate utility corridors in existing cleared areas, where possible.

Policy U-7: Encourage the conversion and connection from private wells and septic systems to the City utility systems as available.

Policy U-8: Employ tools such as capital facility charges to require new development to pay its fair share of expansion of utility systems but also encourage private investment in public infrastructure through latecomer fees or local improvement districts.

Potable Water Policies

Policy U-9: Maintain the agreement with the City of Tacoma to ensure adequate water supplies for emergencies and growth.

Policy U-10: Encourage water reuse and reclamation, especially for high-volume non-potable water users such as parks, schools, and golf courses.

Policy U-11: Identify and develop additional water supply sources to meet long-term water needs with consideration of climate impacts and fisheries protection.

Policy U-12: Focus on reducing water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation, and reuse.

Policy U-13: Initiate the protection of water supplies for potable water needs and environmental goals.

Sanitary Sewer Policies

Policy U-14: Provide and maintain a sanitary sewer system that protects public and environmental health.

Policy U-15: Require public sewer connections for all new residential and mixed use subdivisions and new or expanded commercial or industrial developments.

Policy U-16: Require public sewer connections for all new residential development or redevelopment on existing lots of record where sewer is available within 300 feet. New residential construction or redevelopment on existing lots of record will be allowed where

sewer is not within 300 feet if, (1) King County Wastewater Disposal Regulations are met and (2) the property owner signs and records a no protest covenant for the potential formation of a local improvement district and agrees to negotiate frontage and connection fee costs.

Policy U-17: Require all failing septic systems to connect to the sanitary sewer system if they are within 300 feet.

Policy U-18: Coordinate capacity adding projects with King County and Soos Creek to ensure that regional system improvements are in place to support growth.

Policy U-19: Update capital facility charge calculations regularly and consider a charge based on sewer flow and wastewater strength rather than single-family residential flow characteristics.

Policy U-20: Serve new development within the urban growth area with sanitary sewer systems as appropriate.

Policy U-21: Plan for regional pump stations and only allow “neighborhood-scale” pump stations on a case-by-case basis.

Stormwater Policies

Policy U-22: Manage the quality of stormwater runoff to protect public health and safety, surface and groundwater quality, and the natural drainage systems.

Policy U-23: Update the Storm Drainage Plan as needed to be compliant with the Department of Ecology and NPDES Phase II permitting requirements.

Policy U-24: Design storm drain lines or pathways to minimize potential erosion and sedimentation, discourage significant vegetation clearing, and preserve the natural drainage systems such as rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Policy U-25: Encourage the reduction of impervious surface and retention of natural vegetation through development regulations.

Policy U-25: Ensure that the storm drainage facilities necessary to support construction activities and long-term development are adequate to serve the development.

Policy U-26: Require developers to design and provide for efficient and economical drainage facilities to minimize increased runoff, avoid increased peak stormwater runoff, and prevent flooding and water quality degradation.

Policy U-27: Consider upgrading existing stormwater ponds, facilities, or features when new technologies or methods prove more efficient or when upgrades can add aesthetic value to the community.

POLICE

The Black Diamond Police Department is a full-service agency that operates under the community-oriented policing philosophy. The Department is committed to providing the highest quality service, preserving human rights, lives and property, and working in partnership with the City's citizens to problem solve, meet the challenges of reducing crime, and creating a safer environment and improving the quality of life.

The Vision of the Black Diamond Police Department

With our values at the forefront, the Black Diamond Police Department will be an open, friendly, and community-minded organization devoted to quality public service. We aspire to be a model of character and service and will emphasize the development of professional knowledge and leadership skills at every level of our organization. We will serve the community through professional conduct at all times.

The current adopted level of service (LOS) is 2.75 officers per 1,000 residents. Staffing levels are not in compliance with the LOS. As the City grows over the next 20 years, additional personnel and equipment will be required to meet service demands. An expanded police station will also be needed.

Police Policies

Policy P-1: Ensure adequate provisions are made to accommodate the demands of new development on police services.

Policy P-2: Locate new police facilities within a 5-minute response time from that facility.

FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES

Black Diamond contracts with Mountain View Fire and Rescue, King County Fire Protection District 44 to provide fire protection, fire prevention, rescue, emergency medical services, and other services that protect life or property. Mountain View Fire and Rescue is a combination department consisting of both career and volunteer personnel. Advanced Life Support (ALS) services are provided by King County Medic One.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Black Diamond is within the Enumclaw, Kent, and Tahoma School Districts. School Districts are responsible for conducting capital facility planning. The City adopts and incorporates each of the three district Capital Facility Plans into this Comprehensive Plan.

The City supports the location of school within the community because it recognizes that public schools contribute significantly to the community. It is important to residents for their children to attend schools within or near where they live.

Public School Policies

Policy PS-1: Coordinate with school districts serving the City to encourage the provision of safe, secure, and permanent education space for all students.

Policy PS-2: Work with school districts serving the City to identify new school sites within the City limits.

Policy PS-3: Maintain a joint-use agreement for city and school facilities and land.

Policy PS-4: Develop and implement an impact fee ordinance for the future development of schools within the City.

Policy PS-5: Coordinate with school districts serving the City during review of residential development projects.

CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES