



To: City Council
From: Elisa Rodriguez, Senior Planner
TOPIC: Periodic Update: Comprehensive Plan (Introduction and Part 1) DRAFT

Requested Action:

Provide feedback and guidance on the DRAFT Comprehensive Plan (Introduction and Part 1).

Key Points:

Medical Lake is considered a fully-planning city under the Growth Management Act, thereby it is mandated that our Comprehensive Plan is updated every ten years to plan for the next 20 years. The State also mandates certain elements of the plan. These are land use, housing, capital facilities, utilities, transportation, and climate change and resiliency.

The existing comprehensive plan meets the requirements of the State yet does not give valuable guidance for decision making. For this reason, rather than just updating the plan in its current format, the City has chosen to rewrite the plan in a manner that is best suited for Medical Lake.

The new Comprehensive Plan is laid out in three parts, The People, The Place, and The Future. This packet contains part one. The subjects of parts two and three can be seen in the table of contents.

The Comprehensive Plan intends to create a unified vision for the future of the community with a roadmap of how to get there that can be used by elected and appointed officials, staff, developers, and the public. The Plan should coordinate land use, transportation, housing, and infrastructure to grow in a reasonable manner. The Plan should inform zoning and development regulations, help prioritize capital investments, and support budget decisions.

Background Discussion:

The City's first Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1979. In 1997, after the adoption of the Growth Management Act, the City adopted a new Comprehensive Plan. The plan was revised in 2003, 2007, 2010, and 2019, but reads largely the same as the 1997 version.

Public Involvement:

The draft Plan is informed by and created with the information gathered in outreach activities throughout 2025 and the help of Periodic Update Steering Committee. Once the drafts of all three parts of the plan have been reviewed by the Planning Commission and the City Council, each body will hold a public hearing. In addition, language will be provided on the City website for review and comment by the public.

Next Steps:

The Periodic Update Schedule identifies a City Council workshop discussion on Part 2 in April and Part 3 in May. Once all workshops are complete, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council is tentatively scheduled to have a public hearing June 16, 2026.