

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

AMENDED MOTION NO. 07-083

ENDORISING THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE
UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE PROJECT

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2002, the Snohomish County Council adopted Title 30 SCC, Unified Development Code (UDC), containing regulations that guide development within the unincorporated areas of Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, adoption of Title 30 SCC brought seventeen separate code chapters together under one title resulting in a significant restructuring of the county's development regulations; and

WHEREAS, this restructuring of the county's development regulations focused on creating a more logical and streamlined grouping of like provisions and removal of duplicative, conflicting or ambiguous regulations; and

WHEREAS, the unified development code format created more user friendly development regulations, and consolidated provisions with only minor content changes necessary to achieve the new code structure; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County UDC Update Project was initially slated as a two-phase project with the first phase focusing on the organizational structure and the second phase focusing on the substantive content of the UDC; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County UDC must be in compliance with State and Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County UDC implements provisions of the Snohomish County Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County UDC Update Project has support from stakeholders as evidenced by the recommendations for regulatory reform made by the Executive's Snohomish County Citizens Cabinet on Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Council has supported the Unified Development Code Update Project through its adoption of project funding; and

WHEREAS, updates to the Snohomish County Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan were adopted in December, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of the Snohomish County UDC Update Project will provide the County Council with recommendations for bringing development regulations into alignment with state and federal mandates and with currently adopted policies in the Snohomish County Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan; implementing the recommendations for regulatory reform made by the Snohomish County Citizens Cabinet on Economic Development; and updating antiquated regulations not addressed in the initial update phase; and

WHEREAS, the second phase of the Snohomish County UDC Update Project should be guided by a specific set of goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, a specific set of goals and objectives has been developed by the UDC Update Project Steering Committee and presented for consideration by the County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE; ON MOTION, the Snohomish County Council hereby recognizes and acknowledges that the intent of the UDC Update Project is to recommend to the Council substantive updates to the Snohomish County Unified Development Code that would meet the following goals and objectives; and the Council hereby recognizes the following as the statement of goals and objectives to guide the work of the UDC Update Project:

Project Goals

These goals establish the criteria for evaluation of project outcomes. The Snohomish County Unified Development Code should:

1. Be broadly supported by cities, citizens and stakeholders
2. Be aligned with adopted County policies
3. Promote sustainable community development
4. Be easy to administer and explain
5. Offer predictability through a clear prescriptive path
6. Offer flexibility to support better development projects through an alternative compliance path
7. Be open to innovation and advances in technology
8. Be fair and equitable
9. Be legally defensible (comply with County, State and Federal laws)
10. Achieve its intended results

Project Objectives

In the context of the goals listed above, the Project Objectives describe what is to be accomplished under the Unified Development Code Update Project. The UDC Update Project will:

1. Recommend code changes necessary to implement the 2005 Comprehensive Plan
2. Review the current UDC code structure and alternative codes of comparable jurisdictions to determine whether or not a change in UDC structure should be proposed
3. Solicit potential UDC changes from a wide audience and prioritize based on adopted criteria
4. Eliminate unused, confusing and outdated UDC provisions
5. Streamline administrative processes wherever possible
6. Create a coherent and unified permitting process (from the perspective of the public) through better integration of Planning and Development Services and Public Works requirements
7. Incorporate existing code amendment projects and new mandates that arise into the ongoing UDC Update Project
8. Follow the Code Development Business Process Model for implementation of subprojects under the UDC Update Project
9. Develop and implement a Public Involvement Strategy that effectively includes all key stakeholder groups
10. Communicate regularly with the Executive, Planning Commission, and Council regarding required policy decisions and project progress

PASSED this 21st day of February, 2007

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

/s/ Dave Gossett
Council Chair

ATTEST:

/s/ Barbara Sikorski
Asst. Clerk of the Council