



# 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update

## Topic - Equity

### BACKGROUND:

#### Washington State – Racially Disparate Impacts

In 2021, Washington State made changes to the housing element of the Growth Management Act (GMA). The changes move from language that *encouraged* affordable housing to language that requires Poulsbo to *plan for and accommodate* affordable housing, with specific requirements for identifying sufficient land capacity for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households. The changes also require jurisdictions to identify housing policies and regulations that result in racially disparate impacts, displacement, or exclusion and start the work of undoing those impacts.

The purpose of this evaluation is to analyze the impacts of Poulsbo's housing policies and regulations through an equity lens – looking for places those policies may be having disparate impacts on particular racial or economic groups. This evaluation informs changes to policies in the Comprehensive Plan relating to housing as part of the City's Periodic Update.

*The draft Racially Disparate Impacts Report is available [here](#).*

#### Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and Vision 2050

The region's local governments come together at the PSRC to make decisions about transportation, growth management, and economic development. VISION 2050 is the long-range growth management, environmental, economic, and transportation strategy for King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties.

VISION 2050 works to address current and past inequities, particularly among communities of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities and seeks to reduce the risks of displacement of lower-income people and businesses by elevating social and racial equity in regional planning and encouraging local jurisdictions to include equity in their plans. VISION 2050 identifies multicounty policies and actions for local governments to address equity. These multicounty policies have been incorporated into the 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update.

### EQUITY GOALS AND POLICIES PROPOSED FOR THE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:

#### Chapter 2: Land Use

##### **Policy LU-3.5**

*Promote land use development patterns that support the equitable delivery of, and access to, human service facilities and spaces.*

##### **Policy LU-3.6**

*Provide land use regulations that give opportunities for the community to have fair access to livelihood, education, and resources. Conduct community planning that includes and considers the City's diversity and different needs and does not negatively impact historically marginalized populations.*

##### **Policy LU-3.9**

*Support services and access to opportunity for people with low incomes and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequalities.*

#### Chapter 4: Transportation

##### **Policy TR-1.3**

*The City shall identify mode priorities and mode balance for specific arterial and collector streets consistent with the City's adopted complete streets policy and foster equitable access, connections and mobility for all people in Poulsbo. Street construction standards will be updated to reflect complete street and mode balance goals.*

##### **GOAL TR-4**

Provide a safe, efficient, equitable and reliable transportation system that works towards eliminating traffic injuries and deaths.

##### **GOAL TR-11**

Transportation improvements within the City shall promote transportation equity through services and infrastructure improvements.

##### **Policy TR-11.1**

*Build an accessible transportation system focused on intermodal connectivity and removal of barriers to personal physical mobility*

**Policy TR-11.2**

*The City shall maintain an ADA Transition plan, which will identify non-compliant facilities and barriers in the public right of way such as curb ramps, sloped curbs, crosswalks, pedestrian push buttons, driveways. The plan will prioritize locations and develop an implementation strategy. The ADA Transition Plan shall be updated every five years.*

**Policy TR-11.3**

*Perform periodic review and monitoring of socio-demographic, economic, and geographic population trends to identify transportation facilities and services needed for all Poulsbo residents, including those that have historically been underserved.*

**Policy TR-11.4**

*Ensure transportation improvements do not impose external impacts (such as increased air pollution, infrastructure costs, or crash risk), on historically marginalized or underserved communities.*

**Policy TR-11.5**

*Promote programs and projects that expand bicycle and pedestrian facilities and access to transit for historically marginalized or underserved communities.*

**Policy TR-11.6**

*Recognize and support individuals or groups who have historically been underrepresented in transportation planning and/or infrastructure development, such as people of color, indigenous and immigrant populations, to identify and correct structural or system inequities in the transportation network to promote social justice.*

**Chapter 7: Housing****Policy HS-1.2**

*Safeguard that the local housing market provides housing opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicap disability, economic status, familial status, or age.*

**GOAL HS-3**

*Promote and facilitate the provision of affordable housing in all areas and zoning districts of the city.*

**Chapter 9: Parks, Recreation, and Open Space****Policy PRO-2.2**

*Provide barrier-free recreation opportunities throughout the Poulsbo Parks system. Consult social service agencies for technical and financial assistance in order to best provide opportunities where mentally and physically challenged individuals can accompany and interact with their families in selected city parks and on trails.*

**Chapter 9: Economic Development****Policy ED-1.3**

*Foster a supportive environment for business startups, small businesses, locally owned and women- and minority-owned businesses to help them prosper.*

**Policy ED-5.3**

*Cooperate with Kitsap County, state agencies, and the private sector, to ensure that public improvements necessitated by new private development are funded equitably.*

**Chapter 10: Utilities****Policy UT-3.1**

*Promote affordability and equitable access of public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.*

**Chapter 11: Health and Human Services****Policy HH-1.4**

*Encourage human services to become accessible to all in the community by removing any barriers, including but not limited to architectural, cultural, language, communication, and location.*

**Chapter 12: Participation, Evaluation, and Implementation****Policy PI-1.4**

*Support effective and equitable participation by providing a variety of community engagement opportunities which include culturally and linguistically appropriate materials to actively recruit input from diverse sources.*