

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 17, 2025

Anticipated start time is 9:30 a.m. following the Transportation Policy Board meeting

In Person: [Burlington City Council Chambers](#), 833 South Spruce Street, Burlington, WA 98233

Remote: [GoToMeeting](#)

Dial In: 1 (866) 899-4679

Access Code: 583-288-229

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – *Mayor Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Chair*
2. **Written Public Comments** – *Mark Hamilton, Skagit Council of Governments*
3. **Verbal Public Comments**
4. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of [March 19, 2025 Growth Management Act Steering Committee Meeting Minutes](#)
5. **Action Items**
 - a. [Draft 2026 GMA Support Work Program and Budget](#) – *Sarah Ruether, Skagit Council of Governments*
6. **Next Meeting:** December 17, 2025, Time TBD, *[Burlington City Council Chambers and Remote](#)*
7. **Adjourned**

[Meeting Packet](#)

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT STEERING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Mayor Bill Aslett Chair

Commissioner Peter Browning..... Vice Chair

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND VOTES

Anacortes..... 1
Burlington 1
Concrete..... 1
Hamilton..... 1
La Conner 1

Lyman..... 1
Mount Vernon 1
Sedro-Woolley 1
Skagit County 3

QUORUM REQUIREMENT

A quorum consists of a majority (6) of the members (11).

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GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2025

Burlington City Council Chambers and Remote

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Bill Aslett, City of Burlington, Chair; Mayor Mandy Bates, Town of Hamilton; Commissioner Peter Browning, Skagit County; Mayor Peter Donovan, City of Mount Vernon; Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Skagit County; Mayor Matt Miller, City of Anacortes; Mayor Marla Reed, Town of Concrete; and Commissioner Ron Wesen, Skagit County.

STAFF PRESENT

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director; Debbie Carter, Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board; Mark Hamilton, Senior Transportation Planner; Grant Johnson, Associate Planner; and Sarah Ruether, Associate Planner.

OTHERS PRESENT

The following members of the Growth Management Act Technical Advisory Committee (GMATAC) attended the meeting: Robby Eckroth and Shelley Kjos, Skagit County; Tom Glover, City of Sedro-Woolley; Rebecca Perkins, City of Mount Vernon; and Miranda Sires, City of Burlington.

Two members of the public attended the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order: Mayor Aslett called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Roll Call: Roll was taken with a quorum present.

2. Written Public Comments: Mr. Hamilton said that no written public comments were received during the public comment period.
3. Verbal Public Comments: No verbal public comments were provided at the meeting.
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of December 18, 2024 Growth Management Act Steering Committee Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Janicki moved to approve the December 18, 2024 Growth Management Act Steering Committee Meeting Minutes. Mayor Donovan seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

5. Action Items

- a. Election of Vice Chair: Mayor Aslett requested a volunteer for this position. Mr. Murphy clarified that a County Commissioner needs to be Vice Chair in 2025, becoming Chair in 2026.

Commissioner Browning moved to nominate himself for 2025 Vice Chair of the Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC). Commissioner Janicki seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

- b. Anacortes Urban Growth Area Proposed Expansion: Ms. Ruether presented this agenda item. She said this item was taken to the GMATAC on February 4, and after discussion, the GMATAC recommended approval of the urban growth area (UGA) expansion as proposed. Ms. Ruether noted the expansion is only for adding forest lands to the Anacortes UGA for parcels acquired by the City of Anacortes. Mr. Murphy also pointed out, under the 2002 Framework Agreement, the role of the GMASC is to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners about approval or disapproval of the UGA expansion. The Board of County Commissioners ultimately makes the final decision on any UGA expansion.

Commissioner Janicki asked Mr. Eckroth to describe the Skagit County process this year regarding this potential UGA expansion. Mr. Eckroth responded, noting that a final decision by the Board of County Commissioners is likely in June 2025, following a recommendation by the GMASC and Skagit County Planning Commission.

Mayor Donovan moved to approve the Anacortes Urban Growth Area Proposed Expansion, as presented. Commissioner Wesen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

6. Next Meeting: The next meeting is June 18, 2025, with the meeting start time to be determined, at the Burlington City Council Chambers and remote.
7. Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Murphy, Executive Director
Skagit Council of Governments

Date: _____

Approved,

Mayor Bill Aslett, City of Burlington
Growth Management Act Steering Committee Chair

Date: _____

Last updated 9/10/2025

Draft 2026 Growth Management Act (GMA) Support Work Program and Budget

Adopted September 17, 2025, by the Growth Management Act Steering Committee

As per the GMA support agreement, Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) will continue to provide administrative support and coordinate Growth Management Act Steering Committee (GMASC) activities and work program. Staff have estimated the work to include administrative and technical support. Annually the GMASC will establish a work program and budget. The total proposed 2026 work program is \$85,000.

GMA Task 1 - Administrative Support:

Provide administrative support and coordinate efforts of the Growth Management Act Steering Committee and the Growth Management Act Technical Advisory Committee (GMATAC). Anticipated activities include preparing agendas, minutes of the GMASC, resolutions and maintaining related supporting materials.

Estimated cost \$15,000

GMA Task 2 - Technical Support:

Task 2.1 - Growth Monitoring

Prepare a new baseline report and methodology for the annual Growth Monitoring Report. The new methodology will address tracking housing unit creation by income categories consistent with HB 1220 and Commerce guidance based on the methodology developed and tested in 2025. Coordinate with jurisdictions on collection and reporting of data.

Estimated cost \$55,000

Task 2.2 – Monitoring of Climate Data

Recent changes in Washington state law (HB1181) requires jurisdictions to develop a climate element, which includes mitigation sub-element for the cities and county. The purpose of this task is to continue the discussion from 2025, develop possible regional indicators, data, and methodologies to be used in a potential monitoring program. Establishment of which climate related data should be tracked over time to assist in coordination across jurisdictions and support future planning efforts.

Estimated cost \$10,000

Task 2.4 – Multimodal Level of Service Coordination

Recent changes in Washington state law (HB1181) requires jurisdictions to establish multimodal level of service requirements for all locally owned arterials, locally and regionally operated transit routes that serve urban areas and active transportation facilities. WSDOT is responsible for setting level of service standards (LOS) for highways of statewide significance in coordination with RTPOs. SCOG is responsible for other state highways and coordinate LOS standards on regionally significant facilities owned by local jurisdictions. SCOG will assist in coordinating the new multimodal LOS standards among the local jurisdictions for the upcoming 2025 GMA comprehensive plan with WSDOT and Skagit Transit. SCOG will conduct limited research on possible LOS from other GMA jurisdictions, stay abreast of guidance from Department of Commerce and facilitate coordination among agencies in Skagit County. This work will be coordinated with the multimodal LOS work that will be done as part of the Regional Transportation Plan development. This task is continued from 2025.

Estimated cost \$5,000

Cost Allocation: As per the interlocal agreement regarding staffing service for GMA support, costs are to be shared among the 2002 Framework Agreement participants based on their respective share of population annual reported by the Office of Financial Management (OFM), see table.

Allocation based on April 2025 population estimates from OFM.

2026 Draft GMA Work Program Budget						
Total Budget	\$85,000					
	OFM Population			2026	2025	Change from
	2025	%	Cost Allocation	Cost Allocation	Cost Allocation	2025 to 2026
Skagit County	53,380	39.66%	\$33,710	\$33,710	\$47,901	-\$14,191
Anacortes	18,350	13.63%	\$11,588	\$11,588	\$16,447	-\$4,859
Burlington	10,910	8.11%	\$6,890	\$6,890	\$9,371	-\$2,481
Concrete	815	0.61%	\$515	\$515	\$729	-\$214
Hamilton	295	0.22%	\$186	\$186	\$266	-\$80
La Conner	1,000	0.74%	\$632	\$632	\$896	-\$264
Lyman	440	0.33%	\$278	\$278	\$387	-\$109
Mount Vernon	36,050	26.78%	\$22,766	\$22,766	\$32,228	-\$9,462
Sedro-Woolley	13,360	9.93%	\$8,437	\$8,437	\$11,775	-\$3,338
Total	134,600	100%	\$85,000	\$85,000.00	\$120,000.00	-\$35,000.00