



Lewis Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Community Meeting – Cowlitz Prairie Grange December 28, 2023

Meeting Summary

Attendees: 19

The meeting began with an overview of the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update (see handout) and questions from the attendees. Then there was a facilitated workshop with the prompting question “What is your vision for Lewis County in 20-years?” Participants were asked to write 5-10 statements about what they hope Lewis County will be like in 2045, covering topics such as transportation, housing, land use, recreation, jobs, etc. Next, participants were asked to select their top 3 priorities. The participants paired up and shared their top 3 priorities. Together, each team was asked to agree on a combined 3 and write each priority on a notecard. These were shared with the whole group and organized, by the group, into topics. The results of the workshop are provided below. Finally, staff shared the next steps which are to produce notes from this meeting and each of the upcoming community meetings throughout the county and post them on the webpage. Attendees were encouraged to sign up to receive email notifications so they will find out when new meeting notes are posted. The information from all the meetings will be provided to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners and will be used by staff to inform updates to the Comprehensive Plan.

The results of the workshop are below in order of participants’ priorities. Under each priority topic are details or explanations provided by the participants; the bullet points are not in any hierarchical order.

1. Transportation

- Improve traffic flow and safety throughout Lewis County
- Update I-5 to three lanes in South Lewis County
- Add center turn lanes to State Routes and County arterials as those roads pass through more densely developed areas
- Increase public transit services, more frequent service and extended serve to South and East Lewis County

2. Economic Development

- Zone more properties that front I-5 for commercial and industrial development and encourage new businesses along the I-5 corridor and at on/off ramps
- Consider forming a Port District

- Keep larger scale business near I-5 and encourage small businesses throughout Lewis County
- Promote tourism-based economy

3. Housing

- Need a diversity of affordable housing options
- Work with state to reduce the requirements for housing that drive up the costs
- Focus on housing for people as they age

4. Infrastructure

- Ensure that public facilities and services (e.g. fire districts, EMS, school districts, etc.) plan for and can support new rural development.
- Better policy and EMS presence

5. Critical Areas

- Protect open spaces and areas for wildlife
- Limit floodplain development, keep new develop out of areas that flood

6. Public Health

- More health care facilities throughout the county, urgent care
- More comprehensive health care, specialty care facilities without having to travel to Olympia

7. Natural Hazards

- Increase natural hazard management
- Plan for emergency response to natural hazards

8. Recreation and Tourism

- Preserve Lewis County's history and support tourism related to history
- Move Fair Grounds to SE corner of Exit 63 and add Equestrian Center

Other ideas

- Better code enforcement on junk in people's yards



December 28, 2023, Community Meeting at Cowlitz Prairie Grange (Toledo)