

Lewis County Further Findings of Fact

October 20, 2025

Lewis County Comprehensive Plan

Goal UGA 2: Focus development in Urban Growth Areas with adequate public facilities and services.

Policy UGA 2.2: Coordinate with cities for annexation of the Urban Growth Area.

Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) are designated around cities as location where urban density of development should occur and urban services, such as municipal water and sewer, should be provided. Urban services are typically provided by cities, not counties, which is the case within the Chehalis UGA. In addition, cities are the best suited to maintain urban scale transportation infrastructure, including curbs, sidewalks, intersection signals and engineered stormwater facilities, which are infrastructure improvements not typically found within rural areas of the county. It is appropriate for cities to annex territory within the UGA where they are already providing urban services or have identified through the city's Capital Facilities Plan to provide urban services. It is also appropriate for cities to annex territory within the UGA where urban density of development requires urban transportation infrastructure improvements.

Lewis County coordinates with cities through the Planned Growth Committee, which is a committee made up of the mayor of each city in Lewis County, or their designee, and the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners. The Planned Growth Committee hosts a monthly meeting, open to the public, where the jurisdictions coordinate on issues including population growth, housing, UGA boundaries and annexation. The City of Chehalis potential for annexation has been a topic of discussion at Planned Growth Committee 2025 meetings prior to the formal resolution to enter into negotiations for annexation through an Interlocal Agreement.

Therefore, Lewis County has met the goal and policy for coordinating annexation of the UGA with cities.