

CHAPTER 12

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

INTRODUCTION

Coordination and cooperation among various jurisdictions, service providers and other agencies were required during the development of this Plan, and will be essential for its successful implementation and subsequent amendment. In addition to Electric City, these agencies include Grant County, Grand Coulee, various service providers, and various state and federal agencies.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT REQUIREMENTS

The Growth Management Act (GMA) states:

"The legislature finds that uncoordinated and unplanned growth together with a lack of common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our lands, pose a threat to the environment, and the health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning..."

This chapter intends to further that goal through the definition of intergovernmental coordination policies.

USE OF INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENTS

Electric City considered the use of interlocal agreements to promote coordination and consistency. Following are examples of how interlocal agreements might be used.

Development Regulations/Construction Standards

Application of common and consistent development and construction standards for the urban growth area is essential. The County-wide and City planning policies state that all development within a UGA shall conform to city construction standards, performance standards, land use, and circulation patterns. Such construction standards could include streets, sidewalks, water and sewer utilities, storm drains, street lighting, and other infrastructure components.

Interlocal agreements can specify a process for affected governments to review and comment on zone changes and development applications processed by another jurisdiction within

urban growth areas.

Annexations

Annexations can have economic impacts on both the City and the County. For example, the City may have recently invested in road improvements, only to lose the tax base that supports those improvements. Cities sometimes annex areas that were developed to lesser standards than that typically required by a city, and lack basic infrastructure. Often special districts, such as fire or hospital districts, can be impacted by annexations. It is vital that all affected jurisdictions coordinate annexation arrangements so that required service can be maintained and that the financial burdens that result from the transition of land and services from County to city jurisdiction are manageable.

One way of dealing with these impacts is to negotiate interlocal agreements between jurisdictions. Such agreements would address:

- Arrangements for transition of service provision to the annexed area;
- Equitable allocation of tax and other revenues;
- Equitable sharing of cost of service; and
- Other relevant issues.

Often times these agreements are termed "rampdown" agreements because they include provisions for transitioning or prorating of services, revenues, and costs so as to ease the fiscal impacts.

NEIGHBORING JURISDICTIONS

Cities and Counties

Governments adjacent to or within Electric City include:

Counties

Grant County.

Cities and Towns

Grand Coulee

Special Districts

Special districts in Electric City include school, library, mosquito, fire protection, public

utility, hospital, and port district. Each are governed by the state laws pertinent to the district. Each of these districts and their relationship to the City under the GMA is described in Chapter 9- Capital Facilities Element or Chapter 10 - Utilities Element.

State Government

The GMA states that "the drafting of plans and development regulations under the Act should involve a consideration of numerous state and regional regulatory and planning provisions affecting land use, resource management, environmental protection, utilities, or public facilities." The following state agencies have been involved in the growth management planning process. Each department has its specific role in the review of this Plan. Coordination with each of these agencies will be necessary to implement this Plan successfully. Affected state agencies include the Departments of:

- Ecology;
- Health;
- Corrections;
- Transportation;
- Natural Resources;
- Fish and Wildlife;
- Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Social and Human Services;
- Superintendent of Public Instruction; and
- Department of Commerce.

RCW 36.70A.103 states, "State agencies must comply with the local comprehensive plans and development regulations and amendments that are adopted under the Act."

Federal Government

The GMA states, "the drafting of plans and development regulations under the Act should involve a consideration of the effects of federal authority over land or resource use within the planning areas including:

- a) Treaties with Native Americans;
- b) Jurisdiction on land owned or held in trust by the federal government;
- c) Federal statutes or regulations imposing national standards; and
- d) Federal permit programs and plans."

The following federal agencies have been involved in the growth management planning

process:

- U.S. Department of Energy;
- National Park Service;
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; and
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Coordinating Agencies

A number of agencies are already involved in promoting interjurisdictional coordination on a variety of issues. These coordinating agencies include, but are not limited to:

- Quadco Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO);
- Grant County Transit Authority;
- Columbia Basin Groundwater Management Association (GWMA);
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation;
- Washington State Parks; and,
- WDFW

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Electric City, as well as other cities and towns in Grant County, are each involved in planning activities related to their statutory authority and responsibility,

Electric City is the regional government within the City boundaries providing various services within unincorporated and incorporated areas. Electric City will, among other things:

- Be responsible for the development, adoption and implementation of comprehensive plans and development regulations and the processing of land use permits within the unincorporated portions of the City;
- Enter into interlocal agreements with each city and town to address joint issues within UGAs and other matters agreed to be of mutual interest;
- Define and implement procedures that assure opportunities for public participation throughout planning efforts; and
- Coordinate with other agencies as appropriate in multi-jurisdictional planning activities.

Cities within Grant County provide a variety of services primarily to residents within their respective municipal boundaries, Cities will:

- Provide urban governmental services as identified in the GMA and adopted interlocal agreements;

- Be responsible for the development, adoption and implementation of comprehensive plans and development regulations and the processing of land use permits within the incorporated city and within unincorporated portions of UGAs, as may be agreed upon through interlocal agreements with the County;
- Enter into interlocal agreements with Grant County to address joint issues within UGAs and other matters agreed to be of mutual interest;
- Define and implement procedures that assure opportunities for public participation throughout planning efforts; and
- Coordinate with other agencies as appropriate in multi-jurisdictional planning activities.

COORDINATING GMA PRODUCTS

County-wide Planning Policies

Growth management planning is a cooperative process that must occur between the County and cities. To assure the development of common goals to achieve coordinated, planned growth, the GMA required cities and counties to begin the planning process with a set of shared understandings: the County-wide Planning Policies.

In 1993, the Grant County Planned Growth Committee, which included a representative from Electric City and each of the other cities and towns, developed a series of County-wide planning policies intending to incorporate the requirements of the GMA. The County-wide planning policies support, promote, and enforce the GMA's mandated planning goals. These planning policies were adopted by the Grant County Board of Commissioners on May 6, 1993.

Essential Public Facilities

The importance of intergovernmental coordination is clear in the siting of essential public facilities. The City's planning policies recognized this importance and addressed related issues. Included in Chapter 11 - Essential Public Facilities Element are more detailed provisions and policies for designating such facilities.

GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION

A significant degree of cooperation and coordination between the County, cities and towns, state and federal agencies, and special districts is required to manage land use in the urban and rural areas of Electric City. Policies covering interagency cooperation, land use planning and development review, urban service provisions and boundary amendments are needed to set the countywide framework for interjurisdictional agreements.

Grant County and its cities, special districts, state and federal agencies should consider

establishing interagency planning teams to develop ongoing coordination programs within the urban and rural areas. These teams could develop specific procedures for affected agencies, jurisdictions and special districts to:

- Participate, review and comment on the proposed plans and implementation measures of the others to assure consistency with this Comprehensive Plan;
- Periodically review, at a minimum every five years, the capital improvement plans, to enhance, improve and focus concurrency and consistency with this Plan; and
- Improve joint efforts or the combining of operations to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness in service provision.

ANNEXATION AND INCORPORATION

The GMA intends that urban development occur within cities or the unincorporated portions of designated UGAs. The transition of these unincorporated areas within UGAs to cities is a process that requires cooperation of the county, cities and towns, and special districts. Only those areas within a UGA may be annexed under the GMA.

Boundary Review Board

In 1967, the State of Washington recognized and addressed the issue of coordinating jurisdictional changes in unincorporated areas by creating Boundary Review Boards (BRBs). BRBs were formed to " ...provide a method of guiding and controlling the creation and growth of municipalities in metropolitan areas so that...residents and businesses in those areas may rely on logical growth of local government affecting them." Grant County currently has an established local BRB.

In reaching a decision on an annexation request, the BRB must consider the following factors:

- Population and territory;
- Population density;
- Land uses
- Comprehensive planning and zoning;
- Assessed value;
- Topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins;
- Proximity to populated areas and likelihood of significant growth; and
- Other factors which may be unique to that proposal such as location and desirable future location of community facilities.

BRBs must also consider the effect of the proposed annexation on adjacent areas, mutual economic and social interests and the local government structures. However, BRB

decisions must be based on legislatively defined objectives that must be weighed and balanced. For annexations, BRB decisions must find that one or more of the following objectives has been achieved:

- Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities;
- Use of physical boundaries such as bodies of water, topography, or major roads;
- Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries;
- Adjustment of impractical boundaries;
- Annexation to cities or towns of unincorporated areas, which are urban in character;
- Protection of agricultural and rural lands, which are designated for long-term productive agricultural and resource use by the comprehensive plan;
- Provision of adequate services at an urban level of service; and
- Creation and preservation of a local service area.

Decisions of the BRB must be consistent with the GMA, specifically with the provisions of concurrency, comprehensive plans and urban growth areas for annexation.

Under the provisions of the GMA, counties may disband BRBs when they and other affected jurisdictions have adopted ordinances or resolutions necessary to implement the adopted comprehensive plans. However, a review board of some type is needed, and required, under city annexation standards in RCW 35.13.171, to address issues that may arise when a city proposes annexation of land under the jurisdiction of the County.

Upon completion of the UGA plans and subsequent development regulations, and adoption of this Plan, the County and its cities and towns will need to examine the role of the Grant County BRB in future annexations.

Annexation Process

Under Washington state law, annexation is accomplished by two methods: (1) by petition, or (2) by election.

The petition method (RCW 35.13.130) provides, generally, that a petition be signed by the owners of land having not less than 75% of total assessed value of the area petitioned for annexation, according to the assessed valuation for general taxation of the property for which annexation is petitioned. The petition shall set forth a description of the property according to government local subdivisions or legal plats (RCW 35.02.170) and shall be accompanied by a plat which outlines the boundaries of the property to be annexed.

The election method (RCW 35.13.020) provides, generally, that a petition for election be signed by a minimum of 20% of the voters who voted in the last general election, certified by the Prosecuting Attorney of the county (RCW 35.13.025). A date is then established for an election. A simple majority of the voters determines the outcome of an annexation election.

The annexation of contiguous, unincorporated territory may also be initiated by

resolution of the legislative body of the city desiring to annex. The election process is similar to annexation by the petition method.