



City of Port Townsend 2021 Shoreline Master Program Periodic Review

Background

The City of Port Townsend is undertaking a periodic review of its Shoreline Master Program (SMP), as required by the Washington State Shoreline Management Act (SMA), RCW 90.58.080(4). The SMA requires each SMP be reviewed and revised, if needed, on an eight-year schedule established by the Legislature. The review ensures the SMP stays current with changes in laws and rules, remains consistent with other City plans and regulations, and is responsive to changed circumstances, new information and improved data. The deadline for completion is currently June 30, 2021.

Corresponding amendments may be required in Port Townsend Municipal Code (PTMC) Chapters 19.05 Critical Areas and 20.01 Land Development Administrative Procedures.

Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Overview

The Shoreline Master Program (SMP) is a plan containing both policies and regulations that apply to shoreline areas (generally the water area and 200-feet inland). In Port Townsend, shorelines include Port Townsend Bay, Admiralty Inlet, Straits of Juan de Fuca, Kah Tai Lagoon, and Chinese Gardens Lagoon. The SMP is intended to provide for environmental protection, appropriate development, and public access.

Development and uses proposed with shorelines jurisdiction may be required to obtain a Substantial Development Permit, a Shoreline Conditional Use Permit, a Shoreline Variance, or a Letter of Exemption. ALL proposals must comply with the policies and regulations in the SMP.

The City and [State Department of Ecology](#) jointly administer the Shoreline Master Program. For background on the origin of shoreline master programs and the Act that started it all, see

- [Shoreline Management Act](#)
- [Shoreline Master Programs](#)

Needed Updates and Amendments

We are required to review and, if necessary, amend the SMP to ensure it remains current with state laws and rules and consistent with other City plans and regulations. Ecology recommends the City include amendments to reflect changing local circumstances, new information and improved data. Given limited resources, City Council will need to weigh carefully whether “recommended items” and locally identified issues merit the allocation of additional resources.

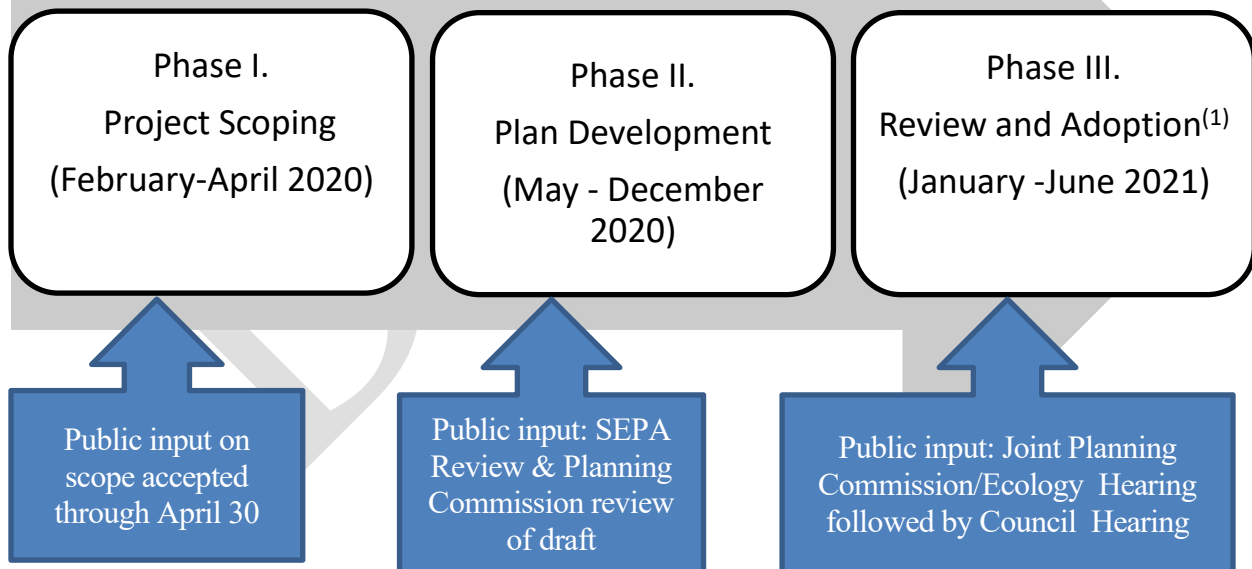
At this juncture, the update is expected to focus on revisions necessary to:

- 1) Keep the SMP current with changes in state law.
- 2) Keep the SMP current with City adopted plans and regulations including recent climate change policies and regulations in the City’s Comprehensive Plan which call for consideration of projected climate change impacts and adaptation strategies when updating land use plans and regulations.
- 3) Revisions to improve implementation (i.e., to facilitate the permit process).

Schedule

The schedule for the SMP Periodic Review consists of three basic phases. Opportunities for public participation evolve as the update progresses.

Please check our website for [Upcoming Meetings and Agendas](#).



⁽¹⁾The City of Port Townsend has elected to use the optional joint review process to combine the local and Ecology comment periods, as allowed under WAC 173-26-104. No additional comment period will occur during the state review process. Comments provided to the City will be reviewed by both the City and Ecology. There is no need to send comments directly to Ecology.

Ways to Get Involved

The public is invited to **submit written comment** throughout the SMP update process. Comments regarding the scope will be accepted through **April 30, 2020**. Additional opportunities for comment will follow including:

- SEPA Threshold Determination
- Planning Commission review of Draft Amendments
- City Council Review of Draft Amendments

The City has opted for the joint (concurrent) local and state public comment periods. Comments provided to the City will be reviewed by both the City/ and Ecology. All interested parties are invited to submit comments and attend meetings before the Planning Commission and City Council. Please check the [City Calendar](#) for the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Missed a meeting? No problem, you can review [past meetings](#) and documents related to Periodic Update on our website.

A copy of the 2007 Shoreline Master Program can be found on our [Planning Page](#)

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