



# ELLENSBURG 2046

Hometown Heart — Bright Future

## EIS Scoping Period

### What is the Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Update process, Ellensburg will be developing an Environmental Impact Statement (or EIS) to comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

SEPA provides a framework for:

- Identifying environmental impacts and potential mitigation
- Agency, public, and Tribal review and input
- Informed decision-making

An Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, is the format for documenting the SEPA review when an action is likely to have significant environmental impacts. Generally, an EIS is an informational document that provides the City, public, and other agencies with environmental information to be considered in the decision-making process for a proposal. It also allows agencies, affected tribes, and the public to comment on proposals, alternatives, and environmental impacts.

The EIS provides an “impartial discussion of significant environmental impacts and shall inform decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives, including mitigation measures, that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance environmental quality” (WAC 197-11-400).

### What is the EIS process?

An EIS process involves the following steps:

- **Scoping** – gathers public and agency input on the range of alternatives being considered and the environmental topics being evaluated.
- **Existing conditions analysis** – documents the current environmental conditions.
- **Alternatives analysis** – evaluates the potential impacts of implementing each of the proposed alternatives.
- **Draft EIS and public comment period** – provides 30 days for the public and agencies to review and comment on the proposal and environmental analysis.
- **Final EIS** - responds to comments and amends the Draft EIS, as appropriate.

The Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan EIS is currently in the scoping phase, which provides the public an opportunity to weigh in on the process before the analysis is conducted.

### How can I weigh in during the scoping period?

During the scoping period, you can submit a written comment to the City of Ellensburg. In particular, we are looking for input on the alternatives considered in the EIS, the elements of the environment to be addressed, potential significant adverse impacts, and potential measures to mitigate those impacts.

Provide your written comments by 5:00 pm on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Send comments by mail or email to:

**Stacey Henderson, Planning Manager**

**City of Ellensburg Department of Community Development**

501 North Anderson Street

Ellensburg, WA 98926

[hendersons@ci.ellensburg.wa.us](mailto:hendersons@ci.ellensburg.wa.us)

## What alternatives and elements of the environment are being considered?

The alternatives and elements of the environment that will be covered in the EIS have not been finalized, and public input during the scoping period can influence what will be included.

Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two other alternatives that would consider different approaches to accommodating growth. Current considerations for each of the alternatives are as follows:

- Under the **No Action Alternative**, the City would not adopt a new Comprehensive Plan, and the goals, policies, and growth projections in the existing City of Ellensburg Comprehensive Plan would be carried forward.
- **Action Alternative 1** would distribute growth throughout the City by: revising development regulations to allow new uses or increased density as necessary to meet growth projections, making only minor changes to zoning boundaries, and expanding the UGA.
- **Action Alternative 2** would increase density in targeted areas to focus growth by: making more extensive zoning boundary changes to create capacity for areas of needed growth and increasing density and allowance of different housing and mixed use types in specific neighborhoods.

Elements of the environment that are anticipated to be addressed in the EIS are:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Biological Resources and Critical Areas
- Climate Change

### LEARN MORE

For more details and ways to get involved, scan the QR Code to the right or visit the project website at [bit.ly/Ellensburg2046](http://bit.ly/Ellensburg2046).

