



Yakima County Visioning “Check In” Report



Yakima County Visioning Goals “Check In” Executive Summary

Yakima County is required through the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) to conduct a review of our Comprehensive Plan (Plan 2015). This review also requires the review of the development regulations. Any update to the plan and associated regulations will be in response to changes in land use trends and population growth, while incorporating relevant State changes in the GMA.

The review/update must be completed by June 30, 2017. Plan 2015 was adopted May 20, 1997; it was last updated for GMA on December 18, 2007, and reaches the end of its planned year in 2015. As a part of the required Plan 2015 update, a “check in” process has been conducted for the Upper and Lower Valley visioning plans.

The documents that preceded the original GMA Comprehensive Plan are the Visioning Goals that were based on an extensive public process that took place shortly after the GMA was adopted in 1990. Hundreds of citizens and thousands of hours went into the creation of two reports that were published in 1992:

Lower Valley *FOCUS 2010* (containing 48 Goals in 43 pages)
Upper Valley *VISION 2010* (containing 82 Goals in 101 pages)

The “check in” process was conducted through a series of online surveys via Survey Monkey between October 6 and December 8 of 2014 in both English and Spanish. Over the course of 8 weeks the community had the opportunity to take the survey for the Upper Valley, Lower Valley, or both and to state if they still, (1) agreed with the goal, (2) thought the goal was already achieved, (3) thought the goal was no longer relevant, (4) if they neither disagree nor agree, (5) if they did not agree with the goal, or (5) if they wanted modification of an existing goal.

With 1,158 surveys completed, the results were compiled and provided to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission held five workshops, paying close attention to comments submitted in the survey, the original intent of the Visioning Report, and their own understanding of the desired future for Yakima County. The updated Visioning Goals will be published simply as a “check in”. This “check in” document will help affirm the direction Yakima County Planning Division, the Planning Commission, and the public need to take as the Comprehensive Plan; *Horizon 2040* is drafted over the next two years.

Yakima County Visioning Goals “Check In” Report

The Visioning Reports: The Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Division began a visioning process in 1990 with a survey questionnaire mailed to 1,500 randomly selected individuals in both the county and the cities. With letters from the Board encouraging participation, the survey received an 80% response rate. The survey responses were the beginning of a much more intense and citizen involved public participation visioning effort. Hundreds of citizens and thousands of volunteer hours were culminated in the publication of two visioning reports. The Upper Yakima Valley *Vision 2010* and the Lower Yakima Valley *Focus 2010* were published in 1992. The Visioning Reports include topics such as: introduction to the visioning process, introductions for each topic, visions, goals, objectives, strategies, and responsible parties. In all, the Upper Yakima Valley *Vision 2010* Visioning Report produced 82 goals and the Lower Yakima Valley *Focus 2010* Visioning Report produced 48 goals that would bring in the positive future anticipated for the Yakima Valley.

The Comprehensive Plan Update (*Horizon 2040*): Yakima County is required by the Growth Management Act to review, and if needed, revise the Comprehensive Plan (*Plan 2015*) and development regulations by June 30, 2017. Do to the amount of public involvement that went into the original Visioning Reports and the slower rate of change in the Yakima Valley, it was determined that a “check in” with the citizens was the best course of action. This would respect the work previously done on the Visioning Reports and would be a reminder that those goals are still being propelled into action with documents such as the Comprehensive Plan and the development regulations. The “check in” will act as the first step in the Comprehensive Plan Update project (*Horizon 2040*). Culmination of the “check in” process will be an addendum to the original Visioning Reports with revised goals and a report showing the work. This initial process will act as a spring board to generate additional public participation as the *Horizon 2040* project updates the Comprehensive Plan and development regulations in 2017.

The survey: The Yakima County Planning Division posted a total of 15 surveys online between October 6th and December 8th of 2014. The intent of the Visioning Goals “Check In” survey was to ask respondents to evaluate the goal statements of the original Visioning Reports as they were presented in the Upper Valley *Vision 2010* and the Lower Valley *Focus 2010* Documents. Throughout the 8 week campaign a total of four surveys were published each week; a survey for the Upper Yakima Valley Visioning Goals in English and Spanish and a survey for the Lower Yakima Valley Visioning Goals in English and Spanish. The Spanish translations were included to accommodate the county’s 47% Hispanic or Latino population. The four weekly surveys were brought online each week for seven weeks. Each survey remained live as new surveys were added allowing new survey takers the option to take earlier surveys and/or to take both the Upper Valley and Lower Valley surveys. Week 8 surveys were conducted a little differently, using the Upper Valley Visioning Goals in one survey for both the Upper and Lower Valley and a Spanish translated survey produced two surveys for the final week.

The online surveys were created using Survey Monkey. Spanish translations were completed by Alba Enterprises.

Scoring and weighting: Two types of questions were presented in the surveys – general questions and questions evaluating the text of the original goal statements. General questions were used to introduce survey-takers to the topic at hand and to get some general information about who was responding to the surveys. Each *Vision 2010* and *Focus 2010* goal was presented using the “Likert Scale”, which measures attitudes on a scale from agreement to disagreement. The Likert Scale assigns a weighted value to each answer choice, which can then be used to assign an average rating for each question. Survey Monkey allows the survey creator to assign values to each answer choice in the Likert scale question, and to modify the answer choices. For the surveys, we asked respondents to state whether they agreed, disagreed, felt that the goal in question was no longer relevant, had already been achieved, or should be modified. Responses to the visioning goal questions were weighted in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1. Weighting of Survey Responses

Answer	Weight
Disagree	1
Goal is No Longer Relevant	2
Neither Disagree Nor Agree	3
Goal Has Been Achieved	4
Agree	6
Goal Should be Modified	5
*Note that “Goal should be modified” has a lower weight assigned to it than “Agree”. It is placed in that order to follow the flow of the survey, but given less weight than a simple “Agree” answer.	

Methodology: The analysis used the following method for incorporating survey results into decisions about which goals need to remain as they are, change, or be removed:

- Weighting average greater than 5: Consider maintaining the goal. Minor changes in wording may be suggested based on written comments.
- Weighting average greater than 4 less than 5: Consider revising or deleting the goal. Consider survey responses and written comments in decision.
- Weighting average less than 4: Consider deleting the goal.
- Written Responses: In addition, survey takers were given the opportunity to write in their comments, and to propose new or modified goals for each section of the survey. New or modified goal language was incorporated into the staff recommendations. General written comments were categorized and used to clarify survey responses. This approach was used to better understand the goals’ average ratings.

The first survey was launched October 6, 2014. All surveys remained open once they were launched. All surveys closed on December 8, 2014. Each week a total of four surveys were opened: Upper Valley (English and Spanish); and Lower Valley (English and Spanish), see Table 2 below.

Table 2. Visioning Survey Topic Schedule by Week

Week	Upper Valley	Lower Valley	Date Launched
Week 1	Economic Development & Employment Training	Economic Development & Employment Training	10/6/14
Week 2	Environment & Natural Resources	Environment & Natural Resources	10/13/14
Week 3	Rural and Agriculture	Rural and Agriculture	10/20/14
Week 4	Quality of Life and Government Services & Facilities	Quality of Life and Government Services & Facilities	10/27/14
Week 5	Housing	Housing	11/3/14
Week 6	Urban Growth and Land Use	Urban Growth and Land Use	11/10/14
Week 7	Health Care	Transportation	11/17/14
Week 8	Humanity and Family	Humanity and Family	11/24/14
*All surveys closed 12/8/14			

Paper Surveys: Survey Boxes with paper survey packets were placed at Lower Valley locations (see below) the week of November 14th to garner increased participation from the Lower Valley. New paper surveys were added to the paper survey packet, similar to the on line surveys.

- White Swan library

- Harrah library and City Hall
- Wapato library
- Zillah library
- Granger library
- Sunnyside library
- Grandview library

Responses to the on line and paper surveys separated by Upper Valley (UV) and Lower Valley (LV) and English and Spanish are listed in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Total Responses by Week and Upper Valley/Lower Valley

	English UV	Spanish UV	English LV	English LV Paper Survey	Spanish LV	Spanish LV Paper Survey	Total
Week 1	244	8	49	5		1	307
Week 2	131	6	26	4		1	168
Week 3	135	1	27	4			167
Week 4	86		17	4			107
Week 5	114		21	4			139
Week 6	60		17	4			81
Week 7	62		18	3			83
Week 8	95			1	10		106
Total	927	15	175	29	10	2	1,158

At the close of the survey, the Planning Division Staff began working with the Planning Commission on the results and comments. A Chart was developed that identified each question in the survey that was weighted, and where warranted, provided an Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 language modification options, a column for staff notes, and a column for Planning Commission Comments and their final language modification recommendation. These discussions are what shaped the *Horizon 2040* Visioning Goals “Check In” Addendum for the Visioning Reports originally published in 1992.

Each section discusses responses to each question posed in the survey. For survey questions with weighted responses, the analysis is organized into the following points:

1. Proposed Goal language from Survey: This sections consists of goals proposed by survey-takers. All proposed goals were discussed at Planning Commission meetings and hearings during review of the Visioning goals. Some proposed goals were incorporated into the final revised goals either through revising the language of existing goals or adding a new goal.
2. Staff Recommendation: Either one or two alternatives were recommended by the Planning staff to the Planning Commission for each goal.
3. Planning Commission Recommendation: The Planning Commission provided recommendations on each goal.
4. Final Visioning Goals: Final Visioning goals after discussion with Planning Commission.

The remainder of this report identifies each survey question, the number of responses, the comments provided, and initial analysis of what the response means to the visioning goals and the comprehensive plan update project.

Week 1 – Economic Development and Training Upper Valley

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- English: 244
- Spanish: 8

Total written comments:

- 267 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 1.1A Question 1: Do you live in a rural or urban community?

- A majority (59%) of survey takers answered that they live in a city or town (urban community).

UV 1.1B Question 1A: If you live in a city or town which one?

A majority of respondents (85%) said they live in the city of Yakima.

Figure 1A. City of Residence – Upper Valley

UV 1.2 Question 2: Do you work in a rural or urban community?

- 73% of survey respondents answered that they work in a city or urban community. 90% of respondents who work identified that they work in the cities of Yakima (85%) or Union Gap (5%).
- 12% reported that they work in a rural community (the remaining 15% responded “N/A”).

UV 1.3 Question 3: Looking ahead, how do you feel about future economic opportunities in the Upper Yakima Valley?

- The response was generally neutral to positive, with 54% of respondents stating that the opportunities would remain the same and 32% of respondents stating that they felt there would be more economic opportunities for the Upper Valley in the next 20 years.

Figure 1B. Future Economic Opportunities in the Upper Yakima Valley

UV 1.4 - Question 4: Infrastructure and Facilities: A healthy economy provides jobs for local residents and the tax base for infrastructure, schools, parks, public safety and other public facilities and services. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1A. Infrastructure and Facilities

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Establish an adequate industrial campus in the Upper Yakima Valley."	4.45	4.25
B. "Enhance our transportation facilities, including air, rail and highways."	5.00	4.75
C. "Renovate our downtown business core."	4.42	4.25

Figure 1C. Infrastructure and Facilities, Upper Valley

UV 1.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Industrial Growth is to be encouraged through infrastructure support and project specific consideration for appropriate neighborhood development."
2. "Maintain an adequate supply of industrial property that is ready to build (adequately served by municipal and private utilities)."
3. "Plan regionally for infrastructure and 'connecting traffic' and city growth to support efficient transportation development and access to rail, air and highway transportation."
4. Encourage and support small, rural and large commercial hubs for regional identity, diversity and resident access to services and county economic health."
5. "As a county, (we/they) should...focus on targeted areas of economic development that fold in well with the renovation of downtown business core. The two entities should work much more closely together and collaborate with expansion of businesses and development. Especially where the cost of development for infrastructure and improving and locating schools, for example, degrade the overall quality of life enjoyed by those there prior to the expansion of the development."

UV 1.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Revise Goal A as follows: Ensure an adequate supply of industrial property throughout the county by supporting infrastructure for industrial campuses.

Goal B: Revise Goal B as follows: Enhance our transportation facilities, including air, rail, highways, and non-motorized.

Goal C: Delete goal (i.e., leave downtown planning to the cities).

UV 1.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

- A. *Goal A:* Revise Goal A as follows: Ensure an adequate supply of industrial property throughout the county by supporting infrastructure for industrial campuses purposes.
- B. *Goal B:* Revise Goal B as follows: Enhance our transportation facilities, including air, rail, highways, and non-motorized.
- C. *Goal C:* Delete goal (i.e., leave downtown planning to the cities).

UV 1.4.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Ensure an adequate supply of industrial property throughout the county by supporting infrastructure for industrial purposes."
- B. "Enhance our transportation facilities, including air, rail, highways, and non-motorized."

UV 1.5 Question 5: Business Development: Business Development and Tourism: Businesses benefit from private and public networks to provide business planning, marketing and financial management advice, as well as public investments in local roads and signage, parking, community safety, convention facilities, and other features that serve both visitors and residents. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1B. Business Development – Tourism – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
"Coordinate and enhance entrepreneurial incubator assistance programs for existing and new businesses"	4.82	4.38
"Attract more than our fair share of retirement, tourism, recreational and convention business to the Yakima area as a destination of choice"	5.22	3.75

Figure 1C. Business Development – Tourism in the Upper Valley

UV 1.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

The following new goals, or changes to the goals, were proposed:

1. "Landowner's deserve the maximum allowable flexibility and entrepreneurial support, for business and property development creation or growth."
2. "Visualize Yakima Valley as the desired exciting and varied destination of choice for living, touring, competing or playing."
3. "Continue to attract retirement, tourism, recreational and convention business to the Yakima area as a destination of choice."

UV 1.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: "Support the development and operation of business incubators."

Alternative 2: Retain as is

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Retain goal as is.

Alternative 2: "Attract retirement, tourism, recreational and convention businesses to Yakima as a destination option".

UV 1.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

- A. *Goal A:* Alternative 1 Modified. "Support the development and operation of business incubators and home businesses"
- B. *Goal B:* Alternative 2. "Attract retirement, tourism, recreational and convention businesses to Yakima as a destination option."

UV 1.5.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Support the development and operation of business incubators and home businesses."
- B. "Attract retirement, tourism, recreational and convention businesses to Yakima as a destination option."

UV 1.6 Question 6: Education and Employment Training: An educated work force is essential for a healthy economy. **For the purposes of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:**

Table 1C. Education an Employment Training – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Provide for the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable all students to be successfully employed and be lifelong learners."	4.85	4.25
B. "Provide equal access to education, employment, training and opportunities for our culturally, racially and/or economically diverse families."	4.53	4.25

Figure 1D. Education and Employment Training – Upper Valley

UV 1.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

The following goals or revised goal language was proposed:

1. "Actively promote equal access to education, employment, training and opportunities for our culturally, racially and/or economically diverse families."
2. "Provide the same access to education, employment, training and opportunities for Caucasian children as we provide for the culturally, racially and/or economically diverse families."
3. The County should "Support the development of knowledge... "; ("Providing" is a duty of the state and the voters to the extent that they pass levies.)
4. "Provide the opportunity for students to develop a knowledge and skill base that will enable them to be successfully employed and to be lifelong learners." (Note: it is outside the realm or expectation of government to "develop" knowledge, skills, and especially attitudes. Government can only provide the opportunity)
5. "Provide the opportunities for the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable and motivate students to be financially successful and self-supporting."

UV 1.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Delete goal (organizations other than the county are established to implement these goals).

Alternative 2: Retain goal as is

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Delete goal

Alternative 2: Retain goal as is

UV 1.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 2. Retain goal

Goal B: Alternative 2. Retain goal

UV 1.6.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Provide for the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable all students to be successfully employed and be lifelong learners."
- B. "Provide equal access to education, employment, training and opportunities for our culturally, racially and/or economically diverse families."

UV 1.7 Question 7: What changes would most improve Yakima County's economy?

(This was an open ended question.) Almost 100 comments were submitted. The comments can generally be grouped into the following themes. These themes are listed in order of most commonly mentioned to least, in answer to, "What changes would most improve Yakima County's economy?"

1. Diversify economy: Encourage more non-agriculturally related industries and employers to locate in the valley.
2. Wages: Encourage more living wage jobs in the valley and prevent artificially low wages for professional and non-minimum wage jobs.
3. Government services: Less regulation; higher development standards; more coordination between local governments and other entities (Yakima County and City of Yakima, Yakama Nation, state agencies, non-profit and business groups, etc.)
4. Education: Vocational skills and entrepreneurial education opportunities for residents; a four year university and more educational opportunities for adults; better education for children through adopting proven methods for students' progress and training of teacher; cross training for workers to learn new industries.
5. Tourism/ Image: Promote tourism and recreation; develop a "theme" for Yakima and provide more recreational infrastructure such as a water park, hiking and biking trails; music and art events. Closely related to tourism, begin to renovate and clean up impoverished sections of Yakima; keep roads and trails clean and free of litter; "build Yakima as a safe, fun and economically favorable city."
6. Downtown: Improve and renovate downtown so that businesses will open downtown; revitalize downtown by offering tax breaks; make downtown a tourist destination for wineries, etc.
7. Crime/Safety: Reduce crime and gangs, increased law enforcement in rural areas, safety in public places and in downtown to encourage businesses to locate.
8. Equal Access: Provide equal opportunities for all residents, including youth and senior citizens; stop focusing on one minority group and develop opportunities and incentives for everyone.
9. Immigration: Reduce undocumented workers; hold employers accountable for knowingly hiring undocumented workers; enforce immigration laws.
10. Other: Other comments did not fit the above categories, most of them related to a change in attitude among citizens and elected officials.

UV 1.8 Question 8: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Economic Development and Employment Training section, please write your proposal below.

The majority of comments in this section were general comments. Several complete goals were submitted as modifications to the existing goals. The comments can generally be grouped into the following themes. These themes are listed in order of most commonly mentioned to least:

1. Education: Encourage higher education and skills training for high school students; more opportunities for adult education; a four year university.
2. Environment: Regulate dairies and CAFO's; better quality control for air pollution; eradicate goathead weeds; emphasize the importance of water delivery infrastructure; increase green space and trees; provide walkable neighborhoods; increase hiking/biking trails; encourage dog-friendly businesses and activities; increase wildlife habitat.

Example: “We live in a beautiful area of the state. If we promoted the natural beauty and the multitude of outside activities here perhaps we would also have more tourism around that sort of thing.”

3. Tourism: Acquire downtown mall and make it tourist-friendly; establish an open air farmers market similar to Wenatchee’s; provide more year-round activities, such as the Farmer’s Market, at the fairgrounds; target wine industry for long range development.
4. County Services: Countywide recycling program; ensure that government buildings are safe; review all building, zoning and business licensing standards.
5. Diversify economy: Support small business but attract large employers too; attract industries with high paying jobs that support the agricultural base.

Example: “Allow more ancillary uses within farm areas that clearly support farming”

6. Transportation: Transportation sector should include funding for all urban and rural roads, railways, and public transportation. Comprehensive Plan should also include provisions for non-motorized transportation.
7. Wages: Address income inequality. Promote apprenticeship/trainee programs allowing for lower wages during training and higher wages after completion.

Week 1 – Economic Development and Training Lower Valley

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 49 English
- 5 English (paper survey)
- 1 Spanish

Total written comments:

- 67 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 1.1A Question 1: In what type of community do you live (urban or rural)?

- A majority (60%) of responses stated they lived in a rural community.

LV 1.1 B Question 1B: If you live in a city or town, which one?

- Zillah, City of Yakima, and Wapato made up the largest percentage of responses. Figure 10 shows the diversity of towns/cities in which the respondents live.

Figure 1E. City of Residence – Lower Valley

- LV 1.2 Question 2:** Do you work in a rural or urban community?
- The survey showed that 57% of respondents worked in a city or urban community, 30% worked in a rural area (the remaining 13% answered “N/A”).
- LV 1.3 Question 3:** Looking ahead, how do you feel about future economic opportunities in the Lower Yakima Valley?
- A majority of survey takers felt economic opportunities will be the same or better in the Lower Valley.

Figure 1G. Future Economic Opportunities in the Lower Yakima Valley

LV 1.4 Question 4: Infrastructure and Facilities: A healthy economy provides jobs for local residents and the tax base for infrastructure, schools, parks, public safety and other public facilities and services. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1D. Infrastructure and Facilities

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Develop infrastructure and facilities to support our economic development."	5.33
B. "Improve all modes of transportation to support our economic development."	5.35
C. "Develop complementary commercial districts through economic restructuring, infrastructure improvements, and new business recruitment."	4.76
D. "Establish an ongoing beautification program designed to improve the appearance of the Yakima Valley."	5.00

Figure 1G. Infrastructure and Facilities

LV 1.4.1 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain as is

Goal B: Retain as is

Goal C:

Alternative 1: Clarify what is meant by “complementary commercial districts” and “economic restructuring”.

Alternative 2: Delete goal

Alternative 3: Retain goal as is.

Goal D: Retain as is

LV 1.4.2 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain goal as is

Goal B: Alternative 1. Retain goal as is

Goal C: Retain goal as is but delete “complementary”

Goal D: Modify: "Establish Consider an ongoing beautification program designed to improve the appearance of the Yakima Valley."

LV 1.4.3 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Develop infrastructure and facilities to support our economic development."
- B. "Improve all modes of transportation to support our economic development."
- C. "Develop commercial districts through economic restructuring, infrastructure improvements, and new business recruitment."
- D. "Consider an ongoing beautification program designed to improve the appearance of the Yakima Valley."

LV 1.5 Question 5: Business Development - Existing Businesses: Business Development and Tourism: Businesses benefit from private and public networks to provide business planning, marketing and financial management advice, as well as

public investments in local roads and signage, parking, community safety, convention facilities, and other features that serve both visitors and residents. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1E. Business Development – Existing Business

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Develop a strong value added product industry which supports our agricultural base."	5.31
B. "Expand the export of our area's good and services."	5.29
C. "Support retention and expansion of existing industry."	5.43
D. "Develop a supportive community environment for business."	5.40

Figure 1H. Business Development – Existing Businesses

LV 1.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goal language was proposed.

LV 1.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

- Goal A: Retain as is
- Goal B: Retain as is
- Goal C: Retain as is
- Goal D: Retain as is

LV 1.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

- Goal A: Retain goal as is
- Goal B: Retain goal as is
- Goal C: Retain goal as is
- Goal D: Retain goal as is

LV 1.5.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Develop a strong value added product industry which supports our agricultural base."
- B. "Expand the export of our area's goods and services."
- C. "Support retention and expansion of existing industry."
- D. "Develop a supportive community environment for business."

LV 1.6 Question 6: Business Development - Attracting New Businesses: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1F. Business Development – Attracting New Businesses – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Recruit new industry that supports diversifying the economy and provides for year-round employment."	5.45
B. "Attract visitors and tourists through a combination of special events, programs, the development of quality areas and facilities, and the effective marketing of the Yakima Valley."	5.39
C. "Effect legislation which promotes business development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.)"	5.09
D. "Secure private and public capital for economic development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.)"	5.02
E. "Develop and encourage incubation format for industries and home businesses."	4.88

Figure 11. Business Development – Attracting New Businesses – Lower Valley

LV 1.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goal language was proposed.

LV 1.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is

Goal B: Retain goal as is

Goal C: Retain goal as is

Goal D: Retain goal as is

Goal E:

Alternative 1: “Encourage the development of an incubator for new industries.”

Alternative 2: Retain or delete goal

LV 1.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is

Goal B: Retain goal as is

Goal C: Retain goal as is

Goal D: Alternative 2. Retain goal as is

Goal E: Retain goal modified, Add home businesses to UV

LV 1.6.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Develop a strong value added product industry which supports our agricultural base."
- B. "Expand the export of our area's good and services."
- C. "Effect legislation which promotes business development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.)"
- D. "Secure private and public capital for economic development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.)"
- E. "Develop and encourage incubation format for industries and home businesses."

LV 1.7 Question 7: Education and Employment Training: An educated work force is essential for a healthy economy. For the purposes of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 1G. Education and Employment Training

Answer Options	Rating Average
"Establish education and training programs to qualify workers for skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Develop and expand educational facilities and skill centers."	5.47

Figure 1J. Education and Employment Training

LV 1.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goal language was proposed.

LV 1.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal A as is.

LV 1.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Retain Goal as is.

LV 1.7.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Establish education and training programs to qualify workers for skilled and semi-skilled jobs. Develop and expand educational facilities and skill centers."

LV 1.8 Question 8: What changes would most improve Yakima County's economy? (This was an open ended) Comments can generally be grouped into the following themes:

1. Diversify Economy: Changes that would attract new businesses. More businesses to increase the availability and diversity of jobs. More restaurants and places to go.
2. Government Services: Friendlier environment for building. Fewer regulations. Make government resources (Planning, education, etc.) more widely available in the Lower Valley.
3. Education: Aptitude tests, and more effective educational programs to increase the number of skilled employees.
4. Social Issues/Crime/Safety: Decrease crime and stop Yakima's reputation as being high in crime.

LV 1.9 Question 9: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Economic Development and Employment Training section, please write your proposal below.

1. There were 11 comments provided. Comments ranged from investment in education to attracting new businesses to the property. No specific goals were proposed.

LV 1.10 Question 10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

1. Public Safety: Safety issues should continue to be addressed. This area has a great potential to grow and changing the perception to this being a safe community would be very desirable.
2. Other:
 - Look into the federal Economic Development Commission for our area to help attract industry and business.
 - I do not want to see the small cities here in the Lower Valley trying to expand into the farm ground...we need to limit growth and strengthen and support what we already have here.

Week 2 – Environment Upper Valley

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- English: 131
- Spanish: 8

Total written comments:

- 87 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 2.1 Question 1: What is your favorite aspect of Yakima County’s natural environment?

- Survey responses suggest that there are many aspects of Yakima’s natural environment that residents enjoy, most of all the Cascade Mountains, the weather and climate and the valley’s streams and rivers.

Figure 2A. Favorite Aspect of Yakima County’s Natural Environment – Upper Valley

UV 2.2 Question 2: Looking ahead into the next 25 years, which environmental issues are you most concerned about, specifically for the Upper Yakima Valley? (please rank)

Results Summary:

In the English survey, concerns were ranked as follows:

1. Water quality
2. Water availability
3. Air quality
4. Land use issues
5. Climate change
6. Endangered species/habitat loss.

In the Spanish survey:

1. Water Quality (tied)
2. Air Quality (tied)
3. Land Use (tied)
4. Water Quantity (tied)
5. Others choices not identified.

UV 2.3 Question 3 Water: Clean water is a necessity for human life. Our agricultural economy is dependent on an abundant, reliable source of water. Clean, abundant water is important for fish, aquatic life, and other species that rely on the habitat, rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands provide. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2A. Water – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Improve and maintain water quality."	5.46
B. "Understand that adequate levels of water quantity, whether in surface or ground supplies, continues to have an uncertain future."	5.34
C. "Promote increased levels of water management for the purposes of conservation, storage, delivery, and flood control."	5.25
D. "Agricultural, municipal, and industrial, recreational and fishery base flows, wildlife habitat and wetlands are water uses that should be managed more effectively."	4.90
E. "Remember that the Yakima River Basin is unique and should be managed accordingly."	5.10

Figure 2B. Water – Upper Valley

1. "Provide effective stewardship of our County's diverse and sometimes conflicting water uses and needs (Agriculture, Municipal, Wetlands ... et al")
2. "Effectively manage water usage for agriculture, municipalities, and industry, recreational and fishery base flows, wildlife habitat, and wetlands."
3. Suggestion for E: "Manage the Yakima River Basin to maintain its unique characteristics."
4. Combine Goal D with Goal C: "Promote, increased levels of water management, (recognizing that the Yakima basin is unique..."
5. Goal B: I think the phrasing of the statement "...continues to have an uncertain future." is too vague. Stronger language is needed.
6. "Combine A & B to a single statement: "Promote responsible stewardship of our County's water supply (surface and groundwater)"
7. Change Goal A to: "Support responsible stewardship of surface and groundwater through a variety of means, including but not limited to water banking, water use efficiency measures."

UV 2.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal. "Improve and maintain water quality and quantity."

Alternative 2: Retain Goal A.

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal B. Combine with Goal A to read: "Improve and maintain water quality and quantity."

Alternative 2: Revise Goal B. "Promote water conservation activities and technologies that maintain adequate surface and ground water supplies."

Goal C: Retain goal as is.

Goal D:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal D. "Provide effective management for diverse and conflicting water uses: agricultural, municipal, and industrial; recreational and fishery base flows; wildlife habitat; and wetlands."

Alternative 2: "Provide effective management for diverse and conflicting water uses: agricultural, municipal, and industrial; recreational and fishery base flows; wildlife habitat; and wetlands."

Goal E:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal: "Manage the Yakima River Basin as a unique resource."

Alternative 2:

Goal E: Delete Goal.

UV 2.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Combine A & B "Improve and maintain water quality and quantity"

Goal B: Alternative 1. Combine A & B

Goal C: Alternative 2. Retain goal C as is

Goal D: Alternative 1. + Add rural residential

Goal E: Alternative 1. Manage the Yakima River Basin as a unique resource.

UV 2.3.4 - Water - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Improve and maintain water quality and quantity."
- B. "Promote increased levels of water management for the purposes of conservation, storage, delivery, and flood control."
- C. "Provide effective management for diverse and conflicting water uses: agricultural, municipal, and industrial; recreational and fishery base flows; wildlife habitat; wetlands; and rural residential."
- D. "Manage the Yakima River Basin as a unique resource."

UV 2.4 Question 4: Land: Land is a resource that must be developed in a responsible manner, preserving certain types of land for one use while encouraging other uses in another area (e.g. preserving prime agriculture land in large acreages for farming while encouraging compact development in areas that are already urbanized and have city services available). For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2B. Land – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Coordinate land uses to reduce uncertainty and unpredictable development which sacrifices conservation and sound land management."	5.07	5.00
B. "Preservation and protection of significant critical areas"	5.02	5.00

Figure 2C. Land – Upper Valley

UV 2.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. Please maintain statement consistency: accordingly, reword the second statement to read "Preserve and protect significant critical areas."
2. Define a critical area? What does that mean? Critical to whom?
3. "Just rewording so it fits the rest of the goals: "Preserve and protect significant critical areas."

UV 2.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is.

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal B. *Preserve and protect significant critical areas.*

Alternative 2: Retain goal as is

UV 2.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain goal A as is

Goal B: Alternative 1. Preserve and protect critical areas

UV 2.4.4 - Land - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Coordinate land uses to reduce uncertainty and unpredictable development which sacrifices conservation and sound land management."
- B. "Preserve and protect critical areas."

UV 2.5 Question 5: Air: Many aspects of land use, from industry to agriculture, to transportation, are connected to air quality, which has a direct impact on health and quality of life for Yakima Valley residents. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, how much do you agree with the following statements?

Table 2C. Air –Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Understanding that air quality challenges are uniquely different for urbanizing and rural areas. This concept is related to the physical features but also includes recognition of existing or future growth patterns and regulations"	5.04	5.40
B. "Understanding that the quantity, size, location and nature of industrial or community growth will impact air quality differently (i.e. transportation and heating methods).	5.10	5.00
C. "Determine what threshold of air quality we wish to achieve and maintain for health and aesthetics."	5.26	5.00

Figure 2D. Air – Upper Valley

2.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific new goals were proposed.

2.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal: "Address air quality challenges while recognizing the different existing and future growth patterns and regulations for urbanizing and rural areas."

Alternative 2: Revise Goal: "Determine, achieve, and maintain healthy air quality standards in both urban and rural areas."

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal – “Identify the impact on air quality caused by industrial and community growth patterns, such as the quantity, size, location, and nature of the growth.”

Alternative 2: Delete Goal

Goal C:

Alternative 1: Revise Goal – “Determine a threshold of air quality to achieve and maintain for health and aesthetics.”

Alternative 2: Delete Goal

2.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. “Address air quality challenges while recognizing the different existing and future growth patterns and regulations for urbanizing and rural areas.”

Goal B: Alternative 1. “Identify the impact on air quality caused by industrial and community growth patterns, such as the quantity, size, location, and nature of the growth.”

Goal C: Retain as is

2.5.4 – Air - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. “Address air quality challenges while recognizing the different existing and future growth patterns and regulations for urbanizing and rural areas.”
- B. “Identify the impact on air quality caused by industrial and community growth patterns, such as the quantity, size, location, and nature of the growth.”
- C. “Determine what threshold of air quality we wish to achieve and maintain for health and aesthetics.”

UV 2.6 Question 6: Education and Awareness: Education and outreach plays a role in creating the awareness necessary to address environmental problems. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, how much do you agree with the following statements?

Table 2D. Education and Awareness - Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Create awareness among children about major environmental problems."	4.56	4.33
B. "Promote overall awareness necessary to address and impact environmental challenges."	5.24	5.40
C. "Promote appreciation of how consumer choices impact the environment."	5.02	5.00

Figure 2E. Education and Awareness – Upper Valley

UV 2.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Promote overall awareness necessary to address and impact environmental challenges and outlaw the use of plastic bags by retailers."
2. "Support and promote education and awareness programs that address global and local environmental factors."

UV 2.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Revise Goal: "Promote environmental education opportunities."

Goal B: Revise Goal: "Foster awareness necessary to address environmental challenges."

UV 2.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: "Promote environmental education opportunities."

Goal B: "Foster awareness necessary to address environmental challenges."

UV 2.6.4 - Education and Awareness - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Promote environmental education opportunities."
- B. "Foster awareness necessary to address environmental challenges."

UV 2.7 Question 7: Other Programs: Federal, state and local governments, and many other entities, from nonprofits to public schools, play an important role in environmental conservation. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2E. Other Programs – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average	Spanish Version
A. "Create resources or incentives that will promote actions which enhance the natural environment"	5.05	5.00
B. "Reduce the community's reliance on landfilling as a finite solution to the area's solid waste disposal needs."	4.91	4.83

C. "Create a comprehensive image that links together environmental, resources and quality of life elements."	5.08	5.00
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Figure 2F. Other Programs – Upper Valley

UV 2.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Encourage a variety of educational resources and amenities to illustrate a comprehensive "quality of life" with "conservation" emphasis.

UV 2.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal: Received an average ranking above 5 points.

Goal B: Revise Goal: "Increase the community's participation in recycling and other innovative solid waste disposal programs."

Goal C: Retain Goal: Received an average ranking above 5 points.

UV 2.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain as is "Create resources or incentives that will promote actions which enhance the natural environment"

Goal B: Alternative 1 "Increase the community's participation in recycling and other innovative solid waste disposal programs"

Goal C: Retain as is "Create a comprehensive image that links together environmental, resources and quality of life elements"

UV 2.7.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Create resources or incentives that will promote actions which enhance the natural environment."
- B. "Increase the community's participation in recycling and other innovative solid waste disposal programs."
- C. "Create a comprehensive image that links together environmental, resources and quality of life elements."

UV 2.8 Question 8: What changes (if any) would most help to protect or preserve Yakima County's natural environment? (This was an open-ended question). Comments fell into the following categories. Please see Written Comments for more detail:

1. Recycling/Solid Waste: Institute County-Wide recycling program; curbside recycling; ban plastic bags; regulate and limit/stop dairy waste

2. Government- Regulations and Enforcement: Stronger Critical Areas regulations; more respect for landowners' use of property; buffer zones around waterways; plan for open spaces
3. Environment/Conservation: Protect water quality; clean water for drinking; water for salmon; eliminate underground fuel tanks within specific time period; ban billboards; improve air quality; promote water conservation; Find out what is causing high nitrates in wells; limit pesticides and herbicides; building efficiency standards
4. Development: Keep development near cities; stop development in Yakima River Canyon;
5. Other: Clean up bad neighborhoods; allow for firewood gathering in forest; Work more with Yakama Nation

UV 2.9 Question 9: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Environment and Natural Resources section, please write your proposal below. (This was an open-ended question). Comments fell into the following categories:

1. Develop County-Wide recycling program.
2. Focus on cleanup and repair of the Yakima River and major tributaries
3. Make a region wide plan of parks and open space and follow through on the development of those plans, as they will also function as wildlife corridors and other necessary habitat areas.
4. Educate our youth to understand the unique and amazing ways that our environment works to provide a home for each of us - building good citizens who will want to stay here is the best investment we can make.
5. Develop a sustainable communities plan
6. Create bicycle and pedestrian-friendly commuter zones to reduce traffic pollution and enhance quality of life.
7. Work with Yakama Nation to identify problems identified in the USBOR Black Rock study and look for ways to enhance existing water use without more dams. Put fish passage on all dams - fish ladders cost fish time and energy, two things they have very little to spare.

UV 2.10 Question 10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns? (This was an open-ended question) Comments fell into the following categories:

1. Development: planners should be advocates for growth; discourage HUD/affordable housing developments near more upscale housing.
 2. Environment/ Public Health: Public health needs more representation at the county level; eliminate noxious weeds; oversight of the Clean Air Authority; more recycling and eliminate plastic bags.
 3. Other: More outreach and personal accountability for the greater good.
-

WEEK 2 - ENVIRONMENT LOWER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 26 English
- 4 English (paper survey)
- 1 Spanish (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 53 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 2.1 Question 1: What is your favorite aspect of Yakima County's natural environment?

- The response was fairly even between the weather and climate, mountain ranges, the soil for agriculture, and the rivers streams and lakes. Air quality came in as the lowest favorite aspect of Yakima County's natural environment.

Figure 2G. Natural Environment – Lower Valley

LV 2.1.1 Question 2: Looking ahead into the next 25 years, which environmental issues are you most concerned about, specifically for the Upper Yakima Valley? (please rank)

LV 2.1.2 Results Summary: Water quality and land use issues appeared to be the most common concerns among survey participants. However, there were some problems associated with this question. The paper version of the survey (which accounted for several of the results) did not clearly explain how to answer this ranking question. This resulted in an incomplete analysis from survey monkey.

LV 2.1.3 Written Comments: Some people expanded on the choice by marking “other” and explaining their relationship with Agriculture.

LV 2.3 Question 3 Water: Clean water is a necessity for human life. Our agricultural economy is dependent on an abundant, reliable source of water. Clean, abundant water is important for fish, aquatic life, and other species that rely on the habitat, rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands provide. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2F. Water – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Ensure that groundwater withdrawals are not greater than the rate of groundwater recharge."	5.63
B. "Restore the water quality of the Yakima River to its condition prior to settlement of the Yakima Valley."	5.07
C. "Identify future needs and promote increased water supplies through coordinated development and conservation efforts."	5.73

Figure 2H. Water – Lower Valley

LV 2.3.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. Option "C"- modify language "through coordinated development and..." to read "through actively and annually, pursuing partnerships with the Federal Government, Private Investors and Private Developers - individually or jointly, and also through conservation efforts."

LV 2.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Retain Goal as is.

Proposed Goal D: Add a goal regarding water quality: *Improve and maintain ground and surface water quality.*

LV 2.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Delete goal.

Goal B: Need to be reworded. Remove "prior to the settlement of the Yakima Valley."

Goal C: reword to: "through coordinated management, development and conservation efforts"

Add a Goal: "Improve and maintain ground and surface water quality."

LV 2.3.4 – Water - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Restore the water quality of the Yakima River."
- B. "Identify future needs and promote increased water supplies through coordinated management and conservation efforts."
- C. "Improve and maintain ground and surface water quality."

LV 2.4 Question 4: Land: Land is a resource that must be developed in a responsible manner, preserving certain types of land for one use while encouraging other uses in another area (e.g. preserving prime agriculture land in large acreages for farming while encouraging compact development in areas that are already urbanized and have city services available). For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2G. Land – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Inventory open space lands and define those to preserve for future generations."	4.83

Figure 2I. Land – Lower Valley

LV 2.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goal language was proposed.

LV 2.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Revise Goal: "Inventory open space lands and identify lands to preserve for future generations."

LV 2.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal, but add "public" open space

LV 2.4.4 – Land - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. "Inventory **public** open space lands and define those to preserve for future generations."

LV 2.5 Question 5: Air: Many aspects of land use, from industry to agriculture, to transportation, are connected to air quality, which has a direct impact on health and quality of life for Yakima Valley residents. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, how much do you agree with the following statements?

Table 2H. Air – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "County-Wide Quality Standards based on realistic management practices and current, world-wide, state-of-the -art technology which provide year to year improvement of air quality with respect to dust, odor, and smoke."	5.50

Figure 2J. Air – Lower Valley

LV 2.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific revised goals were proposed.

LV 2.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal.

Alternative 2: Revise Goal: “Establish county-wide quality standards based on best management practices.”

LV 2.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Revise Goal: “Establish county-side quality standards based on best management practices.”

LV 2.5.4 – Air - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. “Establish county-side quality standards based on best management practices.”

LV 2.6 Question 6: Education and Awareness: Education and outreach plays a role in creating the awareness necessary to address environmental problems. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, how much do you agree with the following statements?

Table 2I. Education and Awareness – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "An educational awareness program which informs people of the value of their resources and defines the necessary steps for their protection."	5.23

Figure 2K. Education and Awareness – Lower Valley

LV 2.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goals were proposed.

LV 2.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal

Alternative 2: Revise Goal: Develop an educational awareness program which, “informs people of the value of their resources and defines the necessary steps for their protection.”

LV 2.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 2. Develop an educational awareness program which informs people of the value of their resources and defines the necessary steps for their protection.

LV 2.6.4 – Education and Awareness - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. “Develop an educational awareness program which informs people of the value of their resources and the steps for their protection.”

LV 2.7 Question 7: Other Programs: Federal, state and local governments, and many other entities, from nonprofits to public schools, play an important role in environmental conservation. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 2J. Other Programs – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Preserve wetlands, open lands, and other habitat areas for the benefit of the county’s indigenous wildlife"	5.13
B. "Establish and enforce standards for light, glare, and noise to minimize incompatibilities within and between land use areas and to enhance quality of life."	5.07
C. "Measurably increase energy supplies and alternatives through current, world-wide, state-of-the-art technology."	5.00

Figure 2L. Other Programs – Lower Valley

LV 2.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Measurable increase energy supplies and alternatives, to include expansion and/or creation of additional effective distribution networks for this power, through current world-wide, state-of-the-art technology."
2. "Establish and educate about the economic benefits of standards for light, glare.....""
3. "The third one should state only thoroughly proven, economically sustainably, unsubsidized technology."

LV 2.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal as is.

Alternative 2: Delete Goal B. Goal may be better addressed in sections.

Goal C: Revise to: “Increase energy supply alternatives and energy conservation opportunities by embracing technology that is sustainable, up-to-date, state-of-the-art, and proven”.

LV 2.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Modify. Preserve wetlands, open lands, and other habitat areas for the benefit of the county's indigenous wildlife.

Goal B: Retain as is

Goal C: Alternative A Modified: ~~Increase~~ Consider energy supply alternatives and energy conservation opportunities by embracing technology that is sustainable, up-to-date, state-of-the-art, and proven.

LV 2.7.4 – Other Programs - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. “Preserve wetlands, open lands, and other habitat areas.”
- B. “Establish and enforce standards for light, glare, and noise to minimize incompatibilities within and between land use areas and to enhance quality of life.”
- C. “Consider energy supply alternatives and energy conservation opportunities.”

LV 2.8 Question 8: What changes (if any) would most help to protect or preserve Yakima County's natural environment? (This was an open-ended question).

- Promote easily accessible, non-fee tire collections sites; Countywide recycling; sustainable agricultural; preservation of soil and protection of soil from contamination; stop cities from developing on farmland; limit permitting large dairies.

LV 2.9 Question 9: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Environment and Natural Resources section, please write your proposal below.

- Education – developing environmental projects that can be completed by high school and university students, with results that can be utilized by Yakima County; enhance water supply through additional reservoirs, underground injection and access to Columbia River water; Countywide recycling; better monitoring of concentrated animal feeding operations; include economic growth in environmental regulations.

LV 2.10 Question 10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns? The following comments were submitted:

1. “We need to look to the future health and well-being of our citizens and keep the environment free from air and water pollution. This is becoming a bigger and bigger problem and many households do not have safe water to drink or air that is good to breathe. Much of this problem is related to CAFOs and we need to hold health and well-being higher than the money that is in the economy from these CAFOs.”
2. “We live just outside city limits and have for the last 20 years and have seen considerable growth, with the county allowing the school district to purchase farmland and develop it into schools and then the city annexing said area and now they are hoping to purchase more land to develop for residential areas...we and our neighbors disagree with them.”
3. “Enforce the regulations and laws already on the books”

WEEK 3 - AGRICULTURE UPPER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 135 English
- 1 Spanish

Total written comments:

- 203 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 3.1 - Question 1: Looking ahead, how do you feel about future of agriculture in the Upper/Lower Yakima Valley?

- 74% of survey respondents answered that they feel opportunities for agriculture in the Upper Valley will either remain the same or be better in the future.

UV 3.1 Question 2: What is your relationship to agriculture in the Yakima Valley?

- Just over half (53%) of survey respondents answered that they do not work in an agriculturally related field. 33% answered that they or someone in their family works in an agriculturally related industry.

UV 3.2.1 Written Comments: 17 people expanded on the choice by marking “other” and explaining their relationship with Agriculture. Comments ranged from having grown up on a farm to working on establishing a farm on their land at this time. The majority of people answered that they do not work in an agriculturally related industry.

Figure 3A. Future of Agriculture - Upper Valley

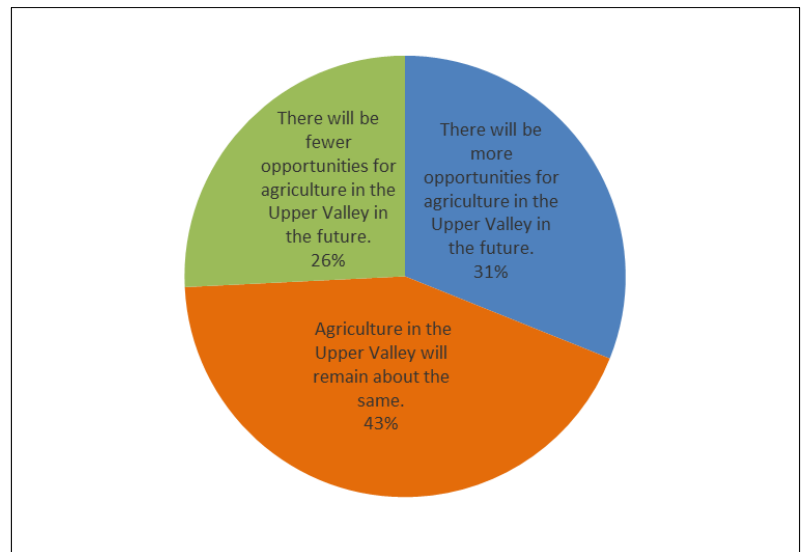


Figure 3B. Relationship with AG – Upper Valley

UV 3.3 - Question 3: Agricultural Economic Base: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 3A. Agriculture and Economic Base – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote the growth and development of business related to agriculture, together with other industries which are recognized as playing an important role in the regional economy."	5.13
B. "Maintain an economically viable agricultural base, while providing the opportunity for people to pursue a rural lifestyle."	4.98

Figure 3C. Agriculture and Economic Base – Upper Valley

UV 3.3.1 Proposed Goal Language: No new goals were proposed.

UV 3.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal A. Received an average ranking above 5 points.

Alternative 2: Revise Goal A as follows: "Promote the growth and development of businesses related to agriculture, together with other industries which are recognized as playing an important role in the regional economy which may assist and help maintain an economically viable agricultural base."

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Retain goal but delete, "while providing the opportunity for people to pursue a rural lifestyle."

Alternative 2: Delete Goal.

UV 3.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 2. Promote the growth and development of business related to agriculture, together with other industries which are recognized as playing an important role in the regional economy which may assist and help maintain an economically viable agricultural base.

Goal B: "Maintain an economically viable agricultural base, while providing the opportunity for people to pursue a rural lifestyle in rural zone designations"

UV 3.3.4 – Agricultural Economic Base - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Promote the growth and development of business related to agriculture, together with other industries which are recognized as playing an important role in the regional economy which may assist and help maintain an economically viable agricultural base."
- B. "Maintain an economically viable agricultural base, while providing the opportunity for people to pursue a rural lifestyle in rural zone designations."

UV 3.4 Question 4: Public Policy: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to: (*Note – Goals C and D were originally one goal, but had to be separated in order to fit the specifications of the online survey.)

Table 3B. Public Policy - Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Prevent erosion of the right to farm by political influence, uninformed populace, uncontrolled development and special interests."	4.63
B. "Provide improved working conditions, job safety, improved wages, opportunities for advancement, and job security."	4.61
C. "Preserve and expand the rich, diverse base of natural resources available to the Valley by identifying values placed on the natural resources by all facets of the population..."	5.09
D. "...achieving consensus on how resources should be utilized and conserved, and communicating the Valley's interest to appropriate state, federal and private entities."	5.15

Figure 3D. Public Policy – Upper Valley

UV 3.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Promote" improved working conditions, rather than "provide" improved working conditions."
2. Delete "uninformed populace" from Goal A.
3. Delete Goal B. It is outside the scope of this plan.

UV 3.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain goal, but delete the phrase "uninformed populace" from the goal.

Alternative 2: "Prevent Limit the erosion of the right to farm by political influence, uninformed populace, uncontrolled development and special interests."

Alternative 3: Delete goal

Goal B.

Alternative 1: Consider revising to use the word "Promote" to replace "Provide."

Alternative 2: Delete Goal B. There are state and federal agencies that have control on these issues and if not, the issues are not regulated by government.

Goals C and D. Combine these, as they were originally one goal. Revise to form two sentences, instead of one: "Preserve and expand the rich, diverse base of natural resources available to the Valley by identifying values placed on the natural resources by all facets of the population. Consider how resources should be utilized and conserved, and communicating the Valley's interest to appropriate state, federal and private entities."

UV 3.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 3. Delete goal

Goal B: Alternative 2. Delete Goal

Goal C: Modify. "Preserve the rich, diverse base of natural resources in the Valley."

Goal D: Modify. "Evaluate how resources should be utilized and conserved, and communicate the Valley's interest to appropriate state, federal, and private entities."

UV 3.4.4 – Public Policy - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. "Preserve the rich, diverse base of natural resources in the valley."

B. "Evaluate how resources should be utilized and conserved, and communicate the Valley's interest to appropriate state, federal, and private entities."

UV 3.5 Question 5: Resource Conservation: Resource-based industries rely on the natural resources (including water) that support them. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 3C. Resource Conservation – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
"Enhance the quantity and quality of surface and ground water through water use efficiency measures, conservation, augmented supplies, and personal stewardship."	5.05

Figure 3E. Resource Conservation – Upper Valley

UV 3.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. *Goal A*: Revise to, "Support responsible stewardship of surface and groundwater through a variety of means, including but not limited to water banking, water use efficiency measures."

UV 3.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal.

Alternative 2: Revise Goal as follows: "Enhance Support the quantity and quality of surface and ground water with the current Yakima County Shoreline Management Act as the guiding document, and support water use efficiency measures, conservation, augmented supplies, and personal stewardship."

UV 3.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Delete Goal (was discussed and addressed through other processes)

UV 3.5.4 – Resource Conservation - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

Goal A: Delete goal

UV 3.6 Question 6: How did you hear about our survey?

- The largest percentage (46%) of survey respondents indicated that they heard about the Visioning survey through the Planning Division's email distribution list, followed by 16% who saw advertisements in the Yakima Herald Republic, 15% who learned about it at the front desk of the Permit Services Center, and 14% who received postcards in the mail.

Figure 3E. How Did You Hear About the Survey? – Upper Valley

UV 3.7 Question 7: What changes would most improve Yakima County's rural areas? (This was an open-ended question).

This question generated 72 responses. The responses can generally be grouped into the following categories:

1. Preservation of Agricultural Land/Rural Land/Zoning:

Almost all of these comments related to protecting agricultural (AG) land while allowing for development in places that are not on prime AG land. Essentially these comments focused on two sides of the coin- protecting prime agricultural land by

zoning or other measures; and encouraging development in urban areas. One commenter suggested expanding urban services in Urban Growth Areas. Some commenters argued that the County should permit more non-AG uses in areas that are not prime farmland (more flexibility) and should allow for more commercial development in AG areas along major arterials.

2. Environment and Water:

The most common comments relating to the environment were to:

- Conserve water and protect water quality, especially groundwater pollution. One comment was submitted relating to restoring the natural flow and path of rivers in the valley and preventing development in floodplains.
- Improve air quality and ground water for the entire valley (Upper and Lower as well as the City of Yakima).
- Preserve open spaces and environmentally sensitive areas

3. Transportation/Infrastructure:

The majority of transportation-related comments were associated with road maintenance in rural areas and more transportation options (such as public transportation and bike lanes on travelled routes). Other comments related to enforcing off-road vehicle rules, improving connectivity and upgrading safety on Ahtanum Road.

4. Crime/Safety:

Some responses expressed a need for safer places to live and work, and increased or better response from law enforcement and first responders in rural areas.

5. Regulations:

Several people commented that there should be fewer regulations in the AG zone, and more respect for private property rights. One commenter elaborated that rules in the Zoning Ordinance should be re-examined, especially relating to defining agricultural land of “long term significance,” and setbacks for homes.

6. Code Enforcement:

All code enforcement-related comments called for stricter enforcement of rules prohibiting the buildup of junk and garbage on properties.

WEEK 3 - AGRICULTURE LOWER VALLEY

STATISTICS

Survey response:

- 27 English
- 4 English (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 25 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 3.1 Question 1: Looking ahead, how do you feel about future of agriculture in the Lower Yakima Valley?

- 42% of survey respondents answered that they feel there will be more opportunities for agriculture in the Lower Valley; 35% answered that they will remain the same; and 23% felt that fewer opportunities will exist for agriculture in the future.

Figure 3G. Future of Agriculture - Lower Valley

LV 3.2 Question 2: What is your relationship to agriculture in the Yakima Valley?

- Just over half (53%) of survey respondents answered that they do not work in an agriculturally related field. 33% answered that they or someone in their family works in an agriculturally related industry.

LV 3.2 1 Written Comments: More respondents reported that a member of their

household works in an agriculturally related job (55%) than in the Upper Valley. 46% answered that they do not work in an agriculturally related job.

Figure 3H. Agricultural Jobs – Lower Valley

LV 3.3 Question 3: Public Policy: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 3D. Public Policy – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Establish regulations which limit the maximum herd size or the per acre density for new and expanded livestock operations in designated areas to minimize adverse impacts on surrounding uses."	4.61
B. "Protect agricultural lands through realistic, county-wide zoning and other standards which promote agricultural uses, minimize impacts by non-agricultural uses, and preserve individual property rights."	5.29

Figure 3I. Public Policy – Lower Valley

LV 3.3.1 Proposed Goal Language from the survey: No new goal language was proposed.

LV 3.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A.

Alternative 1: Retain Goal. DISCUSS PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS. See written comments/issues.

Goal B.

Alternative 1: Retain goal as is.

Alternative 2: Revise as follows: "Protect agricultural lands through realistic, county-wide zoning and other standards which promote agricultural uses, minimize impacts by non-agricultural uses, and preserve individual property rights."

LV 3.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Leave goal as is. (However, this issue is being discussed through other processes.)

Goal B: "Protect agricultural lands through realistic, county-wide zoning and other standards which promote agricultural uses, minimize impacts by non-agricultural uses, and preserve individual property rights."

LV 3.3.4 – Public Policy - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Establish regulations which limit the maximum herd size or the per acre density for new and expanded livestock operations in designated areas to minimize adverse impacts on surrounding uses."
- B. "Protect agricultural lands through realistic, county-wide zoning and other standards which promote agricultural uses, and minimize impacts by non-agricultural uses, and preserve individual property rights."

LV 3.4 Question 4: Resource Conservation: Resource-based industries rely on the natural resources that support them. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 3E. Resource Conservation – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
"Preserve and Increase the number of acres of agricultural lands through improved tax incentives, water management practices, noxious weed control, erosion control, and other incentives designed to enhance or support agriculture."	5.03

Figure 3J. Resource Conservation – Lower Valley

LV 3.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from the Survey:

1. Change Goal A to: "Support responsible stewardship of surface and groundwater through a variety of means, including but not limited to water banking, water use efficiency measures."

LV 3.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 1: Retain Goal.

Alternative 2: Revise Goal. as follows: "Preserve and increase the number of acres of "Help protect agricultural lands through improved established tax incentives (open space tax laws), good water management practices, noxious weed control, pest and, erosion control, and plus other zoning incentives designed to enhance or support agriculture."

LV 3.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain Goal A.

LV 3.4.4 – Resource Conservation - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Preserve and increase the number of acres of agricultural lands through improved tax incentives, water management practices, noxious weed control, erosion control, and other incentives designed to enhance or support agriculture."

LV 3.5 Question 5: What changes would most improve Yakima County's rural areas? (This was an open-ended question).

This question generated 15 responses. The responses can generally be grouped into the following categories:

1. Preservation of Agricultural Land/Rural Land/Zoning: These comments were overwhelmingly in favor of protecting agricultural (AG) land through zoning and encouraging development in urban areas rather than rural areas.
2. Farmworker Housing: Improve farmworker housing.
3. Other: These comments were as follows:
 - o Improving the image of the valley through public projects;
 - o Better code enforcement;
 - o Less government involvement;
 - o "More fast food chains and Entertainment businesses (movie theaters, Youth Centers, Family Fun Environments, etc.)"

LV 3.6 Question 6: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Rural and Agriculture section, please write your proposal below. (2 Responses)

1. "Adequate housing"
2. "Rural wells and septic systems should be more closely monitored. People should be encouraged to drink from wells from true aquifers, not irrigation created aquifers, and to know and understand how a septic system."

LV 3.7 Question 7: How did you hear about our survey?

- The largest percentage (46%) of survey respondents indicated that they heard about the Visioning survey through the Planning Division's email distribution list
- 16% saw advertisements in the Yakima Herald Republic
- 15% learned about it at the front desk of the Permit Services Center
- 14% received postcards in the mail.

Figure 3K. Public Outreach Methods

WEEK 4 QUALITY OF LIFE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES UPPER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 86 responses

Total written comments:

- 90 comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 4.1 Question 1: Identification and Protection: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4A. Identification and Protection of Cultural Resources – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Preserve historical sites, identify, develop and protect historical sites."	5.11

Figure 4A. Identification and Protection of Cultural Resources – Upper Valley

UV 4.1.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Identify, develop and protect historical sites as identified by the community."

UV 4.1.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain goal

Alternative 2: Consider revising as proposed: "Identify, develop and protect historical sites as identified by the community."

UV 4.1.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 2: "Identify, develop and protect historical sites as identified by the community."

UV 4.1.4 Identification and Protection - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. "Identify, develop and protect historical sites as identified by the community."

UV 4.2 Question 2. Community Consensus: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4B Community Consensus Goals – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. Promote "Community consensus"	4.95
B. "Promote private/public and private/non-profit partnerships"	5.11

Figure 4B. Community Consensus – Upper Valley

UV 4.2.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Promote discussion and understanding of important County issues."

UV 4.2.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Consider revising as follows: "Promote discussion and understanding of important County issues."

Alternative 2: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

UV 4.2.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain Goal as modified: Promote discussion and understanding of important consensus important community issues.

Goal B: Alternative 1. Retain Goal as is.

UV 4.2.4 – Community Consensus - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Promote discussion and understanding of important community issues."
- B. "Promote private/public and private/non-profit partnerships"

UV 4.3 Question 3 Parks and Festivals: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4C. Parks and Festivals – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Develop a comprehensive Parks Plan."	5.12
B. "Expand youth activities."	5.08
C. "Establish community celebrations and festivals."	4.55
D. (Encourage) "Broader financial support."	4.82

Figure 4C. Parks and Festivals – Upper Valley

UV 4.3.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. Goal C: “Support and promote community celebrations and festivals.”
2. Goal C: “Maintain community celebrations and festivals and expand/encourage diversity and multi-cultural festivals and celebrations.”
3. Goal D: “Encourage broader financial support of the Arts in the community.”

UV 4.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain as is

Goal B: Retain as is

Goal C: Consider revising, based on proposed goals.

Goal D: Consider revising, based on proposed goals.

UV 4.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Modify. *Promote* a comprehensive Parks Plan

Goal B: Retain Goal as is

Goal C: Modify:-*Support and promote* community celebrations and festivals.

Goal D: Encourage broader financial support of the Arts in the community.

UV 4.3.4 – Parks and Festivals - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. “*Promote* a comprehensive Parks Plan”
- B. “Expand youth activities”
- C. “*Support and promote* community celebrations and festivals.”
- D. “Encourage broader financial support *of the Arts in the community.*”

UV 4.4 Question 4. Diversity: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4D Diversity – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote diverse entertainment and recreation centers."	4.74
B. "Promote coordinated multi-lingual communication (Newspaper, readerboards, T.V., radio)."	3.88

Figure 4D. Diversity – Upper Valley

UV 4.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific revised goal language was suggested.

UV 4.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Combine with Section 3 as Goal C. See above.

Goal B: Delete Goal B. Goal has essentially already been achieved, and may be outside the responsibilities of the County or local government.

UV 4.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Combine with Question 3 Goal C.

Goal B: Delete Goal.

UV 4.4.4 - Diversity - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

No goals (covered in other sections)

UV 4.5 Question 5. The Arts: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to support:

Table 4E. Support of the Arts – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "The creation of an outdoor Performing Arts Park."	4.10
B. "Accessibility to/Affordability for Entertainment and Performing Arts."	4.89
C. "Encourage and support Professional Arts."	5.01

Figure 4E. Support of the Arts – Upper Valley

UV 4.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

No new goals proposed.

UV 4.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 1

Goal A: Consider Eliminating Goal A.

Goal B: Consider revising, based on average scores and comments.

Goal C: Retain Goal C as is.

UV 4.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Alternative 1 for all goals:

Goal A: Delete Goal

Goal B: Modify. Support Accessibility to/ and Affordability for Entertainment and Performing Arts.

Goal C: Retain as is

UV 4.5.4 – The Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Support accessibility to and affordability for Entertainment and Performing Arts."
- B. "Encourage and support Professional Arts."

UV 4.6 Question 6. Cultural Diversity: The authors of the Upper Valley Vision 2010 report felt that, "The cultural diversities of our valley must be recognized, encouraged, valued, shared, and celebrated." For the purposes of the comprehensive plan update, it will be important for Yakima County to ensure and encourage:

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Appreciat(ion) of cultural diversity"	4.76
B. "Creation of a Cross-Cultural Commission (non-governmental)"	3.50
C. "Multi-lingual media communication and cooperation"	3.60
D. "Expan(sion) of Economic Opportunities"	5.07
E. "Diverse Entertainment"	4.18
F. "Leadership Training"	4.45
G. "Enhance(d) communication"	4.59
H. "Preservation of cultural diversity/traditions"	4.37

Figure 4F. Cultural Diversity – Upper Valley - Chart I

Figure 4G. Cultural Diversity – Upper Valley - Chart II

UV 4.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific proposals were submitted for revised goal language.

UV 4.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 1:

Goal A: Retain Goal with minor edits to language: “Appreciate cultural diversity”

Goal B: Eliminate Goal. Received average rating below 4, and no comments expressed support of the intent or proposals for editing the goal.

Goal C: Eliminate Goal. Received average rating below 4, and no comments expressed support of the intent or proposals for editing the goal.

Goal D: Retain Goal as is. “Expand economic opportunities.”

Goal E: Eliminate Goal. Diverse entertainment is covered by the Goals and Recommended Goals in Section 3.

Goal F: Support leadership training, enhanced communication, and preservation of cultural diversity and traditions for our multi-cultural community.

Goal G: Combine with Goal F and H.

Goal H: Combine with Goal F and G.

UV 4.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Appreciate cultural diversity

Goal B: Delete Goal

Goal C: Delete Goal

Goal D: Make the goal relevant to cultural diversity

Goal E: Delete Goal

Goal F: Combine goals G, H, and F. Support leadership training, enhanced communication, and preservation of cultural diversity and traditions for our multi-cultural community.

Goal G: Combine Goals G, H, and F.

Goal H: Combine Goals G, H, and F.

UV 4.6.4 Cultural Diversity - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Appreciate cultural diversity"
- B. "Expand economic opportunities for all individuals."
- C. "Support leadership training, enhanced communication, and preservation of cultural diversity and traditions for our multi-cultural community."

UV 4.7 Question 7. Positive Visual Images: One aspect of community planning and engagement is keeping the community free of trash, graffiti, and dilapidated or dangerous structures, as well as encouraging attractive and inviting public spaces. According to the Vision 2010 Report, "A Positive visual image of the Upper Yakima area is the responsibility of every citizen." For the purposes of the comprehensive plan update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4G. Positive Visual Images – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Address visual impacts of land uses."	5.35
B. "(Encourage) Preservation of neighborhoods by neighborhoods"	5.37
C. "Address parking needs"	4.96
D. "Implement downtown plan"	4.40
E. "(Encourage) Creation of landmarks"	4.49
F. "Develop a clean physical image"	5.52
G. "Improve entrances to Yakima"	5.21
H. "Provide quality maintenance"	5.52

Figure 4H. Positive Visual Images-Chart I – Upper Valley

Figure 4I. Positive Visual Images-Chart II – Upper Valley

UV 4.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. “Goals 3-7 (C-G) refer to the City of Yakima, not the County. Delete them.

UV 4.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Alternative 1

Goal A. Retain as is.

Goal B. Retain as is.

Goal C. Delete Goal. Parking needs are addressed in development code. In the context of downtown Yakima, parking should be addressed in the downtown plan.

Goal D. Replace with “Support implementation of the downtown development plan, within the context of the region as a whole”.

Goals E, F, and G: Combine these goals into one statement: “Develop a clean physical image of the Yakima Valley by: encouraging the creation of landmarks; improving entrances to Yakima; providing quality maintenance; and addressing code violations.”

UV 4.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Address parking needs, in the context of inter-modal transportation, and the region as a whole.

Goal D: Alternative 1 Modified. Support implementation of downtown development or community plans, within the context of the region as a whole.

Goal E: Alternative 1. Develop a clean physical image of the Yakima Valley by: encouraging the creation of landmarks; improving entrances to Yakima; providing quality maintenance; and addressing code violations.

Goal F: Combine with Goal E.

Goal G: Combine with Goal E.

Goal H: Combine with Goal E.

UV 4.7.4 – Positive Visual Images - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Address visual impacts of land uses."
- B. "Encourage preservation of neighborhoods by neighborhoods"
- C. "Address parking needs, in the context of inter-modal transportation, and the region as a whole."
- D. "Support implementation of downtown development or community plans, within the context of the region as a whole".
- E. "Develop a clean physical image of the Yakima Valley by: encouraging the creation of landmarks; improving entrances to Yakima; providing quality maintenance; and addressing code violations."

UV 4.8 Question 8: What changes would most improve the Quality of Life in the Upper Valley?

(This was an open-ended question). This question generated a total of 31 comments. Comments under this section fell into the following general categories:

1. Public investment: Several comments were submitted advocating for investing in public infrastructure, such as public transportation, sewer drains and street improvements, and making investments based on public input.
2. Crime/Safety: Several commenters stated that safety (and a perception of lack of safety) is the most important aspect of quality of life in the valley. Suggestions were made to control graffiti and to hire more sheriff deputies. For example one survey-taker provided the following comments: "A change in perception that the downtown is not safe. Clean up the immense graffiti; creating a well-lit downtown; more parking; more encouragement of downtown businesses in the space that is currently available and empty. Encouragement for the citizens to find pride in our community again."
3. Image/Community Pride: Comments were submitted relating to cleaning up the community, removing graffiti and addressing light pollution.
4. Parks and Trails: Three comments were received emphasizing improving, maintaining, and preserving parks; and encouraging interconnectedness of parks and recreational facilities.
5. Diversification of the economy: Several people commented that improving the economy and more job opportunities would be most helpful for quality of life in the Yakima Valley.
6. Other: Other comments were submitted regarding: Arts and culture; more free parking; developing a water park; Youth Programs, and focus on the social and economic issues in the Valley.

UV 4.9 Question 9: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Quality of Life section, please write your proposal below. If new goals were proposed that staff considered relevant, non-redundant, or related to issues within Yakima County's jurisdiction, planning staff recommended new Visioning goals based on the proposed goal language. If proposed goals were included in other parts of visioning documents, or if they were submitted as general comments, they were summarized below and can be found in Appendix I – Written Responses.

(This was an open-ended question). The comments fell into the following categories:

1. Parks: Cooperation of recreational facilities between jurisdictions, need for winter recreation, creating a water park for indoor facilities.
2. Economy: Focus on job creation, bringing outside companies in, improving social/economic status of communities.
3. Environment: Enhance environmental diversity, including protection of lamprey; preserve our environmental legacy.
4. Crime/Safety/Code Enforcement: Anticipation of increased crime due to legalization of marijuana; need to hire more sheriff deputies; need to control barking dogs.
5. Other: Consider creating a park and ride to free up parking in downtown Yakima.

UV 4.10 Question 10: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns? (This was an open-ended question.)

This question generated 10 comments, in summary, most comments related to:

- o Many goals in this section were outside of Yakima County control or jurisdiction.
- o Enforcing code cases.
- o Better transportation systems in the city (more thoroughfares).
- o Recognition of racial/cultural tension. One comment stated that Yakima has a lot of work to do regarding diversity; others commented that diversity includes more than just one or two cultural groups.
- o Support for the Gang Unit of the Yakima Police Dept.
- o Flexibility in the AG zone, particularly restrictions on developing un-farmable land for housing (e.g. rock buttes).

- Preservation of landmarks and historical sites. One commenter stated, “It’s time to preserve whatever is left and to create new landmarks which represent our current diverse population.”

WEEK 4 – QUALITY OF LIFE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

LOWER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 17 English
- 4 English (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 23 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 4.1 Question 1. Governmental Coordination and Services: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4H. Governmental Coordination and Services – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote coordinated planning and balanced delivery of services among federal, state, county, municipal and tribal governments especially in areas of overlapping influence such as urban growth areas."	4.81
B. "Promote coordination among federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal law enforcement and fire protection agencies."	5.00
C. "Encourage land use decisions that are sensitive to the history and culture of the region."	4.33

Figure 4J. Governmental Coordination and Services – Lower Valley

LV 4.1.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new language was proposed for these goals.

LV 4.1.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Consider revising Goals A and C.

Goal B Retain goal as is.

Goal C: Consider revising Goals A and C.

LV 4.1.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is. "Promote coordinated planning and balanced delivery of services among federal, state, county, municipal and tribal governments especially in areas of overlapping influence such as urban growth areas."

Goal B: Retain Goal as is. "Promote coordination among federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal law enforcement and fire protection agencies."

Goal C: Modify to: "Encourage land uses that are sensitive to the history and culture of the region or delete Goal."

LV 4.1.4 Governmental Coordination and Services - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Promote coordinated planning and balanced delivery of services among federal, state, county, municipal and tribal governments especially in areas of overlapping influence such as urban growth areas."
- B. "Promote coordination among federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal law enforcement and fire protection agencies."
- C. "Encourage land uses that are sensitive to the history and culture of the region."

LV 4.2 Question 2 Public Safety. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 4I – Public Safety – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Significantly reduce crime."	5.62
B. "Significantly improve fire protection through assertive program of education, inspections, and code enforcement."	4.86
C. "Significantly reduce public health hazards through education programs."	5.00

Figure 4K. Public Safety – Lower Valley

LV 4.2.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No goal language was proposed.

LV 4.2.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is

Goal B: Retain goal as is

Goal C: Retain goal as is

LV 4.2.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Use the wording in B but include objectives from the Visioning.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is

Goal C: Retain Goal as is

LV 4.2.4 Public Safety - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Significantly reduce crime by promoting youth education programs, and an assertive, effective criminal justice system."
- B. "Significantly improve fire protection through assertive program of education, inspections, and code enforcement."
- C. "Significantly reduce public health hazards through education programs."

LV 4.3 Question 3: What changes would most improve the Quality of Life in the Lower Valley?

(This was an open-ended question). This question generated a total of 12 comments. The comments generally fit into the following categories:

Social Issues: Restricting services to illegal immigrants; more accountable parenting.

Crime/Safety: Reduce crime in general and drug related crime.

Growth: Limit urban growth in rural areas.

Public Services: Increase public transportation opportunities and encourage additional recreational activities in the Lower Valley. Invest in housing, parks, roads, sidewalks and education.

Other: Increased job opportunities; clean air.

LV 4.4 Question 4: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Quality of Life section, please write your proposal below. If new goals were proposed that staff considered relevant, non-redundant, or related to issues within Yakima County's jurisdiction, planning staff recommended new Visioning goals based on the proposed goal language. If proposed goals were included in other parts of visioning documents, or if they were submitted as general comments, they were summarized below and can be found in Appendix I – Written Responses.

(This was an open-ended question). There was one response to this question:

1. "Yes. Only give public assistance after the person has taken a drug test and passed."

Question 5: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(This was an open-ended question.) This question generated 2 comments, as follows:

1. Increase/improve cultural activities traditions to increase inclusion of all peoples in the valley.
2. It would be nice if the survey was in a more plain and easy English to understand.

WEEK 5 - HOUSING UPPER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 114 English

Total written comments:

- 176 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 5.1 Question 1: Which best describes the building you live in?

- 85% of survey respondents live in single family residences.
- 9% live in multi-family houses
- 3% live in manufactured or mobile homes.

UV 5.2 Question 2:

- 82% of survey respondents identified as homeowners.

Figure 5A. Home Ownership – Upper Valley

Figure 5B. Housing Affordability – Upper Valley

UV 5.3 Question 3: In your opinion, how affordable is housing in the Upper Valley?

- Opinions regarding affordability were essentially split between housing very affordable or too expensive. Only 23% answered that housing is fairly priced.

UV 5.4 Question 4: How many people live in your household?

- The average household size among survey takers was 2.4 people per household.

UV 5.5 Question 5: Affordable Housing:

Affordable housing is both a required element

in the comprehensive plan and a part of a healthy and resilient community. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 5A. Affordable Housing – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote flexible zoning."	3.77
B. "Create financing opportunities"	4.45
C. "Promote diversity."	3.75
D. (Ensure) Housing for migrant farmers."	4.10
E. "Promote housing counseling"	3.75

Figure 5C. Affordable Housing – Upper Valley

UV 5.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Promote 'value appropriate' zoning to ensure investment stability for property owners."
2. "Support and encourage financing opportunities..."
3. "Promote housing for migrant farms"/ "Promote housing for migrant farmworkers"
4. "Recognize and accept diversity."

UV 5.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Delete Goal. Received low score.

Goal B: Revise as follows: "Support and encourage financing opportunities."

Goal C: Revise as follows: "Promote infill housing that is compatible with nearby housing, different housing densities and economically diverse housing options"

Goal D:

Alternative 1: "Promote housing for migrant farmworkers;"

Alternative 2: "Promote housing for seasonal farmworkers."

Goal E: Retain as is.

Proposed NEW Goal: "Increase the number of affordable housing units"

Proposed NEW Goal: "Promote and support the acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing"

Proposed NEW Goal: "Bring rental prices in line with median incomes"

Proposed NEW Goal: "Promote green building practices"

UV 5.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain, but modify goal. Intent of goal to remain the same.

Goal B: Revise: "Support and encourage financing opportunities."

Goal C: "Promote infill housing that is compatible with nearby housing, different housing densities and economically diverse housing options."

Goal D: Modify: "Promote temporary farmworker housing." (Neither Alternative 1 nor 2)

Goal E: Retain goal as is.

Proposed New Goals:

Goal F: "Support and encourage an increase in the number of affordable housing units."

Goal G: "Promote innovative building practices."

UV 5.5.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Provide for flexibility in zoning, while preventing incompatible uses and development."
- B. "Support and encourage financing opportunities."
- C. "Promote infill housing that is compatible with nearby housing, different housing densities and economically diverse housing options"
- D. "Promote temporary farmworker housing"
- E. "Promote housing counseling."
- F. "Support and encourage an increase in the number of affordable housing units."
- G. "Promote innovative building practices."

UV 5.6 Question 6: Neighborhood Conservation: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 5B. Neighborhood Conservation – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Stabilize viable neighborhoods"	5.27
B. "Encourage conservation of existing housing stock"	4.88
C. "Protect the positive elements in existing neighborhoods through zoning ordinances"	5.04

Figure 5D. Neighborhood Conservation – Upper Valley

UV 5.6.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific proposals were submitted for revised goal language.

UV 5.6.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A. "Stabilize viable neighborhoods". Maintain. Consider clarifying the term "viable".

Goal B. Revise as follows: "Encourage conservation and preservation of existing high quality housing stock"

Goal C. "Protect the positive elements in existing neighborhoods through zoning ordinances". Maintain.

NEW Goal: "Prioritize code enforcement in all neighborhoods"

UV 5.6.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Modify: "Encourage the preservation and conservation of existing housing stock."

Goal C: Retain Goal as is.

Proposed NEW Goal D: "Prioritize code enforcement in all neighborhoods."

UV 5.6.4 – Neighborhood Conservation - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Stabilize viable neighborhoods"
- B. "Encourage the preservation and conservation of existing housing stock."
- C. "Protect the positive elements in existing neighborhoods through zoning ordinances"
- D. "Prioritize code enforcement in all neighborhoods"

UV 5.7 Question 7: Neighborhood Safety, Security, and Activities: For the purposes of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 5C. Neighborhood Safety, Security and Activities – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Support community based police forces."	5.44
B. "Support comprehensive fire and emergency medical services"	5.72
C. "Street planning with sensitivity to present and future growth"	5.73
D. "Recreation activities and community centers"	5.11

Figure 5E. Neighborhood Safety, Security and Activities – Upper Valley

UV 5.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Support local police forces."
2. "Recreation activities and community centers accessible to ALL residents of Yakima within walking distance of their residence."
3. "Increase and enhance recreation activities and community centers."

UV 5.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is.

Goal B: Retain goal as is.

Goal C: Revise, as follows: "Plan public and private streets with sensitivity to future growth and ensure inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks."

Goal D: Revise, as follows: "View public schools as an extension for recreation activities and community centers and plan bike and jogging trails to connect the school locations to local needs and different neighborhoods"

New Goal: "Ensure new housing developments include parks, trails, sidewalks, and trees"

UV 5.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Modify: Plan public and private streets with sensitivity to future growth and ensure inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks where appropriate.

Goal D: Modify as follows: *Support* recreation activities and community centers where appropriate.

Proposed NEW Goal: Modify to read: "Ensure new housing developments include parks, trails, sidewalks, and trees *where appropriate.*"

UV 5.7.4 - Neighborhood Safety, Security, and Activities - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Support community based police forces."
- B. "Support comprehensive fire and emergency medical services"
- C. "Plan public and private streets with sensitivity to future growth and ensure inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks where appropriate."
- D. "Support recreation activities and community centers where appropriate."
- E. "Ensure new housing developments include parks, trails, sidewalks, and trees where appropriate."

UV 5.8 Question 8: Housing Diversity and Integration of Neighborhoods: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 5D. Housing Diversity and Integration of Neighborhoods – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote removal of physical barriers and inclusion of aids to provide those with physical handicaps access to housing."	4.81
B. "Promote financing partnerships"	4.37
C. "Promote integration"	3.97

Figure 5F. Housing Diversity and Integration of Neighborhoods

UV 5.8.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Promote diversity acceptance."

UV 5.8.2 Staff Recommendation: All goals received average ratings below 5.00. Consider revising as follows:

Goal A: Delete. This goal is a requirement of RCW 70.92 and administered through the building code.

Goal B:

Alternative 1: "Amplify financing partnerships"

Alternative 2: Revise as follows: "Remove barriers to home financing."

Goal C:

Alternative 1: Revise as follows: “Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community.”

Alternative 2: Revise as follows: “Promote diversity acceptance.”

UV 5.8.4 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Delete Goal

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Alternative 1. Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community.

UV 5.8.5 – Housing Diversity and Integration of Neighborhoods - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. “Promote financing partnerships”

B. “Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community.”

UV 5.9 Question 9: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Housing section, please write your proposal below. (This was an open-ended question). 16 people provided comments in this section. The comments fell into the following categories:

1. Affordable Housing: These comments expressed differing opinions. On the one hand, some people commented that rent is not affordable, in comparison to salaries in the area. Others commented that the County should not support financing of homes to families that can’t afford them, and also that affordable housing projects can negatively affect neighborhoods.
2. Zoning: These comments called for allowing smaller parcels in rural areas, promoting growth in urban areas, and limiting “low income” and multi-family developments in residential areas.
3. Environment: Promote sustainable building, promote recycling and develop a Yakima County Environmental Management System.
4. Homelessness: Provide services for homeless people, especially if they are unable to get help in the city of Yakima.
5. Race/Ethnicity: These questions criticized including questions about race and ethnicity in the survey.
6. Parks and Trails: Include parks, trails, sidewalks and trees in new developments.
7. Code Enforcement: Better code enforcement for nuisance and junk.

UV 5.10 Question 10: Are you White, Black or African-American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander, or some other race?

- o The majority of survey-takers identified as “white.” This question was only included in Week 5 of the surveys.

Figure 5G. What Race do You Consider Yourself? – Upper Valley

UV 5.11 Question 11: Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino origin or descent?

- The large majority of survey-takers identified themselves as not being of Spanish/Hispanic or Latino decent. The primary purpose of this question was to see whether our Spanish language outreach was reaching the Hispanic/Latino community successfully.

Figure 5H. Are You of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Descent?

Figure 5I. Gender – Upper Valley

UV 5.12 Question 12: Are you Male or Female?

- 59% of survey-takers were female

UV 5.13 Question 13: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(This was an open-ended question.) 12 people provided answers to this question. The answers fell into the following categories (*See comments*):

- Affordable Housing: These comments expressed differing opinions. On the one hand, some people commented that rent is not affordable, in comparison to salaries in the area. Others commented that the County should not support financing of homes to families that can't afford them, and also that affordable housing projects can negatively affect neighborhoods.
- Race/Ethnicity: These comments were negative reactions to Question 11, which asked participants' race.
- Zoning: Stop building in floodplains, and allow for potentially easier re-zoning processes.
- Recreation: Please address shortage of recreational facilities, such as pools.
- Government Services: Get police and sheriff involved in school programs, to create more interaction between everyone in the community, and more trust of law enforcement.

Week 5 - Housing

Lower Valley

Figure 5J. Type of Home – Lower Valley

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 21 English
- 4 English (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 23 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 5.1 Question 1: Which best describes the building you live in?

- 76% responded that they live in a one family detached house.
- 24 % responded that they live in a duplex, townhome, apartment, or condominium.

LV 5.2 Question 2: How many people currently live in your household?

- Average household size among survey takers was 3 people per household
- Median household size among survey takers was of 3 people per household
- Smallest household size was 1 person
- Largest household size was 6 people

LV 5.3 Question 3: Do you rent or own your home?

- 72% of survey respondents identified as homeowners
- 28% of survey respondents identified as renters

Figure 5K. Home Ownership –Lower Valley

Figure 5L. Housing Affordability – Lower Valley

LV 5.4 Question 4: In your opinion, how affordable is housing in the Lower Valley?

Opinions regarding affordability were essentially split between housing being fairly priced, or too expensive.

- A majority (46%) stated that answered that housing is fairly priced or affordable (29%) in the Lower Valley.

LV 5.5 Question 5: Affordable Housing: The Lower Valley Focus 2010 Report envisioned five goals for the future of housing in the Lower Valley. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 5E. Housing Goals – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for everyone."	5.32
B. "Provide for a full range of housing types."	4.86
C. "Provide infrastructure to accommodate residential growth"	5.32
D. "Preserve neighborhood integrity through appropriate land use guidelines."	5.77
E. "Encourage equitable housing financing by lenders."	4.41

Figure 5M. Housing Goals – Lower Valley

1. No new/revised goals proposed.

LV 5.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is.

Goal B: Revise, as follows: "Promote innovative housing programs that reduce land consumption and provide for a well-intentioned higher density higher quality housing development"

Goal C: Retain goal as is.

Goal D: Retain goal as is.

Goal E: Revise, as follows: "Encourage *resourceful and fair* housing financing by lenders"

LV 5.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Modify: "Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community."

Goal C: Retain Goal as is.

Goal D: Retain Goal as is.

Goal E: Modify: Encourage *resourceful and fair* housing financing by lenders.

Proposed NEW Goal:

Alternative 1: "Housing development should be encouraged in urban areas where services are readily available."

Alternative 2: "Housing development should be encouraged in urban areas."

Proposed NEW Goal: "Limit new housing in agriculture lands"

LV 5.5.4 – Affordable Housing - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for everyone."
- B. "Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community."
- C. "Provide infrastructure to accommodate residential growth"
- D. "Preserve neighborhood integrity through appropriate land use guidelines."
- E. "Encourage *resourceful and fair* housing financing by lenders"
- F. "Housing development should be encouraged in urban areas where services are readily available."
- G. "Limit new housing in agricultural lands."

LV 5.6 Question 6: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Housing section, please write your proposal below:

The following comments were entered:

1. Limit urban growth
2. Housing in zoned agricultural land should be discouraged if the housing occupants are not primarily involved in agriculture.

LV 5.7 Question 7: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

The following comments were entered:

1. One surveyor-taker identified herself as white, but made a note that her children are Hispanic.
2. "My thoughts and attitudes are (or have to be) affected by what's going on in DC. Health care, etc. etc. the passing laws and not going through congress- the list is too long. Anyone that has a computer has no excuse to not realize the possibilities that may happen in the next few years."
3. "The County should provide sewage treatment for unincorporated areas that have more than 2 houses close together."

Figure 5N. Race – Lower Valley

LV 5.8 Question 8: Are you White, Black or African-American, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific islander, or some other race?

- 95% of respondents identified themselves as “white”

origin or descent?

LV 5.9 Question 9: Are you of Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

Figure 5.O. Hispanic/Latino Descent –Lower Valley

- 5% of respondents identified themselves as not being of Spanish/Hispanic or Latino decent. The primary purpose of this question was to see whether the Spanish language outreach was reaching the Hispanic/Latino community successfully.

LV 5.10 Question 10: Are you Male or Female? See Figure 5M.

Figure 5P. Gender – Lower Valley

Week 6 – Urban Growth and Land Use

UPPER VALLEY

Figure 6A. Residence – Size of Lot – Upper Valley

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 60 English

Total written comments:

- 89 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 6.1 Question 1: What size is the lot that you currently live on?

- 60% of survey respondents live on a small lot in a city or suburban area.
- 7% live on a lot larger than 10 acres.

Figure 6B. Development Standards – Upper Valley

UV 6.2 Question 2: Development Standards:

Looking ahead into the next 25 years, how should developments be regulated in the Upper Yakima Valley?

- 48% of survey respondents selected that development standards should become more rigorous, with clear requirements for building and site design (e.g. sidewalks, street trees, water conservation methods). 29% said development standards should be relaxed with fewer regulations and standards. 23% said that development standards should be the same as they have been.

UV 6.3 Question 3: Zoning and Subdivision: Looking ahead into the next 25 years, how would you like to see the Upper Valley develop?

- The small majority of survey-takers (51%) felt that agricultural land should be protected from subdivision. 25% answered that regulations on development should be relaxed, so that smaller lots can be developed in most areas of the county. *See Figure 6C on next page*

UV 6.4 – Question 4: Infrastructure: Urban growth requires sufficient infrastructure to support it. Planners and developers must strike a balance between meeting current needs and planning for the future when investing in infrastructure improvements. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be import for Yakima County to:

Table 6A. Infrastructure – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "(Ensure) adequate transportation infrastructure and delivery system to meet the needs of, and promote, a diversified economy."	5.33
B. "Provide adequate services to properties to promote diversified economic growth."	4.98
C. "Develop a major international airport in the Yakima Valley."	3.23
D. "Develop multiple modes of transportation."	4.85
E. "(Ensure that) adequate educational and vocational opportunities and resources will be provided to facilitate planned growth and emergence of a more diverse economy in the Yakima regional area."	5.18

Figure 6D. Infrastructure – Upper Valley

UV 6.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. “Promote ‘all legal’ economic growth”.
2. “Support educational and vocational opportunities in the Yakima regional area.”

UV 6.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Retain as is. “(Ensure) adequate transportation infrastructure and delivery system to meet the needs of, and promote, a diversified economy.”

Alternative 2: Consider expanding goal.

Goal B: Retain goal as is.

Goal C:

Modify Goal – Received average rating below 4.0

Goal D:

Alternative 1: Retain goal as is

Alternative 2: Consider expanding goal.

UV 6.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1: Retain goal as is.

Goal B: Alternative 1: Retain goal as is.

Goal C: Modify goal: "Develop a regional airport in the Yakima Valley."

Goal D: Alternative 1: Retain goal as is.

UV 6.4.4 – Infrastructure - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Ensure adequate transportation infrastructure and delivery system to meet the needs of, and promote, a diversified economy."
- B. "Provide adequate services to properties to promote diversified economic growth."
- C. **"Develop a regional airport in the Yakima Valley."**
- D. "(Ensure that) adequate educational and vocational opportunities and resources will be provided to facilitate planned growth and emergence of a more diverse economy in the Yakima regional area."

UV 6.5 Question 5. Land Use and Urban Design: Many aspects of how land in Yakima County can be developed; such as the acreage of lots, the density of subdivisions, what types of businesses are allowed in which zoning district, and improvements to streets, sidewalks, and utilities; are governed by the Comprehensive Plan. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to foster the availability of:

Table 6B. Land Use and Urban Design – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "(A) Diversity of land uses in the regional area, i.e. commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and public facilities."	5.19
B. "(An) adequate and affordable supply of housing for all income levels.""	4.91
C. "An adequate inventory of developed, and developable property to accommodate the siting of new, and expansion of existing businesses, in the Yakima regional area."	4.69
D. "Combined services to facilitate planned growth."	5.15

Figure 6E. Land Use and Urban Design – Upper Valley

UV 6.5.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific proposals were submitted.

UV 6.5.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain as is

Goal B: Retain as is

Goal C: Retain as is

Goal D: Consider expanding goal.

UV 6.5.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain as is

Goal B: Retain as is

Goal C: Retain as is

Goal D: Staff to discuss. Perhaps “expand services.”

UV 6.5.4 Land Use and Urban Design - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. “Foster the availability of:
 - a. “A diversity of land uses in the regional area, i.e. commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and public facilities.”
 - b. “An adequate and affordable supply of housing for all income levels.”
 - c. “An adequate inventory of developed, and developable property to accommodate the siting of new, and expansion of existing businesses, in the Yakima regional area.”
 - d. “Coordinated services to facilitate planned growth.”

UV 6.6 Question 6: Please list a specific issue that may have (if any) related to how development has or is taking place in the Upper Yakima Valley. Please also list a suggestion for a solution to the issue if you have one.

UV 6.6.1 Written Comments: 15 people provided a number of different comments on this section. Comments submitted under this section can be grouped into the following categories:

1. Zoning/Infill Development:

- Reduce urban sprawl, focus on infill development, maintain strict zoning laws; concerned about sprawling development in West Valley and Terrace Heights.
- Differentiate between commercially productive agricultural land and rural land; encourage zoning policies that both preserve agricultural land and allow for development on rural land that is not productive for agriculture.
- Several comments called for policies that encourage development within under-utilized urban lands and commercial buildings.
- Too many critical area designations and restrictions.
- Tourism is a growing economic base in Yakima County - provide for land uses in support of or that contribute to tourism.
- Simplify zoning for small businesses by creating a "boutique" category for manufacturing and food that is more flexible/less restrictive.
- Too much residential development is allowed within agricultural areas.
- The most pressing land use issues are the development of urban lots in the UGAs that are not served by utilities and the parcelization of agriculturally zoned property. Provide more flexibility and stricter criteria for subdividing.

2. Government Services:

- Reduce fees
- Work collaboratively with the Yakama Nation
- Continue encouraging development rather than discouraging it.
- Repurpose existing buildings instead of adding new buildings.
- Develop the Yakima Mall and Great Western Building.

3. Transportation:

- Speeding cars on the Naches Heights road present a hazard to slow moving tractors and school buses. More signage needed to indicate blind corners and emphasize agricultural equipment.
- Bike lanes need to be improved. There are many areas where biking feels unsafe due to narrow shoulders or poor condition of roadway surface.

UV 6.6.2 Staff Recommendation: This was an open ended question, so no goals were reviewed. New goals were proposed in Question 7 (below).

UV 6.7 Question 7: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Urban Growth and Land Use section, please write your proposal below.

1. Encourage the wise use of natural resources by developing a Yakima County Environmental Management System.
2. County should change the code book to incorporate the language that County will attempt to "accommodate" the request of the applicant rather than use the code the word "profitable" to the description of ag zone land.
3. Future development and planning should include data transmission along with other utilities. Each development should include the inclusion of conduit for future or current data demands. The laying of heavy duty conduit at the time of development would save resources, time and money.
4. Plan major roads for the future, so the County will not have to go back and get more right of way for an arterial.
5. Success in collaboration in protection of environment with Yakama Nation.
6. Agricultural land of 19 acres is too small - not enough land to farm for income and too much to effectively manage with beautification. Ag land at this size should be dividable within reason.
7. Some rock buttes that are not suitable for growing crops can be developed for a building view-site. This could provide the farmer with an income and still not interfere with his farm operations. That could be a separate building category. Currently, agriculture water cannot be shared with that type of lot.
8. Protect large tracks of land from being further subdivided. If economic opportunities are sought for property owners, and that is the reason small lots are allowed to be created, then the focus should be on transfer of development rights or other tool that can be used to show the high value of the farmland currently in use.

9. Educate population on water conservation, enforce use and plan for future availability of water for domestic and irrigation purposes.
10. Release Yakima County's zoning restriction of legalized Marijuana in WA state to allow for development and tax revenue medically, recreationally and agriculturally
11. Review critical areas that have been designated in the upper county .
12. Abandoned or outdated properties should be demolished or stabilized to prevent them from becoming a blight on the neighborhood.
13. Concentrate on urban renewal of existing low quality areas.
14. There should be better support for development of bike lanes and bike paths. Also, the bike lanes we do have need to have the street sweeper clean them more often.

UV 6.7.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

Proposed Goal A. "Future development and planning should include data transmission along with other utilities. Each development should include the inclusion of conduit for future or current data demands. The laying of heavy duty conduit at the time of development would save resources, time and money."

Proposed Goal B. "Protect large tracks of land from being further subdivided. If economic opportunities are sought for property owners, and that is the reason small lots are allowed to be created, then the focus should be on transfer of development rights or other tool that can be used to show the high value of the farmland currently in use."

Proposed Goal C. "Educate population on water conservation, enforce use and plan for future availability of water for domestic and irrigation purposes."

Proposed Goal D. "Release Yakima County's zoning restriction of legalized Marijuana in WA state to allow for development and tax revenue medically, recreationally and agriculturally."

Proposed Goal E. "Abandoned or outdated properties should be demolished or stabilized to prevent them from becoming a blight on the neighborhood/invest in renewing these areas."

UV 6.7.2 Staff Recommendation:

Proposed Goal A: "Future development and planning should consider future data needs."

Proposed Goal B: "Promote 'Transfer of Development Rights.'"

Proposed Goal C: Further discussion warranted

Proposed Goal D: Do not include goal. BOCC has made the decision not to allow the growing and selling of marijuana in Yakima County. Until the legislative prohibition is lifted by the Board, adding any marijuana goals and policies would be counterproductive.

Proposed Goal E. Further discussion may be warranted – this has been an issue.

UV 6.7.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Proposed Goal A: Modify to consider future data needs in development.

Proposed Goal B: Promote Transfer of Development Rights.

Proposed Goal C: Do not include goal.

Proposed Goal D: Do not include goal.

Proposed Goal E: Do not include goal – already addressed.

UV6.6.7.4 - Specific issues with development in the Yakima - Final Visioning Goals:

- A. "Future development and planning should consider future data demands in development."
- B. "Promote 'Transfer of Development Rights'"

UV 6.8 Question 8: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

1. Recently read that the former Boise Cascade land will take 20 years to develop. That is an unacceptable amount of time.
2. Working with Yakama Nation will benefit Upper Yakima Valley economy and infrastructure.
3. Getting permits is sometimes complex, expensive and time consuming, causing public backlash and resentment. Responsible oversight and planning are necessary, but should include an intentional effort to keep the user interface as understandable and efficient as possible.

4. With the legalization of marijuana, we are concerned that pot growers will take their business to the country which would bring a crime element with them and could endanger farmers.
 5. Production, processing, and sales of recreational marijuana should be allowed in unincorporated Yakima County.
 6. Great surveys!!!
 7. The expansion of housing has pretty much decimated Yakima to the west. Cheap land in the county becomes housing and then is taken in by the city.
 8. Stop unwanted annexations.
 9. The county has allowed Yakima to move its urban growth boundary west and then annex perfectly good farm land to build houses, but Tieton, Cowiche and Naches Heights are stuck with one house per 40 acres or less (plus one more if you met the criteria). Houses could be built in this area without using very much of the land that can actually be farmed profitably in a good year. Why is this so difficult? Why not some Basalt Springs all the way to Tieton?
 10. Agriculture is important but it has spread far beyond its historic area and sometimes conflicts with quality of life for residents, for instance dairies and associated odors and water impacts that were not foreseen in the 2010 plan. Diversity means that agriculture should not always be the highest use of land in the county.
 11. If at all possible, could there be some incentives or help for the farmers to keep their land whole? Too often, the elderly need to split and sell off their land to fund their retirement or because they simply cannot do the work themselves anymore or can't afford to pay someone to help them out. Perhaps some sort of work program or allow some farmers to not pay property taxes in exchange for keeping the land whole?
-

WEEK 6 – URBAN GROWTH AND LAND USE LOWER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey Responses:

- 17 English
- 4 English (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 15 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

Figure 6F. Development – Lower Valley

LV 6.1 Question 1: Zoning and Subdivision:

Looking ahead into the next 25 years, how would you like to see the Lower Valley develop?

- 71% answered that agricultural and resource lands need to be protected from the pressures of further subdivisions.
- 23% called for relaxed restrictions, so that smaller lots can be developed in most areas of the county.
- 6% answered that development should continue to develop as it has for the past few decades.

Figure 6G. Development Standards – Lower Valley

LV 6.2 Question 2: Development Standards:

Looking ahead into the next 25 years, how should developments be regulated in the Lower Yakima Valley?

- 47%: Development standards should become more rigorous, with clear requirements for building and site design (e.g. sidewalks, street trees, water conservation methods).
- The opinion was split as to whether development standards should become more relaxed, with fewer regulations and standards or should be the same as they have been (both 29%).

LV 6.3 Question 3: Land Use and Urban Design: Many aspects of how land in Yakima County can be developed; such as the acreage of lots, the density of subdivisions, what types of business are allowed in which zoning districts, and improvements to streets, sidewalks and utilities; are governed by the Comprehensive Plan. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to foster the availability of:

Table 6B. Land Use and Urban Design – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Promote orderly development while recognizing private property rights."	5.56
B. "Protect the lower valley's farmlands and agricultural areas from urban encroachment and incompatible land uses"	5.69
C. "By the year 2010, 75% of the county's population should reside within incorporated cities and 25% outside the cities."	3.67

Figure 74. Land Use and Urban Design – Lower Valley

LV 6.3.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No specific language was proposed.

LV 6.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal.

Goal B: Retain Goal. Yakima County has a very large listed of allowable uses in the Ag zone, however our mandate is to protect Ag land for future agricultural uses and the more non-agricultural uses we allow the less the land can be used for food production. This is a big issue and will probably be brought up during the update.

Goal C: Consider deleting or revising. Received an average rating of 3.67 at this point the urban vs rural breakdown is more closer to 65%/35%.

LV 6.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Alternative 1. Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Alternative 1. Delete Goal

LV 6.3.4 – Land Use and Urban Design - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. "Promote orderly development while recognizing private property rights."

B. "Protect the Lower Valley's farmlands and agricultural areas from urban encroachment and incompatible land uses"

LV 6.4 Question 4: Please list a specific issue you may have (if any) related to how development has or is taking place in Yakima County. This was an open-ended question. No additional goals were recommended.

1. UGAs are not developed to city standards.
2. The primary issues in the Lower Valley are the preservation of prime farmland and development within UGA's. Agricultural zoning rules should be updated to provide for stricter criteria for subdivision of AG land, while allowing for residential development of non-farmable AG-zone land. UGAs in the Lower Valley should be more realistic (less Industrial Zoning). People need to be properly informed of the consequences of zoning changes to their property.

3. Higher development standards, infrastructure investment, and protection of farmland and natural resources should be a must.
4. Too much urban growth
5. Wineries and wine tasting rooms should not be allowed in the unincorporated areas of the county. It is bad enough that alcohol consumption is encouraged by giving free samples, but this should not be done and encouraged in the open space areas with farm equipment driving around. Please only allow this free alcohol consumption in closely controlled areas where law enforcement can make sure that the free alcohol is not encouraging DUI.
6. Building Permits should be enforced in Yakima County.

LV 6.5 Question 5: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Urban Growth and Land Use section, please write your proposal below. This was an open-ended question. No additional goals were recommended.

1. Erase the goal for percent of growth in cities vs the county. The county should focus on no growth and prepare areas in the urban growth areas for high urban standards with good development standards and consistent applications. Improve standards of development by protecting farmland and natural resources, not by allowing constant encroachment of such.
2. County building regulations should be written so a layman can have a reasonable chance of building their own home. A guide.. "So you want to build your own house" with guidance rather than just control from the county.
3. Limit urban growth
4. Agriculture should be encouraged by the county by making sure transportation issues do not occur. Only Ag related industries should be allowed in unincorporated areas of the county. Housing should not be allowed in in unincorporated areas without Ag representing the major income for the household.
5. No Low income housing Built in Yakima County

LV 6.6 Question 6: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns? This was an open-ended question. No additional goals were recommended.

One comment was provided for this question:

1. Stop annexing farm ground into UGA.

WEEK 7 – HEALTH CARE UPPER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Surveys Response:

- 62 responses

Total written comments:

- 48 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 7.1 Question 1: Health Care Delivery Systems: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 7A. Health Care Delivery Systems – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "There is a need for expanded primary care which is comprehensive, both acute and preventative. To meet the changing needs of our evolving community we need to expand additional services..."	4.82
B. "(These services include) emergency response in both urban and rural parts of the community, restorative care, non-primary care (medical, dental, mental health), nursing, home and assisted living/home care."	4.83
C. "All services should be language and culturally sensitive."	4.10
D. "A national and state movement for Health Care Finance Reform/National Policy is evident. We acknowledge our responsibility to understand the issues and provide input in our area and state lawmakers support and advocate needed changes."	4.34

Figure 7A. Health Care Delivery Systems – Upper Valley

UV 7.1.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "I would like to take out 'emergency response' and add more focus on preventative services."
2. Some of these goals seem to be a little out of the scope of Yakima County's Comprehensive Plan. Maybe delete A and simplify B, "Ensure that emergency response serves both urban and rural parts of the community..."

UV 7.1.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goal A:

Alternative 1: Modify and combine with Goal B.

Alternative 2: Retain goal as is

Goal B:

Alternative 1: Modify and combine with Goal A.

Alternative 2: Retain goal.

Note- Even though these goals all received scores below 4.0 and 5.00, it is difficult to be sure that they will remain relevant. Goals should be revised to be relevant with the current health care environment. (e.g. Comply with national and state healthcare initiatives).

Goal C: Retain goal as is

Goal D:

Alternative 1: Health care in the Yakima Valley must meet standards set by national and state healthcare initiatives.

Alternative 2: Delete goal

UV 7.1.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Alternative 1. Provide expanded acute and preventative care, including emergency response in both urban and rural parts of the county, restorative care, non-primary care, nursing home and assisted living/home care.

Goal B: Alternative 1. Combine with A above.

Goal C: Delete goal

Goal D: Alternative 1. Health care in the Yakima Valley must meet standards set by national and state healthcare initiatives.

UV 7.1.4 – Health Care Delivery Systems - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. “Provide expanded acute and preventative care, including emergency response in both urban and rural parts of the county, restorative care, non-primary care, nursing, home and assisted living/home care.”
- B. “Health care in the Yakima Valley must meet standards set by national and state healthcare initiatives.”

UV 7.2 Question 2: Lifestyle Issues: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 7B. Lifestyle Issues – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "We realize that each individual's choice in lifestyle results from demands placed on home, family, work (school) and social activities, which often impact personal health."	5.12
B. "We must provide necessary services that address health related aspects as well as encourage prevention and safety."	5.15

Figure 7B. Lifestyle Issues – Upper Valley

UV 7.2.1 Staff Recommendation:

Change both goals A and B. Although personal responsibility plays a role, it was not necessarily the intent of the original goal to simply state that. The two proposed goals (a) and (c) below improve the language while retaining the intent.

UV 7.2.2 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: “Encourage healthy lifestyle choices, prevention and safety while providing the necessary services that address health related aspects.”

Goal B: “Offer necessary services that address health related aspects as well as encourage prevention and safety.”

UV 7.2.3 – Lifestyle Issues - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Encourage healthy lifestyle choices, prevention and safety while providing the necessary services that address health related aspects."
- B. "Offer necessary services that address health related aspects as well as encourage prevention and safety."

UV 7.3 Question 3: Cultural Diversity: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 7C. Cultural Diversity – Upper Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Health information, education, and services must be available and accessible to those whose first language is other than English."	4.11
B. "Related messages and information must acknowledge and accommodate the clients' cultural value of traditional practitioners, must be understandable and, where possible, accommodated."	3.72
C. "It is essential that adequate numbers of trained bilingual/bicultural staff be at all levels of health care services."	4.13

Figure 7C. Cultural Diversity – Upper Valley

UV 7.3.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goals proposed.

UV 7.3.2 Staff Recommendation:

Goals A and C: Combine Goals A. and C. to create a more general goal related to recognizing the need for bilingual/multilingual providers, in order to serve all segments of the population. Both Goals A and C received relatively low average ratings, but the ratings were above 4.0.

Goal B. Delete goal. Received an average rating of less than 4.00.

UV 7.3.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Modify to add “meet state and national standards”.

Goal B: Delete Goal

Goal C: Delete Goal

UV 7.3.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

A. “Health care in the Yakima Valley must meet standards set by national and state healthcare initiatives.”

UV 7.4 Question 4: Health Education: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 7D. Health Education

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Health Education must assure that comprehensive health services include health services, health education, and environmental and personal safety."	5.25
B. "(Health Education) supports schools, community agencies and organization in collaborative efforts allowing all persons more ready to access information, training and medical services."	5.16

Figure 7D. Health Education

UV 7.4.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. Goal A. "Health Education must assure that health education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, environmental and personal safety, and adequate preventive medical services be included in comprehensive health services."

UV 7.4.2 Staff Recommendation:

Retain both goals (both received average ratings above 5.0). Consider updating the wording so it flows better.

UV 7.4.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain goal as is.

Goal B: Statement is not worded as a goal (action) statement. Staff to reword.

UV 7.4.4 Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Health Education must assure that comprehensive health services include health services, health education, and environmental and personal safety."
- B. "Ensure access to health education by encouraging collaborative efforts between schools, community agencies and organizations."

UV 7.5 Question 5: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Health Care section, please write your proposal below. This open ended question received 9 comments, including:

1. Government Services:

- Health Care should be at a personal level. Government and other organizations should not be involved or devote resources to manage health care. They should not maintain databases of clients, illness or defect.
- Support more comprehensive first response emergency medical care by providing EMT-IV training for Yakima County EMT-Bs
- There should be a partnering between all agencies and medical facilities to encourage more health care professionals to come and work in the valley. Our need for more doctors is great. Specialized services need to be widened.

2. Affordability:

- Make health care more readily available. Not enough doctors are taking new patients.
- To prevent future large scale health issues of individuals, we must think of all people, including homeless, and thus keep health care costs down over the long term.

3. Other:

- Increase school education to include dangers of addictive behavior. Bring back the DARE program, or an updated version.
- Recognize and support the development and expansion of the Pacific Northwest University is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley.
- Yakima County Resident all have the duty to support the goals of county in achievement of health care for all and give time or funds to ongoing services.
- Provide opportunities for residents of Yakima County to take part in recreational activities (sports, etc.) that promote better health. Provide sidewalks, trails, parks and other opportunities for residents to take part in health activities.

UV 7.5.2 Proposed Goal Language from Survey:

1. "Recognize and support the development and expansion of the Pacific Northwest University is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley."

UV 7.5.3 Staff Recommendation:

Add NEW goal (A) as proposed: "Recognize and support the development and expansion of the Pacific Northwest University is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley."

UV 7.5.4 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Proposed NEW Goal A: Recognize and support the development and expansion advanced Health Care Education is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley.

UV 7.5.5 –Healthcare – New Goal - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Recognize and support the development and expansion advanced Health Care Education is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley."

UV 7.6 Question 6:

Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(This was an open-ended question.) 10 people provided answers to this question, one responder directed answers back to previous responses.

1. English: We should be aware of other culture and sensitive to their needs, but overall English should be what is used and taught.
2. Health Care System:
 - Health care should be an entitlement so we can manage long term costs and prevent insurance companies from having to overcharge individuals to recover costs of services for those that cannot afford to pay.
 - We need a single-payer health care system.
3. Other:
 - The Washington State Farm Bureau has a great safety education course for their members who hire farm workers. The program should be required for ALL farmers who hire help that climbs ladders or runs tractors.
 - Focus on community-based prevention strategies rather than just clinical strategies.
 - Confusing if survey set up to identify “Yakima County” as meaning “Yakima County Government” or Yakima County citizens, or both.
 - Our inability to deal with Ebola has exposed serious deficiencies in our health care system.

WEEK 7 – TRANSPORTATION LOWER VALLEY

STATISTICS:

Survey response:

- 18 English
- 3 English (paper survey)

Total written comments:

- 6 Comments

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

LV 7.1 Question 1: Transportation: The Lower Valley *Focus 2010* effort developed five goals related to Transportation for the Lower Valley. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 7E. Transportation – Lower Valley

Answer Options	Rating Average
A. "Provide for economic movement of goods from farm to market."	5.62
B. "Develop a safe multi-modal transportation system that provides for the efficient flow of goods, services and people."	5.76
C. "Promote better coordination for an integrated system and uniform construction and maintenance standards between local, county, state, federal and tribal governments."	5.90
D. "Develop a transportation system and appropriate signage which accommodates and promotes the tourist industry."	5.15
"Ensure that costs to increase levels of service are allocated equitably through time among all potential benefactors."	5.85

Figure 7E. Transportation – Lower Valley

LV 7.1.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goals proposed.

LV 7.1.2 Staff Recommendation:

Retain goals, as both received average scores above 5.0. Consider adding goals as per written comments.

LV 7.1.3 Planning Commission Recommendation:

Goal A: Retain Goal as is.

Goal B: Retain Goal as is.

Goal C: Retain Goal as is.

Goal D: Retain Goal as is.

Goal E: Retain Goal as is.

LV 7.1.4 – Transportation - Final Visioning Goal Recommendation:

- A. "Provide for economic movement of goods from farm to market."
- A. "Develop a safe multi-modal transportation system that provides for the efficient flow of goods, services and people."
- B. "Promote better coordination for an integrated system and uniform construction and maintenance standards between local, county, state, federal and tribal governments."
- C. "Develop a transportation system and appropriate signage which accommodates and promotes the tourist industry."

- D. "Ensure that costs to increase levels of service are allocated equitably through time among all potential benefactors."

LV 7.2 Question 2: If you feel a new goal (or goals) should be added to the Urban Growth and Land Use section, please write your proposal below.

LV 7.2.1 Proposed Goal Language from Survey: No new goals proposed.

LV 7.3 Question 3: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?
(This was an open-ended question.) One person provided a response to this question.

1. I feel that roundabouts on rural intersections would be significant in reducing injury accidents and saving lives.

WEEK 8 – HUMANITY AND FAMILY UPPER AND LOWER VALLEY COMBINED

* NOTE * The survey for week 8 differed from the other weekly surveys. Only one survey was made focusing on this topic, for the both the Upper and Lower Valleys. The four short goals in this section came from the 2010 Upper Valley Visioning Report (there was no equivalent in the original Lower Valley report). However, we considered these goals as relevant for both the Lower Valley and the Upper Valley. Because the original goals in the section were so short, this last survey focused on objectives, instead of discussing goals as in previous weekly surveys. Staff then based recommendations on both the goals and objectives, but determined that the short goals were adequate for the *Horizon 2040* final Visioning goals. Therefore, the objectives were not evaluated by the Planning Commission.

STATISTICS:

Surveys response:

- o 96 English
- o 1 English (paper survey)
- o 10 Spanish

Total written comments:

- o 90 total, both English and Spanish

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESULTS:

UV 8.1 GOAL 1: Quality Education. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to meet the following objectives:

Table 8A. Quality Education

Answer Options	Rating Average English	Rating Average Spanish
A. "Educators, counselors and administrators must be representative of the population they serve."	3.99	6.00
B. "Language: Second language opportunities must be available for every student at every level."	3.22	6.00
C. "Education must go out from the schools to the homes and from homes to schools. Involving parents in the education process is required so that parents are able to support the learning efforts of their children."	5.43	6.00
D. "Education must be provided without racial, cultural, handicapping and gender bias."	5.30	6.00
E. "Continuing education for adults must be available with a variety of options for completing high school, skill training and parenting education."	5.03	6.00
F. "We must make better use of educational facilities. Year round schools and other solutions being used by other districts must be studied and adopted."	4.73	6.00

Figure 8A. Quality Education

Final Visioning Goal:

A. Provide Quality Education

UV 8.2 GOAL 2: Provide Economic Opportunity. For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to meet the following objectives:

Table 8B. Provide Economic Opportunity - Objectives

Answer Options	Rating Average English	Rating Average Spanish
A. "New and existing businesses must hire and train employees so they accurately reflect the surrounding population."	2.78	6.00
B. "Existing businesses must be supported to provide economy enhancing opportunities for families."	4.07	6.00
C. "New businesses and industries which pay state prevailing wages for their industry must be recruited to the Yakima Valley."	4.61	6.00
D. "The work force must be prepared to fill opportunities as they are created."	5.46	6.00
E. "Employers, both public and private, must recognize the value of an actualized work force which eliminates artificial barriers including gender, age and race. The value of a home based work force also must be realized."	4.55	6.00

Figure 8B. Provide Economic Opportunity - Objectives

Final Visioning Goal:

B. Provide Economic Opportunity.

UV 8.3 GOAL 3: Cultural Diversity: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to:

Table 8C. Cultural Diversity - Objectives

Answer Options	Rating Average English	Rating Average Spanish
A. "City and county governments must take a leadership role in the celebration of cultural diversity."	3.11	6.00
B. "The celebration of cultural diversity must be a priority for all private employers."	2.12	6.00
C. "Public media must be aggressive in promoting and extolling cultural diversity."	2.64	6.00

Figure 8C. Cultural Diversity - Objectives

Final Visioning Goal:

C. Ensure Cultural Diversity.

UV 8.4 GOAL 4: Support Human Services: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to meet the following objectives:

Table 8D. Support Human Services - Objectives

Answer Options	Rating Average English	Ratings Average Spanish
A. "Providers must be representative of the populations they serve."	3.34	6.00
B. "Support systems must not penalize aid recipients who are trying to develop independent lives."	4.6	5.40
C. "Adequate child care must be provided to enable families to become self sufficient."	3.87	5.70

Figure 8D. Support Human Services - Objectives

Final Visioning Goal:

D. Support Human Services.

UV 8.5 GOAL 5: Enhance Transportation: For the purposes of the *Horizon 2040* Comprehensive Plan Update, it will be important for Yakima County to meet the following objective:

Table 8E. Transportation - Objectives

Answer Options	Rating Average English	Rating Average Spanish
A. "A complete system of affordable public transportation must be available to provide access to education, human services, employment, health care and all the myriad activities that will make this a place we choose to live."	4.91	6.00

Figure 8E. Transportation - Objectives

Final Visioning Goal:

A. Enhance Transportation

Demographic Questions:

Figure 8F. Education

Question 6: What is your age?

- The largest age group to respond to the surveys was between 50-59 years old.

Question 7: What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- 64% of survey respondents answered that they had a bachelor's degree or graduate degree.

Figure 8G. Education

Question 8: If you feel a new goal (or objective) should be added to the Humanity and Family section, please write your proposal below (This was open-ended question). The following comments submitted for this question:

- an
were
1. You need more goals that would be directed toward the family aspect of pulling together to move forward or rise up as a group. That is kind of the "American Way" has been used by previous generations very successfully.

2. Consider the addition of: Support the Spanish language education for non-Spanish speakers, especially in elementary school. This would advance the goal sought by current proposed goals in the most efficient manner.
3. We don't want marijuana farms cropping up in the county. We do want more emphasis on drug prevention in the schools and anti-gang education. Less graffiti.
4. Personal responsibility and honest effort has its own rewards and benefits. It stands tall and may have the most potential for creating an environment for equality and fairness.
5. We should encourage and measure recipients towards a goal of independence and self-reliance. Expect the recipients to learn and move beyond government assistance.
6. Yakima County needs to prepare its children and adults to meet the needs of the future - businesses that depend on intellectual capital are becoming more interested in the quality of life than the infrastructure (i.e. rail and shipping facilities). If they can find a work force here, they will be more likely to come.
7. I don't think we should celebrate diversity but instead we should celebrate Americans, the melting pot and ignore, but still love our places of origin as we meld into a society of one.
8. Free access to birth control and all aspects of family planning services.
9. Some form of public service should be a condition of receiving aid.

Question 9: Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

(This was an open-ended question.) 9 people provided answers to this question. The answers fell into the following categories:

1. Diversity: Most of these comments related to appreciating cultural diversity, but placing less emphasis on it in the Visioning Goals. As one commenter put it, "We should all be loving and accepting of others but I can't see making a huge deal of being different. Let's accept it and move on to making it a better place for all, instead of catering to a certain sector. Let's celebrate being Americans first. "
2. Other:
 - o Including Technical Schools, such as JM Perry under Question 7 "Level of education."
 - o Include questions relating to Human Services
 - o Emphasizing Christian values
 - o Allow legal Marijuana operations and businesses in the county.
 - o Reduce restrictions on wineries.
 - o Wages – increase minimum wage and supporting businesses that pay their employees a living wages.



Horizon 2040

FINAL VISIONING GOALS

A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

1. Infrastructure and Facilities:

- A. Ensure an adequate supply of industrial property throughout the county by supporting infrastructure for industrial purposes.
- B. Enhance our transportation facilities, including air, rail, highways, and non-motorized.
- C. Develop infrastructure and facilities to support our economic development.
- D. Improve all modes of transportation to support our economic development.
- E. Develop commercial districts through economic restructuring, infrastructure improvements, and new business recruitment.
- F. Develop an ongoing beautification program designed to improve the appearance of the Yakima Valley.

2. Business Development:

- A. Support the development and operation of business incubators and home businesses.
- B. Attract retirement, tourism, recreational and convention businesses to Yakima as a destination option.
- C. Existing Businesses:
 - i. Develop a strong value added product industry which supports our agricultural base.
 - ii. Expand the export of our area's goods and services.
 - iii. Support retention and expansion of existing industry.
 - iv. Develop a supportive community environment for business.
- D. Business Development and Attracting New Businesses:
 - I. Expand the export of our area's good and services.
 - II. Effect legislation which promotes business development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.).
 - III. Secure private and public capital for economic development (Industrial, commercial, community, etc.).
 - IV. Develop and encourage incubation format for industries and home businesses.

3. Education and Employment Training:

- A. Provide for the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable all students to be successfully employed and be lifelong learners.
- B. Provide equal access to education, employment, training and opportunities for our culturally, racially and/or economically diverse families.

B. ENVIRONMENT

1. Water

- A. Improve and maintain water quality and quantity.
- B. Promote increased levels of water management for the purposes of conservation, storage, delivery, and flood control.
- C. Provide effective management for diverse and conflicting water uses: agricultural, municipal, and industrial; recreational and fishery base flows; wildlife habitat; wetlands; and rural residential.



- D. Manage the Yakima River Basin as a unique resource.
- E. Restore the water quality of the Yakima River.
- F. Identify future needs and promote increased water supplies through coordinated management and conservation efforts.
- G. Improve and maintain ground and surface water quality.

2. Land

- A. Coordinate land uses to reduce uncertainty and unpredictable development which sacrifices conservation and sound land management.
- B. Preserve and protect critical areas.
- C. Inventory public open space lands and define those to preserve for future generations.

3. Air

- A. Address air quality challenges while recognizing the different existing and future growth patterns and regulations for urbanizing and rural areas.
- B. Identify the impact on air quality caused by industrial and community growth patterns, such as the quantity, size, location, and nature of the growth.
- C. Determine what threshold of air quality we wish to achieve and maintain for health and aesthetics.
- D. Establish county-side quality standards based on best management practices.

4. Education and Awareness:

- A. Promote environmental education opportunities.
- B. Foster awareness necessary to address environmental challenges.
- C. Develop an educational awareness program which informs people of the value of their resources and the steps for their protection.

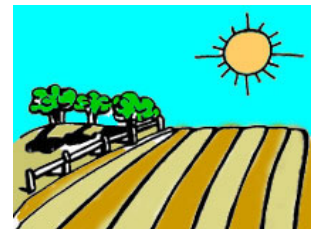
5. Other Programs:

- A. Create resources or incentives that will promote actions which enhance the natural environment.
- B. Increase the community's participation in recycling and other innovative solid waste disposal programs.
- C. Create a comprehensive image that links together environmental, resources and quality of life elements.
- D. Preserve wetlands, open lands, and other habitat areas.
- E. Establish and enforce standards for light, glare, and noise to minimize incompatibilities within and between land use areas and to enhance quality of life.
- F. Consider energy supply alternatives and energy conservation opportunities.

C. AGRICULTURE

1. Agricultural Economic Base:

- A. Promote the growth and development of business related to agriculture, together with other industries which are recognized as playing an important role in the regional economy which may assist and help maintain an economically viable agricultural base.
- B. Maintain an economically viable agricultural base, while providing the opportunity for people to pursue a rural lifestyle in rural zone designations.



2. Public Policy:

- A. Preserve the rich, diverse base of natural resources in the valley.

- B. Evaluate how resources should be utilized and conserved, and communicate the Valley's interest to appropriate state, federal, and private entities.
- C. Establish regulations which limit the maximum herd size or the per acre density for new and expanded livestock operations in designated areas to minimize adverse impacts on surrounding uses.
- D. Protect agricultural lands through realistic, county-wide zoning and other standards which promote agricultural uses and minimize impacts by non-agricultural uses, and preserve individual property rights.

3. Resource Conservation:

- A. Preserve and increase the number of acres of agricultural lands through improved tax incentives, water management practices, noxious weed control, erosion control, and other incentives designed to enhance or support agriculture.

D. QUALITY OF LIFE AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

1. Identification and Protection:

- A. Identify, develop and protect historical sites as identified by the community.

2. Community Consensus:

- A. Promote discussion and understanding of important County issues.
- B. Promote private/public and private/non-profit partnerships.

3. Parks and Festivals:

- A. Promote a comprehensive Parks Plan.
- B. Expand youth activities.
- C. Support and promote community celebrations and festivals.
- D. Encourage broader financial support of the Arts in the community.



4. The Arts:

- A. Support accessibility to and affordability for entertainment and performing arts.
- B. Encourage and support Professional Arts.

5. Cultural Diversity:

- A. Appreciate cultural diversity.
- B. Expand economic opportunities for all individuals.
- C. Support leadership training, enhanced communication, and preservation of cultural diversity and traditions for our multi-cultural community.

6. Positive Visual Images:

- A. Address visual impacts of land uses.
- B. Encourage preservation of neighborhoods by neighborhoods.
- C. Address parking needs, in the context of inter-modal transportation, and the region as a whole.
- D. Support implementation of downtown development or community plans, within the context of the region as a whole.
- E. Develop a clean physical image of the Yakima Valley by: encouraging the creation of landmarks; improving entrances to Yakima; providing quality maintenance; and addressing code violations.

7. Governmental Coordination and Services:

- A. Promote coordinated planning and balanced delivery of services among federal, state, county, municipal and tribal governments especially in areas of overlapping influence such as urban growth areas.
- B. Promote coordination among federal, state, county, municipal, and tribal law enforcement and fire protection agencies.
- C. Encourage land uses that are sensitive to the history and culture of the region.

8. Public Safety:

- A. Significantly reduce crime by promoting youth education programs, and an assertive, effective criminal justice system.
- B. Significantly improve fire protection through assertive program of education, inspections, and code enforcement.
- C. Significantly reduce public health hazards through education programs.

E. HOUSING

1. Affordable Housing:

- A. Provide for flexibility in zoning, while preventing incompatible uses and development.
- B. Support and encourage financing opportunities.
- C. Promote infill housing that is compatible with nearby housing, different housing densities and economically diverse housing options.
- D. Promote temporary farmworker housing.
- E. Promote housing counseling.
- F. Support and encourage an increase in the number of affordable housing units.
- G. Promote innovative building practices.
- H. Provide safe, sanitary and affordable housing for everyone.
- I. Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community.
- J. Provide infrastructure to accommodate residential growth.
- K. Preserve neighborhood integrity through appropriate land use guidelines.
- L. Encourage resourceful and fair housing financing by lenders.
- M. Housing development should be encouraged in urban areas where services are readily available.
- N. Limit new housing in agricultural lands.



2. Neighborhood Conservation:

- A. Stabilize viable neighborhoods.
- B. Encourage the preservation and conservation of existing housing stock.
- C. Protect the positive elements in existing neighborhoods through zoning ordinances.
- D. Prioritize code enforcement in all neighborhoods.

3. Neighborhood Safety, Security, and Activities:

- A. Support community based police forces.
- B. Support comprehensive fire and emergency medical services.
- C. Plan public and private streets with sensitivity to future growth and ensure inclusion of bike lanes and sidewalks where appropriate.
- D. Support recreation activities and community centers where appropriate.
- E. Ensure new housing developments include parks, trails, sidewalks, and trees where appropriate.

4. Housing Diversity and Integration of Neighborhoods:

- A. Promote financing partnerships.
- B. Create a mix of types of housing and land uses that supports a diverse socioeconomic community.

F. URBAN GROWTH AND LAND USE

1. Infrastructure

- A. Ensure adequate transportation infrastructure and delivery system to meet the needs of, and promote, a diversified economy.
- B. Provide adequate services to properties to promote diversified economic growth.
- C. Develop a regional airport in the Yakima Valley.
- D. Ensure that adequate educational and vocational opportunities and resources will be provided to facilitate planned growth and emergence of a more diverse economy in the Yakima regional area.

2. Land Use and Urban Design

- A. Foster the availability of:
 - a. A diversity of land uses in the regional area (i.e. commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and public facilities).
 - b. An adequate and affordable supply of housing for all income levels.
 - c. An adequate inventory of developed and developable property to accommodate the siting of new, and expansion of existing, businesses in the Yakima regional area.
 - d. Coordinated services to facilitate planned growth.
- B. Promote orderly development while recognizing private property rights.
- C. Protect the Lower Valley's farmlands and agricultural areas from urban encroachment and incompatible land uses.



3. New Goals:

- D. Future development and planning should consider future data demands.
- E. Promote "Transfer of Development Rights".

G. HEALTHCARE

1. Health Care Delivery Systems:

- A. Provide expanded acute and preventative care, including emergency response in both urban and rural parts of the county, restorative care, non-primary care, nursing, home and assisted living/home care.
- B. Health care in the Yakima Valley must meet standards set by national and state healthcare initiatives.

2. Lifestyle Issues:

- A. Encourage healthy lifestyle choices, prevention and safety while providing the necessary services that address health related aspects.
- B. Offer necessary services that address health related aspects as well as encourage prevention and safety.

3. Health Education

- A. Health Education must assure that comprehensive health services include health services, health education, and environmental and personal safety.
- B. Ensure access to health education by encouraging collaborative efforts between schools, community agencies and organizations.
- C. Recognize and support that the development and expansion of advanced Health Care Education is an essential component of the future of healthcare in the Yakima Valley.

H. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Provide for economic movement of goods from farm to market.
- B. Develop a safe multi-modal transportation system that provides for the efficient flow of goods, services and people.
- C. Promote better coordination for an integrated system and uniform construction and maintenance standards between local, county, state, federal and tribal governments.
- D. Develop a transportation system and appropriate signage which accommodates and promotes the tourist industry.
- E. Ensure that costs to increase levels of service are allocated equitably through time among all potential benefactors.



I. HUMANITY AND FAMILY

- A. Provide Quality Education
- B. Provide Economic Opportunity
- C. Ensure Cultural Diversity
- D. Support Human Services
- E. Enhance Transportation

