



County taking final steps to complete 20-year growth plan

Meetings scheduled; new policies are due to the state June 30

By **KAITLIN GILLESPIE**
Columbian staff writer

The research has been compiled. Nearly all of the comments have been submitted. The work on the Clark County Comprehensive Growth Management plan is officially off to the policy makers.

At 6:30 p.m. Thursday,

the Clark County Planning Commission will kick off the first of two remaining meetings on the county's 20-year growth plan, which will outline how Clark County provides jobs, land and housing for its growing population.

It's been nearly three years since Clark County began developing its comprehensive plan update. The last year and a half especially has been marked by controversy as Republican Clark County Councilor

David Madore introduced his now-defunct zoning proposal, Alternative 4, which would have permitted smaller lots in rural areas.

That controversy is unlikely to end as the process comes to a close, even though both the Planning Commission and Clark County council have finalized the plan's zoning component. Though the council approved a zoning plan that allows for smaller forest, agriculture and rural lots, representatives from rural

land-use organization Clark County Citizens United have continued to push for smaller lots in rural areas.

Policies still undecided

The county still has to consider policies on transportation, housing and building design, as well as impact fees for school districts, parks and traffic.

It also has to adopt its capital facilities plan, which will outline how to pay for the plan in the coming years.

County officials are projecting a \$158.1 million shortfall when it comes to adequately funding transportation services.

The Clark County council will make its final decision at its 10 a.m. hearing on June 21, just nine days before the plan must be submitted to the state Commerce Department.

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Public Meeting

■ **What:** Clark County Planning Commission public meeting. Officials will discuss the county's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update.

■ **When:** 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

■ **Where:** Public Service Center, Sixth Floor, 1300 Franklin St., Vancouver.