

# SKAGWAY 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



## February Meeting Summary:

### POPULATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC TRENDS

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On a chilly February evening, about 30 residents packed into the Skagway Library to discuss Skagway's future with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The work session was part of the ongoing Skagway 2030 Comprehensive Plan process, which encourages community members to share their aspirations and concerns. The primary topics of discussion this month were population and socioeconomic trends in Skagway and the implications for the future. In dialogue guided by the consultant team, participants discussed employment, wages, demographics, and visitors.

Based on present trends, Skagway's future includes a lot more people, both new residents, and more tourists. In particular, the number of residents under age 19 and over age 65 will see strong growth over the next 10 years. Participants discussed options for helping the community navigate this influx of people, and housing was discussed as a key issue – both year round and for seasonal residents. People identified access to affordable housing as essential to allow young families and seniors to remain in Skagway and increase the viability of year-round jobs. Also discussed were managing vehicle access to Broadway during the summer, filling all bus seats, and increasing opportunities for tourists outside of Broadway. Participants also voiced concern about the success of festivals and events for independent visitors due to the recent drop in the number of hotel rooms in town. A need for increased in-home services for a growing senior population was discussed as was a focus on mobility impediments for both aging residents and visitors. The opportunities a growing school population and strong visitor economy provide were highlighted as well.

Throughout the conversation, participants voiced concerns, provided suggestions, and reflected on the strengths of the community. Some other big picture concerns expressed during the meeting centered around uncertainty about the Alaska Marine Highway system, availability of education funding, and access to affordable healthcare. Participants identified several strategies for increasing access to child care, senior services, and affordable housing. Participants also celebrated community strengths including a high quality of life, exceptional schools, low crime rates, and convenient access to recreation. By integrating these insights and analysis, the Skagway 2030 Comprehensive Plan will help ground future decision making in community priorities.



### NEXT OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

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- **Thursday, March 28, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**, Public Safety Facility Training Room, Topic: Land Use and future residential, commercial, industrial, recreation, and open space needs.
- **Friday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 pm** Drop by any time for a Community Open House, at the Elks burger feed. You'll have a chance to visit several displays and offer your ideas and comments on topics such as quality of life, community goals, a vision for Skagway's future, issues to address for successful growth, and much more.
- **Thursday, April 25, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**, City Hall Assembly Chambers, Topic: Housing
- More work sessions are planned on the fourth Thursday of most months to explore community priorities around transportation, public services and facilities economic development, and natural and cultural resources.
- More information about the comprehensive planning process and ways to get involved is available at <https://www.skagway.org/2030>.