

# Department of Community Development

## Equestrian Facility Assessment Planning Commission Briefing

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**KitsapCounty**



# Agenda

Purpose

Background

Objectives

Key Stakeholders

Scope of Work

Timeline

Deliverables





# Purpose

To assess regulatory needs for future commercial equestrian facilities, considering rural impacts, economic viability, and the role of equestrian facilities in maintaining rural character.



# Background

The Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners first identified regulation of equestrian facilities as a priority for 2025.

Postponed proposed equestrian facility code update to 2026.

In 2026, DCD will provide focus and staffing needed to assess and present recommendations to stakeholders.



## Kitsap County News

**Board of County Commissioners Postpones Equestrian Facility Code to 2026** 10/13/2025

The [Kitsap County Board of Commissioners](#) directed the [Department of Community Development \(DCD\)](#) today to separate the [Equestrian Facility Code](#) component from the rest of the [Year of the Rural](#) project. This decision allows the County and community to focus on other Year of the Rural topics during the 2025 public process while providing additional time for engagement, discussion, research, and refinement of the proposed Equestrian Facility Code.



# Objectives

Identify and evaluate impacts

Assess existing County regulations and enforcement practices

Evaluate the applicability of the Washington State Right to Farm Act

Compile and assess best practices

Define and assess operational thresholds and intensity levels

Evaluate infrastructure and environmental impacts

Assess which impacts and intensity levels may warrant regulatory oversight

Gather stakeholder input

Assess alignment with existing county code and permitting frameworks



Bainbridge Island Review: A chestnut horse grazes on hay at Lazy K Stables



King 5 and Kitsap Sun

# Key Stakeholders

Board of County Commissioners

Planning Commission

DCD staff

Commercial equestrian facility operators and equestrian associations

Rural property owners near equestrian facilities

Community and neighborhood representatives and customers



# Scope of Work

Task 1. Project  
initiation and Data

Task 2. Regulatory  
and Legal  
Framework  
Assessment

Task 3. Best  
Practices and  
Comparative  
Review

Task 4. Impact and  
Intensity Analysis

Task 5. Threshold  
and Trigger  
Evaluation

Task 6. Stakeholder  
Engagement

- Community Engagement  
Plan

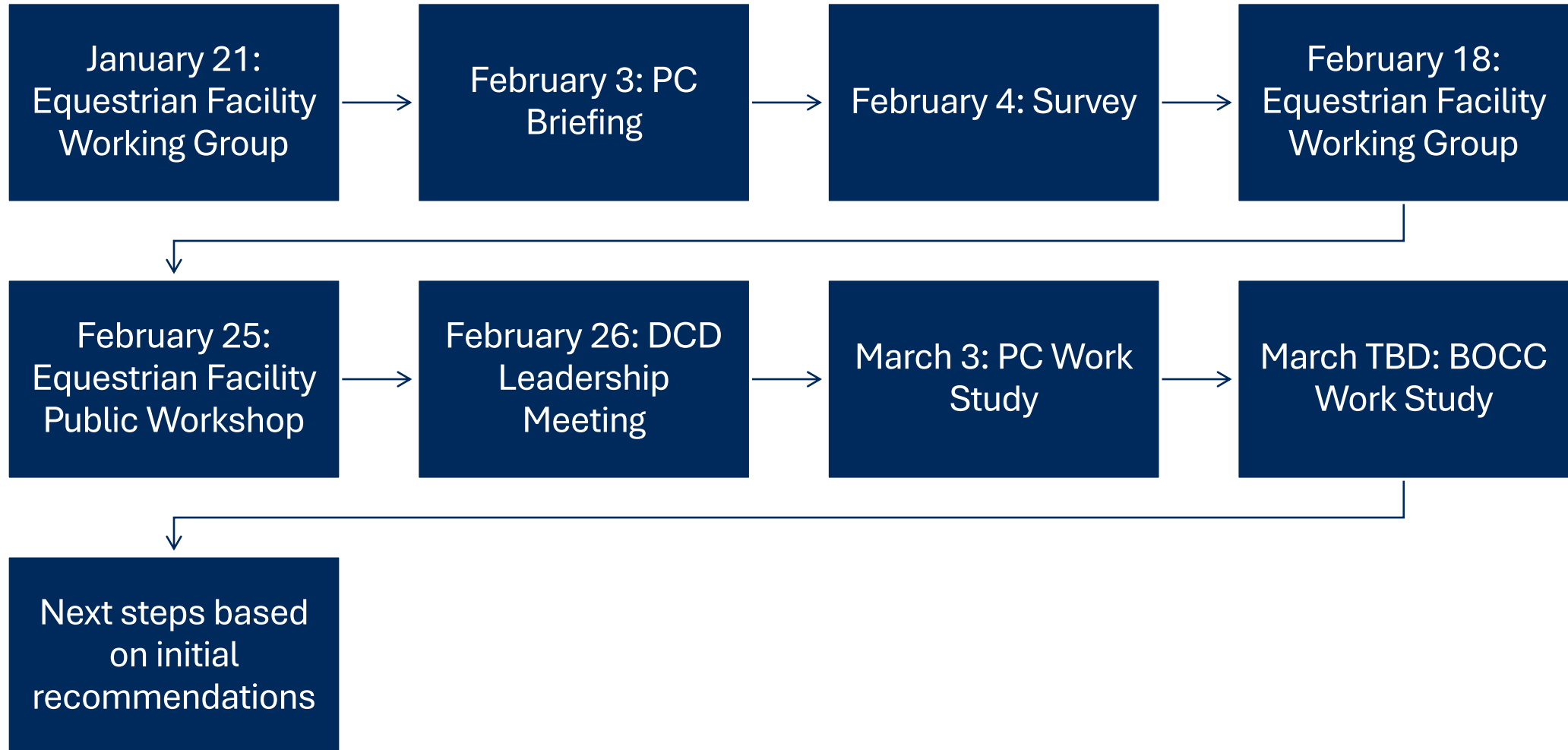
Task 7. Regulatory  
Alignment and  
Options  
Assessment

Task 8. Findings and  
Recommendations

Task 9. Public  
Process

Task 10.  
Implementation

# Timeline





# Deliverables

Existing Conditions and Regulatory Review Memo

Best Practices and Comparative Analysis Summary

Impact and Intensity Assessment Technical Memo

Stakeholder Engagement Summary

Regulatory Alignment and Options Assessment

Final Assessment Report

Regulations Update (pending regulatory decision)



# Thank you!

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