

A Collaborative Road Map to Washington's Future



Introductions

- Darren Nichols
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 - UW College of the Built Environment
 - Land use consultant, former planning director and former member of GMHB



Background



Washington's Growth Management Act (GMA)

- Adopted in 1990 →
 - Need comprehensive, evidence-based study
 - Limited results, goals, achievements . . . so far
- Two decades of piecemeal amendments
- Needs broad, informed context
- 1970's era land use laws:
 - Shoreline Management Act (SMA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA),
 - Not reconciled with GMA framework
- 19th century governance and finance statutes
 - not written for 21st century circumstances, aspirations and needs



21st Century Context

- Office of Financial Management projects nearly statewide population increase by 2040:
 - 7 million → 10.3 million
 - Half will locate in the 4 counties/82 cities Seattle metro region
 - . . . with 1.4 million additional jobs
- Declining housing affordability
- Deteriorating health of state waters
- Loss of productive farmland
- Crumbling infrastructure
- Worsening traffic congestion and freight mobility
- Rural parts of the state struggle
 - Growing economic opportunity and
 - Mitigating natural hazards



Roadmap . . .

*To nurture economic and environmental health and protect the quality of life in our communities, **Washington needs a “road map to the future” – a coherent and effective framework of law, institutions and public policy.***

Some Washington leaders believe now is the time for a constructive assessment of Washington’s framework for managing growth, to . . .

- determine what has worked well,
- what could be improved, and
- what may be needed to meet the challenges of the next 25 years . . . and beyond.



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PROJECT PROSPECTUS:

A proposal for a comprehensive, evidence and policy-based evaluation of the State of Washington's framework for managing future growth

Two-part approach:

Part I - Preliminary Assessment - six months

Part II - Comprehensive Assessment and Road Map to Washington's Future – two years+

Objectives

- Assess perspectives of citizens, communities and leaders to determine:
 - Whether and how to conduct a constructive, forward-looking review of land use framework for policy, permits, infrastructure, gov't services
 - Who should be included in a comprehensive statewide assessment
 - What topics are the most urgent and/or present the most agreement
 - And identify shared statewide needs and interests, challenges and concerns

Part I - Preliminary Assessment

Timeframe: August 2016 to January 2017

Steps: Background research, interviews, report, presentation(s)

Deliverables: Report, presentation(s)

Objectives:

- Identify areas of potential agreement
- Identify areas of potential conflict
- Identify potential interests, participants, champions
- Identify resources, expertise, partners
- Outline a collaborative roadmap for statewide
assessment of key policy areas
- Legislative engagement/investment/support.

Part II - Comprehensive Assessment and Road Map to Washington's Future

Timeframe: January 2017 to June 2019 + [generally, WA fiscal biennium]

Steps: Targeted baseline research, comprehensive statewide interviews, report(s), presentation(s), recommendations

Deliverables: Report, presentation(s)

Objectives:

- Identify and refine areas of agreement
- Identify and refine areas of conflict
- Engage interests, participants, champions in solutions
- Identify resources, expertise, partners, and examples
- Follow collaborative roadmap to assess and recommend range of statewide solutions in key policy areas.

Statewide Partners . . .

- Central Washington University
- Eastern Washington University
- Western Washington University
- The Evergreen State College
- UW College of Built Environments
- UW College of the Environment
- UW Evans School for Public Policy & Governance
- WSU Extension
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy
- Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
- Municipal Research & Services Center
- ***Other organizations with relevant expertise . . . ?***



Participants

- Statewide
- Broad perspectives
- Urban/Rural
- East/West
- City/County
- Past/Current/Future
- Local, State, Federal, Tribal
- Puget Sound/Other regions
- Agriculture/Timber/Conservation
- Business/Industry/Development/Environmental
- Social/Cultural/Human Health
- ***AND MANY MORE***



Public research
institutions with
existing programs,
resources, and
expertise

Plus:
MRSC
WSIPP
JLARC
Others



Thank you

- Questions?
- Thoughts?
- Advice?
- Interest?
- Resources?

Contact info

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