A Collaborative Road Map to Washington’s Future
Introductions

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• Joe Tovar
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  • 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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