GMA RURAL COUNTIES, TOWNS, and CITIES

Expectations and Reality
IN THE BEGINNING

• Growth Strategies Commission
• Statewide planning was already in place
• Towards a Growth Strategy for Washington
GMA Expectations

• Protect critical areas and resource lands
• Local definitions of urban and rural lands
• Urban uses would be provided with a full range of urban services
• Require coordination of utilities and public facilities
GMA Expectations

• Economic development/job growth would be distributed out to low growth or no growth areas
• Plans would be self certified
Reality

• Urban and urbanizing areas successful
• Low growth or no growth areas see little economic change
• Limited involvement of service providers
• Significant coordination occurred initially, not so much now
Reality

• Suburban development is still desired in rural communities
• Rapid growth rural areas continue to sprawl
• Second home market stresses effective resource protection
Reality

• Land Use and Transportation connection still a struggle
• Coordination better in MPO jurisdictions
• No significant economic growth/change in rural areas
Reality

• Local preference has been diminished
• Streamlining permits, fiefdom challenged
• Critical Areas are more uniformly protected
THAT’S ALL FOLKS