

**City of Olympia's Comprehensive Plan Update**



**Lessons Learned from the Process**




**Phase 1: Scoping & Visioning**






Over 1200 People Got Involved!




**Phase 2: Focus Meeting Series**




Olympians want more:



- Involvement in how neighborhoods develop
- Transportation options (walk, bike, bus)
- "Third Places" to connect outside work & home
- City leadership in modeling sustainable practices
- Multi-generational planning




**Phase 3: Drafting**



Interdepartmental staff team developed online Comp Plan

**Phase 4: Review & Council Action**

Olympia Planning Commission is currently holding public hearings and deliberating.





**Phase 5: Implementation**



- Development Code Updates
- Sub-Area Planning
- Action Strategy & Partnership Development




## Lessons Learned



1. Coordination and clear communication among City Council, advisory bodies, staff and public is key
2. Take the time to educate




## Lessons Learned



3. Major updates need visioning
4. Involve Partners Early On




## Lessons Learned



5. Always make sure the public knows how to get involved, what you are asking of them, and what you will do with the information
6. Strong facilitation is needed!





## Lessons Learned





7. Interdepartmental staff writing team worked well!
8. Releasing a preliminary staff draft before the hearing draft did not work so well.




## Lessons Learned



9. You need strong project management and as clear a road map as possible
10. Don't forget to set up a well organized paper and electronic record filing system before you get started

## Questions?



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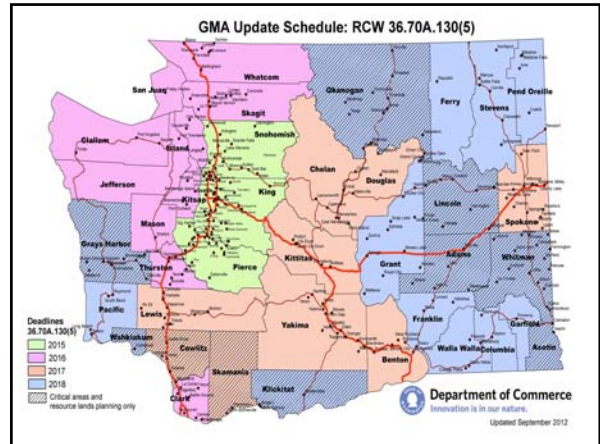



Washington State Department of Commerce

## Looking Forward to Periodic Updates

WA State Planning Conference  
American Planning Association – WA Chapter

OCTOBER 11, 2012

## Growth Management Services

- [\*Keeping your Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Current: A Guide to the Periodic Update Process under the Growth Management Act\*](#)
- Basic and Expanded Checklists for Cities and Counties

[www.commerce.wa.gov/growth](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/growth)



## Benefits of Local Planning

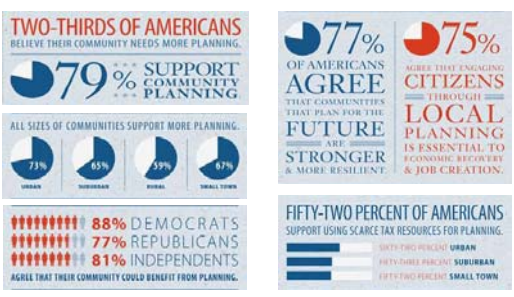
Communities with a clear vision and consistent implementation of plans generally:

- Are more attractive to private investment, which in turn creates jobs
- Have a more coordinated and efficient approach to providing infrastructure and public services
- Experience an increased quality of life for their citizens



## Citizens Support Planning

Source: March 2012 Harris Poll for the American Planning Association



**TWO-THIRDS OF AMERICANS** BELIEVE THEIR COMMUNITY NEEDS MORE PLANNING.

**79%** SUPPORT COMMUNITY PLANNING

ALL SIZES OF COMMUNITIES SUPPORT MORE PLANNING.

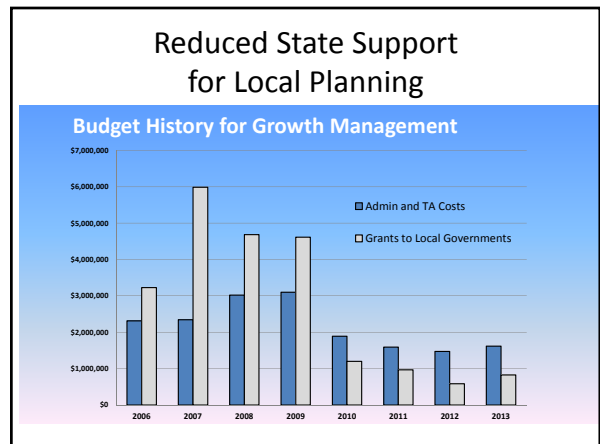
73% URBAN, 85% SUBURBAN, 59% RURAL, 67% SMALL TOWN

**77%** OF AMERICANS AGREE THAT COMMUNITIES THAT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE ARE STRONGER & MORE RESILIENT.

**75%** MORE THAT ENGAGING CITIZENS THROUGH LOCAL PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY & JOB CREATION.

**FIFTY-TWO PERCENT OF AMERICANS** SUPPORT USING SCARCE TAX RESOURCES FOR PLANNING.

52% URBAN, 57% SUBURBAN, 52% SMALL TOWN



## Outlook for 2013-2015

Carry-forward level budget is \$4.5 million from state general fund. It would support:

- Planning grants to fund 2-3% of local government costs for updating plans and development regulations
- 30% of the technical assistance service level provided in the past

Proposal: Increase to \$11 million, from a combination of fund sources

