



American Planning Association
Washington Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

DRAFT

Being Proactive: APA Washington's Process for Proposing Legislation

Ivan Miller, AICP

Bill Proposal Subcommittee Chair

2010 Conference

Kennewick, WA • October 2010

Background

- Committee formed in 2007 after leg committee debrief
 - Need for deliberative process for introducing legislative
- Researched other orgs, APA chapter legislative efforts
- Process adopted in 2008, streamlined in 2010
- Process run in 2008, 2009, and 2010

Summary of Criteria

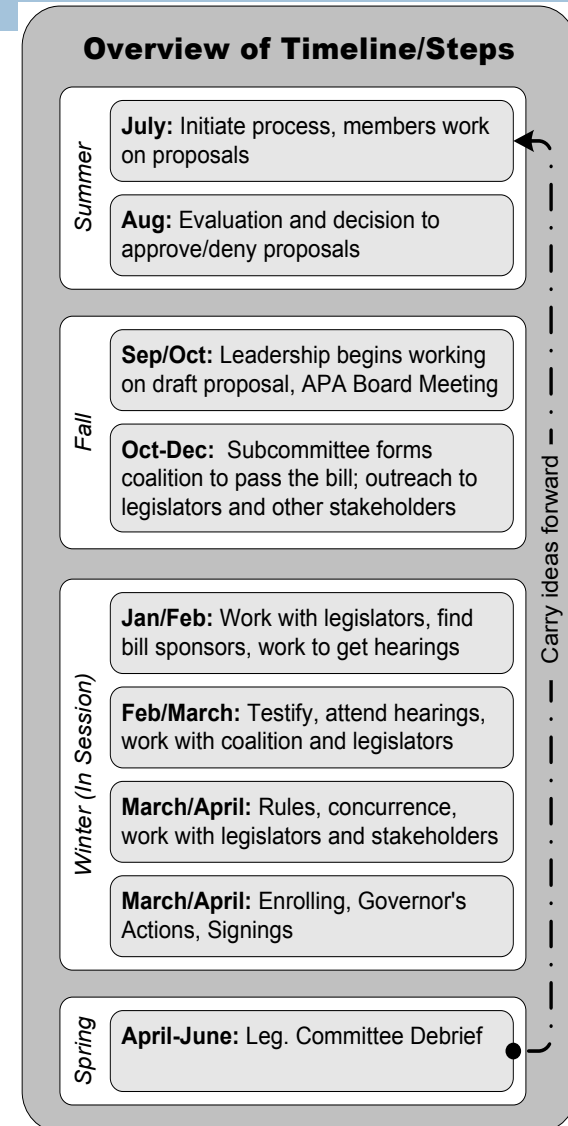
- Content of Proposal
 - ▣ Good planning, consistent with chapter goals, public interest, cost/benefit, local vs. statewide perspective
- Feasibility of Running and Passing the Proposal
 - ▣ Complexity, expertise, find partners and sponsors, timeliness, history of idea, legislative composition
- Perception from Running the Bill
 - ▣ APA role, partners reaction, collateral impacts

Summary of Timeline/Steps

- **Solicit & Discuss Proposals (summer)**
 - ▣ Solicit members ideas, Exec Committee review and recommendation, determination by Board

- **Draft Bill (fall)**
 - ▣ Form working group, coalition building, iterative process with Board, finalize, find sponsor & prefile

- **Legislative Session**
 - ▣ Lobbyist role, chapter officers testifying, working with partners, informal decision-making



Experience to Date

- 2007: Climate Change Element (fails)
 - Outcome : seat at State climate change committee table
- 2008:
 - ▣ Electronic Access to Comp Plans – **denied**
 - ▣ Freeze Ordinary “High Water” mark – **denied**
 - ▣ Create State GMA Plan – **accepted**
 - Evolves to white paper *Towards a State Smart Growth Strategy*
 - Outcome: HB 1967 Prohibits UGA Expansions in 100-yr flood zones
- 2009:
 - ▣ Amend GMA 20 Year Land Supply Requirement – **denied**
 - ▣ SEPA Public Hearing Timing Technical Fix – **denied**
 - ▣ Subarea Plan Scope and Timing – **approved** (passes)
 - Outcome: Concept added to extension of GMA deadlines
 - ▣ Banning Fully Contained Communities – **approved** (fails)
 - Outcome: Legislative request

Spring 2010 Review: '08-09 Proposals

Criteria	Floodplains ✓	Subarea Plans ✓	FCCs ✗
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impact • Clear public interest • No cost to locals • Long-term benefit • Western WA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor, but more than merely technical • No cost to locals • Additional flexibility • Statewide 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impact • No cost to locals • Long-term benefit • Western WA
Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in APA and partners • Complex and political • Shortly after major floods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full expertise • Not complex • Not tied to specific events or proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in APA and partners • Not complex, but political • MPPs recent adoption • Snohomish FCC proposal
Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental coalition partners • APA nexus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning specific activity • APA direct role 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major proposal – very political • APA nexus

- Proposals were beneficial and had nexus
- Process not overly impactful on chapter resources
- Process (and successes) created opportunities

2010 Proposals

- Planned Action EIS Funding – **approved**
 - Amends 82.02.020 to allow imposing fee
 - Strengthens successful tool by removing barrier
 - Require AICP Planner on Hearings Board – **denied**
 - Good concept, not timely
 - Consolidation of Boards; Concept not picked up last year
 - Ban New Fully Contained Communities – **approved**
 - HB 2412 remains alive – greater central PS region
 - Look for alternatives that address stakeholder concerns
-
- Many other requests from non-members
 - Six well exemption, hearings examiner incentive, others



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Thank you.

□ ***For more information:***

Webpage: washington-apa.org/programs/legcommittee/process/

Process: washington-apa.org/documents/LegislationProposalProcess.pdf

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Planning Law, Legislative Update & Interactive Call to Action

**American Planning Association
Washington Chapter
2010 Conference
Kennewick, Washington
October 5, 2010**

**Esther Larsen, Moderator
APA WA Legislative Committee Co-Chair**



Overview

- **Chapter's legislative work program, including bill proposals for 2011 session – Ivan Miller**
- **GMA and plans for 2011 session from Washington State Department of Commerce – Leonard Bauer**



Overview

- **Chapter's Smart Growth Strategy – 2010 success and challenges for 2011 – Joe Tovar**
- **Update from Olympia – Rep. Sharon Nelson (D) 34th District**
- **Input from audience and questions for panel**



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APA Washington's Legislative Priorities

- **Smart Growth Strategy**
- **Six principles to guide a smart growth strategy**
- **Ten recommendations for legislative action**
- **www.washington-apa.org/documents/2009SmartGrowthStrategy**



Six Principles to Guide a Smart Growth Strategy

- ***Build on strong public support for environmental protection***
- ***Create statutory clarity***
- ***Promote efficient governance***
- ***Focus state investments***
- ***Promote housing affordability***
- ***Provide resources for planning***



Ten Recommendations for Legislative Action

- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.020 (10) to recognize the role that compact urban development and multi-modal transportation can play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions***
- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.070 (6) to include multimodal transportation strategies in concurrency statutes; include transit-oriented development as a concurrency strategy***



Ten Recommendations for Legislative Action

- ***Amend 47.80 to require that reductions in vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions be addressed regionally***
- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.480 and RCW 90.58 to eliminate the gap in the protection of shorelines of the state***



Ten Recommendations for Legislative Action (cont' d)

- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.190 to create "safe harbors" for local governments by making GMA-related WAC rules mandatory***
- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.110 to prohibit the expansion of urban growth areas into floodplains***



Ten Recommendations for Legislative Action (cont' d)

- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.3201 to restore a balance between local decision making and compelling state interests***
- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.040 and .280 to require Special Purpose Districts to plan under the GMA***



Ten Recommendations for Legislative Action (cont' d)

- ***Amend RCW 36.70A.103 and .280 to make state agencies subject to the GMA as part of a statewide smart growth strategy***
- ***Provide new local revenue and financing options for cities and counties to support growth and natural resource preservation***



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Questions/ Resources

- **APA WA website:**
www.washington-apa.org
- **Legislature website:**
www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature