

## Local Retail and “Community”



## A cornerstone of “place” . . .

- Goods and services
- Major tax base > public facilities and services
- Employment
- Gathering place (spontaneous encounters)
- Identity



## A common response to the GMA

- Places to focus growth: Downtowns, Town Centers, neighborhood centers, “villages”
- Attract M/F; maintain S/F
- Broaden ranges of housing type and lifestyle choice
- Increase affordability of multi-modal transportation
- Promote walking (improve public health)

## Sequim FLUM (2006)





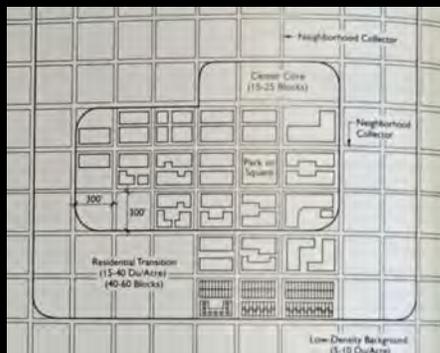


### Key planning elements / issues:

- Retail place as amenity as well as attractor
- Density within a walkable distance; how many people?
- Scale, gradations, privacy, views
- Traffic of all kinds
- Parking
- Contributing to community identity



Population + distance = market



15 du / acre



30 du / acre



40+ du / acre



60-100+ du / acre



Traditional urban neighborhood retail street (2-4 stories)



Downtown Sequim tomorrow



**Basic, universal design elements:**

- Retail “set-to” lines / parking in rear or under
- **Avoid voids and blank walls**
- Sidewalk width > holding hands; cafes
- **Weather protection (rain and sun)**
- Window transparency
- **Interval / identity of entries**
- Signs (and signs, and signs)
- **Street furniture and landscaping**

Sidewalks and canopies



Canopies vs awnings



Avoid the drip line (5' minimum)



Entries, cover / shade, width



Good signs



Image management

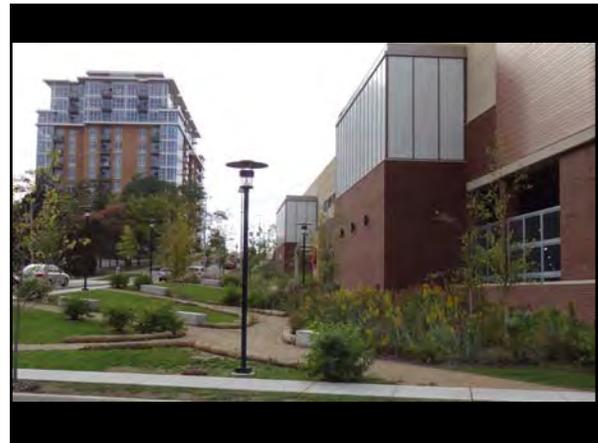
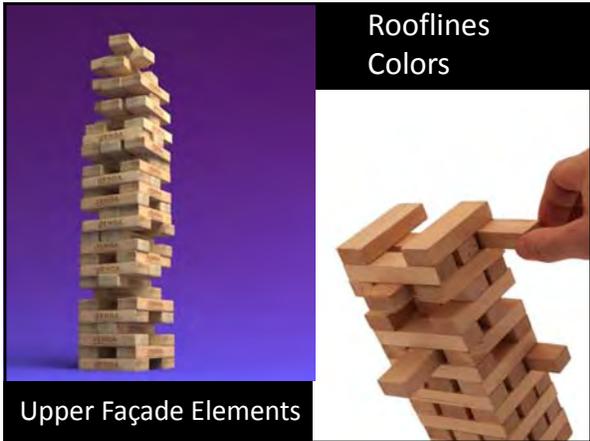


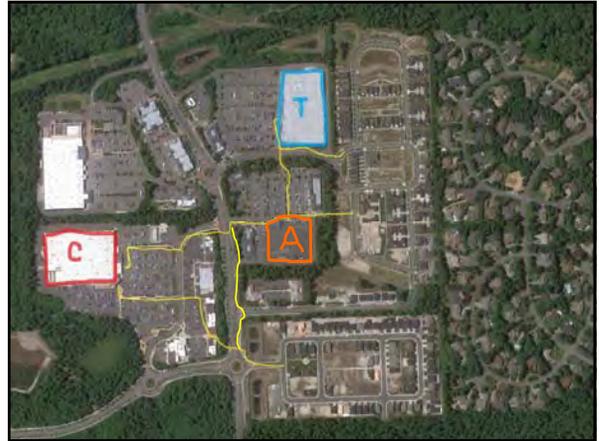
"Fortress" exteriors



No blank walls (cineplex backside)

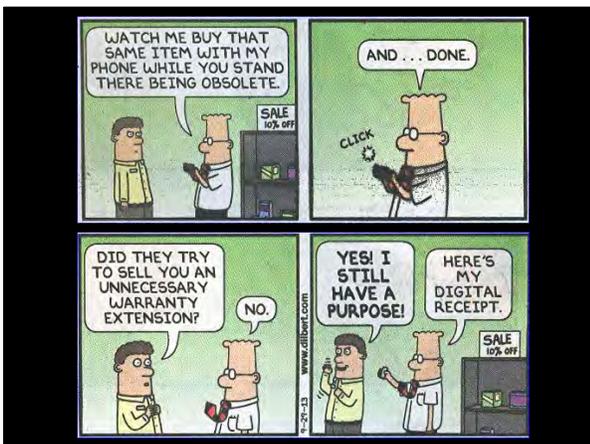








So, why this?



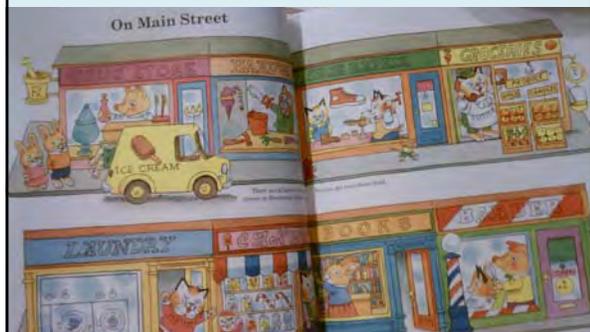
Books, music, electronics - what next?





## Shop Talk: Local Retail Planning

Jennifer Gerend, Chris Hugo, Chris Mefford



### I. About the survey



#### Municipal Retail Planning in WA State

Scientific survey team:

Jennifer Gerend, Ph.D., AICP

Ralph Murphy, Ph.D.

Mathew Novak, Ph.D.

Shira Moch (undergraduate research assistant)

*With support from The Evergreen State College*

### I. About the survey

#### States with no state income tax



*\*Note: New Hampshire and Tennessee tax dividends and interest.  
Source: Kiplinger 2013*

### I. About the survey

- What are the planning and data use practices among municipalities?
- How do the different retail areas in a city function today (especially downtown)?
- What is the nature of competition for retail among municipalities?
- How are municipalities analyzing their planning work and preparing for the future of retail?

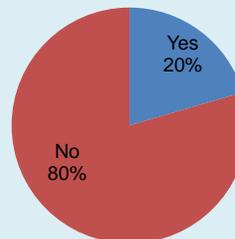
### I. About the survey

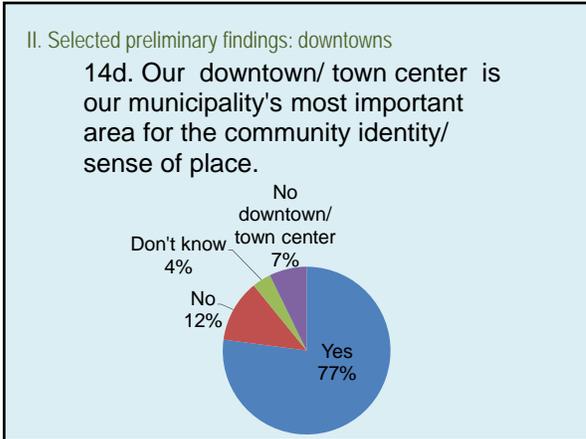
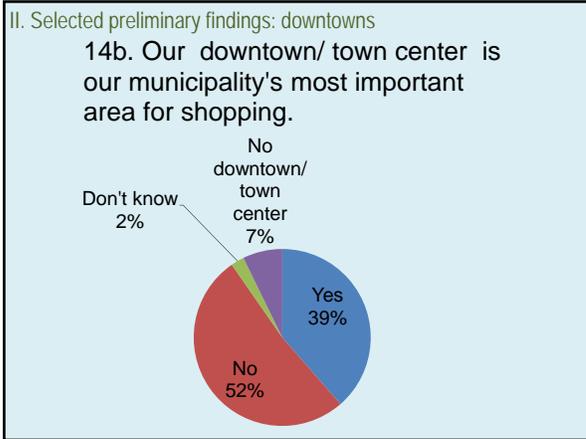
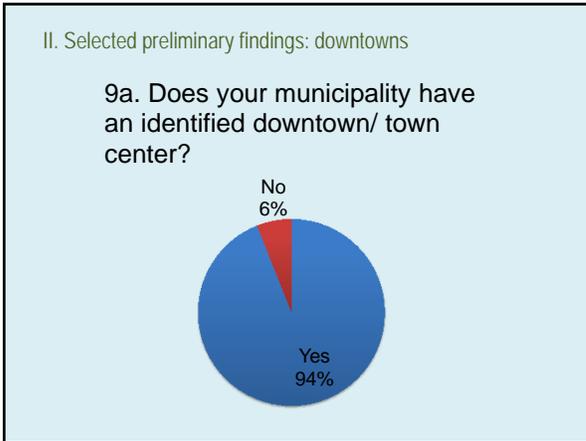
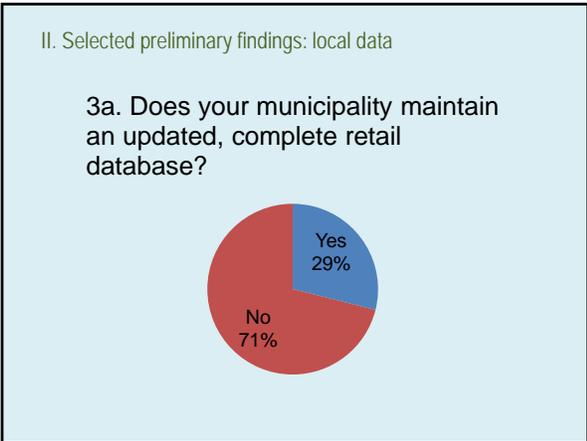


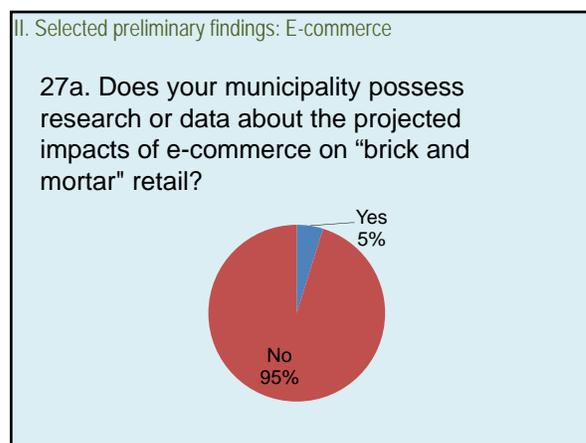
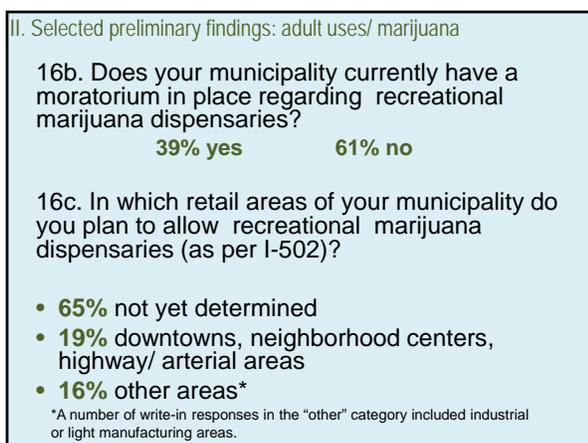
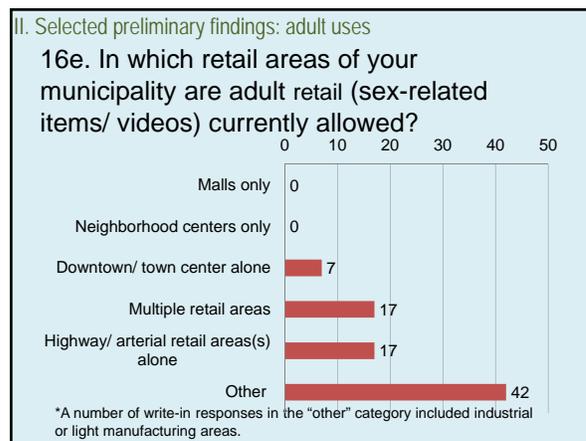
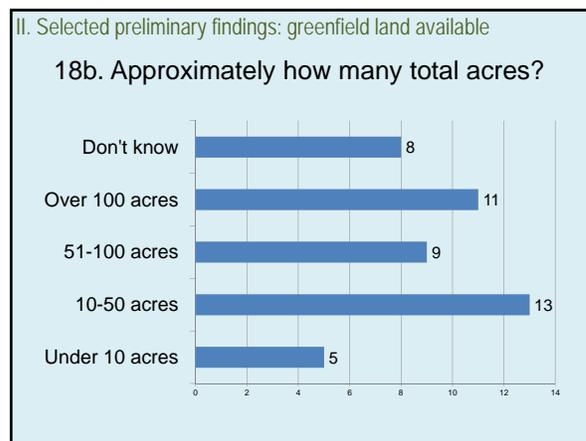
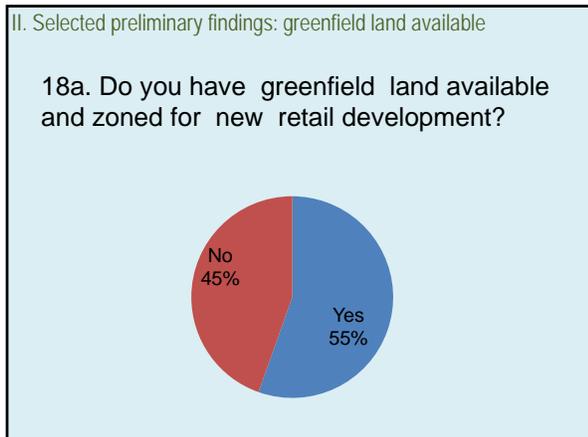
- Electronic survey sent to 110 small-medium sized WA municipalities (population 5,000- 100,000)
- Distributed to community development/ planning department directors
- 83 responses (9-16-13) = 75% response rate

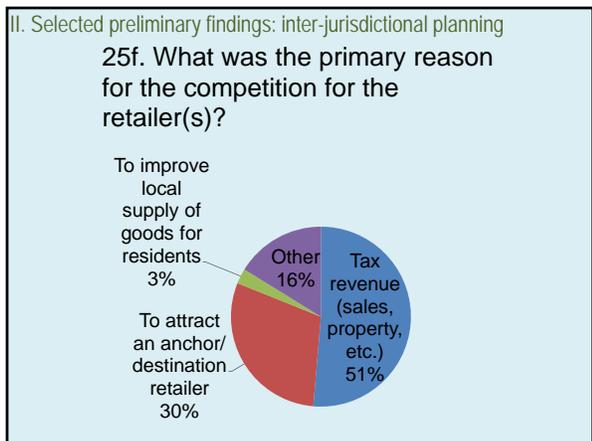
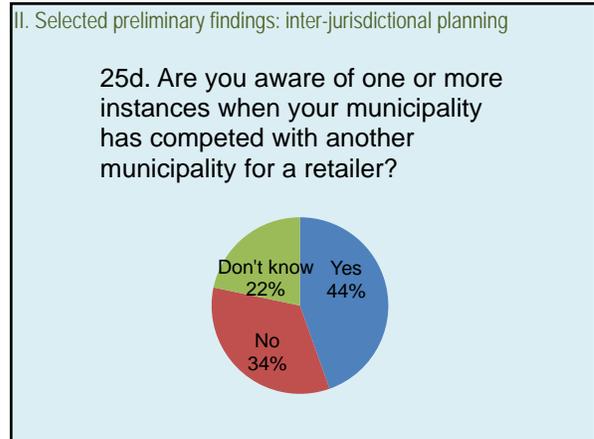
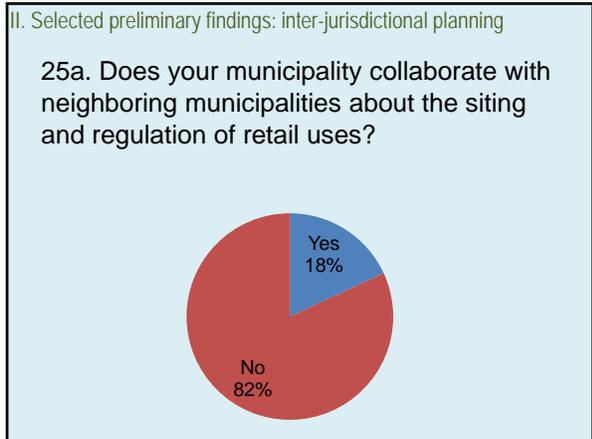
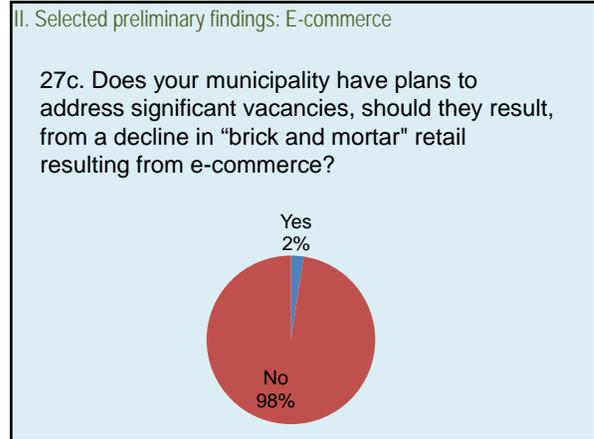
### II. Selected preliminary findings: local data

2. Has your municipality recently surveyed residents and/or shoppers about retail conditions and preferences?









- III. Conclusion
- Preliminary thoughts for municipalities:
1. Collect your own data: shopper survey, retail database.
  2. Municipalities have stated that their downtowns are important for their "sense of place" – can downtowns become more important for shopping and sales tax revenue as well?
  3. Can our state move beyond competition for retail?
  4. Concentration issues with adult uses and marijuana (new red light districts)?
  5. Plan for e-commerce impacts.



Thank you!

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## Planning for Retail

Considerations and Approaches



**Chris Mefford, AICP**  
President & CEO

**ca** community attributes inc.

wicked problems  
**SMART SOLUTIONS**  
October 2, 2013

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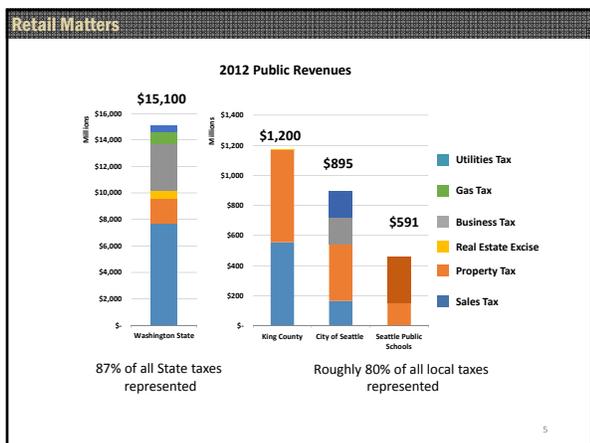
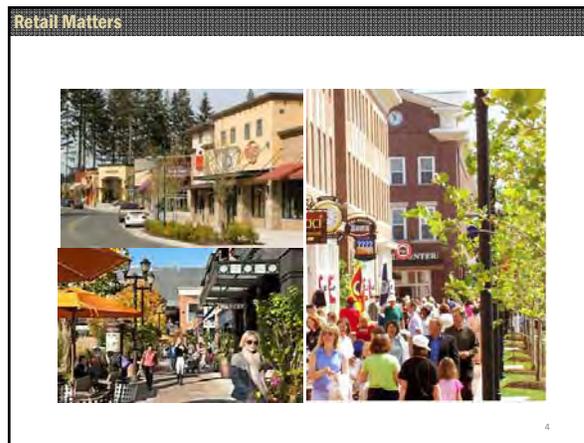
#### Why Retail Matters

- Shopping needs
- Place-making experience
  - Quality of life
  - Talent attraction
  - Neighborhoods
- Fiscal needs
  - Washington State

#### Retail Planning Analytics

- Long-term needs
  - Need a vision
  - Understand community's place in regional markets and development patterns
  - Plan for role of retail in community
  - Fiscal balance
- Short-term needs
  - Feasibility
  - Market opportunities
  - Differentiate
  - Tactics
  - On-line retail competition

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### Planning for Retail

- Short-term and long-term needs
- Long-term
  - Need a vision
  - Understand community's place in regional markets and development patterns
  - Plan for role of retail in community
  - Fiscal balance
- Short-term
  - Feasibility
  - Market opportunities
  - Differentiate
  - Tactics
  - On-line retail competition

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