Question 4: What was the most useful information you gained from the presentation(s)?

**Program Content**

- Importance of design standards for infill
- What the 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 planning plan is
- Consensus of concern about poor design as well as need for Whatcom Co. to protect agricultural lands
- Amazing increase in common understanding of GMA
- Need and desires and benefits of urban forms
- Understanding how similar all the responses to positive and negative impacts of infill
- The variety of infill options
- Fewer codes – focus more on development standards
- Bellingham’s code and zoning don’t permit some of the more creative, smaller housing
- The demographics
- Viewpoints
- Evaluation of demographics
- Things are changing rapidly in US for alternative living
- Amount of controversies but agreement on range of choices
- Change in what people are looking for in a home
- Time to re-think how we have done things in the past, look to the future for unique and different ways
- People appear to agree on major issues and goals, but disagree on how to respond
- That sometimes trashing current zoning regulations and starting over can be a good thing for some cities
- Confirmation that we are headed in the right direction
- The interconnection of planning for infill
- Infill positive and minuses are very close
- US demographic household change; Zoning codes – restriction of good urban design by laws
- City is willing to “push the envelope” of what currently exists
- Different infill opportunities
- Actual demographics of change on housing stock
- I think the housing options help people understand alternative housing types
- Relative agreement on benefits and fears about infill

**Speakers and Presentations**

- Mark’s visual presentation on True Urbanism
- Example of successful types
- 4 S’s: Singles, Single parents, Seniors, “Stakeholders”
- Mark Hinshaw – hearing from an optimistic brave visionary is refreshing!
- Mark Hinshaw
- Mark Hinshaw was fabulous and informative
- Hinshaw’s talk on possibilities
- Mark Hinshaw’s examples of people spaces
- Mark Hinshaw’s speech was great, but not necessarily applicable to Bellingham
- Mark Hinshaw – slideshow, statistics, examples
- The final speaker – the examples of where urban infill has worked
- Presentation by Mark Hinshaw
- Mark Hinshaw’s perspective – a little extreme in some points, but overall interesting to consider
- Mark Hinshaw’s talk
- Mark Hinshaw’s presentation – Facts and trends supporting diverse housing and visual examples of housing types
- Mark Hinshaw saying “you must bring parks, squares, and plazas with higher density”
- I really enjoyed the presentation from the planner
- Nice examples of alternative housing type
- Presentation on infill strategies
- Mark’s presentation
- Enlightening to see successful urban infill in presentation
- Demographic trends presented by Hinshaw
• A couple snippets regarding successes in a few other cities
• Mark did an excellent job of providing an overview
• Pictures of infill housing and other cities use of space
• Notes on changing demographics – but, frankly, I felt lectured and shut down a bit after the very long redevelopment speaker
• Some of Hinshaw’s stats
• Mark Hinshaw’s presentation

Table and Group Interaction

• Meeting the folks at my table
• It was great to be at tables mixed with different neighborhoods/people
• Table forum on pluses and minuses of infill
• Realizing most people at my table seem opposed to infill
• Got to know more Bellingham people – neighborhood, city, builders
• Table conversation
• Hearing other ideas on positive/negative aspects of infill
• Listening to others at my table
• Interaction with table mates regarding presentation perspectives
• The names of the people at the table
• Getting to know participants
• Questions and answers around table – good and bad
• Different perspectives

Miscellaneous

• The same “old new stuff”
• It was helpful that we started with basics and are going slow
• A sense of hope
• Possibility of code change
• Not much – no real new information
• Re-enforced beliefs
• That the city is listening!

• If the trend is now is shifting to centers – what do we do to interpret what the next shift is and design that instead of the now shift; 10 years ago everyone wanted to live in the country and raise their kids in a safe healthy environment, what if it switches back?
• Open mind
• One size does not fit all

Question 5: What topics or issues would you have liked to see discussed in more depth or detail?

Program Content

• Application of how the various types of higher density can fit in actual Bellingham neighborhoods; How about a zone charrette for application to a particular neighborhoods?
• The detail of codes simplified in other cities to allow for innovation
• Types of infill specific types, small project plans
• Perceived “obstacles” in our existing code to infill
• How the city government (permitting, etc.) is going to learn to be more visionary, flexible, and encouraging
• Code changes and consequences
• Building code – how to develop new codes
• Cities support of direct strategies to support the shared common things like parks, row improvements, public/private partnerships – tax incentives
• Design standards and how they will be addressed; Redevelopment of badly designed infill
• How to handle the cars
• Environmental impacts/mitigation of infill
• Focus on more design and less on code
• Use of term “infill” and GMA
• Economic development; Streets as public spaces; Connectivity for walking, transit access
• Incorporation of natural open space into design standards and examples thereof
• Constraints on growth of water supply
• How to integrate new housing examples while coexisting with current
• How do we get to our goal of infill, i.e. code changes
• Where will all of this be located? All examples are from very large metro areas
• More options – ways to balance loss of quality of life with infill incentives
• The rationale for strong neighborhood plans
• Zoning changes to allow these innovative housing types
• More specific codes or design elements and how implemented – more details
• How infill can happen differently in neighborhoods vs. urban villages vs. edge areas
• Actual discussions of how-to on code and character and on design standards and codes that are enforceable
• Different types of “pocket” and larger infill strategies and infrastructure support
• Changing code for zoning; How and where the need requires
• Zoning issues; Defining character
• The economic ability to redevelop downtown or in any neighborhood
• How code actually shapes building design, see into the works
• The pros and cons of rezoning

Speakers and Presentations

• Mark Hinshaw’s ideas
• Examples of specific housing types and the code changes needed to allow them
• Good vs. bad infill; Health dept issues, i.e. compost toilets, street food vendors
• Environmental impact – there was a lot of concrete in Hinshaw’s examples – cost

• Building code – how to develop new codes
• Pros/cons of different types of housing – requirements, amenities needed, etc.
• How can we control the rate of infill – prevent twenty years worth of dwelling units in 5 years
• Public works; impacts
• Regulations which prevents creativity
• Code, Comprehensive plan
• Historic building preservation – adaptive reuse
• How to revise the code to facilitate infill choices
• Different forms of housing; More conversation of infill integrated into established neighborhoods
• People spaces and adding to neighborhood character
• Zoning
• Economic impacts of restricting growth boundaries on lot prices
• Neighborhood summaries (zones, vacant, for sale, etc.)
How can we actually start finding out what different designs are available

Table and Group Interaction

• Step by step examination of all neighborhoods, group discussion
• More time to discuss our topic

• Rather than asking for top 3 – I would have preferred each table adding new ideas – we would have heard more varied ideas

Miscellaneous

• We need help with our #9 challenge question
• How do we move forward?
• Hard to say in the first meeting, looking forward to what’s to come
• Please define “urban village”; Please explain how and when Public Works will participate and consider detention, storm water, street width, etc.
• Good start

• How to educate the “masses” about how infill can enhance Bellingham
• Businesses in “urban villages” – how to make affordable to local business use NOT chains/fast food and a bank on every corner; NO more Starbucks
• The group needs to understand that in order to get this done will require a total rewrite of all neighborhood plans and zoning text

Question 6: Other comments about Session 1?
**Program Content**

- Varied discussion on infill
- Disappointed that it was more in doctrinal rather than educational
- Too packed agenda
- I need to know the real reason for infill
- Better clarification of F.A.R. for participants; better clarification about current neighborhoods land areas – prime arterials and current dwellings per acre (with maps) – this will tell where opportunities lie
- This first session was okay for orientation, however we need to get much more specific

**Speakers and Presentations**

- More with table, less Hinshaw; Examples could go quicker
- Not very valuable; Speaker had too much personal agenda and not enough real material to work with
- Mark Hinshaw was great
- Over-scheduled, good energy until the pride-full speaker took way too much time
- I think speaker misspoke when describing people of low-income as undesirable

**Tables and Group Interaction**

- The tables need to be moved further apart for ease of hearing
- Very interesting, need more time to be interact with others
- Bigger font on name tags
- Can’t hear at our table during break sessions, sound is terrible in this space
- Move the tables farther apart
- Good group discussion, more time in-session, shorter agenda
- Help tables focus discussion with so many different agendas
- Too loud

**Miscellaneous**

- Good start!
- Excited for next session
- Don’t know what was accomplished
- We the “little people” truly hope the “big people” of the bureaucratic planning world can be leaders of these philosophies
- Please make a short statement about why we are here
- Enjoyed it
- Appreciate the opportunity to participate
- Loved it
- Tim does a fabulous job!
- Too general
- Stimulating
- Too much for the time allowed but moved along well and very interesting
- Good job
- Good energy
- Well done trul