



Feedback Form Comments

Policy Workshop Input

Policy Workshop Event, October 5, 2004

Bellingham High School Commons, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

(Note: The following are transcribed from comment forms submitted by meeting attendees. Further questions or comments may be addressed to Mr. Greg Aucutt, Senior Planner, City of Bellingham, 360-676-6982, e-mail address: gaucutt@cob.org)

Feedback:

- “Studio Cascade has worked very hard – Thank you! As an interested and concerned citizen, I was convinced that you ‘heard’ us when I read your preliminary recommendations, ‘Adopt policies reinforcing citizen participation and informed consent, reinforcing transparency...periodic community design input...’ etc. The charrette was most useful. You’ve introduced us to tools and our possibilities. Please be sure city officials realize how valuable citizen participation is to their jobs. Many, many thanks!”
- “Great organization. This was my first event – very informative. I wish I had attended all of them – I wish infill that’s planned in each neighborhood involves those neighbors – how exciting. Architecture that suits the neighborhood ambiance with connected pathways, what a concept – like Fountain District looking more Asian than Western (what a mix). My Baker neighborhood is blooming – I’m nervous. Mark Hamilton has been diligent! Thank you.”
- “This was the best session. I have liked the organization and the combination of education and discussion/sharing/attempt at consensus building. Continue to keep rattling people’s cages. The more our citizens pay attention, the fewer will be the roadblocks to change.”
- “Studio Cascade – you have been a fabulous addition to the planning process here in Bellingham. I often didn’t agree with you but respect your professionalism and your energy. Thank you.”
- “Timing was off, but it was a very good format. We need to continue this process with each of the neighborhoods in order to update the neighborhood plans.”
- “Good idea, good series. Getting the neighborhoods to buy in to infill is going to be a communications challenge – offer incentives to keep the channels open.”
- “Excellent job in getting the community involved. Clarifications on the policy recommendations is needed I think. More community involvement in this form is needed because it was fun.”

- “Bill’s presentation was excellent! The short discussion period promoted superficial reactions. I would have preferred more professional analysis and less amateur hour.”
- “I would like you to address almost certain Urban Growth Area development, given your experience and expertise. I am discouraged at current Urban Growth Area development and don’t want discussion of how to create urban density neighborhoods in that area.”
- “Option 1 – Infill – has been thoroughly discussed. Option 3 needs to also be looked at. The Urban Growth Area and the five-year review areas need to be looked at for long-term future growth options.

We do not want to put all of our eggs in one basket and only focus on infill exclusively. The good, buildable land around the City and Urban Growth Area should be encouraged to be banked for high-density, good planning, residential – rather than developed now at low-density, County zoning. These lands, for example, those in the five-year review areas, if developed with large lots and expensive homes is a poor use of the land composed to village or cottage type developments. The large lots at R5A, if developed with half-million dollar homes, would not be available for high-density use for 50 years or more.

If the City needs to grow out, where will it grow? To ensure the best and highest use of the land, the surrounding usable land for the city of Bellingham needs to be encouraged for future high-density. Thank you for your efforts.”

- “Policy should be, above all, timeless, practical and thoughtful. Thanks for including the community in so much.”
- “You did well for such a painful process. Some of your suggestions in closing were great.”
- “This series of community meetings has exceeded all my expectations. Thank you!”
- “Too ambitious an assignment for a self-directed group. Particularly if all participants have not attended all prior sessions. In the end, it worked out okay.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.