



"Table Topic" Comments

Planning Fair Input

Planning Fair Event, September 21, 2004

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

(Note: The following are transcribed from "Table Topic" comment forms completed 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)

Topic: How Can Housing Be More Affordable?

- "Multi-type each block, multi-story, small setbacks each block, value and appeal of small lots. Alleys to eliminate costly driveways and big garages. Small lots (50' x 100') complimented with community and neighborhood parks and trails."
- "On-street parking required – we paid for the damn street, let's use them!"
- "Rational, coherent planning and code enforcement."
- "Attract and encourage living-wage job growth (other than government)."

Topic: What Do You Want to Preserve Most?

- "Wildlife habitat and corridors, rural atmosphere; clean drinking water, Lake Whatcom."
- "Watershed – clean water."
- "Natural habitat."
- "Put in Whatcom Connector further south – not two blocks from Lakeway Drive."
- "Don't put in the Whatcom Connector!"
- "Stop growth in Sudden Valley."
- "Resources that sustain us – air, water, human health (physical, emotional, spiritual), environmental systems."
- "Belief that we can choose our destiny as a community – too many are ready to throw up their hands on this."

Topic: What Would Cause You to Drive Less?

- "I would have to change careers. Part of my work involves driving people around looking for homes. Or, maybe I could just work less."
- "An effective mass-transit system. Frequency. Doesn't shut down at 6:00 pm."

- “Commercial business districts in every neighborhood, ala Fountain District. Probably require code to discourage strip development like along Guide, not tied to adjacent residential areas.”
- “Choices – choosing to group errands – making the effort to carpool.”
- “The Whatcom Connector from Sudden Valley into town will cause people to drive more. Not putting this in will cause people to drive less.”

Topic: What Are the Keys to Make Infill Work?

- “Removing restrictions on minimal density. Changing people’s attitudes about living closer together.”
- “Most important to me is that infill be done only in areas that support small-lot mixed use, that is residential and commercial areas, even if new neighborhoods have to be introduced. Also, alleyways and street connectivity are essentials.”
- “Architectural consistency with existing neighborhoods.”
- “Places to walk ‘to’ – clusters zoned for commercial / retail, two-plus stories accessible by walking corridors.”
- “Cluster new residential as courtyards, street-front on narrow lots with alleys behind or small lots with common open space.”
- “Pocket parks, with a scrap of landscaping, bench and a ‘tot-lot.’”
- “Street-edge alternatives make the streets comfortable, pleasant and safe for pedestrians and control storm water.”
- “Keep WTA in the loop so that in-filled neighborhoods aren’t glued to cars.”

Topic: How Can New Development Fit In?

- “New development can fit into less densely populated areas – check population rates. Don’t cram too many mice into the box, i.e., Birchwood has high population – go easy on us.”
- “Add new development for housing above commercial.”
- “Commercial / apartment area is already too big in Birchwood. The traffic on Northwest backs up for blocks.”

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.