

KITSAP COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FALL 2014 RESULTS AND SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes actions and outcomes from June to December 2014 on the public participation element of the Comprehensive Plan Update. In June 2014, Kitsap County launched *Let's Hear Kitsap* which aims to gather citizen comments and ideas on Kitsap County quality of life, public safety, and economic development. The plan provides for robust public participation imperative to create a viable and implementable Comprehensive Plan Update.

Comprehensive Plan Update topics include:

- capital facilities
- economic development
- health
- housing
- human services
- land use
- natural systems
- parks
- rural areas
- shorelines
- transportation
- utilities

LET'S HEAR KITSAP - STRATEGY

Let's Hear Kitsap has four phases:

- Phase I Develop goals and tactics and conduct initial outreach and analysis - through May 2015
- Phase II Seek public comments and review on draft topics - through December 2015
- Phase III Comprehensive Plan Update KITSAP2035 review - through May 2016
- Phase IV Plan Adoption - June 2016

PHASE I¹

Let's Hear Kitsap goals also meet the requirements for public participation under the GMA.² *Let's Hear Kitsap* has a three pronged approach using traditional and internet based outreach efforts:

- Face-to-face conversations with residents
- A dynamic internet element to gain resident feedback digitally
- Ongoing public outreach efforts working with other County departments and partners



KICK-OFF

- Postcard, Press Releases

Let's Hear Kitsap launched with a postcard to approximately 58,000 households in unincorporated Kitsap County. A press release on KITSAP2035 went to major area print media.

¹ The plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution in August 2014.

² Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 36.70A.140 - every jurisdiction - shall establish and broadly disseminate to the public a public participation program identifying procedures providing for early and continuous public participation in the development and amendment of comprehensive land use plans and development regulations implementing such plans.

■ Website and GOVDelivery

Outreach activities drove web traffic to compplan.kitsap.com, the Kitsap County dedicated Comprehensive Plan Update website. Since September 2014 the site has had over 13,000 visits. GOVDelivery facilitates social media including Facebook, Twitter, RSS feeds and text messaging. More than 500 groups and individuals are receiving County Comprehensive Plan Update GOVDelivery notices.

■ Open Houses and Partnerships

Comprehensive Plan Update Open Houses, one each in North, Central, and South Kitsap, were hosted by County staff and partners. Representatives from capital facilities, Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA), Kitsap County Health Department, Housing, Human Services, Planning and Environmental Programs, Parks, Public Works, and Kitsap Transit came together for each event. Guests were encouraged to speak with staff about their concerns and their Comprehensive Plan Update questions. Staff have also been partnering with Kitsap area organizations as part of Let's Hear Kitsap, including Kitsap Regional Libraries (KRL), High schools, The Kitsap County Health District, BKAT, KEDA, County Departments and Partners.

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■ Community Group Meetings

Comprehensive Plan Update dialogue was also included at community group meetings in Manchester, Suquamish, Kingston and Seabeck.

COMMENTS SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Comments from residents mainly focus on four topics:

- Land Use
- Economic Development
- The Environment
- Transportation

To date the County has received over 1,200 comments including over 500 surveys, 400 web comments and 300 written comments from Open Houses and community meetings. Generally the population is concerned with protecting the environment, seeing infill in urban areas, improving transportation services, improving roads and sidewalks and seeing more affordable housing especially for the low income elderly.

In the first survey approximately 92 percent of respondents indicated they enjoy living in Kitsap County. A broad geographic mix from North, Central, and South Kitsap were represented. The respondents trended to the 50 plus age group and were 53 percent male and 47 percent female. The second survey was targeted to a younger group and focused on public transit, parks, and safety. More females responded to the second survey as compared to the first; however, the majority of responses came from those in the 50 plus age group. Only 25 percent of respondents indicate that they use public transportation and of those, most residents would like more and different public transportation options. Regarding public

safety, a large majority (87 percent) noted they generally feel safe in Kitsap County. Over 50 percent like the amount of parks in the County.

Veterans represented 29 and 25 percent of respondents in the first and second surveys respectively which is notable as the Kitsap Veteran population is approximately 22 percent.

Some sample comments:

- *[The County needs needs].. “Three lane road in downtown Suquamish with street lights so turns can be made either left or right on Augusta. Bicycle Lane between Augusta and Gunderson on Miller Bay Road. Future development on Augusta should have new or replacement buildings close to the street and designed for access both behind and in front of buildings with parking behind the buildings to encourage pedestrian usage.”*
- *[The County needs].. “quality.. less expensive senior housing that can graduate to assisted living and then long term care in some complexes.”*
- *[The County needs needs].. “Better bike lanes and more separated bike lanes. Also get rid of the mammoth empty paved parking lots that are rarely full. Make developers restore parking lots to native wild land condition.”*
- *“The Gorst bottleneck ...certainly not a good introduction to upper Kitsap!”*
- *“Expand bus routes.”*
- *“Sad to see so many empty buildings and quick turnover of those trying to get a new business started but fail in less than a year. Try to bring in new businesses to fill and use existing business corridors before allowing development of new ones”*
- *[The County needs needs].. “More street lights, lower speed limits.”*
- *“The traffic signal at Bethel and Segwick is AWFUL! Something needs to be done about the timing of the light.”*
- *“The core values of a healthy community start with adequate health care services and a healthy, sustainable environment. When basic health care services are not available to all, our air, water and food is fouled with toxic contaminants, and the surrounding environment are being gradually degraded by reckless, short-sighted development in the name of “economic development,” the community is failing its primary responsibility to its families and their children. While no one disputes the need for decent jobs, short-term economic development is typically the behemoth that dominates all else, despite pious political disclaimers. A healthy and sustainable environment, quality public education and responsible, far-sighted economic development are the three legs of the stool supporting a healthy community.”*

“A healthy and sustainable environment, quality public education, and responsible, far-sighted economic development”...are needed

