

PUBLIC COMMENT MATRIX

The public comment matrix records the multitude of public comments gathered from September 2014 through February 2015. This report includes a brief overview of where and how comments were gathered, the methodology of sorting the comments, what is trending thus far, and next steps in the public comment participation.

*"Let's Hear Kitsap
2035"*

Public Comment Matrix

Introduction

The public comment matrix records the public comments received in the first step of the “Let’s Hear Kitsap” campaign in support of the “Kitsap 2035 Growing for a Better Tomorrow”. The matrix is intended to assist and inform the goals and priorities of the Comprehensive Plan update. Thus far, we have received approximately 3200 comments which were compiled from the following locations:

1. Two online surveys (1400 comments)
2. Four CAC hosted Open Houses (213 comments)
3. Three district open houses where public participants commented on sticky notes (289 comments)
4. Fourteen weeks of online comments from pointed questions from “Question of the Week” (1300 comments)
5. Emails directed to the Compplan.gov website, supplied by various staff, and elected officials (4 comments)

Matrix Methodology

The matrix is divided into eleven folders each representing the following categories:

Environment, Economic Development, Health, Human Services, Housing, Land Use, Parks and Recreation, Utilities, Transportation, Government Process, and Crime and Safety.

Comments from the ‘Question of the Week’ and Electronic Survey 1 which contain numerous topics were placed in more than one category. Comments are also color-coded in order to find their point of origin (the question and method obtained). The sort was based on the following criteria:

1. The ‘Question of the Week’ or survey question/prompt specifically addressed a category
Example: “Please explain how you use/experience parks in Kitsap County”
Category: Parks and Recreation
2. Words or themes are within the current scope of a department or category
Example: “The traffic signal at Bethel and Sedgewick is AWFUL! Something needs to be done about the timing of the light. All those people WAITING in all those cars while they are spewing emissions into the air hour after hour is not a good thing for any of us”
Categories: Health, Environment, Transportation

3. Words or themes that express a potential impact of a department or category

Example Comment: "Public Wi-Fi"

Categories: Economic Development, Utilities

What is Trending in Kitsap?

The quality of life elements that are 'trending' by volume of comments are: commute walkability, recreation, work opportunity, and beautification in particular to environment, transportation, economic development, and land use.

There is spectrum of opinions, statements, and proposals as to how to improve our quality of life in each of the categories which can also be qualitatively addressed. By sheer volume of comments the following trends in each category tend toward the following:

Environment: People enjoy and have moved to Kitsap for the peace, quiet, and beauty the natural environment brings and would like the County to provide more education on the environment. There is a strong desire for more shoreline public access and parks.

Transportation: There is a desire for more strategic public transportation locations and access to increase connectivity to other cities and places within Kitsap County to improve commute time. Future considerations were light rail, bridges, and a tunnel to Seattle. Specific sites for road or light improvements were highlighted. There is a strong desire for safe sidewalks/walkways and routes.

Land Use: Many comments were in the form of complaints about property tax, keeping the rural areas rural, going back to agricultural roots, and keeping growth within the UGA boundaries. Many would like to redevelop the "blight" of unused business buildings before more rural areas are taken for economic and housing developments. Examples given were primarily Wheaton Way and Gorst.

Parks and Recreation: Many people enjoy the parks that are open and want more focus on parks from the county. Numerous comments desired more bike paths as well as separation of walkways and bike paths from the stream of traffic. Along with more dog parks, enforced leash laws were of concern.

Economic Development: There is an appreciation for the military presence to include uniform, contractor, and civilians. Some would prefer to see a greater variety of industry and an increase in trades and tech. Many stated a desire to see less 'big, box' stores. Supporting local businesses (big and small) was of importance. Several mentioned they would like to see smaller

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grocery type stores closer to where they live. Tourism based on the trail systems for hiking and cycling and suggestions to increase equestrian uses were popular.

Health: When it came to health, many comments explored the multiple meanings associated with the topic. Comments ranged from wanting better health care to wanting community volunteer opportunities, having a better commute time, more frequent public transportation to more places, and ample parks and recreation activities.

Human Services: A majority of comments were associated with aging and long term care or homelessness. There is interest in better transportation options to shopping and convenient housing options which include them in community.

Housing: Suggestions were to build homes that would accommodate aging and long term care, for example: rambler style for ease of movement or accommodate for a live-in caretaker, housing communities which accommodate 55+ which are not mobile homes, but rather incorporate shopping into the design, or a three-tiered approach from community-assisted living-nursing home, or cottages.

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Utilities: The most specific comments were attributed to Public Works with specific sites for road or light improvements. Septic and sewer were of concern especially in Manchester.

The following categories were created to address comments and trends which did not necessarily have a question associated with them:

Government and Jurisdictions: These were questions which addressed Kitsap County’s governmental process often in terms of communication within the County and other jurisdictions (i.e. Tribes, Ports, Military, Cities, Fire, Libraries, Schools) as well as tax usage. There were comments stating a need for another South Kitsap High School and more library services.

Policing: Most comments were related to burglaries related to drug use and unleashed dog nuisances. Marijuana growth was also a topic of concern as well as junky yards.

Conclusion:

We have completed the first step in the “Let’s Hear Kitsap” public participation process and are pleased to have received so many thoughtful and thought provoking comments, suggestions and questions. These comments will be used to inform the initial stages of the Comprehensive Plan Update goals. We will select a few common comments or questions to respond to via the CompPlan website. Our next step in the public participation process is to inform the public on the updated goals. We will continue to receive comment and thoughts on the updated goals.