



Growth Management Services

Issue 5 - July 2007

The Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) invests in Washington's communities, businesses and families to build a healthy and prosperous future.

Greetings!

Welcome to the Planners Update, an electronic newsletter from CTED's Growth Management Services program. We send this newsletter monthly to share helpful information related to planning in Washington state. We hope the electronic format will allow you to quickly review the information and choose those topics for which you would like more detail.

Please feel free to send us any comments or ideas for how to make this newsletter more useful. You can also use the link below to provide additional names of planners who might like to receive this newsletter in the future.

Leonard Bauer,
Managing Director
Growth Management Services

Planner's Update: News That Planners Can Use

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Highlights of Growth Management Services' 2007-09 Work Program

Growth Management Services is putting the finishing touches on its work program for the new 2007-09 state biennium. One of the most important considerations in the process of developing the work program were the responses we received to our survey of planning directors and elected officials from all over the state. Thank you for the thoughtful comments that helped us craft a work program that, within the resources we have available, will best target our assistance to meet city and county planning needs. A summary of survey results and the GMS Work Program will be posted on our website soon.

In addition to our many on-going services, the 2007-09 GMS Work Program includes a significant increase in the amounts available through the competitive grant program, and a review and update of CTED's Washington Administrative Code (WAC) guidelines and procedural criteria for the GMA.

The competitive grant application process will begin this month, when applications packets will be sent to most jurisdictions. Because of the small number of cities and counties that will be receiving GMA update grants this biennium, the total amount of funding available for competitive grant projects is projected to be over \$4 million – nearly three times the amount available in 2005-07.

The original WAC guidelines and procedural criteria have not been updated since they were originally adopted between 1991-1993. The only amendment has been the addition of the best available science rules in 2000-01, which will not be included in the review this biennium. Our goal is to have initial public scoping meetings in 2007, and have completed any WAC updates by June 2009, before local government work begins on the next round of required comprehensive plan updates.

Summer 2007 Planner Forums

The Northwest Washington Planners Forum has been cancelled for this summer, and will resume in Fall '07.

Eastern Washington
 July 18, 2007 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
 Best Western Lake Inn,
 Moses Lake
 For more information, contact Ted
 Gage at
tedg@cted.wa.gov or call
 360-725-3049

Southwest Washington
 July 19, 2007 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
 Rock Creek Community Center,

Other GMS Work Program highlights:

- Carry out assignments from the WA State Legislature, including:
 - Establishing a regional transfer of development rights program in the central Puget Sound region;
 - Report on the effectiveness of the buildable lands program;
 - Complete a study and report on several aspects of the Growth Management Act (GMA);
 - Collect and analyze information on cities' use of a tax exemption for multi-family development;
 - Restore grant funds for buildable lands counties;
- Monitor and participate in other legislative studies or processes, including the infrastructure study, county financial health and governance study, climate change advisory team, Puget Sound Partnership, and Ruckelshaus Center consensus-building process on critical areas and agricultural lands;

Stevenson

For more information, contact
Valerie Grigg Devis at
valeriegd@cted.wa.gov or call 360-
725-3065

Olympic Peninsula

July 20, 2007 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Pope Marine Building,
Port Townsend

For more information, contact Tim
Gates at
timg@cted.wa.gov or call
360-725-3058

The forums provide an opportunity
for planners, planning
commissioners and elected officials
to talk informally about local
issues, share ideas, and receive
updates from state and federal
agencies whose work impacts land
use.

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Washington State Chapter of the
American Planning Association
The Planning Association of
Washington
Washington State Department of
Community, Trade and Economic
Development

- The 2nd Annual Governorâ€™s Smart Communities Awards program;
- Continue our emphasis on efficiency improvements in our GMA review and grant tracking processes;
- Work with the rest of CTED to improve customer service of our website and grant management;
- Transform our capital facilities planning template to a web-based format to make it accessible for all jurisdictions.

Please feel free to contact Leonard Bauer, Managing Director, at 360-725-3055 or leonardb@cted.wa.gov if you have any questions.

Announcing the 2nd Annual Governorâ€™s Smart Communities Awards 2007

Donâ€™t Miss Out on Your Chance to get your Communityâ€™s best work recognized. Request for Nominations will be sent out in July 2007.

The Governorâ€™s Smart Communities Awards Program recognizes outstanding work by local governments and their partners on growth management and community development. Excellent work is occurring around the state, and this awards program highlights those successes.

Sponsored by:

The Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development

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New Reports on Hearings Board Cases Available on CTEDâ€™s New GMA Legal Web Page

Interpretations of the Growth Management Act (GMA) continue to evolve. Each year significant new cases come out of each of the three Growth Management Hearings Boards. CTED has compiled a report of the more significant Hearings Board cases into a series of quick, easy to read summaries.

Each of these summaries contains a quick overview of the case, the decision and what it means for planners as they work with the issue covered in the case. CTED has just completed a review of cases from 2004 and 2005. Look for 2006 case reports soon.

These reports are available on our new GMA Legal Web page, <http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/377/default.aspx> which contains these reports and other useful information about changes in the GMA legal landscape.

Housing Washington 2007 Conference

The state's largest affordable housing conference will take place September 9 -11 at the Spokane Convention Center. The 14th annual affordable housing conference will focus on "defacing the future together." This year's keynote speakers are:

- Futurist Glen Hiemstra
- Matt Petersen, President and CEO of Global Green USA;
- Tony Salazar, President of West Coast Division, McCormack Baron Salazar; and
- Juan Williams, senior correspondent for National Public Radio, a political analyst for Fox Television, and a regular panelist for FoxNews Sunday.

Conference highlights include a VIP welcome reception with exhibitors, and the annual *Friend of Housing* awards at the elegant Davenport Hotel. For more information visit www.wshfc.org/conf or e-mail conf@wshfc.org. Please inquire about sponsorship, exhibit space and scholarships.

Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities: New Report from Local Government Commission

Reversing the childhood obesity epidemic requires a comprehensive, multi-component approach. Everyone has a role to play, from government at all levels, to communities and schools, health care providers, the food and beverage industries and families.

During the past three years, the Local Government Commission (LGC) has been working with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation on the Active Living Leadership project to identify specific ways in which local and state governments can take action to create healthier communities.

Identifying and implementing policies that support school and community efforts to make healthy foods available and affordable is essential. It is equally important for local government officials to collaborate with schools and communities to provide children and families with facilities, programs and services that promote lifelong physical activity and healthy eating.

The LGC's Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities report provides examples of cities, counties and school districts working together to address childhood health and physical activity. It offers ideas and guidance that will help local government officials leverage community resources and identify opportunities for collaboration. It also provides resources and references to assist policy-makers in developing and implementing new initiatives. For more information visit:

[Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities](#)

GMS Web Page on School Planning

Planning and siting schools in Washington State involves local school districts, local county and city governments and state agencies. The current process for planning new or expanded schools, obtaining sites and permits for constructing schools, and providing supporting infrastructure to the schools faces many challenges as well as opportunities for improvement.

In response to these challenges, the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) and the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) sponsored the first statewide summit on school siting on Monday, December 4, 2006, at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Washington.

A summary report of the proceedings and recommendations of the summit is available on GMS's™ Web page on School Siting at: <http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/1005/default.aspx> This new web page also contains links to other resources for integrating city and county comprehensive planning with school planning.

Global Warming Impacts: Visual Tools for Planners

Planners wrestling with the future impacts of global warming, U. S. population increases of 120 million by mid-century, urban revival, and suburban reinvention can turn to a new website, [Visual Tools for Planners](#), in the Resources and Tools section of the Lincoln Institute Web site. Visual Tools for Planners includes 19 model visual presentations to be used by planners to illustrate issues in transportation, the movement of people and businesses over time, ecosystems, and disaster scenarios, among many other topics.

The site, developed for the Lincoln Institute by a team led by Lewis D. Hopkins, professor at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, grew out of a desire to provide planners with an expanded set of tools for communicating planning ideas. The featured application in the library of representations is based on the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the deliberations about recovery in the Gulf Coast region.

A related book by Hopkins and Marisa A. Zapata, also at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is [Engaging the Future: Forecasts, Scenarios, Plans, and Projects](#). It is also a guide to help planners communicate with elected officials, community leaders and citizens. *Engaging the future* includes chapters on the use of forecasts in creating visions for regional growth, using scenarios to make urban plans and build planning capacity, and engaging the public in narrative-based scenarios as well as a model request for proposals.

Quick Links

www.cted.wa.gov/growth

www.mrsc.org

www.smartgrowth.org

www.planningpaw.org

www.washington-apa.org

To subscribe to this newsletter click the e-mail address below and include the words "Planning Directors' Newsletter."

Lindawe@cted.wa.gov

King County Includes Climate Impacts on SEPA Checklist

King County is the first local government in the nation to add greenhouse gas pollution that contributes to global warming to the environmental review of all projects covered by the State Environmental Policy Act where the county is lead or is permitting a project in the unincorporated area. Beginning Sept. 1 greenhouse gases will be added to the SEPA checklist for information purposes only. Once climate impacts are added to the county's comprehensive plan, the information will be used to help determine whether a full Environmental Impact Statement is needed on a county project or when permitting a private project.

King County Executive Ron Sims issued an Executive Order June 27 requiring the change. The Order was in response to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in April that agreed with the State of Massachusetts and ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to consider greenhouse gases a pollutant.

At this time, the county will require only that the adverse climate impacts of proposed projects be described in SEPA documents. The policy discussion regarding what, if any, regulatory requirements should be imposed to mitigate a project's adverse climate impacts will occur as part of the next comprehensive plan review in 2008. The county will develop specific criteria to be used to prevent or mitigate the air quality and climate impacts of a project. The current comprehensive plan lists serious local impacts of global warming such as drought, fires, water shortages, flooding, new diseases affecting humans and plants, rising sea [levels and erosion](#).

**Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development
Growth Management Services 360-725-3000**