

Comments on various Chapters of the Comp plan by Doug Karman - 4-28-19

Following are my comments on Chapter 9

C. Water Resources 4th paragraph on water quality testing: Water quality covers a lot more aspects than just nutrient loading, acidity, temperature and oxygen. There is also a pollutant component. Most testing being performed does not include pollutants such as PCB's. The DFW does test fish for PCB contamination but the Thurston County Dept of health does not. Shouldn't we also talk about pollutants in this general testing statement?

In the next paragraph, last sentence. I think climate change needs more emphasis here. Climate change is making and will continue to make a greater impact on the environment and our lives.

There should be some mention of DNA testing or an attempt to pin-point the source contamination. For example, the Henderson inlet issues were determined to be more than 50% human e-coli contamination. However, after further review they found that one failed stormwater system contributed 50% of the contamination and the majority of the remaining pollution came from animals. So, DNA testing is important in looking for the source.

Water Quantity: Septic systems contribute a substantial quantity of "treated" water back into the ground. Some estimates state that without this additional recharge source, many of our rivers and streams would be below the minimum required for fish. Shouldn't we include this type of statement in this section? The hydrologist working with Stormwater can confirm this.

Nisqually Watershed: Why is Lake Saint Clair included in this minimum stream flow restriction? This lake has been at record high water levels for years. As a kettle lake it has no natural outflow. Therefore, it is recharging the aquifer as fast as the aquifer will accept the water.

Table 9-1: We should add a footnote to define MTCDE - Metric tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. The table is titled ...**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**... Only by going to the **Glossary & abbreviations** did I find the definition of MTCDE. I assume this table has been adjusted to take into account hydroelectric and wind generated electricity.

V. Parks, Trails....:I am not sure what "Live healthy lifestyles" means in this context. My assumption is that it means hiking, swimming, Kayaking and other outdoor activities. Why not say this?

B. *: **Identify sustainable funding to support maintenance of new parks.** This is a real issue with current parks. The County is looking at their inventory of parks and land to see what they should sell because they can't afford to maintain them. Shouldn't we include a reference to existing parks? Should this be given more emphasis?

SURFACE WATER, GOAL 3, OBJECTIVE 1, POLICY 8: I would prefer that you replace the word "require" with "encourage". Then it would read: The county should encourage restoration of degraded.... Development is defined for property under the purview of the SMP as anything you do on the property

from maintenance to reconstruction of existing structures to totally new houses. By changing the word to encourage, the Comprehensive Plan is not overburdening its citizens.

OBJECTIVE 3, POLICY 4: Why are we removing the SMP and only referring to the Act? In Thurston County the SMP will be the guiding document.

H. AIR QUALITY: I realize this is not the economics chapter, however, shouldn't we put in a policy to encourage low greenhouse gas producing industries?

Following are my comments on Chapter 8, Economic Development:

Looking out to the future, 10 to 20 years down the road I am uncomfortable with some of the plans contained in this section. Some concern are a combination of chapter 5 and 8.

1. I do not have a sense that we have addressed the actual number of families/individuals who live in Thurston County and commute north or south for employment.
2. I do not have a sense that we have addressed purchasing preference sifts from big box stores or even smaller stores to online shopping. Even if we assume that some of the on line shopping products are provided by local retailers/home businesses the Comp plan does not address this. On line shopping is here and will grow significantly over the next 10 - 15 years. What will that do to the sales tax revenue, what about property taxes etc on the retail locations as well as other considerations. While the Comp Plan is not intended to answer these questions it should direct someone to do it.
3. **Table 8-1:** This table does not include those workers who go north or south for employment and live in Thurston County. They live, spend and pay taxes in Thurston County. Therefore, they should be accounted for.
4. **Gross Regional Product by sector bar graph.** Public Administration, which I assume is government, does not produce GRP. Including government in this graph distorts the impact of the other industries that do produce GRP. Government's relationship to other businesses as it relates to employment is shown in Table 8-1. Does Table 8-5 include Government? As stated above Gov't should not be included.
5. **Table 8-10** tells me that 99.6% of households are dual income households with .2 to .4% being unpaid family workers. If I understand this correctly, that really is important and should be emphasized as it impacts a lot of areas covered within the Comp Plan.
6. Economic Development Opportunities: Why have we left out high tech as a target industry?
7. Under Goals, Objectives and Policies: What about reducing regulations and simplifying processes? "Being business friendly" was removed from the introduction. Government and Government regulations are the number one cause of inflation.

Following are my comments regarding transportation contained in Chapter 5 and 8.

I appreciate the work that was done to get answers from the Dept of Public Works for the questions raised in the work session. I too went to public works to find answers to my questions. Those answers gave me confidence that other groups have an eye for the questions I asked. However, the Comp Plan is suppose to be an overriding document that sets the goals and policies for these same organizations to work from/toward. Therefore, I still have questions as to why certain concepts are left out of the Comp plan:

There should be goal in the Comprehensive Plan that encourages looking into:

1. The impact on traffic, safety and roadway needs of driverless vehicles.
2. Improving rapid transit and the impact of increased movement north or south for employment. What about provisions for expanding commuter rail into Thurston County?
3. We shouldn't leave it up to South Sound Transit to determine when they want to put in a bus turn out. The Comp Plan should give guidance on this so safety is maintained as well as right of ways are purchased/provided for.
4. I note that in Map T-10, that the Rural Strategy Corridors have many roads that exceed adopted LOS standards. Where do we say in the Comp Plan that this must be accounted for and a plan developed to meet the LOS standards?

Thank you,



Doug Karman