

Yellow Pad Comments, Concrete Community Meeting, 10/08/15

Question 1: What do you value the most about the community in which you live?

- Rural character, open space, working farms, small town
- Peace, quiet
- Sustainable agriculture
- Access to recreation areas, mountains, rivers, salt water bays
- Close to amenities and surrounding services
- Small communities, ability to get around to services by car, walking or biking
- Natural beauty
- Working forests
- Skagitonians, “the people”
- Fondness for way of life
- Proximity to wildlife, elk and salmon (all five 5 species)

Question 2: What are your biggest concerns for the present and/or the future?

- Adequate health care, proximity and affordability, and transportation access to health care
- Agriculture land conversion for habitat projects, other non-ag uses
- Converting farmland for ag processing facility, should not go on ag land
- Sprawling, piece-meal, rural development
- Would rather see businesses with larger impacts locate in cities and towns, not in rural area
- Important to note that one person’s nuisance is another’s economic opportunity
- Preserve open space, greenbelts and corridors
- Proliferation of I-502 (marijuana) businesses
- Resilience of infrastructure in case of flood, earthquake, volcano
- Lack of water availability
- Lack of public transportation for low income and elderly
- Elk destruction of property & public safety, financial costs and losses Find ways that farming and other natural resource management can coexist with the ecosystem and with species such as elk; for example elk-friendly farming practices
- Sprawl, whether CaRDs (Conservation and Reserve Developments), businesses in rural area, or processing industries on ag lands

Question 3: What goals and policies should be emphasized in the Comprehensive Plan Update process?

- Planning for healthy communities where people have access to recreation
- Advisory committees for processes and projects, i.e., transportation and program updates
- Public transportation in rural and isolated areas
- Create walkable, livable communities
- Don't be so permissive with CaRDs
- Good or bad, it's time to reassess CaRDS
- Identify and eliminate loopholes in policies and processes that result in unintended outcomes
- Need policy to prevent loss of agricultural land. Don't have accounting of lost ag land and what is the value of that ag land.
- Need economically viable farms for people to want to stay in agriculture.