



Allyson Brooks Ph.D., Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

October 22, 2015

Mr. Todd Stamm  
City of Olympia  
Community Planning and Development  
PO Box 1967  
Olympia, Washington 98501-1967

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 101915-45-TN

Re: Proposed Olympia Code Revision to Bonus Residential Floors in the High Density Corridor

Dear Mr. Stamm:

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is in receipt of the Notice of Public Hearing by the Olympia Planning Commission regarding the Bigelow Neighborhood Height Amendment. From the notice, I understand that the amendment would provide "bonus" residential floors in the High Density Corridor-One zoning district. However, I understand that the bonus would not be available or applicable to that portion of the zoning district within 100 feet of a designated historic district. For the Bigelow Neighborhood, I understand this would affect properties in the 1100 through 1300 blocks of the north side of State Avenue that adjoins the Olympia Avenue Historic District to the north.

In response, I am providing a few comments/recommendations for the Planning Commission's consideration as follows:

- 1) We strongly support the 100 feet distance between the high density zoning district boundary and the historic district boundary. We believe this buffer or transition will help to protect not only the historic character but also the long-term viability of the Olympia Avenue Historic District.
- 2) A second comment is that we are aware of buildings in this vicinity of State Avenue NE that are listed in the Olympia Heritage Register; there may be others that are not listed in the OHR, but may be candidates for OHR listing. In view of the potential for other individually OHR listed/eligible properties in the High Density Corridor zoning districts here and throughout the city, we recommend considering establishing a toolbox of incentives and protective mechanisms for long-term preservation of OHR properties in the high density corridors.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 586-3073 or [greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:greg.griffith@dahp.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Greg Griffith'.

Gregory Griffith  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

C: Michelle Sadlier, Olympia Historic Preservation Officer

