

Members of the Planning Commission:

At the Comprehensive Plan Update Subcommittee meeting of July 11, Paul Ingman and I raised the issue of the current schedule for the update process. We expressed our concerns in the form of a draft letter to our Council liaison, Steve Langer, in which we stated our request for a meeting with the Subcommittee at his earliest convenience.

Members of the Subcommittee agreed that Paul and I would submit the letter to Planning Commission members for their consideration and possible endorsement and that the letter would be sent to Mr. Langer to inform him of the specific concerns underlying the request to meet.

I subsequently submitted a request to Mr. Langer to attend our scheduled CPU Subcommittee meeting on August 13. He has agreed to attend.

At the August 13 meeting with Council member Langer, two alternative approaches to a possible revision of the proposed work schedule might be considered. A "wait and see" approach would emphasize the need for flexibility to allow adjustments in the CPU work schedule in response to progress in the review process.

In the alternative approach, the Planning Commission would submit its own schedule for the Comprehensive Plan Update to the City Council for its consideration.

The letter below states specific concerns of Paul and me regarding the schedule. We encourage other members of the Commission with similar concerns to join us as co-signers.

Jerry Parker

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July 25, 2012

Council member Steve Langer

Land Use and Environment Subcommittee Chair
Olympia Planning Commission Liaison

cc: Council member Julie Hankins
Land Use and Environment Subcommittee Member;

Council member Jeanine Roe
Land Use and Environment Subcommittee Member

The Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) Charter adopted by the City Council defines

the roles and responsibilities of participants in the review of the Olympia Comprehensive Plan Update. On July 9, the Olympia Planning Commission reviewed the work schedule proposed by staff and based on the target completion dates identified in the Charter.

Scheduling concerns raised at the July 9 Commission meeting were discussed in greater detail by the Comprehensive Plan Update Subcommittee of the Planning Commission on July 16. The Subcommittee agreed to request a meeting with you to discuss the proposed work schedule. You have agreed to attend our August 13 Subcommittee meeting for this purpose. We are submitting this letter to you to help structure this meeting.

The undersigned Commissioners believe the adoption of a work schedule for the Plan Update should follow, and not precede,

- the City staff's July draft;
- the City's public hearings on the July draft;
- the public comments on the July draft have been considered;
- the final 7-Eleven court decision regarding the regulatory role of comprehensive plans;
- the State's most recent population projections;
- spatial simulation and testing;
- citizen advisory committee interface;
- shoreline Management Plan coordination with the Comprehensive Plan Update;
- analysis of health and environmental research on impacts of urban design;
- analysis of recent natural hazard data;
- receipt of the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Charter's target completion dates and the proposed work schedule suggest that the Commission will play only a limited role in the Plan update process and will be constrained in meeting the public expectation of the Planning Commission to study critical issues and provide careful advice to the City Council.

Our suggestion to reconsider the Charter's target completion dates and the staff's proposed work schedule flows directly from the need to establish at least limited autonomy for the Planning Commission. In response to public comment on the draft Update, we believe Commission needs to have a more creditable role in establishing the work schedule if we are to meet our responsibilities in the Comprehensive Plan Update process.