PROJECT UPDATE

Washington State legislators allocated funds to the William D. Ruckelshaus Center and outlined a scope, schedule, and general process for “A Road Map to Washington’s Future.” The purpose is to articulate a vision of Washington's desired future and identify additions, revisions, or clarifications to the state’s growth management framework needed to reach that future.

Information Gathering in 2018

In order to understand how the framework aligns with, creates barriers to, and/or supports the desired future of the communities it is meant to serve, the Project Team has been traveling across the state gathering information and talking with individuals and representatives of entities with a role, interest, or knowledge of the planning framework.

DATA INVENTORY

The Project Team is working with university partners to compile, and review pertinent data and independent studies. For example, students have looked at how vision statements in comprehensive plans correspond to the Growth Management Act’s 14 planning goals, and the experience in seven counties with the provisions with Local Areas of More Intensive Rural Development.

MULTI-SECTOR WORKSHOPS

The team is conducting workshops in 26 locations across the state to better understand what people desire for the future of their state and regions and what’s needed to reach that future. As of September 2018, the team has convened 18 multi-sector workshops in 16 locations, with well over six hundred participants.

ELECTED OFFICIAL WORKSHOPS

The team has also conducted 17 workshops for federal, tribal, state, and local elected officials across the state to understand how the framework aligns with, creates barriers to, and/or supports the desired future of their communities.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are being held with representatives of environmental, business, real estate and building industry organizations, local government associations, state agencies, tribal governments, public health and planning organizations, transportation, business, and economic development advocacy groups.

REGIONAL & STATE-WIDE GROUPS

As time and resources allow, the team is conducting workshops for regional and state-wide groups. So far the team has convened workshops for the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Governor’s Affordable Housing Advisory Board, and other state agencies.

NEXT GENERATION

The project team is working with university students who are designing an engagement strategy to solicit the ideas and opinions of the next generation of Washingtonians (generally 18 to 35 year-olds).

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

Recognizing that not everyone can attend a workshop or feels represented by one of the groups being interviewed, the team has made available an online questionnaire. So far, more than 300 people have provide their answers to the same questions posed at the workshops.
The project team will spend the first few months of the new year analyzing all the information collected during 2018.

A potential component of the project is convenings of key parties to explore areas of agreement on additions, revisions, or clarifications to the state's growth planning framework. Whether, and how the convening process will be crafted and conducted will be based on preliminary findings from the interviews and workshops.

The Ruckelshaus Center’s final report will be delivered to the Legislature by June 30, 2019.

The project team will then synthesize all information collected and will work to identify key themes, potential paths to desired futures and process recommendations.

The report will be made available to all who participated in the process and will be posted on the Center’s website.

For more information, contact:

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The William D. Ruckelshaus Center is a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving in the State of Washington and the Pacific Northwest, dedicated to assisting public, private, tribal, non-profit, and other community leaders in their efforts to build consensus and resolve conflicts around difficult public policy issues. It is a joint effort of Washington State University hosted and administered by WSU Extension and the University of Washington hosted by the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. For more information visit www.ruckelshauscenter.wsu.edu