

Submission Date

2020-07-31 13:47:13

Name

Pamela Stuart

Email

pamelatstuart@hotmail.com

Address

Street Address : 21116 SE 5th St

Street Address Line 2 :

City : Sammamish

State / Province : WA

Postal / Zip Code : 98074

Country : United States

Public Comment

Concurrency and LOS should be designed to support the comprehensive plan and NOT the other way around. Our comprehensive plan states, "Healthy and sustainable places are built on a foundation that considers the needs of the community with respect to environmental quality, economic vitality and social equity. As shown in the diagram below, these characteristics are also referred to as people, prosperity and planet. Healthy and sustainable communities are in balance with respect to people, prosperity and planet."

We must ensure we look to the future needs of our current community members and plan for Environmental and Economic sustainability and equity.

There are countless resources available on how to design and build sustainable cities. The general consensus is the same, we need to be able to house and move people using fewer resources and creating a smaller impact on the environment.

These are achieved, in part, via smaller housing units, multi-family units, planning for transit and multi-modal transportation and allocating significant space for parks, trails, trees, etc.

King County is doing significant work in this area through K4C and the Countywide Planning Policies address this as well.

Therefore, the concurrency added to the comp plan should be to support the goals already defined in the comp plan and we should not be reverse engineering our comp plan to match an arbitrary LOS calculation.

From <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/3-ways-cities-can-become-more-sustainable/>, "The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, launched in 2015 to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, were designed to provide a road map to help countries and cities achieve integrated sustainable growth by 2030. They list 17 goals, emphasizing climate action, innovation, sustainable consumption, elimination of poverty, and creation of peace and security.

In addition to the SDGs, in 2017 the World Economic Forum publicized the Arcadis Sustainability Index 2016, which listed the world's most sustainable cities. The index ranked cities according to three dimensions: people, planet and profit. This ranking could be viewed as social sustainability, environmental sustainability and economic sustainability. Each dimension carried a sub-index. For instance, the people pillar measured quality of life, health education, and work-life balance. The planet pillar took into account green factors like energy consumption, renewable-energy share and green spaces. The profit pillar looked at business environment and economic health, including ease of doing business and connectivity. Sustainable cities balanced the three, though none achieved that balance evenly."

Additional Resources include:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/climate/actions-strategies/climate-strategies/partnerships-collaborations/k4c.aspx> (we recently signed on to this again but we have yet to take actions to achieve any of the goals)

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/CPPs/2012-CPPsAmended062516withMaps.ashx?la=en>

<https://hbr.org/2013/07/building-sustainable-cities>

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/3-ways-cities-can-become-more-sustainable/>

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/executive/performance-strategy-budget/regional-planning/GrowthManagement/GMPCMeeting112019/Annual-GMPC-Housing-Update-2019-11-20.ashx?la=en>

Even Wikipedia does a great job of compiling resources and information on this topic:

"Ideally, a sustainable city creates an enduring way of life across the four domains of ecology, economics, politics and culture. Goals of a sustainable city are to be able to feed itself with a sustainable reliance on the surrounding natural environment and have the ability to power itself with renewable sources of energy. The central focus of this topic is to create the smallest conceivable ecological footprint while also producing the lowest quantity of pollution achievable. All of this is to be accomplished by efficiently using the land in ways such as composting used materials, recycling, and/or converting waste-to-energy. The idea is that these contributions will lead to a decrease of the city's impact on climate change. The Adelaide City Council[3] states that socially sustainable cities should be equitable, diverse, connected, democratic, and provide a good quality of life."

These ecological cities are achieved through various means, such as:

- Different agricultural systems such as agricultural plots within the city (suburbs or centre). This reduces the distance food has to travel from field to fork. Practical work out of this may be done by either small scale/private farming plots or through larger scale agriculture (e.g. farmscrapers).
- Renewable energy sources, such as wind turbines, solar panels, or bio-gas created from sewage. Cities provide economies of scale that make such energy sources viable.
- Various methods to reduce the need for air conditioning (a massive energy demand), such as planting trees and lightening surface colors, natural ventilation systems, an increase in water features, and green spaces equaling at least 20% of the city's surface. These measures counter the "heat island effect" caused by an abundance of tarmac and asphalt, which can make urban areas several degrees warmer than surrounding rural areas—as much as six degrees Celsius during the evening.
- Improved public transport and an increase in pedestrianization to reduce car emissions. This requires a radically different approach to city planning, with integrated business, industrial, and residential zones. Roads may be designed to make driving difficult.
- Optimal building density to make public transport viable but avoid the creation of urban heat islands.
- Solutions to decrease urban sprawl, by seeking new ways of allowing people to live closer to the workspace.[5] Since the workplace tends to be in the city, downtown, or urban center, they are seeking a way to increase density by changing the antiquated attitudes many suburbanites have towards inner-city areas.[6] One of the new ways to achieve this is by solutions worked out by the Smart Growth Movement.[citation needed]
- Green roofs alter the surface energy balance and can help mitigate the urban heat island effect. Incorporating eco roofs or green roofs in your design will help with air quality, climate and water runoff.
- Zero-emission transport
- Zero-energy building
- Sustainable urban drainage systems or SUDS
- Energy conservation systems/devices
- Xeriscaping - garden and landscape design for water conservation
- Sustainable transport, incorporates five elements: fuel economy, occupancy, electrification, pedal power, and urbanization.
- Key Performance Indicators - development and operational management tool providing guidance and M&V for city administrators
- Sustainable Sites Initiative or SSI, Voluntary national guidelines and performance benchmarks for sustainable land design, construction and maintenance practices. Key areas of focus are soil, vegetation, hydrology, materials, and human health and well being.
- Increase of Cycling infrastructure would increase cycling within cities and reduce the number of cars being driven and in turn reduce car emissions. This would also benefit the health of citizens as they would be able to get more exercise through cycling.
- Educating residents of cities about the positive impacts of living in a more sustainable city and why it is important would increase the initiative to have sustainable developments and push people to live in a more sustainable way.

In conclusion, any changes made to the Comp Plan should be to make our city more sustainable today and for future generations. We should look to putting our energies toward efficiency, renewable energy, reduction in carbon output, reduction in water use, improved storm water management. These will have positive impacts on the environment as a whole and how residents in Sammamish can improve the environment for all. Simply stopping building new homes and doing nothing else will simply increase our per capita negative impacts on the environment which is the opposite of sustainable.