

From: [Sonja Wiser](#)
To: info.friendsofclarkcounty.org; [Cnty 2025 Comp Plan](#)
Cc: [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Bart Catching](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Jacqui Kamp](#)
Subject: RE: FOCC's Comprehensive Plan Update PPP Comments
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2023 7:19:00 AM
Attachments: [FOCCPPPC.pdf](#)

Good morning Lea: Thank you for your comments related to the 2025 Comp Plan/PPP. Your comments have been forwarded to staff and will be added to the 2025 Comp Plan Index of Record. Your name and email will also be added to our database to receive future communications related to the 2025 Comp Plan. Thanks again.

From: info.friendsofclarkcounty.org <info@friendsofclarkcounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2023 4:04 PM
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan <comp.plan@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: FOCC's Comprehensive Plan Update PPP Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

County Staff,

Please accept the attached document into the official record from Friends of Clark County.

Thank you,



Lea Bain
Community Engagement Manager,
Friends of Clark County

- [360-836-0724](tel:360-836-0724)
- info@friendsofclarkcounty.org
- Pronouns: They/Them





Friends of Clark County

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF RESPONSIBLE GROWTH

February 8, 2023

Friends of Clark County (FOCC) is pleased to submit comments to Community Planning on its recently released draft of a Public Participation Plan as one of the first steps in the Comprehensive Plan Update. Public participation is a critical piece of governing, and in particular, during major updates, such as this, that will determine how Clark County manages its growth well into the future.

For the last 25 years, FOCC has been committed to participating in county processes that impact quality of life and economic health for all its citizens. We (FOCC) always appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

Overall, the Draft PPP is comprehensive, effectively laying out the scope of the Comprehensive Plan Update, with estimated timeframes and due dates clearly stated.

However, although the intent is to be admired, there is little in this plan that hasn't been done or tried in the past and so it remains business as usual. That approaches used in the past have been successful is a misconception on the County's part.

We live in a period of increasing pessimism in our government at all levels, as well as in those that govern. A plan which lays out a roadmap of public participation has the opportunity to put into practice ways to build faith in governance among all segments of its population, including those – and especially those - who are the most marginalized.

Therefore, our expectation is that Clark County not only intends to reach the public but *GUARANTEES* accessibility and participation of all; and that the County makes a greater and more aggressive effort to go to the public, as opposed to expecting the public to come to it.

Our recommendations:

- Enforce processes and apply them equally to all – including those who consider themselves “entitled” and able to get “inside” Staff and elected officials. This includes

the 3-minute time limit at public hearings: equitably extend time allowances as opposed to extending for some (such as attorneys), not for others. Consider developing a flexible plan for hearing organized groups that enables messages to be communicated but limits time for each speaker to less than 3 minutes.

- Reach the public in ways that meet the public's lives:
 - Implement much greater notification periods than 14 days, especially notifications regarding major changes to a local neighborhood, such as mining projects, railroad changes, large-parcel rezones. Once word reaches a community, it takes weeks to gather neighbors together, investigate, find resources that will support its opinions, rearrange people's schedules in order to meet with Staff or Councilor. Preparing for a public hearing in front of a Planning Commission or County Council is not easy for a group of individuals who have never done it before, have work schedules to juggle, baby sitters to find, or can't afford to sit in a Council chamber for 2 to 3 hours.
 - Acknowledge and reach a broader radius of residences when considering a land-use decision that heavily impacts a community; 500 ft is not a significant distance in rural areas of our lovely county;
 - Use the public school system for reaching families regarding pending land-use issues;
 - Provide more open houses in particular in rural areas, at different times of the day;
 - Use larger and more prevalent signage; place in areas where traffic is not affected.
 - Increase press releases and publish in as many news media as appropriate.
 - Collect input from the public and measure that input against how that input impacted the final decision: comparing what was asked of the public with a final decision. Make sure that we, the public, are aware of our own strength as it

impacts decisions that Staff and Elected Officials make. We hear from a Councilor that “we heard from the public...”, but we would benefit from knowing just how our input was used in making a final decision.

We envision a transparent county government that empowers its communities, all members of those communities, those who are demanding the right to participate as partners at every level. We envision a government that can guarantee putting practices in place that result in an engaged, enlightened, energized and positive group of committed citizens.

We look forward to a productive and successful future.