How Cool is Your Town?

Stakeholder Workshop

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

KIMBERLY
IDAHO
ESTABLISHED 1905

Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together

otak
HanmiGlobal Partner

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Workshop Purpose
- Presentation
  - What's "smart growth"
  - What's "cool planning"?
- Discussion: How Cool is Your Town?
  - How cool are you? Issues and opportunities
  - How cool can you get?
- What's Next?

Smart Growth America
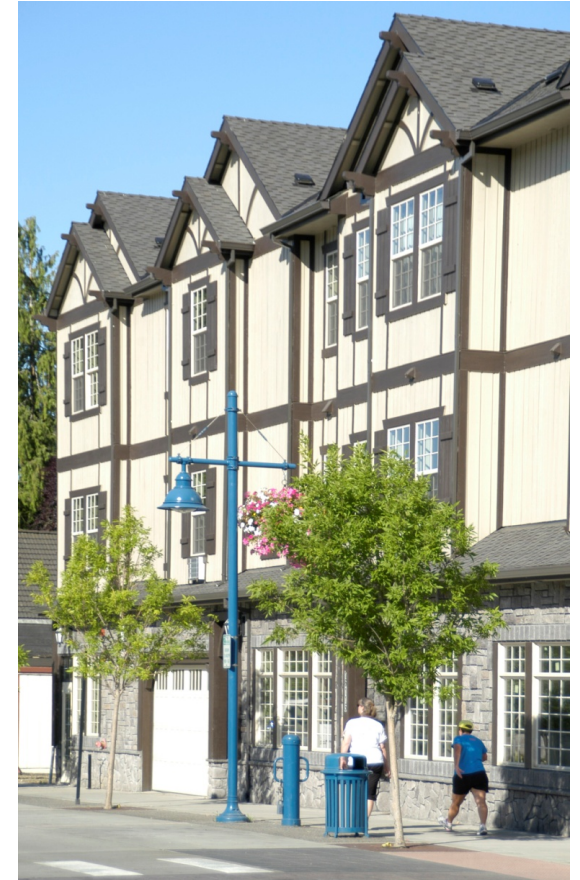Making Neighborhoods Great Together

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Workshop Purpose

- Smart growth and cool planning
  - "How we grow" matters...and why
- Identify Kimberly's opportunities
- Seizing opportunity: ideas and actions
- Action plan
  - Getting and keeping it moving

What is Smart Growth?

Smart Growth: planning principles directed at developing sustainable communities that are great places to live, to do business, to work, and to raise families

Smart Growth: Top 10 Principles

1) Distinctive Communities
   – Attractive
   – Strong Sense of Place
2) Mix Land Uses
3) Compact Building Design
4) Range of Housing Opportunities
5) Walkable Neighborhoods

Smart Growth: Top 10 Principles

6) Preserve Open Space & Critical Resource Areas

7) Develop Towards Existing Communities

8) Provide Transportation Choices

9) Encourage "Smart" Development Decisions
   - Predictable, Fair and Cost Effective

10) Encourage Community Collaboration
   - Planning Processes
   - Development Decisions

Smart Growth is Good For You

- Good for the community
- Creates great places:
  - Healthy, attractive, desirable communities
  - Places where people want to be
  - Family-friendly
  - Live, work, shop and play
- Good for the environment

Good for the Environment?

- Local growth and development decisions affect how we get around
- How we get around affects our climate
  - Greater need to drive, more miles travelled
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
- Policies and decisions can be changed
  - Reduce carbon emissions
  - Make more desirable places
  - Increase economic competitiveness
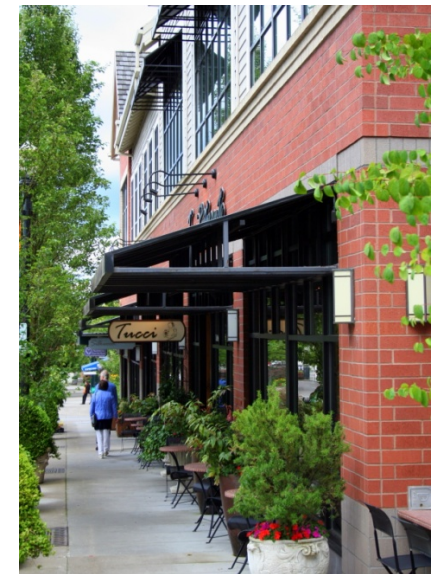
What's "Cool Planning"?

- "Smart growth" through climate change lenses

- Reducing carbon emissions & improving sustainability through smart decisions
  - Land-use planning
  - Transportation planning
  - Investment decision-making

- We have the planning tools to make a difference
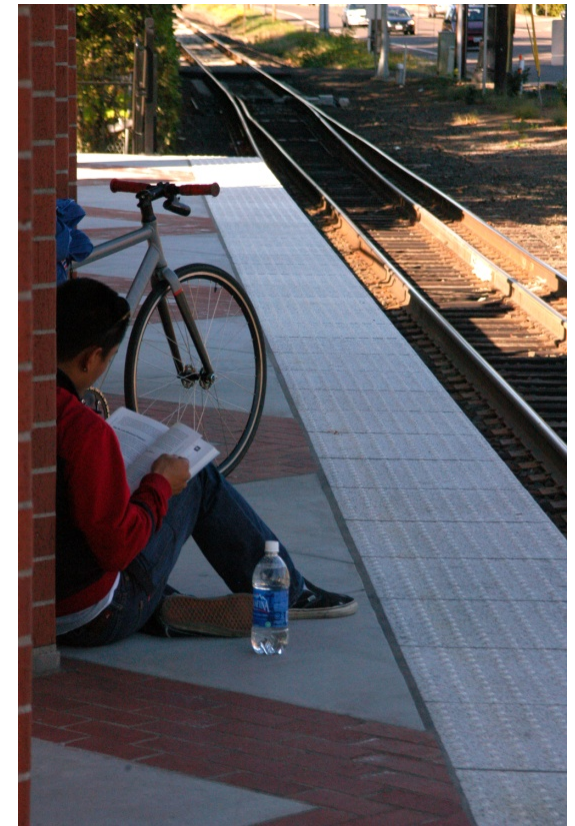
Cool Planning Strategies

- Get Centered
  - Create a vibrant, attractive town center
- Grow More Compact: Density Dividend
  - Avoid sprawl and minimize travel
- Make Streets More Complete
- Make Way for Pedestrians
- Make Your City Bike Friendly for All
- Put Parking in its Place

Grow More Compact

- Housing trends shifting to more compact types

- Density dividend:
  - Lower density = more traffic
  - More compact = better access to amenities, services, schools, less traffic
  - Growing demand for well-designed, compact development
  - Infrastructure cost efficiencies

- No "one size fits all" solution

Get Centered

- Provide combination of uses & services
  - Main Street and activity centers, not strip malls
  - Avoid spreading economic viability too thin

- Key benefits:
  - Improved tax base
  - Decrease infrastructure costs
  - Improved quality of life
  - More vibrant street life
  - Reduced need to travel

Make Streets More Complete

- Streets serve variety of purposes
  - Moving goods and services
  - Walkways for pedestrians & shoppers
  - Travelways for bicyclists
  - Public meeting places
- Maximize number of people & functions the street may serve
- Our most important public places
  - Attractive streetscaping matters

■ Make Way for Pedestrians

- Walkability = successful places
  - Safe
  - Convenient
  - Accessible
  - Attractive
  - Good for business
- Make it easier to get from place to place
- Less traffic

Make Your City Bike Friendly

- Well-connected continuous systems
  - Make it easy to "get there" by bike
  - Identify and close the gaps
  - Bike lanes, off-street multi-use paths
- Make it easy to "be a biker"
  - Provide amenities (bike parking, signage, maps)
- Good for business
- Good for families
  - Safe routes to school & activities

Put Parking in its Place

- Create great places for people, not cars
  - Avoid providing more parking than needed
  - Bring buildings forward to the sidewalk
  - Put parking on the side or behind buildings
  - Screen parking lots from view
  - Landscape parking lots
  - Make parking a good neighbor

Initial Observations: Pre-Walk

- What we've seen so far

- What should we look for on our walk

- What we'll do when we get back

How Cool is Your Town?
Initial Ideas & Opportunities

Group discussion:

• What are the issues in Kimberly that Cool Planning strategies can address?

How Cool is Your Town? Initial Ideas & Opportunities

Group reporting: what do we think?

■ Walking Tour

Workshop: Ideas and Actions

Toolbox: Grow More Compact

- Identify infill opportunities

- Increase density

- Design guidelines

- Infill incentives

- Focused public investment

Toolbox: Get Centered

- Identify centers
  - Where to focus
- Mixed use zoning
- Restrict auto-oriented uses
- Incentives
- Good pedestrian & bike environments

Toolbox: Make Streets More Complete

- Create attractive streetscapes

- Allow on-street parking

- Great walkable environment

- Designate bike lanes

- Provide human-scale amenities

Toolbox: Make Way for Pedestrians

- Put buildings close to street
- Orient entrances to street
- Wide sidewalks w/amenities
- Parking behind buildings
- Connected sidewalk network
- Design standards

Toolbox: Make Your City Bike Friendly

- Bridge gaps in bike system

- Striped bike lanes

- Off-street paths

- Bike parking

- Wayfinding and signage

Toolbox: Put Parking in its Place

- Don't "overpark"
  - Consider maximums, not minimums
- Parking design standards
  - Screening
  - Placement
- Provide more bike parking
- Share parking facilities

Workshop: Tools and Actions

Group discussion

Workshop: Tools and Actions

Group reporting

How Cool is Kimberly?

Consultant team observations

How Do We Move Forward?

- Create an action plan
  - Builds local partnerships
    - Common objectives
  - Better positioning for grants
  - Keeps community focused
    - Builds & maintains momentum

Action Plan

What's in an Action Plan?

- Regulatory changes

- Projects

- Actions & partnerships

- Sources of funding

- Time frame for initiating actions

Action Plan

Three step process:

– Identify what needs to be done

– Prioritize actions

  • Short-term

  • Mid-range

  • Longer-term

– Program actions:

  • Develop short-term (3-year) program

Action Plan

Recipe for success:

- Identify Year 1 tasks needed to set you up for Year 2

- Repeat for Year 2 and Year 3

- As Year 1 is completed:
  - Year 2 becomes new Year 1
  - Year 3 becomes new Year 2
  - Add a new Year 3

Action Plan

Keep it moving!

- Monitor progress

- Report on progress

- Update regularly with "planning partners"

Make the Most of the Opportunity

- Make smarter decisions today
- Get a handle on growth
  - before it gets a handle on you
- Pro-active, not reactive
- Capture your share of the benefits of growth
- Kimberly: the "place to live"

Stay Cool!

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