



## ***Top Ten Findings and Recommended Next Steps***



# How We Live

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps*	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
		<i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i>		
Living densely and living well	The environmental and social benefits of high density areas – such as a diverse community, more housing etc., are difficult to maintain while protecting against the spread of COVID and future disease.	Assemble a panel of 10 big thinkers, representative of <u>the diversity of</u> our communities to meet for no more than three months to develop 10 implementable policies distributed between local, state and federal levels that directly address this finding.  Balance services, infrastructure and capital improvements to support density.	State and Local Level	Identify potential candidates for panel  City data on capital improvement and infrastructure investments by density of neighborhoods
Weaving a stronger social safety net	The economic and social consequences of the pandemic have hit disadvantaged communities particularly hard. It is time to reweave our "social safety net." It has become frayed particularly for women and BIPOC.	Dramatically and quickly strengthen social care infrastructure.	Local, State and Federal Levels	State, County and City data on social services demand and gaps in supply  Review relevant <a href="#">State of Hawaii</a> report and mirror its data collection
Rethinking our neighborhoods	Telecommuting and virtual meetings have gained significant traction these last months. There is clear potential environmental upsides to this trend. There is also the possibility that more telecommuting and virtual meetings will result in significant changes in city cores and commercial areas. Moreover, it is clear that land uses in our neighborhoods, cities and towns can better "work" for their residents.	Local building and planning departments should structure a simpler, holistic approach to advancing healthy sustainable communities welcoming to everyone. We must develop new ways to encourage social cohesion and equity in our planning and development policies and regulations. Development and retail opportunities should be of secondary concern. In fact, enhancing social cohesion and equity will be of optimal value to the community and ultimately to the market place.  Create a next generation Growth Management Act (GMA) that focuses on equity, social cohesion, public health and environmental sustainability. Align other planning efforts (Shoreline Management Act, Vision 2050, local comp plans etc.) with this new vision of GMA.  Create new financial support and access to credit that considers a green home equity approach that advances more sustainable, high quality, livable and affordable housing, such as duplexes, row houses and multifamily.  New financial support should avoid exacerbating gentrification. It should address communities and individuals displaced from their traditional neighborhoods. Effort should recruit engagement of NGOs, Community leadership, elected leadership, developers and financial experts.  Redefine city centers and satellite urban areas to be responsive to the needs of neighborhoods and residents. Explore how to redeploy vacant commercial and office space for housing and other needs of our residents.  Commit to a ten minute walkability goal to parks, transit and neighborhood defining amenities and services for all communities in the region. This needs to be an 'all-in' effort with the engagement of planners, elected leaders, developers, the academy and bankers.	Community, Local, State and Federal Levels	Vacancy rates and availabilities  Ten minute walkability maps by neighborhoods  Reach out to academic for metrics of equity, social cohesion, public health and environmental sustainability; consult land use planners and lawyer to consider how GMA "concurrency" might be applied to these metrics.  Reach out to lenders for data on financial subsidies necessary to make loans for homes with these feature pencil.  Realtor/Assessor data re: commercial vacancies  GIS mapping of parks and transit; identify other amenities and map those too.



## How We Work

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps* <i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i>	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
Providing workers their rightful due	Frontline and essential workers are bearing the weight of the pandemic.	<p>Assemble a panel of unions, medical care executives, infrastructure providers and workers to identify ways to improve the lives of frontline and essential workers.</p> <p>Call on all levels of government to support and strengthen the voice of line and essential workers, including supporting worker organizations</p>	Local, State and Federal Levels	<p>Consult with Economic Policy Institute on relevant reports.</p> <p>Review EPA environmental justice maps to determine environmental conditions around work places.</p>
Making our workplaces equitable	Systemic racism is deep in our workplace cultures and interferes with a resilient economy. Studies have shown that even some apparently benign actions can be biased laden, making it less likely that representatives from marginalized communities serve in leadership and decision making positions.	<p>As a first step, make diversity and equity training and reviews available for all businesses and governments and incentivize their use.</p> <p>Consider a Governor-led, urgent convening of the top DEI experts in our state to provide recommendations on how best to improve equity in the public, private and non-profit sectors.</p> <p>Environmental, Art and other NGOs beyond the social justice community should develop action plans to diversify employee roster, management and leadership.</p>	<p>Local, State and Federal Levels</p> <p>State Level</p> <p>NGOs across the region</p>	Review established programs across the region such as the Seattle Undoing Institutional Racism.



## How We Create Community

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps* <i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i>	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
Keeping it real	There are limits to technology in terms of keeping an active and cohesive community. Technology does not alleviate isolation.	<p>Consider how we maintain community when social distancing is required. Sponsor a series of virtual conferences with regional and neighborhood groups to explore how we maintain community during this period and how we can safely use our common places like libraries and community centers.</p> <p>Create a truly common and shared "space" through a series of internet community campfires where everyone is encouraged to tell their stories. Develop safe common spaces, digital campfires, for those without immediate access to come and listen and tell their stories. Identify authentic community members and organizations to house these events and provide the needed training and technical support.</p> <p>Improve internet access – treat internet as an essential service.</p>	Community and Local Levels	<p>Identify communities underserved by the internet.</p> <p>Identify gaps in provision of internet hotspots</p>



## How We Build

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps* <i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i>	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
So let's in fact wakeup and act with urgency	These last five months are a wakeup call to create a Pacific Northwest more resilient to the coming climate impacts. To paraphrase, it's the carbon stupid.	<p>Consider the embedded carbon in our building stock. Incentivize new sustainable technologies and products like cross laminated timber and other locally sourced material. Incentivize, but also hold these technologies to high, full life-cycle standards of sustainability. Structure these incentives so these new technologies are equitably available.</p> <p>Achieve a net zero carbon built environment considering both onsite measures and offsite offsets and other city building codes.</p> <p>Over 25% of our nation's energy is consumed by our built environment. Accordingly, dramatically tighten and incentivize Seattle and other cities' energy codes.</p> <p>Consider phasing out natural gas, a major climate gas for all new construction by 2025 and all existing uses by 2035.</p>	Local, State and Federal Levels	Identify local building and energy regulatory changes required to facilitate sustainable technologies



## Where are the Jobs

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps* <i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i>	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
Making sure there is a path for all of us	Many jobs lost in the pandemic will not return. Jobs are contingent on funding and infrastructure to support the "new normal." We need to rethink how jobs are created and salaried.	Consider a Washington Sustainable New Deal with guaranteed employment to create employment where needed for sustainability, community and equity. The program needs to be comprehensive with special focus on including BIPOC and women. Look to successful programs not just from the USA but also in other countries as well.	Local and State Levels	Map areas of high unemployment
Before we can have jobs, we need a healthy region	These last five months have demonstrated a severe underfunding of public health.	Dramatically increase investment in public health infrastructure by State and local government, recognizing the nexus between healthy residents and a healthy economy. Again, look to successful programs not just from the USA but also in other countries as well.	Local and State Levels	Develop inventory of successful local programs.  Identify gaps in our current programs.





## How We Get Around

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps*	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
Transportation planning needs to change lanes	Changes in how we live and how we work resulting from the pandemic will drive fundamental changes in urban and regional form and how we get around. Increases in single occupant car commuting may be COVID safe, but will dramatically increase pollution and further clog our streets and highways. Transportation planning needs to further support pedestrians, bikes and transit.	<p><i>*These are not exclusive. There are many other options and organizations already working to respond to many of these issues.</i></p> <p>Under the GMA and other state provisions change the Vehicular Level of Service paradigm, which sets level of services based on time delay for auto traffic. Instead, broaden evaluation to include safety, climate, health, equity, and affordability.</p> <p>For capital transportation improvements at the state and local level, adopt a transportation mode hierarchy like Vancouver, BC. Each time a higher-rated mode is bypassed to invest in a lower-rated mode, it would need to have a compelling rationale.</p> <p>In addition to above next step, continue to explore all options for decarbonizing our transportation systems</p>	Local and State Levels	Identify necessary state and local regulatory changes to broaden LOS definition.





# How We Ensure Pacific Northwest's Place in the World

Parts of the Whole	Findings from Our Experiences Over the Last Five Months	Recommended Next Steps*	Where Does this Happen	Suggested Information to Gather
The findings and next steps for this working group were merged into the above working groups.				





## A Blueprint for Regional Resiliency

Each of the Top Ten findings and recommendations, along with the 33 companion findings and recommendations, merit real consideration and action in their own right. Moreover they sum to a whole far greater than each of their worth. They will significant advance our resilience along three critical pillars of a truly sustainable region.

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- **Environment:** The findings and recommendations direct us towards a decarbonized region. Our buildings and transportation networks need to reduce their carbon dependency drastically.
  - **Community:** We must redouble our focus on building our communities sustainably, affordably and for all people and their families. Business, commerce and a vibrant economy will naturally follow. Builders, developers, planners and financial institutions should engage as if they were building for their parents and children, as indeed they are for many of us. The COVID-19 crisis and social distancing call on us to find new ways to create the neighborhood commons where all voices are welcome. If we achieve these objectives for our communities and businesses, then commerce and a vibrant economy will naturally follow.
  - **Economy:** Our region will be that much more resilient as it becomes more inclusive with true and real opportunities extended to all our residents. The economy needs to serve all our people, especially including frontline and essential workers.
  - **There is a fourth, objective that is both derivative and at the same time fundamental to achieving those above.** To reach for the above objectives, we need all voices heard, valued and welcomed to make sure our steps forwards are the best and wisest possible and to undo the systemic racism that underlies many of our public and private systems. In these times, Broadband is a fundamental building block to meaningful participation, engagement and enfranchisement in each of the above objectives. It should be looked on as if it was a public utility.
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These are not minor objectives, easy to achieve. They will take long-term concerted action. Among the top ten findings and recommendations, the journey can start with this first, critical step:

***Draft and adopt a Washington Sustainable New Deal with guaranteed employment to create new opportunities where needed for sustainability, community and equity. The program needs to be comprehensive with special focus on including BIPOC communities and women. Look to successful programs not just from the USA but also in other countries as well.***





# — A Call to Action —

*There is much that is striking about these top ten recommendations.*

*Not the least is that they demand an ALL IN commitment and call on all of us – individuals, elected and civic leadership, government agencies and nongovernmental organizations, and also businesses, financial institutions and educational institutions – to act with urgency now.*

*These findings reflect the fact that this is not a normal time. Indeed, it is an ALL IN time.*