

5/30/18

Sponsored By: Executive Committee

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PROPOSED GMPC MOTION NO. 18-1

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A MOTION outlining actions jurisdictions can take to facilitate the development and renovation of public schools within the Urban Growth Area.

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WHEREAS the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) convened the School Siting Task Force in 2011 to address the issue of whether public schools serving primarily urban populations should be sited in rural areas; and

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WHEREAS, the Task Force completed their work on March 31, 2012, issuing a report and final recommendations to the King County Executive; and

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WHEREAS, as a result of the work of the Task Force, three new policies were added to the 2012 King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) – PF-18, PF-19, and PF-19A; and

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WHEREAS, student enrollments at school districts in King County are rapidly increasing causing a push to build more schools and school facilities and expand existing ones; and

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WHEREAS, the school districts that have both urban and rural territory are focusing their efforts on building within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) consistent with the CPPs; and

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WHEREAS, land sufficient for schools is scarce within the UGA and the regulatory structure can pose barriers to building quality schools; and

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23 WHEREAS, the challenges with school siting affect both school districts with
24 urban and rural territory and school districts with entirely urban territory; and

25 WHEREAS, school districts, cities, and King County collectively hold an interest
26 in providing residents with needed school capacity within the UGA in a timely manner that
27 makes best use of limited taxpayer resources; and

28 WHEREAS, school districts operate with limited financial resources and both the
29 districts and general-purpose governments recognize an obligation to be responsible
30 stewards of public funds;

31 THEREFORE, the King County GMPC endorses the following best practices for
32 cities and the county working together with school districts to build new schools and
33 school facilities within the UGA:

- 34 1. Identify surplus public properties that could work as new school sites.
- 35 2. Assist with identifying private properties that could be available for new
36 school sites.
- 37 3. Look for opportunities for shared use of buildings, fields, parking and other
38 facilities between the city or county and the school district.
- 39 4. Consider options and zoning for mixed-use development that could
40 accommodate a school.
- 41 5. Investigate how regulations and processes can be modified to make
42 challenging sites work for new, expanded, and renovated school facilities
43 (such as providing flexible application of development regulations for height
44 restrictions, maximum lot coverage, and parking standards) and consider the

- 45 feasibility of allowing playfields in the Rural Area adjacent to schools located
46 in the UGA and with direct access from the UGA.
- 47 6. Broaden the number of zone classifications within which schools are permitted
48 to locate.
- 49 7. Coordinate the permit review process to improve certainty for school districts
50 and to shorten the permitting process time (using priority permitting as
51 appropriate).
- 52 8. Implement a phased review of school development so the school site may be
53 modified as needed over time and so portable facilities may be sited and/or
54 replaced in an efficient manner.
- 55 9. Work with school districts, to establish site-specific Transportation Demand
56 Management (TDM) protocols to encourage more walking, biking, and transit
57 ridership to reduce the need for parking.
- 58 10. Partner with school districts in the planning and financing needed to improve,
59 if appropriate based on topography and surrounding neighborhood
60 characteristics, walking and biking routes to the school.

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Dow Constantine, Chair, Growth Management Planning Council