



Board of County Councilors Hearing
Public Hearing: 2016 Comprehensive Growth Management Plan Update
April 14, 2015

Battle Ground Mayor Shane Bowman: Thank you. I was here because I was told if this goes past noon the Councilors are buying free pizza and cake. So, that's the only reason I came, that's what Ron told me. But, had the opportunity, number one, thank you for allowing us to come in and have the opportunity to talk to both Councilman Madore and Councilwoman Stewart within the last month here, and kind of voice some of our concerns about Option 4. And for Battle Ground, there's a couple things. When we were talking about rural centers, we're surrounded by three of those rural centers – Brush Prairie, Meadow Glade, Dollar's Corner. Two of those hate us. We're not sure about Dollar's Corner yet. And they are very against annexation into the cities, shrinking their lot sizes. And so when we look at things like Option 4 here, and when you go back to the previous map, Battle Ground is completely surrounded by parcels that can be divided up, and divided up into smaller parcels. And we've already seen that happen with these areas. We also have another development, 189th the County did, before we annexed it into the City. And the development standards that we have are different than what the County has. And so when these come in, they come in without sidewalks, their streets are narrower than what ours are. And so when we go, when we have a developer come in and say, hey we want to develop this area out and we're going to go through this neighborhood, then we deal with the fact that the roads weren't put in up to standards, that sidewalks weren't put in, and those neighborhoods want us to stop development because of that. And so it costs us a lot of money to bring those areas in. For us to bring in Meadow Glade, for us to go into Brush Prairie, it's going to cost us a lot of money to annex those in and provide the services that we need. And we're going to be surrounded by this. And so what we're asking for, at a minimum, is that nothing within a mile of the Urban Growth Boundary can be divided up. Because, we just found out today, on my way here, that the House killed our portion of the transportation package, so our 7.5 million dollars to relieve traffic congestion on Main Street in Battle Ground is no longer on their package. And so, for us to add, well, for you guys to add 17,000 lots, they're going to greatly affect what comes through our City, and we don't have the infrastructure to support that. And so that causes businesses to choose to look elsewhere, that causes economic growth to stop, and so we're asking for you to think about that when you look at Option 4. Thank you.