

May 26, 2021

To: GMPC

We agree with the first recommendation under "*IJT Recommendation*" shown on p. 7 of the **Staff Report** under "**Public Review Draft Comments on Growth Targets**" under "**Adjustments to Jurisdiction-level Targets**": "*The Interjurisdictional Team is seeking GMPC's input, whether it feels the draft targets, beyond the amendments described above, need further adjustment at a jurisdictional level....*" We urge the GMPC to consider the following:

Clearly, the Growth Target housing numbers for two SE King County cities, Covington and Black Diamond, are grossly overweighted and do not conform with the reality that the existing and the future transportation infrastructure (out to 2050 planning levels) cannot and will not support such levels of growth:

- Commuters in and out of Covington rely exclusively on SR-18 (which was never meant for commuting to Puget Sound job centers, but rather as a I-90/I-5 Seattle diversion route for freight) and on SR-516 (Kent-Kangley Rd) which is hopelessly under capacity and has signals at nearly every intersection leading to and from Kent.
- Commuters in and out of Black Diamond rely exclusively on SR-169 (one lane each way, off and on, until 196th Ave SE far northwest of Maple Valley), Issaquah-Hobart-Ravensdale-Black Diamond Rd (one lane each way and hopelessly congested for miles and miles), and Auburn-Black Diamond Rd (one lane each way and congested).

This is especially true for Black Diamond, whose Growth Target for Housing Units (2,900) exceeds its Growth Target for Jobs (680) by over 4-fold (no other King County city even approaches such a *dichotomy*)! Although Covington's Growth Targets for Housing Units and Jobs are nearly 1-to-1, the Jobs target (4,496) appears unattainable, as it is basically equivalent to Burien's Jobs target (4,500), a city whose population is ~2 1/2 times higher (~51,000 vs. ~21,000).

The road infrastructure (most of the major arterials have one lane each way, some with 2 lanes each way, but in fragmented pieces) in SE King County cannot handle existing commuting issues and the overweighted growth targets allotted to Covington and Black Diamond will simply result in total gridlock. Further, neither city has good transit service and never will have with mostly single-lane roads or routes with signalized intersections throughout.

Thank you very much.

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