



**Community Needs Assessment
Economy & Transportation Sector**

June 21, 2011

4:30-6:30pm, Orcas Fire Hall

Attending: Bruce Buchanan, Becky Burkley, Bob Distler, Lance Evans, Paul Losleben, Susan McBain, Patty Miller, Jennifer Pietsch, Ed Sutton

Rachel Adams, Diane Berreth, Sally Buchanan, Hilary Canty, Steve Jung, and Perry Pugh attended from OICF.

What is working? (All respond)

- Well-rounded and diverse work force
- Chamber efforts are effective
- Shuttle is helpful
- Ferries are running
- Strengths of local business good (market/Nap) ??
- Large relatively affluent service population
- Medical (emergency) transportation is strong
- Great awareness by all players to stay active/take action
- Chamber staff very supportive
- Hitch-hiking still works well
- Grant funding for senior transportation
- Air transportation works well
- Willingness and ability to problem solve
- Facilitation and assistance of chamber is critical
- Ferry system working pretty well for islanders and visitors
- Local support for local business
- Internet shopping and delivery works well
- Roads are in good shape
- Relationship between Sunset Magazine and Orcas
- Strong support of bricks and mortar on island
- Beautiful landscaping and care of businesses
- Robust nonprofit community

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Question #:1 What Community Needs Are Not Being Met?

ECONOMY brainstormed list group 1:

- Lack of small business finance options (loans local, other)
- Lack of electronics variety
- Lack of info regarding farm stands
- Lack of reasonable commodity prices
- Difficulty paying high preschool education costs
- Inability to plan (small business training needed)
- Complex government regulations
- Lack of correct information regarding housing
- Lack of understanding of shop local (costs to do business; power of local; cost to shop off island)
- Lack of awareness of capital needs
- Lack of bathrooms, trash/recycle/tourist facilities
- Lack of Short and long-term small business financing, planning, training

Prioritized Economy listing group 1:

1. Lack of electronics variety
2. Lack of info regarding farm stands
3. Lack of reasonable commodity prices ● ●
4. Difficulty paying high preschool education costs ●
5. Complex government regulations ●
6. Lack of correct information regarding housing ●
7. Lack of understanding of shop local (costs to do business; power of local; cost to shop off island) ● ● ● ● ● ●
8. Lack of bathrooms, trash/recycle/tourist facilities ● ● ● ● ● ●
9. Lack of Short and long-term small business financing, planning, training ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Transportation brainstormed and priority list group 1:

1. Lack of parking: where, info, spaces, employee ● ● ● ●
2. Lack of local SeaTac transportation
3. Local needs not reflected in Washington State Ferry (WSF) planning ●
4. Lack of safe bike lanes ● ●
5. Lack of year-round taxi services ●
6. Lack of year-round community shuttle ● ● ●
7. Lack of sustainable funding of public transportation (including WSF) ● ● ● ● ●

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TRANSPORTATION brainstormed list group 2:

- Insufficient multi-modal transportation support to match (connect) with ferry system. Options: taxi, train, bus, etc.
- Unsafe bicycle lanes
- Unsafe walking trail system
- Affordable and reliable senior transportation on island (especially from remote areas)
- Cost and schedules challenging for off-island visitors/clients
- Slow and inconsistent broadband (impacts remote workers)
- Ferry schedule is restrictive for commuters
- No community transport network
- Non-existent walking trail system
- Back-up system for phones and cell coverage lacking
- Tourist traffic needs to increase
- Eastsound village parking and walking flow is insufficient
- No good communication system to disoninate (?) trans options
- Scale of population insufficient to support a vital business community and transportation system

Transportation prioritized list group 2:

1. Insufficient multi-modal transportation support to match (connect) with ferry system. Options: taxi, train, bus, etc. ● ● ● ● ●
2. Unsafe bicycle lanes and walking trail system ●
3. No community transport network
4. Inconsistent broadband and back-up system for phones and cell coverage lacking ● ● ● ●
5. Eastsound village parking and walking flow is insufficient
6. No good communication system to disseminate trans options ● ● ●
7. Scale of population insufficient to support a vital business community and transportation system ● ● ● ●

ECONOMY brainstormed list group 2:

- Missing single focus point to draw tourists
- No easy way for services to get to and shop in Eastound
- Limited employable/skilled employees
- Insufficient training opportunities (i.e. customer service)
- Lack of housing for work force/wage workers

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- Limited professional opportunities on island
- Missing local production
- Cost of living challenging for wage earners
- Limited service sector—unreliable, lacking professional attitude
- Clearinghouse for information

Economy prioritized list group 2:

1. Missing single focus point to draw tourists
2. Limited employable/skilled employees •
3. Lack of housing for work force/wage workers • • • •
4. Limited professional opportunities on island • • •
5. Missing local production • • •
6. Clearinghouse for information •

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Economy	Transportation
1. Short and long term small business financing, planning, training	1. Lack of sustainable funding for public transportation
2. Lack of understanding of “shop local”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost to do business • power of local dollar • cost to shop off-island 	2. Lack of parking where to
3. Lack of tourism facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trash/recycle • bathrooms 	3. Year-round shuttle

Core Learnings from Today (All)

- Broadband access is fundamental need
- Lack of consensus on desired size of Orcas Island community
- Diversity of opinions on challenges and issues
- The amount of economic issues and difficulty prioritizing
- The extent of revenue provided by retired community and lack of support for that sector
- Issues are longstanding and a shift needs to occur for solutions to occur
- Biking and parking ar issues
- Economic needs are very large and complex
- What are the action items? Pick low hanging fruit and do it.
- Our community is changing—from no development to pro-development
- Research other communities and solutions
- Parking is a bigger issue
- Population scale is critical
- Much we don't know—data difficult to access
- It takes the group
- Need for services in the community that do not make it affordable
- Make economy not a dirty word