

# Fountain District Urban Village Public Input Workshops

Meeting #1

**Introduction, Character & Boundaries**

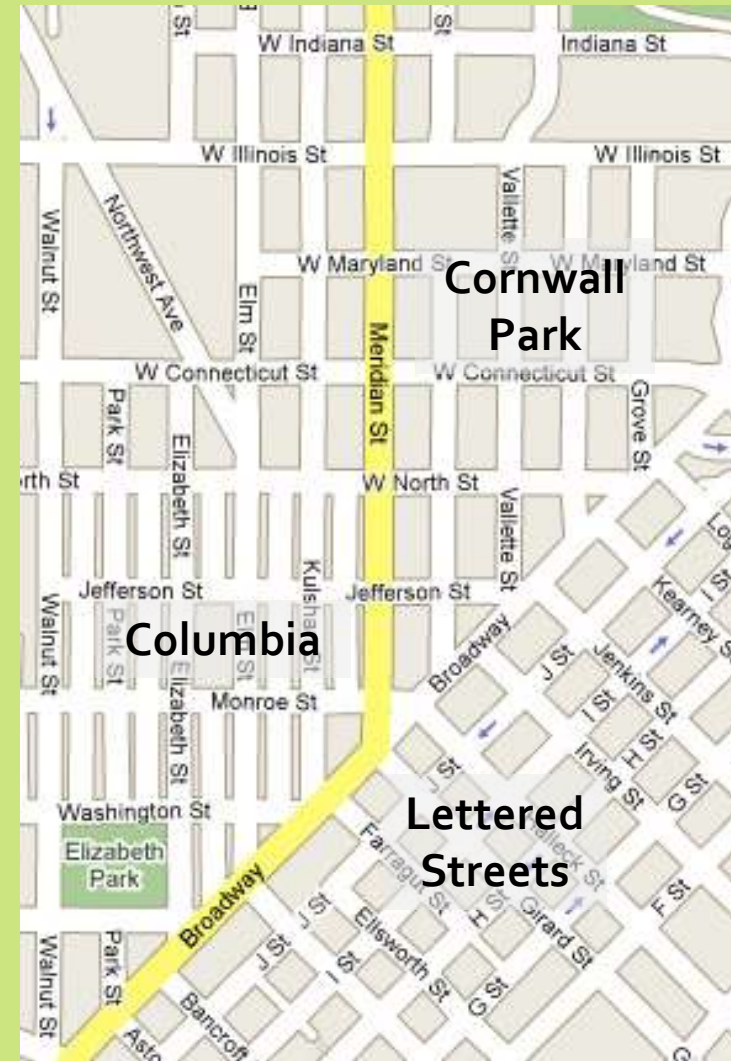
April 1st, 2009

City of Bellingham, Washington

# Stakeholders

## Who is the “Village”?

- Property Owners, Business Owners
- Residents, Neighborhood Associations
- Business Organizations
- City Departments
- Whatcom Transit Authority
- Bellingham School District
- Nonprofit organizations
- Affordable Housing Advocates
- Architects, Engineers and Landscape Architects
- Developers, Real Estate Agents, Financing Companies
- *Others???*



# Why Here? Why Now?

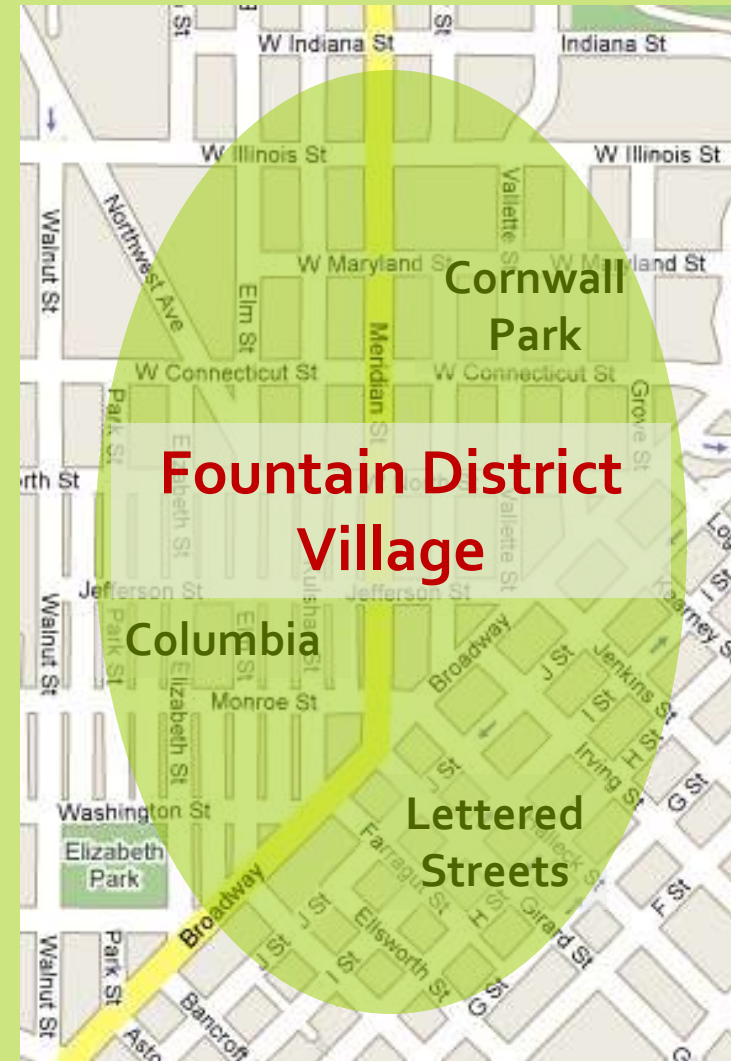
**Tim Stewart, Director**  
*Planning & Community Development*

- Comprehensive Plan goals
- Commercial area potential
- Neighborhoods' involvement



# Three Neighborhoods – One Village

- As we work together to shape the character, commerce and quality of life in the Fountain District “Village,” consider the master plan overlay as its own entity



# 4 Public Meetings

- April 1 Introduction, Character & Boundary Study Areas
- April 15 Public Realm:  
Streets, Public Spaces & Neighborhood Connections
- April 22 Development Character:  
Permitted Uses, Design, Scale, Transitions
- May 6 Input Summary  
Discussion of Alternatives

# Objectives of Public Meetings

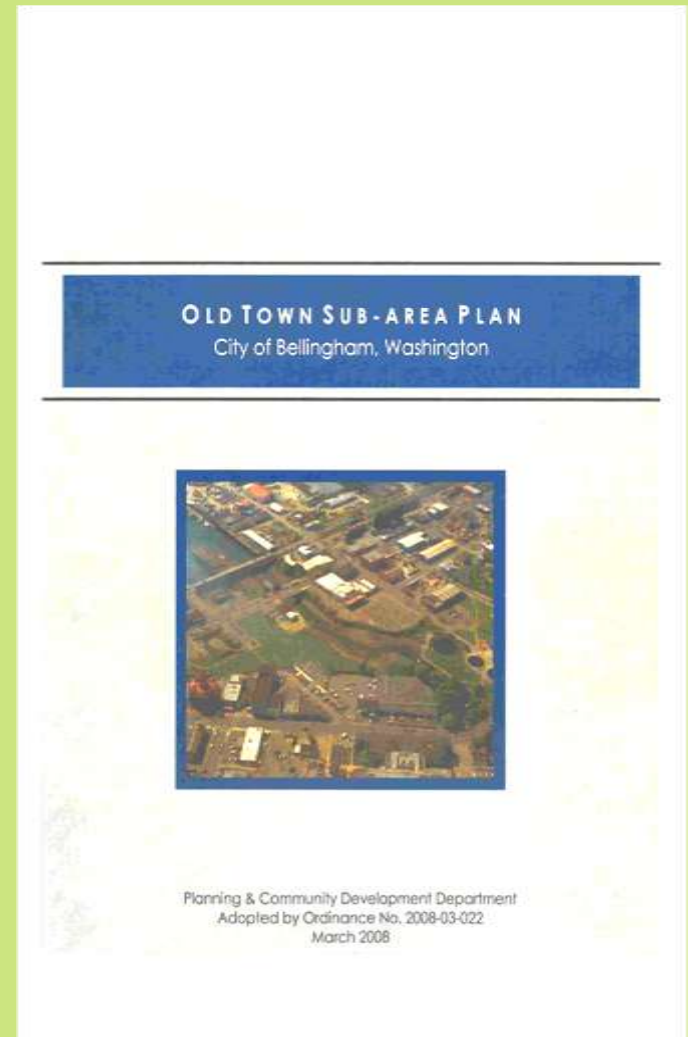
- Share perspectives, desires and needs
- Understand process
- Develop two-way communication

Input gathered from meetings will be used to create:

- Master Plan = “the Vision”
- Development Regulations = “the Rules”

# Master Plan = the VISION

- Development Character
- Circulation/Streetscape
- Capital Facilities Plan
- Parks and Plazas
- Sets Policy & Implementation Strategies



# Development Regulations = the RULES

- “On the ground” laws that implement the Master Plan
- Includes zoning, permitted uses, setbacks, height, parking requirements, design requirements, signage, etc.
- Feasibility Studies





# Meeting #1: Overview

- Part 1: Presentation
  - Process Overview
  - Character & Study Areas
  - What is an Urban Village?
- Part 2: Exercises
  - Identify Strengths and Weaknesses
  - Identify Potential “village” Study Areas

# What is an Urban Village?

- Mix of uses: commercial, residential, office, recreational, services, etc.
- Amenities and necessities within walking distance
- Designed for pedestrians, bikes, and transit – not just the car
- Facilitates strong community connections and interaction

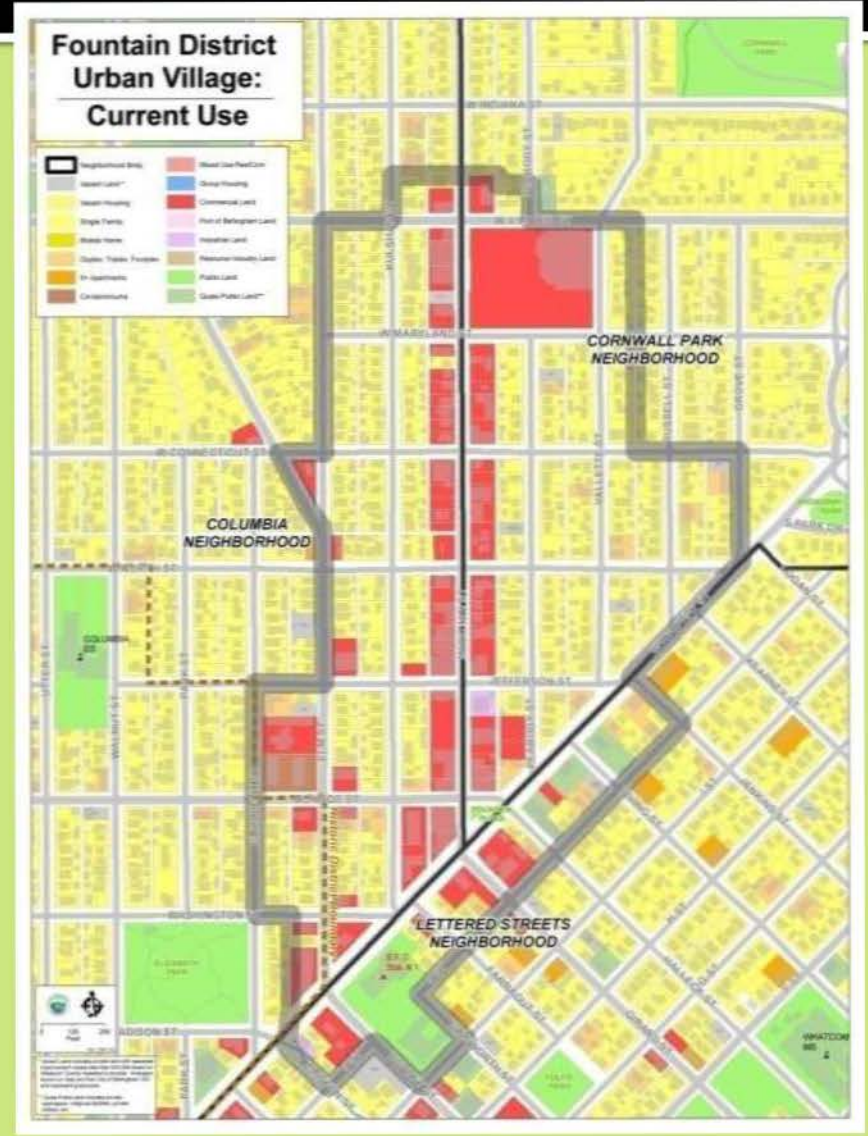


# Where is the “Village”?

- The Fountain District “village” will be considered in its context, and in relationship to:
  - Central and Northern Neighborhoods
  - Parks and Open Space
  - Central Business District (Downtown)
  - Waterfront
  - City Emergency Services



# Existing Zoning & Current Uses



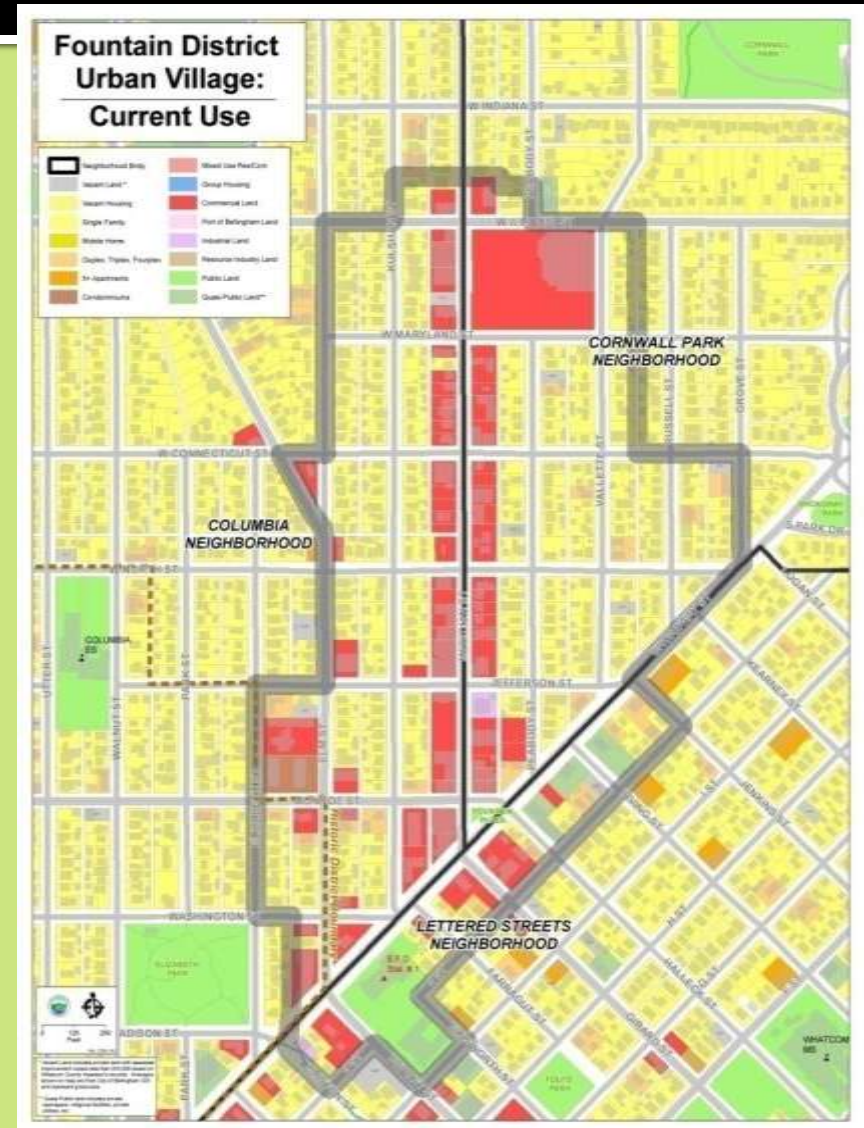
# Study Area Discussion

## Be Assured

- All property owners will have equal input
- Village boundary discussion will be ongoing

## Benefits

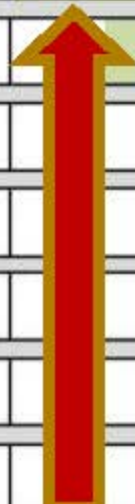
- Urban Village = Mixed Use
- Flexibility in Master Planning



# Road Map

## Fountain District Urban Village Project Timeline

Task	2009												2010			
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar				
Public Workshops	*															
Study Alternatives																
Review Findings and Draft Concepts						*										
SEPA Review							*									
Release Draft Plan and Regulations																
Planning Commission										*						
City Council													*			



\* Opportunity for public comment

**Note:** Exact dates to be posted as they are scheduled

# We are HERE