

# Fountain District Urban Village Public Input Workshops

Meeting #3

## Development Character Permitted Uses, Design, Scale & Transitions

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

City of Bellingham, Washington

# 4 Public Meetings

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

# Objectives of Public Meetings

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

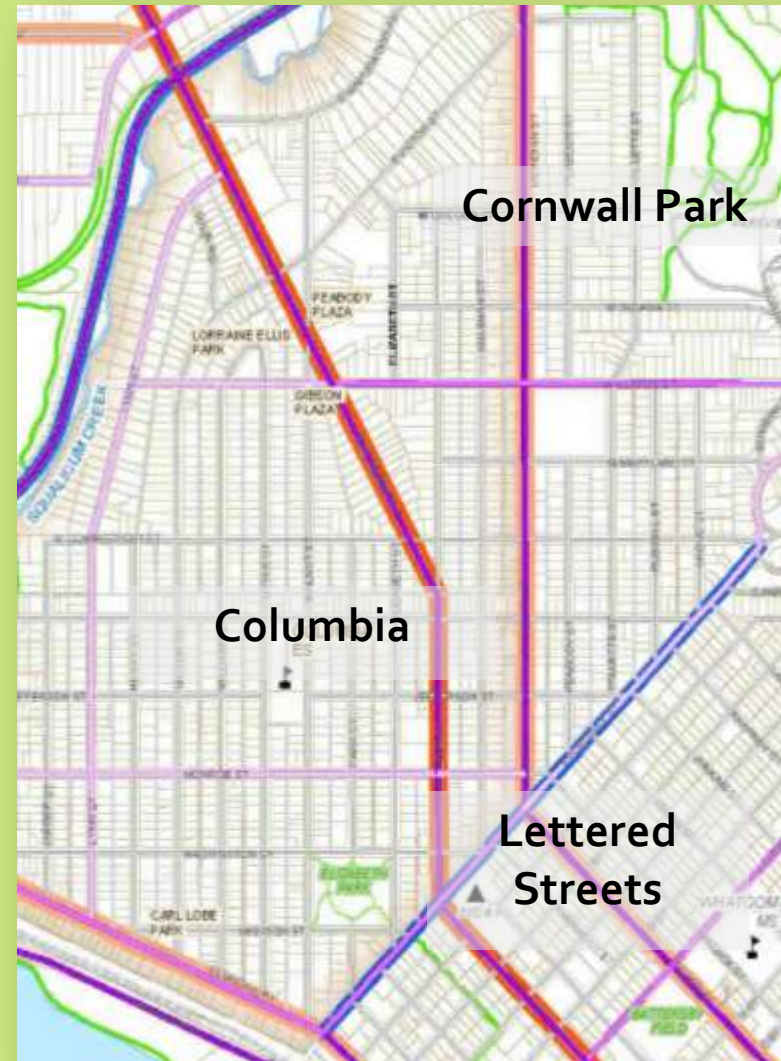
*Input gathered from meetings will be used to create:*

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

# Stakeholders

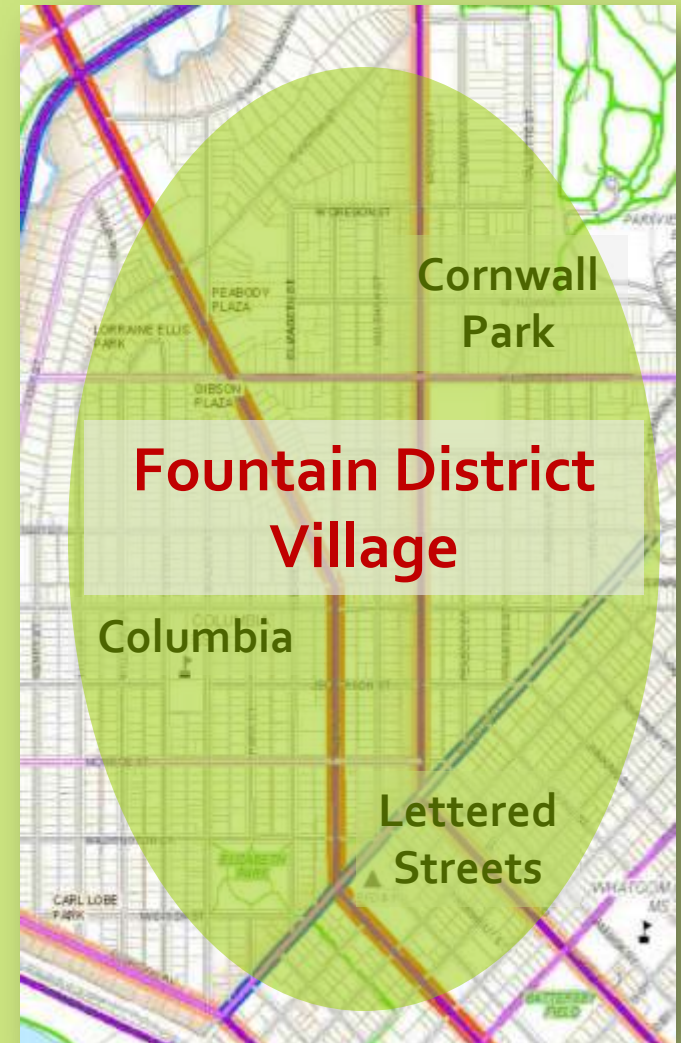
## Who is the “Village”?

- 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???*



# Three Neighborhoods = *One Village*

- As we work together to shape the character, commerce and quality of life in the Fountain District, think of the “village” *as its own entity*



# Project Overview and 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**

# Tonight's AGENDA

## **6:00 – 7:00 Presentations**

### Development Character

- Commercial Core and Transition Zones
- Residential Transition Zones
  - Scale, building forms, permitted uses

## **7:00 – 8:00 Exercise**

### Form and Function

# Meeting #2: What we heard from you

## Public Realm

### *Strengths*

- Good bike / pedestrian use
- Alley shared use
- Elm Street bike route
- Access to nearby parks
- On-street parking
  
- **Plaza Park** – tree, 3 neighborhoods converge, history, existing water feature opportunity, good location

### *Weaknesses*

- Need more street trees
- Meridian difficult to cross for pedestrians and bikes (and cars)
- Need more parking
  
- **Plaza Park** – needs TLC, not used much, fountain not working, bisected by Monroe Street



# Public Realm:

## Elements Affecting Street Character



Sidewalks



Lighting & Signage



Water & Art



Safety



Trees & Plants



Furniture



Parking

Cleanliness

# Public Realm:

## Elements Affecting Street Character

### Buildings

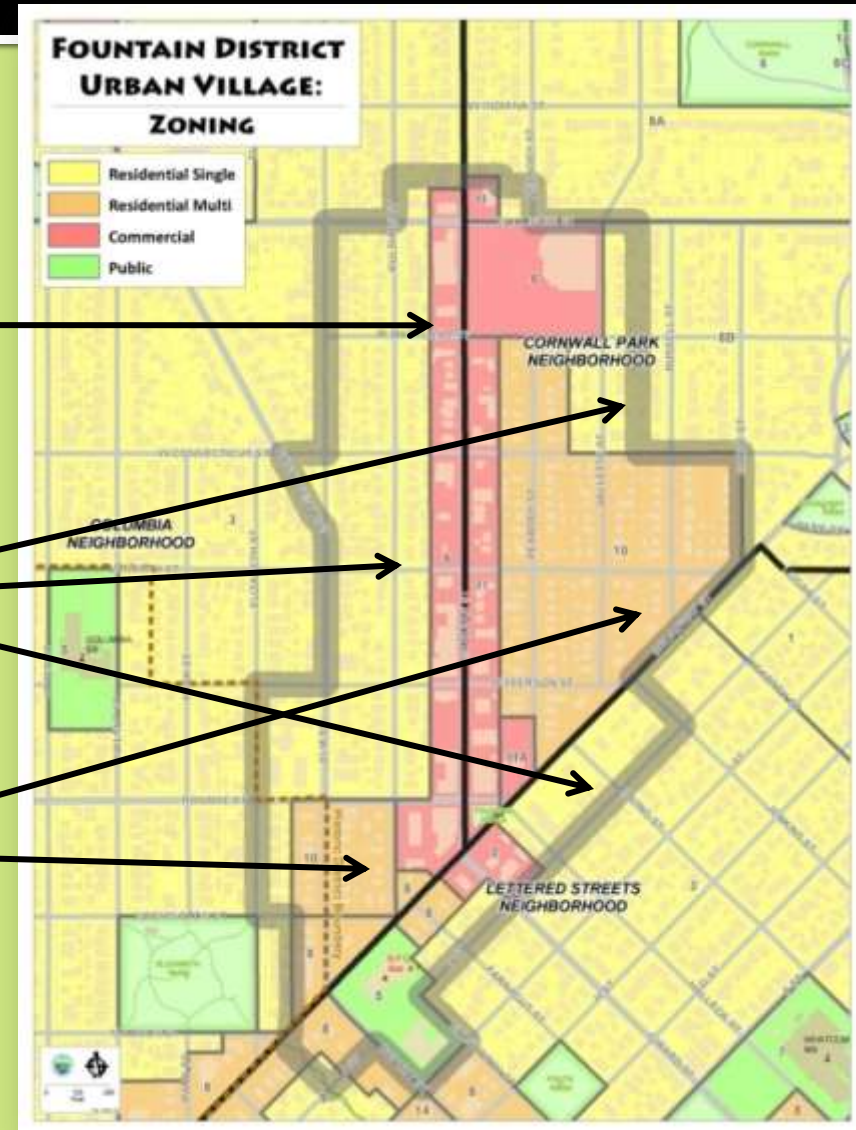
- Scale and Height
- Form and Mass
- Use
- Pedestrian-oriented Design



# Existing Rules (Zoning)

## Height and Form

- **Commercial** (red)
  - 35' – 1 and 2-story buildings and home conversions
- **Single Family** (yellow)
  - 35' - SF & Conditional Use
- **Multi-family** (orange)
  - 35' – Duplex & Office



# Fountain District Today

