Mike Smith

From: Ted Barkley
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2013 4:05 PM
To: City Council; Terry Weiner; Mike Smith
Subject: Fwd: Question regarding economic impact plans

See below...

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Jill Scheffer <schefferj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
> **Date:** August 22, 2013 2:25:52 PM MDT
> **To:** Ted Barkley <barkley@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>
> **Subject: FW: Question regarding economic impact plans**
>
> Ted - please forward to City Council, Bob and Mike -
>
> thanks!
>
> Jill
>
> ---
> From: Charles Marohn [marohn@strongtowns.org]
> Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 2:09 PM
> To: Jill Scheffer
> Subject: Re: Question regarding economic impact plans
>
> Jill,
>
> Sorry for the delay in getting back to you. I was heading out for vacation and the inbox got buried. Just getting caught up.
>
> Thanks for the email. I'm sorry but I've never heard of that type of impact analysis on a plan or visioning document. That would not really be the right place and time for such an analysis anyway.
>
> Economic data should be an input to the plan. This would be coarse data (trends and that kind of thing), not detailed impact analysis. A detailed impact analysis should then be done on a project by project basis. I would also recommend tracking economic data that would be relevant to you so that you can determine if you are meeting your goals.
>
> Let me know if I've misunderstood or if there is more I can help you with.
>
> -Chuck

On Mon, Aug 5, 2013 at 12:37 PM, Jill Scheffer
<schefferj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us<mailto:schefferj@ci.ellensburg.wa.us>> wrote:
Mr. Marohn -

I am a City Council member for the City of Ellensburg in WA State. Our City has been working on a development code update for the past couple years - a complete overhaul based on our new(ish) comprehensive plan which is heavily smart-growth focused - working with our consultant MAKERS and accepting a lot of community input to the process. Recently the building community has realized that this has been ongoing and are now coming out to engage and provide comment. It is unfortunately late in the process, but a welcome addition to the process nonetheless.

The reason I'm writing is that one of the builders submitted comments that he couldn't understand why the City hadn't completed an economic impact study on the implementation of the development code. This was confusing to me and I've been asking around a bit (I also work for Forterra a large land conservation organization which has a strong communities and cities program). No one I can find has ever heard anything like this nor knows of any municipalities who conduct such efforts.

I was pointed to you by a fellow staff member at Forterra who suggested your organization is doing some leading work in the area. I wonder if you have ever heard of such a requirement or if municipalities actually do such additional work when completing updates to their development codes?

I appreciate your response - thanks much.

Jill Scheffer

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Charles L. Marohn, Jr. PE AICP
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President and Co-Founder of Strong Towns
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Blog<http://www.strongtowns.org/journal/> | Podcast<http://www.strongtowns.org/strong-towns-podcast/> | Video<http://www.strongtowns.org/sid-tv/>
My latest book, Thoughts on Building Strong Towns<http://www.marohn.org>, is now available in paperback, Kindle or Nook.