

1 **Need for Timely Transparency in**
2 **Planning and Development Decisions**
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4 **WHEREAS** public notice in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act still keeps
5 citizens of Washington State and its cities, counties and towns in the dark regarding
6 plans to ignore city codes and comprehensive plans that have been in existence for
7 years to maintain the character, livability, and property values of those cities, counties
8 and towns;
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10 **WHEREAS** citizens have not been accorded meaningful, transparent notice of proposed
11 development decisions in time for them to have an effect on those decisions;
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13 **WHEREAS** failures to provide full and timely notice have, in a number of cases,
14 resulted in depriving disabled persons of access to buildings, businesses, parks and
15 transportation;
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17 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the WSDCC urges our State Legislature to revise
18 the Open Public Meetings Act so required public notice is made effective in all areas of
19 our state, including (1) publication of those proposals and changes therein, and (2) their
20 presentation to local residents well in advance of any decision(s) likely to affect the
21 concentration of cars or people, or environmental quality, parks, the urban canopy,
22 elderly or disabled people, or public health;
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24 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that those laws should require meaningful
25 opportunities for individual citizens' input at public meetings regarding local
26 development plans and their implementation in particular projects (including any
27 material modification of a previously approved plan or project), well before any final
28 decisions are made;
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30 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that residents and businesses within an
31 appropriate defined perimeter (which may vary based on local circumstances) be
32 notified of any zoning exception or development proposal that requires a hearing that
33 may cause changes in traffic flow of vehicles, bicycles or pedestrian movement, parking,
34 schools in the area, affordable housing, ADA communities, locally-owned businesses or
35 green spaces; and
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37 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the law should further require, for any
38 project having a broader impact, that affected residents of neighboring localities be
39 concurrently informed, even if in different counties if within the required perimeter,
40 and accorded timely opportunity to provide input.
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43 Submitted by the Disabilities Issues Caucus to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted
44 9/13/2014)

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46 The WSDCC tabled this resolution at its 9/13/2014 meeting.

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48 Resubmitted with changes by the original writer to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted
49 1/18/2015)

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51 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
52 "PASSED" at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.

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54 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 18, 2015 meeting in Pasco.