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| 5/30/18 |  | **Attachment A** |
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|  | Sponsored By: | Executive Committee |
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**GMPC MOTION NO. 18-1**

A MOTION outlining actions jurisdictions can take to facilitate the development and renovation of public schools within the Urban Growth Area.

WHEREAS the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) convened the School Siting Task Force in 2011 to address the issue of whether public schools serving primarily urban populations should be sited in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force completed their work on March 31, 2012, issuing a report and final recommendations to the King County Executive; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the work of the Task Force, three new policies were added to the 2012 King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) – PF-18, PF-19, and PF-19A; and

WHEREAS, student enrollments at school districts in King County are rapidly increasing causing a push to build more schools and school facilities and expand existing ones; and

WHEREAS, the school districts that have both urban and rural territory are focusing their efforts on building within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) consistent with the CPPs; and

WHEREAS, land sufficient for schools is scarce within the UGA and the regulatory structure can pose barriers to building quality schools; and

WHEREAS, the challenges with school siting affect both school districts with urban and rural territory and school districts with entirely urban territory; and

WHEREAS, school districts, cities, and King County collectively hold an interest in providing residents with needed school capacity within the UGA in a timely manner that makes best use of limited taxpayer resources; and

WHEREAS, school districts operate with limited financial resources and both the districts and general-purpose governments recognize an obligation to be responsible stewards of public funds;

THEREFORE, the King County GMPC endorses the following best practices for cities and the county working together with school districts to build new schools and school facilities within the UGA:

1. Identify surplus public properties that could work as new school sites.
2. Assist with identifying private properties that could be available for new school sites.
3. Look for opportunities for shared use of buildings, fields, parking and other facilities between the city or county and the school district.
4. Consider options and zoning for mixed-use development that could accommodate a school.
5. Investigate how regulations and processes can be modified to make challenging sites work for new, expanded, and renovated school facilities (such as providing flexible application of development regulations for height restrictions, maximum lot coverage, and parking standards) and consider the feasibility of allowing playfields in the Rural Area adjacent to schools located in the UGA and with direct access from the UGA.
6. Broaden the number of zone classifications within which schools are permitted to locate.
7. Coordinate the permit review process to improve certainty for school districts and to shorten the permitting process time (using priority permitting as appropriate).
8. Implement a phased review of school development so the school site may be modified as needed over time and so portable facilities may be sited and/or replaced in an efficient manner.
9. Work with school districts, to establish site-specific Transportation Demand Management (TDM) protocols to encourage more walking, biking, and transit ridership to reduce the need for parking.
10. Partner with school districts in the planning and financing needed to improve, if appropriate based on topography and surrounding neighborhood characteristics, walking and biking routes to the school.

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 Dow Constantine, Chair, Growth Management Planning Council