

# Public Sector Decision-Making & Consensus Facilitation

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BDS Planning & Urban Design



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## Agenda

### Session 1:

- Principles of Consensus Facilitation
- Decision Making Challenge Exercise Introduction
- *Break + Review Time*

### Session 2:

- Role Play Exercise
- Debrief / Recap

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# BDS Planning & Urban Design



Planning



Design



Engagement



Consensus



Management



Innovation



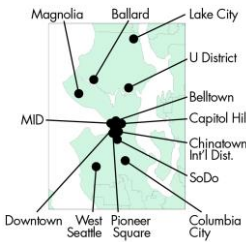
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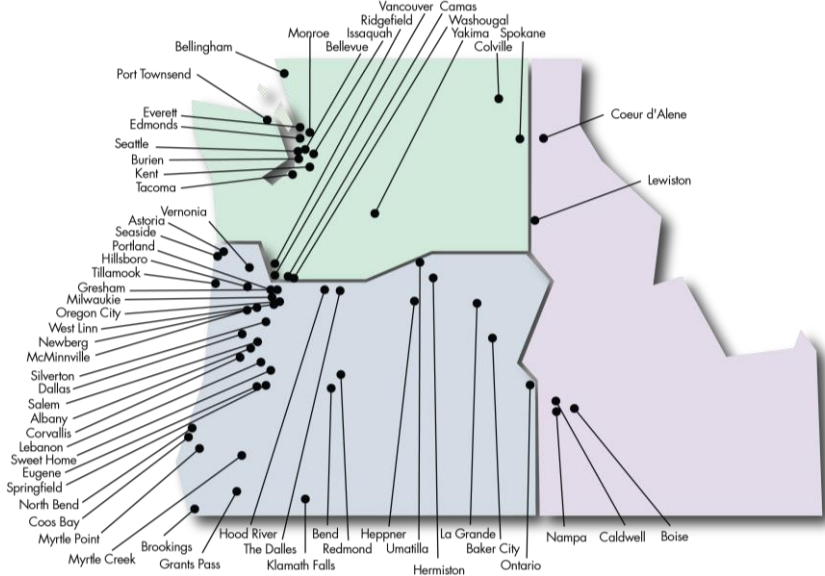
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Portland

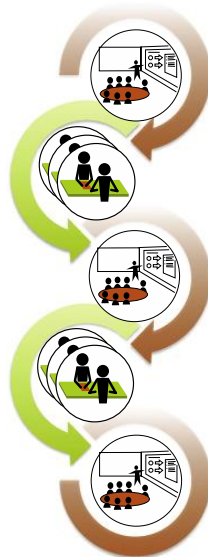


Seattle



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## Overview

- What is consensus **decision-making**?
- Achieving better **public policy**
- Setting **meetings** up for consensus
- **Procedures**
- One-on-one behind the scenes **feedback**

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## What is Consensus Decision-Making?

- Everyone knows they've been heard and can live with the results
- Solid ground rules, but informal style
- Specific structure for decisions

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## Achieving Better Public Policy

- Issues are not avoided, but addressed in a non-threatening way
- Everyone is allowed to state both public positions and private thoughts
- Identifying political and policy tradeoffs early in the process

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# Setting Up Meetings for Consensus

- Room set-up
- Ground rules
- Strong facilitation
- Humor
- Restate / check-in / restate again
- Graphic recording

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## Procedures

### Guiding Principles

- Equitable resources and opportunity
- Respect
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Champions for this effort
- Priorities
- Action & Change



### Ground Rules

- Everyone's voice counts
  - Take turns
  - Each perspective is valid
  - Listen respectfully
  - Questions are okay
- Forward movement
- Positive Recommendations



### Responsibilities

- Participate (no alternatives)
- Positive
- Perspective
- Acknowledge conflicts of interest
- Leverage resources
- Advocate
- Knowledge
- Share information



### Working Consensus

- Everyone gets their say
- Recommendations you can "live with"
- If we must vote: 80% = consensus (in attendance)


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## One-on-One Behind the Scenes Feedback

- Must haves and deal-breakers
- Issues that must be “off the table”
- Meeting pre-brief and debriefs
- Questions
- Approaches for elected officials, vis a vis staff, community advocates, etc.

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# Meeting Role Play Exercise

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