




CITY OF PULLMAN

Public Works and Planning Departments

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Pullman Planning Commission

FROM: Pete Dickinson, Planning Director 

FOR: Meeting of November 18, 2015

SUBJECT: Open Public Meetings Act Training

DATE: November 12, 2015

Last year, the Washington state legislature passed the "Open Government Trainings Act." Among other provisions, this law requires that all new members of governing bodies complete basic Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training within 90 days of their appointment, and it requires that all standing members receive "refresher" training at intervals of no more than four years. Planning commissions are classified as governing bodies under the terms of the Act.

The Act is designed to foster transparency by making open government education a recognized obligation of public service. The Act is also designed to reduce liability by educating agency officials and staff on the laws that govern them, in order to achieve greater compliance with those laws. Thus, the Act is a risk management requirement for public agencies.

At your upcoming meeting on November 18, planning staff has scheduled the presentation of a 27-minute video that will provide the requisite OPMA training. At the conclusion of the presentation, staff will issue Certificates of Training to the Commission members in attendance.