

VISION 2040 & Centers

people



prosperity



planet



VISION 2040 calls for the creation of central places with a mix of uses and activities. These centers are locations of more compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of residences, jobs, retail, and entertainment. They are identified to receive a greater portion of the region's population and employment growth. Centers are designed as places for improved accessibility and mobility — especially for walking, biking, and transit. As a result they also play a key transportation role.

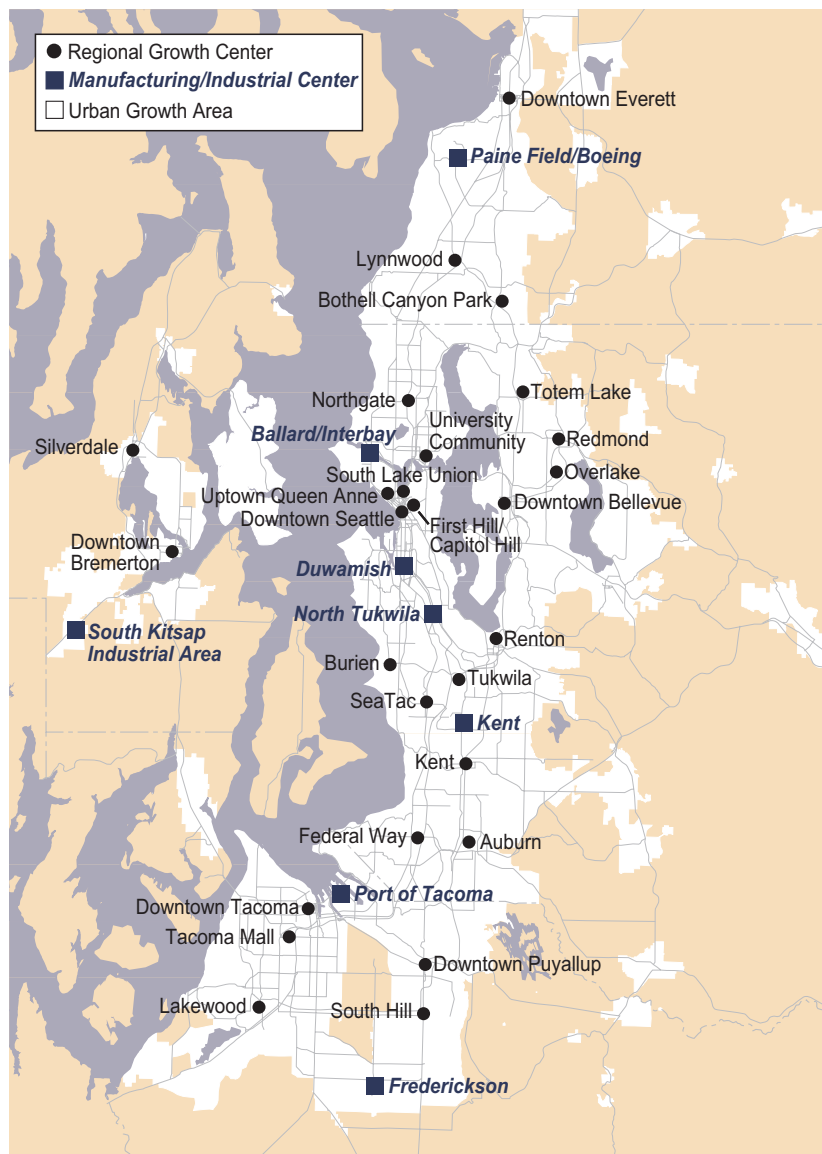
The Importance of Centers

Centers provide easy access to jobs, services, shopping, and entertainment. With their mix of uses and pedestrian-friendly design, they can rely less on forms of transportation that contribute to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Centers also provide community and economic benefits as gathering places and robust locations of commerce and business.

What's in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 identifies 27 *regional growth centers*. These places play an important role as locations of the region's most significant business, governmental, and cultural facilities. The 18 cities that have one or more *regional growth center* are expected to accommodate a significant portion of the region's residential growth (53 percent) and employment growth (71 percent).

Eight *regional manufacturing/industrial centers* have also been designated. These are locations for more intensive commercial and industrial activity. Both *regional growth centers* and *regional manufacturing/industrial centers* are focal points for economic development and transportation infrastructure investments.



Subregional centers, including downtowns in suburban cities and other neighborhood centers, also play an important role in VISION 2040's *Regional Growth Strategy*. These, too, are strategic locations for concentrating jobs, housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities. VISION 2040 calls for each of the region's cities to develop one or more central places as compact mixed-use hubs for concentrating residences, jobs, shops, and community facilities.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040's multicounty planning policies call for the region to focus significant residential and employment growth within centers. Regional centers are prioritized for regional infrastructure and economic development funding. Local jurisdictions with *regional growth centers* are to adopt housing and employment targets for each center.

Actions. VISION 2040 directs the Regional Council to continue to prioritize funding for projects and programs serving *regional centers*. The Regional Council and its member jurisdictions are also directed to pursue additional funding for *regional growth centers* to help develop center projects and facilities. The Regional Council is to evaluate existing designated *regional centers* to assess their consistency with VISION 2040's goals, as well as their overall performance.

At the countywide level, the Regional Council is directed to develop a common framework for identifying various types of subregional and secondary centers. VISION 2040 directs cities with designated centers to develop a subarea plan for each center. It also calls for these plans to establish transportation mode-split goals for each center, in order to increase walking, biking and transit use.

What this Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Countywide planning processes should reflect the common regional framework for identifying *subregional centers*. They should also ensure that their infrastructure and economic development funding efforts prioritize projects and services in centers. Additional strategies and incentives to encourage the development of centers should also be included.

All jurisdictions, as well as state agencies, transit providers, and special service districts, should do their part to plan for and support the development of centers. This includes streamlining the review process for development proposals for centers that meet regional and local goals to create more compact, mixed-use places. Planning for centers should include incentives for both redevelopment and new projects. Cities with regionally designated centers should ensure that subarea plans for their centers reflect established residential and employment growth targets, incorporate mode-split goals for transportation, and support strategies for a mix of residential housing types, including affordable housing.



For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses centers is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council's Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.