VISION 2040 consists of agencies, interest groups, and individuals to establish a common vision for the future.

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VISION 2040 recommits the region to:

- An environmental framework
- A regional growth strategy
- Policies to guide growth and development
- Implementation actions
- Measures to track progress

Toward a Sustainable Environment: A Framework for the Future

VISION 2040 contains a new feature for regional planning, an environmental framework that sets the stage for the document’s growth strategy, policies, actions, and measures to better assure that the region grows in ways that are consistent with an environment that supports a high quality of life well into the future. It recognizes that the needs of the region’s people, its economic prosperity, and the planet are tied together in a mutually supportive and interdependent way.

A Regional Growth Strategy

VISION 2040’s regional growth strategy defines a preferred long-range growth pattern for the central Puget Sound metropolitan area. It looks at the growth forecasted for the region from the year 2000 through 2040, and provides guidance for how different parts of the region can accommodate population and employment growth and fit into an overall regional strategy. The growth strategy focuses the majority of the region’s employment and housing growth into the largest cities, which contain more than two dozen designated regional growth centers. Designated centers in these cities are intended to attract residents and businesses because of their proximity to services and jobs, a variety of housing types, access to regional amenities, mass transit service, and other advantages. This focused strategy is designed to relieve growth pressure on sensitive environmental, rural and natural resource areas, as well as on smaller cities that will continue to offer a small-town lifestyle well into the future.

Multicounty Planning Policies

VISION 2040 establishes the region’s multicounty planning policies under the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A). The region’s growth management policies are organized into six subject areas: Environment, Development Patterns, Housing, Economy, Transportation, and Public Services. These policies play these key roles: (1) give official direction for implementing the regional growth strategy, (2) create a common framework for planning at various levels within the region, including countywide planning, local plans, transit agency plans, and others, and (3) provide the comprehensive policy structure for PSRC functional plans (the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy).

Actions and Measures

VISION 2040 includes actions and measures. Actions identify ways to implement the policies. Measures provide specific indicators and a monitoring and feedback program to inform decision-makers on the progress being made to implement VISION 2040.

VISION 2040: Recommitment, New Features, and a Fresh Approach

VISION 2040 reconfirms the region to:

- Focus growth in urban areas, concentrated in centers and compact communities.
- Strenthen linkages between land use and transportation planning.
- Preserve and protect rural and resource lands.
- Address the needs of a diverse population.

New features of VISION 2040

- Moves from a conceptual plan to a clear and specific numeric regional growth strategy based on forecast population and employment.
- A revised structure for multicounty planning policies that includes goals, policies, actions, and measures.
- An environmental framework for decision making and integration of growth management, transportation, and economic development planning.
- An expanded environmental policy section that addresses habitat, water and air quality, and climate change.
- Transportation policies emphasizing increased safety, more choices, and better mobility through improved transit, ferry and roads, transportation pricing, and mitigating environmental impacts, particularly greenhouse gas emissions.
- A strengthened economic sector focused on business, people, and place based on the Regional Economic Strategy.
- A new emphasis on housing affordability, supply and jobs/housing balance.
- New policies that address the relationship between the built environment and health.
- Attention to regional design.

For More Information

Please contact the PSRC Information Center at 206-664-7532 or info@psrc.org, or visit the PSRC website at psrc.org.