



Renton Transit Center

Monitoring Implementation and System Performance

The successful implementation of Transportation 2040 depends upon the development of a system of performance and implementation measures that provide early warning if current practices are not having the desired results. This system of monitoring is also useful for refining programming criteria and decision-making processes to ensure the region's investment strategy is supporting regional policy.

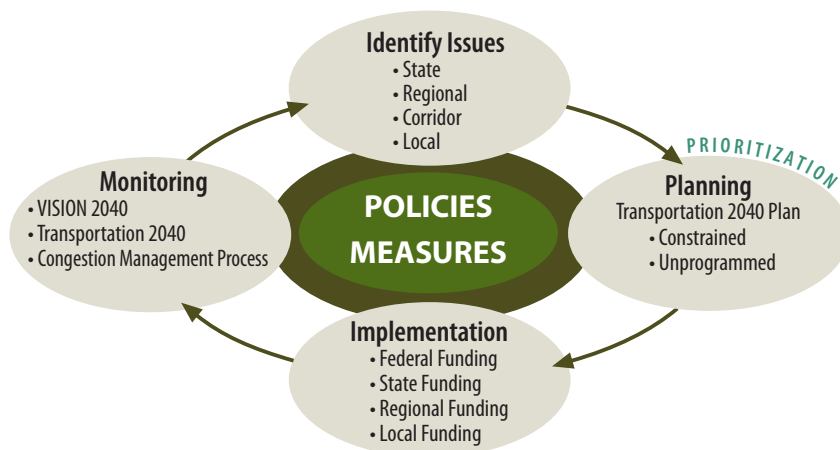
The region has committed to periodically report on environmental, growth management, transportation, and economic issues, based on the region's adopted goals and multicounty planning policies. This commitment allows the region's decision-makers to see whether the region, cities, counties, transit, and other agencies are taking the specific steps necessary to implement VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040.

The region relies on a framework of continuous data collection and review. Measures particularly relevant to Transportation 2040 include, but are not limited to:

1. Congestion relief and mobility for all transportation modes
2. Accessibility to transportation choices
3. Greenhouse gas and other emissions
4. Water quality
5. Land use and regional development patterns (as laid out in VISION 2040)
6. The extent and application of tolling and user fees
7. Public and private expenditures for transportation and regional transportation funding capacity
8. Transportation project completion and program implementation status

Figure 42 illustrates the relationship of the central Puget Sound region planning processes to the region's policy framework.

FIGURE 42. Planning, Implementation, and Monitoring Relationship



Monitoring Defined

Performance monitoring completes the link between plan policies and an investment strategy designed to implement those policies. Through evaluation of transportation metrics over time, the region can be sure that investments are achieving desired outcomes. In order to perform this function properly, the region will need to fully develop transportation performance measures that address the region's goals.

Performance measures provide policy makers and the public a framework for evaluating progress toward implementing adopted regional policies. These measures were established by describing desired policy outcomes and identifying measurable indicators for each outcome. If desired, the region could also set future targets for these indicators. Measures need to be both complex and flexible enough to reflect changing and uncertain conditions in the real

world, but simple and reliable enough to allow both comparison and sustained data collection into the future.

Plan implementation monitoring assesses progress the region makes toward realizing the investments and actions included in the plan. By establishing how the region has changed its transportation system over time it can, in conjunction with performance metrics assessed over the same time period, help to answer the question of which actions are best achieving the region's goals. It also assists in monitoring the progress of the plan's financial strategy by establishing what investments have been realized and at what cost.



Community Transit, Swift Bus

Developing the Monitoring Program

VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040 commit the region to periodically report on environmental, growth management, transportation, and economic issues, based on the region's adopted goals and multicounty planning policies. This commitment allows the region's decision-makers to see in a timely way whether the region, cities, counties, and agencies are taking the specific steps necessary to implement VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040. A comprehensive monitoring system will address, at minimum, the following areas:

1. Congestion relief and mobility for all transportation modes
2. Accessibility to transportation choices
3. Greenhouse gas and other emissions
4. Water quality
5. Land use and regional development patterns (as laid out in VISION 2040)
6. The extent and application of tolling and user fees
7. Public and private expenditures for transportation and regional transportation funding capacity
8. Transportation project completion and program implementation status

Data to support this monitoring commitment is not consistently available. Given the current reality of limited resources for enhanced data collection, PSRC will continue to work closely with regional planning partners to align the mutual existing resources in a way that will enable the realization of this monitoring commitment. To this end it will be necessary for the region to develop additional resources and mechanisms for interagency cooperation. This work is underway within the region's Congestion Management Process. PSRC anticipates building upon this effort, VISION 2040 implementation actions, and other monitoring efforts to realize these goals.

MONITORING COMMITMENTS IN VISION 2040

Transportation 2040 carries forward the implementation and performance measures adopted in VISION 2040. With the resources available, the Puget Sound Regional Council will strive to meet the broad intent of these implementation and performance measures, and regularly report to the region on progress. An element of the Transportation 2040 Action Strategy will be to reconcile the measures with available data and projected future resources.

VISION 2040 Transportation Monitoring. The monitoring framework established in VISION 2040 identified a key question about regional transportation:

Do we have a variety of efficient and safe transportation choices that support our growth strategy and offer greater options and better mobility?

To answer that question, VISION 2040 identified a variety of implementation measures, including:

- Identifying priority projects in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, funding transportation projects, and completing projects.
- Performance measures such as: travel mode splits, travel times, delay, traffic volumes, transit boardings, and total and per capita vehicle miles traveled
- safety trends for all modes of travel using data provided by the state and local jurisdictions within the region to monitor the regional progress of the Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Target Zero.

Other Measures. VISION 2040 also identified additional implementation and performance measures related to land use and the natural environment that have a direct relationship to Transportation 2040's guiding strategies of supporting the regional growth strategy, protecting water quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants. These measures include:

- Development densities
- Distribution and quantity of designated urban, rural, agriculture, forest, and mineral resource lands
- Water quality and impaired waters designations
- Number of unhealthy air days
- Annual average emissions of greenhouse gases — as information becomes available

FINANCIAL MONITORING

As described in Chapter 4, Transportation 2040 depends upon the implementation of new revenue sources that require action to be taken within a number of decision-making arenas: the state Legislature, the region, and ultimately with voters. Clearly articulated governmental roles and responsibilities, as well as greater performance accountability and decision-making transparency, are important elements of, and products resulting from, a regionally managed fund that is focused on ensuring that transportation improvements will be made. An understanding of progress on these

new sources is necessary for plan implementation monitoring. PSRC will track and report on progress made toward achieving the financial goals and objectives outlined in the Transportation 2040 financial strategy.

Regional financial capacity to implement Transportation 2040 is based on the adequacy of funds for each of the five principal transportation programs — city streets, county roads, public transit, state highways, and ferries.

MONITORING AND THE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

The Congestion Management Process is one tool for implementing elements of the Transportation 2040 monitoring framework. Periodic SMART Corridor Reports seek to report on these measures and apply other lessons learned during the Transportation 2040 plan update process.

SMART Corridor Reports provide a profile of existing land use and transportation conditions for 12 subareas within the four-county region. Following the publication of the first SMART Corridor Baseline Report in February 2010, future reports in the series can provide transportation system performance measures expanding on those identified in VISION 2040 to assess the transportation system against the Baseline SMART Corridor report. These reports include detailed information on the system, including current and previous land uses, transportation facilities and programs, and multimodal mobility performance. Where available, transportation system performance measures detailed in SMART Corridor reports include (but are not limited to) travel times, levels of service, transit congestion, ferry statistics, and park and ride utilization.

SMART Corridor reports, as a product of the Congestion Management Process, serve as a monitoring tool to assess the performance of the system and success of plan implementation. As issues arise out of the corridor reports, new solutions and needs may be identified which can be used as guidance in the project prioritization process.

A key element of the Transportation 2040 plan is the commitment to develop a new approach to prioritizing transportation programs and investments. This suggests more regional guidance in individual transportation project and program proposal and development. As discussed in Chapters 2 and 7, the Congestion Management Process must play a clear role in the evaluation of projects as they are considered for inclusion in the Transportation 2040 plan or as their status within the plan is changed.