Growing Transit Communities: A Corridor Action Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region will help local communities make the most of major new transit investments that will be built over the next 20 years. The goal is to provide all people the choice to live in affordable, vibrant, healthy and safe communities, where they can conveniently walk or take a train or a bus to work, and have good access to services, shopping and other activities.

A central strategy to achieve this goal will be promoting compact, equitable communities along the region’s growing high-capacity transit corridors. Growing Transit Communities is a new regional effort to break down implementation barriers to regional plans and test innovative approaches to advance equitable transit-oriented development in communities along the region’s planned light rail corridors.

The Puget Sound Regional Council will coordinate stakeholders from local governmental jurisdictions, businesses, community organizations, and others to develop a Corridor Action Strategy for each of the region’s three light rail transit corridors.

The Corridor Action Strategy process will strive to meet the following goals:

- Engage a wide variety of stakeholders to collaborate on strategies and action steps to achieve a vision for equitable transit-oriented communities in each corridor.
- Develop existing conditions reports that describe corridor station areas and identify land use, fiscal and policy barriers, and opportunities for achieving inclusive transit-oriented communities.
- Reach agreement on a vision and strategy for each corridor that meets the needs of current and future residents by achieving housing affordable to a wide range of incomes, reduced transportation costs, better environmental outcomes, and access to economic opportunity.
- Implement corridor strategies through agreements between local governments, businesses, community organizations and transit providers on actions that will be taken in regional high-capacity transit station areas, with an emphasis on current and future light rail corridors.
Working in parallel with efforts to promote affordable housing and social equity outcomes, the Corridor Action Strategy will integrate information and recommendations from these initiatives to foster diverse transit-oriented communities in the region’s light rail corridors.

The North Corridor: Seattle to Everett

The North Corridor extends over 30 miles from downtown Seattle to downtown Everett, encompassing a portion of light rail in downtown Seattle, the University LINK light rail currently under construction to the University of Washington campus, and the North LINK light rail line scheduled to reach Northgate by 2020. Funding secured from Sound Transit 2 will extend high-capacity transit to Lynnwood. A potential light rail extension includes a connection between Lynnwood and Everett.

A total of five planned and eight potential station areas exist between downtown Seattle and Lynnwood, in addition to four existing stations in downtown Seattle. Between Lynnwood and Everett, 15 major activity nodes — defined by residential and/or employment significance or existing transit service — have been identified as possible future station areas for further study. The station areas include major employment centers, such as Paine Field, residential neighborhoods, such as Roosevelt, and major institutions, such as higher education campuses. To-date planning for transit-oriented communities in the corridor ranged from recently completed neighborhood and subarea plans around several existing stations, to long-range visioning exercises along corridor segments, to preliminary light rail alignment studies.

The North Corridor Task Force will address key issues for the corridor, to include:

- Transitioning to pedestrian-scale land uses and design along auto-oriented corridors.
- Overcoming historical market barriers to development.
- Achieving station area growth in ways that preserve community assets for current and future residents.
- Linking a range of housing choices with centers that offer living wage employment opportunities.

For more information:
Please visit psrc.org or contact Sara Nikolic at 206-971-3288 or snikolic@psrc.org

North Corridor extends over 30 miles from downtown Seattle to downtown Everett. Currently Community Transit Swift serves a 17-mile segment from Shoreline to Everett with bus rapid transit.

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