**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 East Corridor: Seattle to Redmond**

The East Corridor will connect the Eastside’s biggest population and employment centers with stations in Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond. The corridor includes the Sound Transit 2 funded East LINK light rail line scheduled to reach Overlake by 2022 or 2023, as well as a potential extension to downtown Redmond. The 14.5 mile light rail route includes 12 station areas. Construction is expected to start in 2015 or 2016 and launch passenger service in 2022 or 2023.

The station areas include major employment centers, such as downtown Bellevue and the Microsoft Campus, residential neighborhoods, such as South Bellevue, and major institutions, such as Bellevue College. Extensive planning for transit-oriented communities has occurred in the corridor, including recently completed neighborhood and subarea plans around several existing stations, extensive light rail alignment studies, and a corridor environmental impact statement.

In the nearer term, a planned King County Metro RapidRide B line — with service slated to begin in fall 2011 — will serve much of the corridor with a bus rapid transit connection between the Bellevue Transit Center, Overlake Transit Center, and the downtown Redmond Transit Center.

The East Corridor Task Force will focus on identifying and implementing approximately three demonstration projects to address key issues and implementation steps within the corridor, potentially addressing issues such as:

- Mixed use development funding strategies
- Environmental strategies
- Market analysis for transit-oriented development.

For more information:

Please visit psrc.org or contact Ben Bakkenta at 206-971-3286 or bbakkenta@psrc.org

The 14.5 mile East Corridor will connect Seattle with the Eastside through Mercer Island, Bellevue, and Redmond.

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