

PSRC PLAN REVIEW REPORT & CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

CITY OF KENMORE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

August 27, 2015



BACKGROUND

A major emphasis of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) is the need to coordinate local, regional, and state planning efforts. To advance this coordination, the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is required to formally certify that regional transit plans, countywide planning policies, and local comprehensive plans within the central Puget Sound region conform to: (1) established regional guidelines and principles, (2) the adopted long-range regional transportation plan, and (3) transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act. Within the central Puget Sound region, the multicounty planning policies (MPPs) have been established as the regional guidelines and principles under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 47.80.026. Certification of local plans and policies is also a requirement for jurisdictions and agencies that intend to apply for PSRC funding or proceed with any project submitted into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, regardless of funding source.

Within the central Puget Sound region, local governments and PSRC have worked together to develop an overall process ([Adopted Policy and Plan Review Process](#), Revised September 2003) for reviewing and certifying local, countywide, regional, and transit agency policies and plans.¹ This process also provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information related to local and regional planning. A set of materials, compiled in a [Plan Review Manual](#), provides details on the review and certification process, background, and framework. The manual also provides guidance and checklists for aligning plans and policies with [VISION 2040](#), [Transportation 2040](#), and [Growth Management Act](#) requirements.

DISCUSSION

This report summarizes the findings and recommendations regarding the periodic update to the comprehensive plan for the City of Kenmore, adopted by the city on June 22, 2015. PSRC last certified the Kenmore comprehensive plan in January 2011. PSRC staff reviewed the 2015 comprehensive plan and coordinated with city staff in the development of this report.

CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

Based on the review of the City of Kenmore comprehensive plan, the following action is recommended to the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, and Executive Board:

The Puget Sound Regional Council certifies that the transportation-related provisions in the City of Kenmore 2015 comprehensive plan conform to the Growth Management Act and are consistent with multicounty planning policies and the regional transportation plan.

The remainder of this report contains a summary of the PSRC review of the City of Kenmore comprehensive plan update. Under each heading, the scope of the certification review, as guided by the [Plan Review Manual](#) and

¹ The certification requirement in the Growth Management Act is described in RCW 47.80. The specific requirements for transportation elements in local comprehensive plans are spelled out in RCW 36.70A.070. PSRC's Interlocal Agreement, Section VII, also provides direction for the review of local comprehensive plans and countywide policies (Resolution A-91-01, amended March 1998). The Council's Executive Board last updated its process for Policy and Plan Review in September 2003. The process is also described in VISION 2040, Part IV: Implementation.

Local Comprehensive Plan Checklist, is listed in high level bullets. Discussion in each topic area highlights exemplary provisions of the plan, as well as issues identified through the certification review where future work is needed to more fully address VISION 2040, Transportation 2040, or GMA planning requirements.

Part I: Conformity with Growth Management Act Transportation Planning Requirements

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.070(6)) includes several requirements related to transportation elements in local comprehensive plans. These requirements are summarized as follows:

Land use assumptions and forecasts of travel demand that are internally consistent and consistent with growth targets.

Service and facility needs, including inventories of existing facilities, and level-of-service standards and concurrency provisions that address multiple modes of travel, planned land uses and densities, and state highways.

Financing and investments, including a multiyear financing plan and reassessment strategy to address potential funding shortfalls.

Intergovernmental coordination with neighboring cities, counties, and regional and state agencies.

Demand management, including programs to implement the Commute Trip Reduction Act.

Pedestrian and bicycle planning, including project funding and capital investments, education, and safety.

Land uses adjacent to airports, identifying relevant facilities, existing and planned uses, and policies that discourage incompatible uses.

Air quality is largely an interjurisdictional issue in which each jurisdiction's travel behaviors, measured through vehicle emissions, affect the regional airshed. The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requires local transportation elements and plans to include "policies and provisions that promote the reduction of criteria pollutants" for mobile sources (WAC 173-420-080). When PSRC reviews plans, it also certifies that the comprehensive plans include air quality policies and provisions, including a commitment to meeting the requirements of applicable federal and state air quality legislation.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the transportation planning requirements of the GMA and includes adequate air quality policies and provisions. Highlights include:

- ☑ Policy T-2.4.1 and other policies support a multimodal transportation system through supportive land use patterns and investments such as local and regional transit improvements, carpool and vanpool programs, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, transportation demand management measures, and roadway efficiency improvements.
- ☑ Many policies in the transportation element work toward improving street safety and function with a particular emphasis on the city's "Target Zero" goal (adopted City Resolution 14-235)--by 2025 to have no pedestrian or bicycle deaths or serious injuries as the result of a collision with a motorized vehicle.
- ☑ The plan supports the safe operations of Kenmore Air Harbor through policies that encourage coordination and ensure compatible adjacent land uses.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The city should address the following comment at the earliest opportunity through future amendments to the comprehensive plan, subarea plans, or functional plans:

- Include Kenmore Air Harbor in the city's inventory of air transportation facilities, including the approximate location of the take-off and landing areas on Lake Washington, and general aircraft flight paths used on take-off and landing. It may also be useful to discuss measures to ensure safety given the mix of seaplane traffic, boats, and other water activity around the air harbor.

Part II: Consistency with Regional Plans and Policies

OVERVIEW

This section discusses consistency with the adopted multicounty planning policies (established regional guidelines and principles under RCW 47.80.026) adopted in VISION 2040, and Transportation 2040, the region's long-range transportation plan. In addition to the multicounty planning policies, VISION 2040 contains a regional growth strategy with a preferred distribution of the region's residential and employment growth, as well as a number of implementation actions for local governments to carry out. Each policy area addressed in VISION 2040 is discussed in turn below.

VISION 2040 Context Statement

VISION 2040 calls for local plans to include a context statement that describes how the comprehensive plan addresses regional policies and provisions adopted in VISION 2040. The city includes a general description of VISION 2040 in the plan. The city should more explicitly describe how the plan addresses VISION 2040 when the city next amends the comprehensive plan. Examples of context statements are provided in PSRC's [Plan Review Manual](#), page 2-1.

Environment

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 calls for local comprehensive plans to address the following environmental policy topics:

Stewardship, including addressing the natural environment throughout the plan, decisions based on best-available science, and regional environmental initiatives.

Earth and habitat, including open space protection, restoration and protection of native vegetation, and coordination with adjacent jurisdictions.

Water quality, including actions that maintain hydrologic functions and reduce water pollution in ecosystems, watersheds, shorelines, and estuaries.

Air quality and climate change, addressing federal and state laws, reduction of pollutants, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency policies, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the environmental policy topics in VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- The plan's focus on sustainability, which includes a commitment to developing a sustainability action plan, support for community gardens and farmers markets, and other actions to promote social equity, sustainable economic prosperity and environmental health.
- Policy LU-13.5.2 in the plan to promote green infrastructure such as the planting of street trees.

- ☑ Policy LU-13.1.1 addresses improving air quality by promoting mixed-use and compact development forms, particularly in the downtown, which will help reduce vehicle miles travelled and associated emissions.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The certification review did not identify any major areas for improvement of the plan to better align with regional guidelines and principles on the environment.

Development Patterns—Including the Regional Growth Strategy

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 calls for local comprehensive plans to address the following development patterns policy topics:

Urban areas, including targets for housing and employment growth, compact communities that support transit and walking, and provisions for redevelopment of underused land.

Centers, including planning for one or more central places as locations for compact, mixed-use development, with policies that prioritize funding to centers to advance development.

Unincorporated urban areas, including policies that advance annexation and orderly transition of governance.

Resource lands, including identification of steps to limit development.

Regional design, addressing local provisions that apply the Transportation 2040 Physical Design Guidelines, energy efficient building, historic preservation, and enhanced sense of community.

Health and active living, addressing healthy environment, physical activity and well-being, and safety.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the development patterns policies in VISION 2040.

Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan's commitment to supporting the development of a vibrant, mixed-use, pedestrian-oriented downtown. Policies and provisions calling for investments, incentives, and other strategies will help the city attract the desired development and redevelopment.
- ☑ Policies such as LU-1.1.3 and LU-1.1.4 encourage physical activity such as walking and bicycling through incentives, regulations, development standards, programs, and supportive land use patterns.
- ☑ Many policies support establishing densities and development standards and promoting infill development that allows for efficient infrastructure and service delivery while protecting environmental resources and community character.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The city should address the following comment at the earliest opportunity through future amendments to the comprehensive plan, subarea plans, or functional plans:

- ☐ PSRC commends the city for affirmatively planning for a significant share of the county's growth, as called for in the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2040. While coordination with city staff has established that these land use assumptions are consistent throughout the plan, this could be made clearer by documenting a consistent set of population, housing, and employment growth assumptions through 2035 in each applicable element in the plan.

Housing

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 calls for local comprehensive plans to address the following housing policy topics:

Increased housing production opportunities, including diverse types and styles for all income levels and demographic groups.

Affordable housing needs, including an assessment of existing and future housing needs based on regional and local factors, including household income, demographics, special needs populations, and adequacy of existing housing stocks.

Regional housing objectives in VISION 2040, including promotion of housing diversity and affordability, jobs-housing balance, housing in centers, and flexible standards and innovative techniques.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the housing provisions in VISION 2040. The plan incorporates a number of housing best practices that address identified housing needs. Highlights include:

- Policy H-1.4.2, which calls for offering density bonuses and density transfers to achieve a compact, vital downtown as well as to meet environmental and affordable housing goals.
- Many policies support the safety, health, mobility and social needs of families, children and persons with special needs.
- Many policies support the creation and preservation of housing affordable for all income levels. One of the housing implementation strategies calls for adopting a Housing Strategy Plan that outlines action steps and priorities.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The city should address the following comment at the earliest opportunity through future amendments to the comprehensive plan, subarea plans, or functional plans:

- The housing element advances many of the VISION 2040 policies on housing and housing affordability (MPP-H-1-3). The adopted plan includes a commitment to develop a housing strategy with more detail and direction on implementation tools. The city should prioritize adoption of a housing strategy over the near term, if possible within the next year, including any amendments to the comprehensive plan that may be appropriate. For more information on housing issues, see PSRC's [housing webpage](#).

Economy

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 calls for local comprehensive plans to address the following economic development policy topics:

Include an **economic development element** that addresses business, people, and places.

Retention and recruitment efforts that support family wage jobs, industry clusters that export goods and services, and small businesses that are locally owned.

Equitable benefits and impacts, including provisions and programs that promote economic vitality in distressed areas or areas with disadvantaged populations.

Adequate housing growth in centers through collaboration with the private sector and through the provision of infrastructure.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the economy policies in VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ Policies and provisions which support strengthening the economy in a manner that creates job opportunities for all citizens, protects environmental quality, and utilizes public/private partnerships.
- ☑ Policies LU-25.5.1-3 support Kenmore’s downtown as a focal point for commercial and economic revitalization and growth.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The certification review did not identify any major areas for further work under the topic of economy to better align the plan with regional guidelines and principles.

Transportation

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040 call for local comprehensive plans to address the following transportation policy topics:

- Maintenance, management, and safety**, including clean transportation with reductions in pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, environmental factors, health and safety, stable and predictable funding sources, system and demand management strategies, and security and emergency response.
- Support for the Regional Growth Strategy**, including system improvements that align with planned growth, prioritized investments that support compact development in centers, joint- and mixed-use development, complete streets and improvements to promote biking and walking, and context-sensitive design.
- Improved transportation options and mobility**, including alternatives to driving alone, facilities and services for special needs transportation, avoidance of new or expanded facilities in rural areas, and financing methods.
- Linking land use and transportation**, including integrating Transportation 2040 physical design guidelines in planning for centers and transit station areas, and land development tools that promote transportation alternatives.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city’s comprehensive plan effectively addresses the major transportation emphases in VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040, including maintenance, management, and safety; support for the Regional Growth Strategy; and providing greater options and mobility. Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan’s focus on reducing the need for automobile travel, especially by single-occupant vehicle. To accomplish this, the plan provides support for strategies such as compact and mixed-use development, improving transit service and pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and increasing safety for all users.
- ☑ Policy T-1.2 and other policies prioritize city investments downtown, reinforcing and supporting the city’s vision of developing a compact, pedestrian- and transit-oriented center.
- ☑ Policies in the plan encourage managing stormwater runoff from transportation facilities to improve water quality.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The certification review did not identify any major areas for further work under the topic of transportation to better align the plan with regional guidelines and principles.

Public Services

SCOPE OF REVIEW

VISION 2040 calls for local comprehensive plans to address the following public services policy topics:

Promote more efficient use of existing services, such as waste management, energy, and water supply, through conservation--including demand management programs and strategies.

Promote renewable energy and alternative energy sources.

Plan for long-term water needs, including conservation, reclamation and reuse.

DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS

The city's comprehensive plan effectively addresses the public services provisions of VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ Many policies in the public services element address efficient municipal services that meet the needs of the community. Effective public involvement is a key strategy in understanding the community's needs.
- ☑ The utilities element promotes water, energy and solid waste conservation through a variety of programs and partners.

DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The certification review did not identify any major areas for further work under the topic of public services to better align the plan with regional guidelines and principles.

Conclusion

PSRC staff thank the jurisdiction for working through the plan review process. PSRC is available to provide assistance for future plan updates and additional planning resources can also be found at <http://www.psrc.org/growth/planreview/resources/>. If the city has questions or needs additional information, please contact Erika Harris at 206-464-6360 or eharris@psrc.org.