VISION 2040 to 2050

October 2020

VISION 2040 served as a basic building block for VISION 2050. This document summarizes the differences between VISION 2040 and VISION 2050. Full detail about changes to the multicounty planning policies and actions are provided in a [summary table](#) with strike-through edits.

Overall, VISION 2050:
- Retains the same core emphasis on a strong economy, healthy environment, preserving farms and forests, and supporting growth within the urban growth area and centers
- Retains the same plan structure as VISION 2040, with a numeric Regional Growth Strategy, multicounty planning policies, and actions
- Identifies new regional outcomes and a vision statement for the region
- Addresses equity and health in policies and actions throughout the plan
- Supports implementation of recent plans and initiatives, like the Regional Transportation Plan, the Regional Economic Strategy, the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan, the Regional Centers Framework, and Growing Transit Communities

Regional Collaboration (formerly the General chapter)
- Recognizes the need to work collaboratively across jurisdictions
- Retains focus on outreach, engagement, and funding to support VISION implementation
- Consolidates regional funding policies in the Regional Collaboration chapter
- Includes new policies on coordination with tribes and military installations and a new action to develop a Regional Equity Strategy
- Includes a new action for future work to incorporate funding criteria related to communities near military installations

Regional Growth Strategy
Regional geographies
- Retains concept of growth allocations by regional geography (groups cities and unincorporated areas by characteristics; not by individual jurisdiction)
- Changes some regional geography categories based on transit and annexation:
    - Differentiates urban unincorporated areas by whether they are or will be served by high-capacity transit and if they are planned for annexation or incorporation
    - Adds regional geographies to acknowledge role of tribes and military installations
Growth allocations
- Similar to VISION 2040, accommodates most growth in Metropolitan and Core cities

- Allocates more growth to cities with existing and planned high capacity transit and less to rural areas compared to VISION 2040
- Adds a goal for 65% of region's population growth and 75% of employment growth in regional growth centers and near high-capacity transit
- Similar to VISION 2040, shifts 5% of expected employment growth from King County to encourage planning for employment growth and improved job-housing balance in other counties

Policies and actions
- Incorporates the Regional Growth Strategy in the multicounty planning policies to provide a better nexus between the policy and growth strategy
- Incorporates guidance on aligning growth targets with the Regional Growth Strategy
- Supports the upcoming round of countywide growth target setting (2021) and local plan updates (2024)

Environment
- Continues focus on environmental stewardship, protection of farms and forests, and improving air quality
- Incorporates new policies and actions to more strongly support the recovery of Puget Sound, conservation of the regional open space network and access to open space

Climate Change
- Includes a new Climate Change chapter
- Supports the various state, regional and local goals, targets, and activities
- Seeks to advance the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Includes a new action directing a Greenhouse Gas Strategy that builds off of PSRC's existing Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy
- Seeks local plans to include policies and actions to address climate change

Development Patterns
- Continues support for urban design and connectivity, maintaining the rural area, and using land use tools to conserve farms and forests
- Incorporates new policies and actions on displacement risk, opportunity mapping, health disparities, and transit-oriented development to address equitable development
- Directs implementation of the Regional Centers Framework

Housing
- Continues focus on providing housing choices and addressing housing affordability
- Incorporates new policies to promote affordable housing in all development, expand moderate density housing, and identify and work to mitigate displacement
- New policy and action call out the need for high-job growth communities to plan for additional housing capacity
- Identifies new actions to develop a regional housing strategy, including a regional housing needs assessment

- Adds new action to develop anti-displacement strategies
- Directs support for local housing efforts

Economy
- Continues emphasis on supporting industry clusters and workforce development
- Incorporates new and revised policies and actions to support economic development throughout the region, encourage jobs in proximity to housing, and work to mitigate commercial displacement

Transportation
- Updates information about the regional transportation system, including recent investments made to roads, transit, and ferries
- Continues focus on providing a safe and connected multimodal transportation system, linking centers, and supporting the Regional Growth Strategy
- Incorporates new policies and actions addressing stormwater, electrification, and emissions reductions, changing transportation technology, and aviation capacity needs in the region
- Supports the 2022 update of the Regional Transportation Plan

Public Services
- Continues focus on demand management, conservation, and sustainable utilities and public services
- Incorporates new policies on climate change, resilience, and water supply management
- Addresses change to state law regarding school siting and adds policy on working collaboratively to site and design urban schools

Implementation
- Continues use of PSRC implementation tools of regional planning, plan review, funding, providing local guidance, communicating with the Legislature, and the PSRC work program
- Incorporates a new action to create new monitoring program to track implementation

For additional information about VISION 2050, please visit https://www.psrc.org/vision