

# PSRC PLAN REVIEW REPORT & CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

## CITY OF WOODINVILLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

January 28, 2016



### BACKGROUND

The Washington State Growth Management Act calls for coordination between local, regional, and state planning efforts. To advance this coordination, state law requires PSRC to 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 in VISION 2040 have been established as the regional guidelines and principles under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 47.80.026. Certification of local comprehensive plans 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 Woodinville, adopted by the city on December 15, 2015. PSRC last certified the City of Woodinville's comprehensive plan in February 2012. PSRC staff reviewed the updated 2015 comprehensive plan and coordinated with city staff in the development of this report.

### CERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATION

Based on the review of the City of Woodinville 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 Woodinville 2015 comprehensive plan update 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 Woodinville comprehensive plan update. Under each heading, the scope of the certification review, as guided by the [Plan Review Manual](#) and

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<sup>1</sup> 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, and Growth Management Act 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 of Woodinville's comprehensive plan effectively addresses many of the transportation planning requirements of the Growth Management Act and includes adequate air quality policies and provisions. Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan directs the city to provide for a complete system of sidewalks in the downtown area that connects the retail areas to transit, the regional trail system, parking, parks and public facilities (Policy T-2.5).
- ☑ Policies T-4.1.B, C and D provide the basis for multimodal level-of-service standards, including pedestrian, bicycle and transit standards.
- ☑ Policy T-7.1 promotes using Transportation Demand Management techniques to help increase the person-carrying capacity of the transportation system, reduce peak period traffic congestion, encourage the use of high-occupancy vehicles, and increase use of public transportation.

### 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:

- RCW 36.70A.070(6)(a)(iv) requires local plans to include a multiyear transportation financing plan for the mobility needs identified for the 20-year planning period. The plan provides important information such as lists of transportation projects with estimated costs. Financing needs through 2035 could be more clearly identified if the estimated costs and revenues were assembled and summed in a table. Based on the comparison of estimated costs and revenues, it may be necessary to revise and expand on the current reassessment strategy to document steps the city could take to close the gap, if any, between costs and revenues. Commerce’s [Transportation Element Guidebook](#) discusses finance on pages 202 through 212.

## 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 Regional Plan Coordination section in Chapter 1 describes how the comprehensive plan addresses regional policies and provisions adopted in VISION 2040.

### 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 Woodinville comprehensive plan addresses the environmental policy topics in VISION 2040 with strong goals and actionable policies. Highlights include:

- ☑ Goal E-1 and Policies E-1.1-12 encourage the preservation and enhancement of aquatic and wildlife habitat through strategies such as protecting critical areas, providing restoration incentives, and encouraging preservation of the urban forest.
- ☑ Goal E-3 and Policies E-3.1-5 protect and improve water quality and management of water quantity through promoting low impact development techniques and reduction of impervious surfaces.
- ☑ The plan includes provisions to protect air quality and proactively address climate change adaptation and mitigation (Goal E-5 and Policies E-5.1-3).

### DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

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

## Development Patterns – Including 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 many of the development patterns policies in VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ Policy LU-2.1 directs the city to focus growth in compact and inviting mixed-use centers that have the capacity to absorb development (i.e., areas with vacant or underdeveloped land and available utility, street, park, and school capacity, or where such facilities can be effectively provided) and where environmental impacts can be minimized. Policy T-3.3 D supports this center strategy by encouraging the allocation of resources for downtown improvements.
- ☑ The plan promotes land use and community design that encourage healthy living through encouraging active transportation, providing recreational facilities, and increasing access to healthy foods (Goal LU-3 and Policies LU-3.1-5).
- ☑ Goal LU-6 and Policies LU-6.1-4 encourage the development and integration of inviting and distinctive public spaces throughout the city with greatest emphasis in downtown, mixed-use areas, and within multifamily districts.
- ☑ The plan supports the efficient use of urban land by promoting infill development (Policy H-2).

### DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

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

## 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 contained in VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan supports a variety of housing types through encouraging mixed use development, small and large lot single family development, accessory dwelling units, townhomes, duplexes, multiplexes, apartments, and manufactured housing (Policy H-1).
- ☑ Policy H-3 directs the city to accommodate Woodinville's regionally determined housing growth target and support regional objectives for housing diversity, affordability, innovative and flexible techniques, and jobs-housing balance.
- ☑ The plan promotes affordable housing by calling for height and density bonuses for affordable housing, a first-time homebuyers program for low- or moderate-income buyers, and permit and impact fee waivers for affordable units (Policy H-9).

#### **DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK**

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

## **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 provision of infrastructure.

#### **DISCUSSION: EXEMPLARY PLAN PROVISIONS**

The city's comprehensive plan addresses many of the economic provisions of VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan encourages the growth and diversification of the city's businesses by focusing business attraction and retention efforts on targeted sectors and locally owned firms (Goal ED-1 and Policy ED-1.1).
- ☑ Policy ED-1.6 supports small businesses, professional businesses, and businesses that serve minority populations through preserving lower cost incubator space through zoning and incentives, partnering with the Chamber and local educational institutions to provide business support programs, and conducting regular business outreach to understand how the city can ease the challenges of local small businesses including, codes, fees, and access to city services.
- ☑ The plan supports the quality and quantity of Woodinville's job base and businesses by directing the city to increase housing options for residents and workers for a mix of income levels (Policy ED-3.1).

## 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 economic development.

## 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 Woodinville comprehensive plan 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:

- ☑ Policy T-3.1 E directs the city to design transportation infrastructure in a manner that is compatible with the natural environment by incorporating features based on science and low-impact development approaches.
- ☑ The plan supports emergency preparedness through committing to continue membership in the Emergency Services Coordinating Agency, or other coordinating agency, and to ensure that future transportation planning efforts are consistent with regional hazard mitigation plans (Policy T-3.7).
- ☑ Goal T-6 and Policies T-6.1-6 promote nonmotorized travel through a commitment to ensuring safety, convenience, and comfort. This includes development of a community-wide trail system with connections to regional trails.

### DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK

The certification review did not identify any major areas for improvement of the plan to better align with regional transportation guidelines and principles. See Part I for the comment on Conformity with Growth Management Act Transportation Planning Requirements.

## 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 Woodinville comprehensive plan update contains policies that address the public services provisions of VISION 2040. Highlights include:

- ☑ The plan encourages reduced energy consumption, conservation, the use of renewable technologies, and energy responsible land use decisions (Goal U-2 and Policy U-2.1).
- ☑ Policy U-3.1 promotes recycling, creative solutions to reduce waste, and conservation of resources.
- ☑ The plan encourages and supports conservation strategies aimed at reducing average annual and peak day water use (Policy E-6.5).

#### **DISCUSSION: AREAS FOR FURTHER WORK**

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

## **Conclusion**

PSRC staff thanks the city for working through the plan review and certification process. PSRC is available to provide assistance for future plan updates. 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](mailto:eharris@psrc.org).