

Regional Centers Update

Growth Management Policy Board | September 4, 2025



Puget Sound Regional Council



We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.

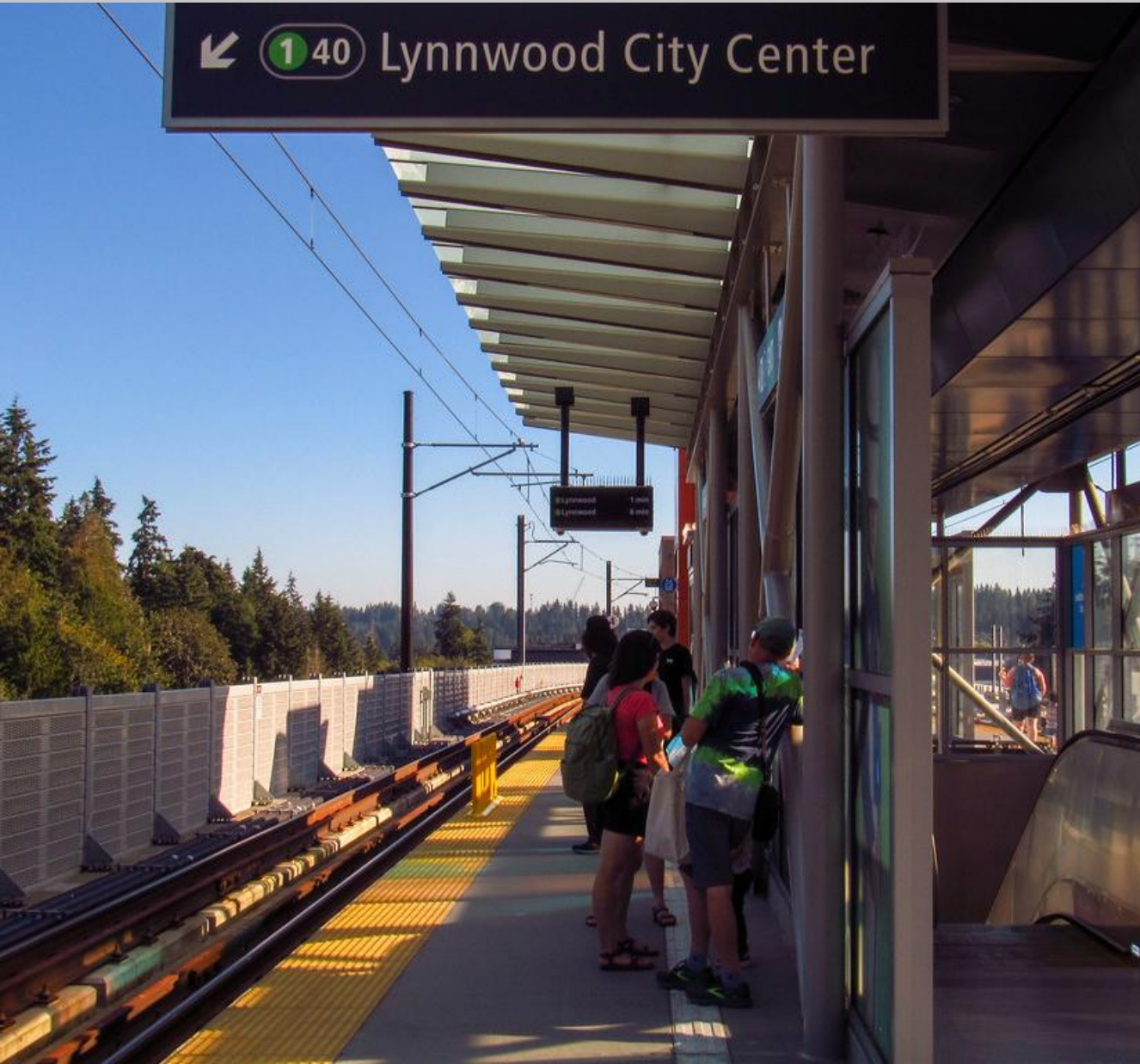
psrc.org/equity

Agenda

1. Refresher on role of Regional Centers
2. “Summer of Centers”–Monitoring process update
3. Review initial feedback on policy areas of concern
4. Next Steps: What to expect with the upcoming redesignation process



Background



- Role of centers
- Framework
- Monitoring process
 - Designating existing centers
 - Eligibility for new centers
- Process for Board review of new center applications & redesignations
- 2026: Regional Centers Framework Updates



Why Centers?

VISION 2050 & Regional Growth Strategy



Guide regional growth allocations



Advance local planning



Inform transit service planning



Protects rural and natural resource areas



Priority areas for PSRC's federal transportation funding

30 Regional Growth
Centers

10 Manufacturing/
Industrial Centers

Framework Refresher



2018 Framework Purpose

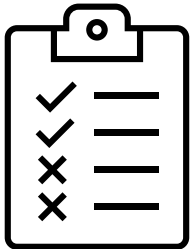
- Establishes consistent criteria and planning expectations for regional centers
 - Some existing regional centers do not meet criteria to be designated today
- Establishes requirements for new centers and redesignation of existing centers
- Set 2024/2025: timeline to designate new centers and redesignate existing centers
- Includes minimum criteria for countywide centers



Qualities of a Successful Center

Growth Centers
Existing Jobs + Housing
Plans and potential for growth
Mix of uses
Quality of transit services
Walkability and layout
Regional role

Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
Existing industrial jobs
Planning for growth
Freight infrastructure
Concentration of industrial land
Strategies for preserving industrial land



Monitoring

Jurisdictions Submit:

- Subarea plans
- Boundary updates
- Planning checklists
- Market studies



Upcoming Board Review:

- Criteria Reports
- Certification Reports



Redesignation: Future Options for Consideration

Redesignate as regional center

- Confirm that regional center meets applicable criteria

Redesignate as regional center with conditions

- Confirm that regional center meets most applicable criteria
- Identify specific actions and timeline to address inconsistencies

Redesignate as countywide center

- Determine that center does not sufficiently meet regional criteria
- Recommend designating as countywide center

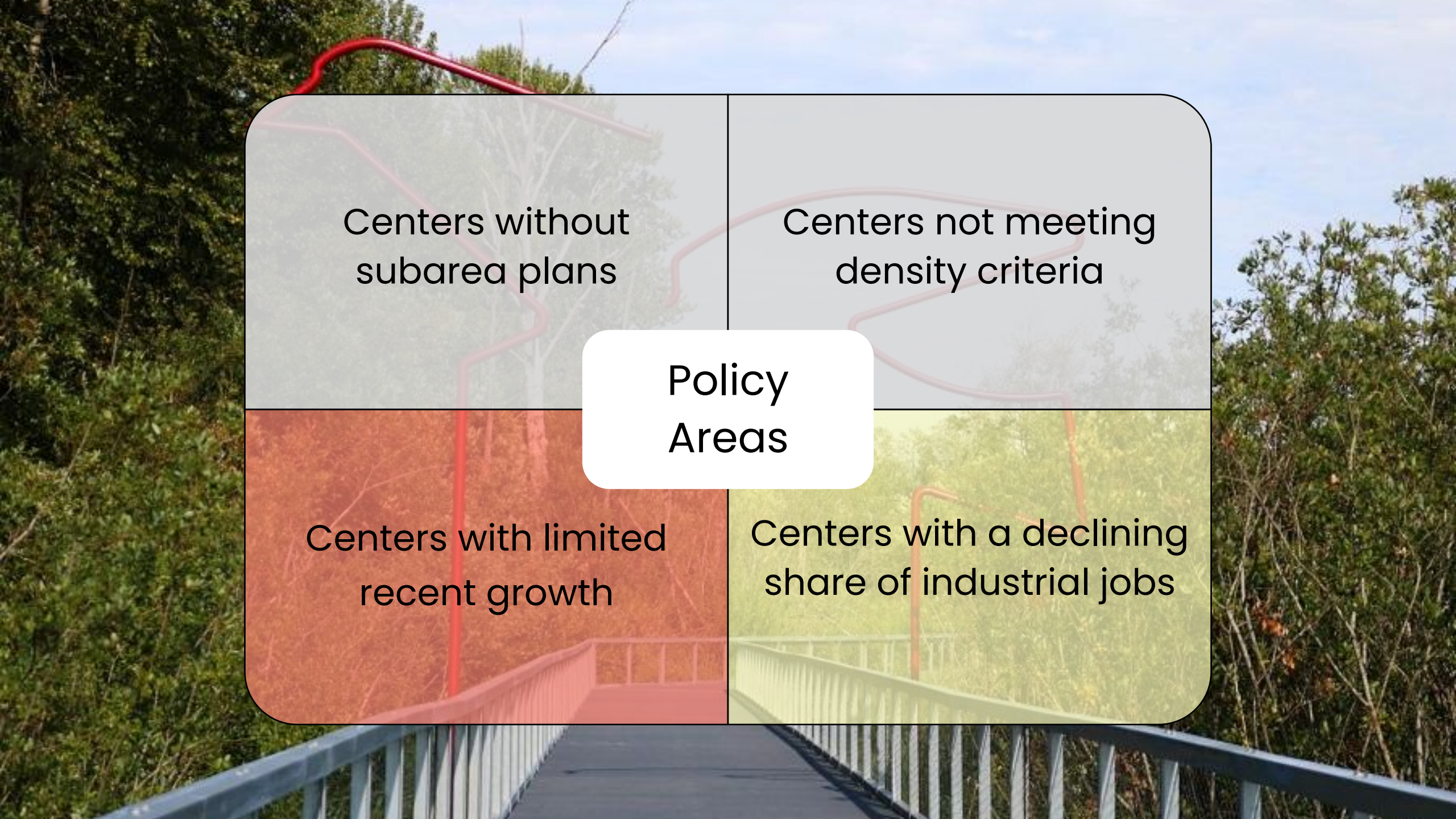


Framework Implementation: New Centers



New Centers!

- Applications due Sept 26
- Next window 2027/2028



Centers without
subarea plans

Centers not meeting
density criteria

Policy
Areas

Centers with limited
recent growth

Centers with a declining
share of industrial jobs

Proposed Board Calendar

July

- Regional Centers System Monitoring Report published
- Discussion of redesignation topics

Sept

- Regional centers monitoring update



Oct

- Discuss policy issues and review criteria reports for existing centers

Nov

- Review new center applications, certification reports for existing center

Jan
2026+

- Action items: Re(designation), and consider framework updates





Thank You!

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