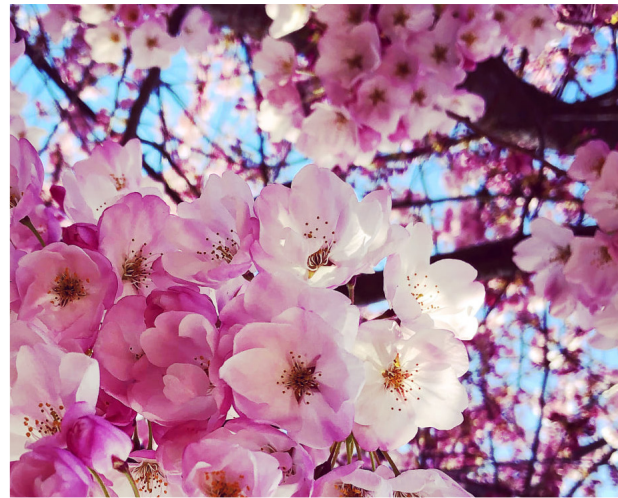


VISION 2050



Outreach and Engagement Summary



January 2021



January 2021

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, at 206-464-6175, with two weeks' advance notice. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the ADA Coordinator, Thu Le, through TTY Relay 711.

Title VI Notice

PSRC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, visit <https://www.psrc.org/title-vi>

Language Assistance

العربية Arabic | 中文 Chinese | Deutsch German | Français French | 한국어 Korean |
Русский Russian | Español Spanish | Tagalog | Tiếng việt Vietnamese
— visit <https://www.psrc.org/contact-center/language-assistance>

Funding for this document provided in part by member jurisdictions, grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Highway Administration and Washington State Department of Transportation.

Additional copies of this document may be obtained by contacting:

Puget Sound Regional Council
Information Center
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, Washington 98104-1035

206-464-7532 • info@psrc.org • psrc.org

Overview of VISION 2050 Outreach	1
Process for developing VISION 2050	1
Scoping: January – April 2018	2
Listening Sessions	2
Public Opinion Survey	3
Research & Planning: Mid 2018 – Mid 2019	4
Briefing and Background papers	4
Peer Networking	4
Work Sessions with the Growth Management Policy Board	5
Youth Engagement	5
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2019	6
Open Houses	7
Developing a Preferred Growth Strategy	7
Draft Plan: Summer 2019	8
Workshops and Open Houses	8
Community Events	8
Online Open House and Other Resources	9
Finalizing the Plan & Board Adoption: Late 2019 – October 2020	10
Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2020	11
Implementing VISION 2050	11

Overview of VISION 2050 Outreach

People from all around the region helped to develop VISION 2050, the region's plan for growth.

The VISION 2050 Engagement Plan mapped out how PSRC boards, member jurisdictions, and community members could get involved to shape the plan. From the beginning of scoping in 2018 to plan adoption, the diverse viewpoints of the region have been incorporated into VISION 2050 through thoughtful conversations with the boards and clear documentation on feedback received.

The following goals were developed to guide outreach and engagement:

Goal 1: Engage a wide range of stakeholders, including: the general public, elected officials, local jurisdiction staff, other public agencies, and interest groups.

Goal 2: Carry out a robust equitable engagement strategy that reaches a range of diverse communities, including: people with low incomes, people of color, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, persons with limited literacy, rural populations, seniors, and veterans.

Goal 3: Solicit substantive input on the VISION update. Build on public engagement carried out for other recent PSRC planning efforts, reducing redundancy, and focusing on obtaining new information.

Goal 4: Use new and innovative techniques such as a greater online/social media presence – go beyond traditional in-person workshops and open houses.

Goal 5: Effectively communicate public input to the boards and incorporate that input into aspects of the plan update considered by the boards.

Process for developing VISION 2050

Over three years, PSRC worked with cities, counties, tribes, other agencies and interest groups, and people throughout the region to develop VISION 2050. Each of five key planning phases included unique outreach components to guide the work.



Scoping: January – April 2018

In early 2018 PSRC kicked off the process to develop VISION 2050. PSRC asked for feedback on scoping for the plan and environmental review during a 45-day comment period from Friday, February 2, 2018, through Monday, March 19, 2018. This input focused on three key questions:

- What important regional issues should we focus on during the update?
- How should the region's growth strategy be updated to plan for 2050?
- As we consider different ways to grow as a region, what impacts and actions should be evaluated through environmental review?

The scoping process introduced the project to the public, interest groups, affected tribes, and government agencies. PSRC sought feedback on key issues through listening sessions and a public opinion survey. The [VISION 2050 Scoping Report](#) includes detailed information on the outreach process, comments received, and the relationship to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Listening Sessions

More than 160 people met with PSRC staff at five listening sessions in Bremerton, Fife, Lynnwood, Redmond, and Seattle in February 2018. Local government staff and elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the public participated in breakout discussion groups to identify issues for the update. Groups focused on topics such as the Regional Growth Strategy, transportation and infrastructure, economy, environment and open space, and housing. Comments from the listening sessions were integrated into the scoping report.



2,000 people surveyed

160 participants at
listening sessions



1,300+ unique
comments

Public Opinion Survey

PSRC fielded a statistically valid survey in March 2018, asking 2,000 residents about their attitudes and opinions regarding growth and growth-related issues to help inform VISION 2050. The survey was conducted in English, Chinese and Spanish. The survey responses helped identify key topics for VISION 2050, which were discussed by the Growth Management Policy Board.

Key findings from the regional survey:

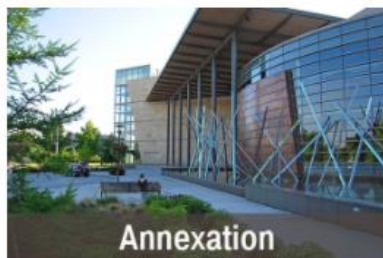
- Increasing housing choices and preserving the natural environment are seen as important for the region.
- Change and growth is equally seen as positive and negative for residents.
 - Residents who are older and have lived in this region for a longer time period are more negative about growth.
 - Residents who moved here more recently and are younger are more positive about the region and the future.
- Developing a shared growth strategy is seen as important by many.
- Locating housing near transit is viewed as a key affordability strategy.

PSRC also fielded an online survey over the summer and fall of 2018 to encourage people in the region to share their opinions about growth. The survey was available in six languages. Many of the responses echoed findings from the statistically valid survey, affirming the importance of local governments working together and the challenges of housing affordability, climate change, and growth.

Research & Planning: Mid 2018 – Mid 2019

Comments and conversations during the scoping process helped to queue up the key topics to be addressed in VISION 2050 and the Regional Growth Strategy. During the Research and Planning phase, PSRC staff worked with the Growth Management Policy Board, PSRC committees, and other stakeholders on refining the region's priorities and developing the plan.

Briefing and Background papers



PSRC developed research papers on priority areas identified during scoping: Annexation, Equity, Health, Housing, Regional Growth Strategy, Climate Change, Technology, Freight, VISION 2050 Alternatives, Displacement Risk Mapping, and Opportunity Mapping.

These papers discussed how these issues were addressed in VISION 2040, current concerns, and potential considerations and questions for the development of VISION 2050. The 11 publications went through multiple iterations of development and stakeholder feedback. The final products were used to inform conversations with PSRC boards and other stakeholders.

These publications are available on the [VISION 2050 Data and Research](#) page.

Peer Networking

PSRC's Peer Networking Series also offered an opportunity to share information on key topics in VISION 2050. These three-hour peer networking sessions covered housing, land use and transportation technology, and social equity. These events provided local planning staff and other stakeholders with information, tools, and resources and an opportunity to share ideas for addressing these issues regionally. Close to 80 people participated in the social equity event, providing clear solutions for incorporating equity throughout VISION 2050. The feedback received at the Peer Networking sessions helped to inform the extended work sessions the Growth Management Policy Board held on these same topics.

Work Sessions with the Growth Management Policy Board

Board members took deep dives into housing, the Regional Growth Strategy, and equity during work sessions at board meetings. These discussions used small group discussions and were informed by what PSRC heard at scoping, in conversations with committees and Peer Networking sessions, and the research in the background papers. The direction provided by the Board shaped the plan narrative, policies, and actions in the draft plan.

Youth Engagement

PSRC staff met with middle school and high school aged students to better understand their priorities and vision of the future of their communities. Over 100 students from municipal youth committees in Arlington, Bellevue, Edmonds, Issaquah, Mukilteo, and Tacoma talked to staff and elected officials about their thoughts on the current state of their cities and how they would like them to grow. Through an interactive mapping activity, the youth showed how much they valued their natural spaces and parks. They also expressed concern for meeting housing affordability needs for existing and future residents and provided creative ideas for preserving and developing new features that provide local character to their cities. Find out more about the resources used and key takeaways from the students on [PSRC's youth engagement page](#).



Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2019

Following scoping and issuance of a Determination of Significance, PSRC developed the Draft VISION 2050 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to build on the VISION 2040 Environmental Impact Statement. The draft SEIS reviewed the environmental effects of three distinct regional growth alternatives being considered for VISION 2050: Stay the Course, Transit Focused Growth, and Reset Urban Growth. These alternatives were developed in response to the public comment and scoping process, extensive review by the Growth Management Policy Board, and input from regional staff and other stakeholders.

The Draft SEIS provided a range of land use, transportation, environmental, and other impacts that would likely occur with each of these alternatives and identified opportunities to mitigate them. This document allowed readers to better understand the impacts of each of the alternatives to help inform their response to them. The Draft SEIS also included an equity appendix that compiled and summarized equity-related data and impacts of the alternatives.

The Draft SEIS was issued on February 28, 2019, for a 60-day comment period. The [Summary of Comments on the Draft SEIS](#) provides more information on the comments made by 150 unique commenters.












10,000 emails sent to boards, committees, & interested parties

5 Open Houses



150 unique comments

	Stay the Course (plan extended)	Transit Focused Growth	Reset Urban Growth
	Vehicle delay 31 hours	 29 hours	 32 hours
	Transit ridership 476 million (substantial increase compared to 194 million in 2014)	 502 million	 490 million
	Greenhouse gas emissions 41,000 tons per day CO ₂ equivalent	 39,600 tons per day CO ₂ equivalent	 41,400 tons per day CO ₂ equivalent

The Executive Summary of the Draft SEIS, presentations made by PSRC staff, and outreach materials included graphics to make the complex findings easier to understand for multiple audiences. This example shows how measures such as vehicle delay, transit ridership, and greenhouse gas emissions perform differently among the three alternatives. Red dots indicate increased impacts compared to Stay the Course, whereas green dots indicate reduced impacts.

Open Houses

PSRC convened open houses in each of the counties to provide information on the Draft SEIS and engage with jurisdictional staff and elected officials, other stakeholders, and members of the public. Information on PSRC, VISION 2050, the proposed growth alternatives, and the Draft SEIS impacts analysis was provided. More than 100 individuals participated in the open houses.

Developing a Preferred Growth Strategy

The Growth Management Policy Board developed a draft preferred growth alternative based on public comment, supplemental technical evaluation, the evaluation criteria and other data presented in the DSEIS, and board priorities. The public comments on the DSEIS overwhelmingly supported the Transit Focused Growth alternative, and the preferred growth alternative was a modified version of that alternative.

A draft preferred growth alternative was presented in the draft VISION 2050 plan for further public comment and review.

Draft Plan: Summer 2019

The draft VISION 2050 plan reflected months of policy discussions by the Growth Management Policy Board and PSRC advisory committees. The plan incorporated feedback received throughout the planning process. On July 19, 2019, the draft plan was released for a 60-day public comment. PSRC organized public engagement activities and opportunities for people to share their thoughts on the draft plan. Over 600 people provided comments on the draft plan. These comments and additional information on the process are included in the [Draft VISION 2050 Plan Public Outreach and Comment Summary](#).

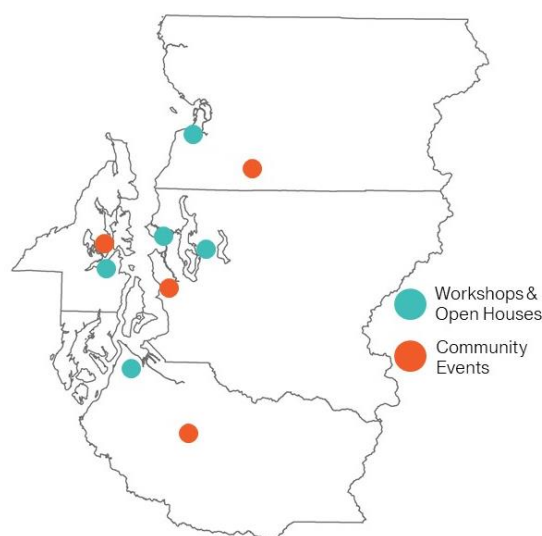


Workshops and Open Houses

PSRC held four sub-regional events around the region to present the draft plan and solicit feedback from local stakeholders. The afternoon facilitated workshops included a presentation overview of VISION 2050 and small group facilitated discussions focused on the key policy areas of the plan. The evening drop-in open houses allowed participants to learn about VISION 2050 at their own pace. Staff presented an overview of the draft plan and were available to answer any questions.

Community Events

An important objective of this outreach period was to meet people in their communities and take advantage of summer events. PSRC maximized the timing of the public comment period and tabled at four community events. Staff met with community members at fairs in Graham and Monroe, a community event in Burien, and a farmer's market in Bremerton. Staff talked to hundreds of residents and shared information about PSRC's mission and the draft plan, including how to view and comment on the draft plan.





Online Open House and Other Resources

PSRC also developed an online open house that mirrored the in-person open houses. The online open house was available for the entire 60-day public comment period and available for translation into nine different languages (Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, German, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic). The online open house offered an alternative to people unable to attend an event in person or those wanting to learn about the plan at their own pace,

The online open house and VISION 2050 webpages had over 9,000 page views during the public comment period. The draft plan was downloaded nearly 3,000 times. PSRC also developed an outreach toolkit for local governments and other stakeholders to help spread the word to their networks about the draft plan and the comment period. Op-ed articles from PSRC board members in five regional newspapers also helped describe the draft plan and how people could provide input. PSRC also used Facebook and Google advertisements to reach a broader audience and published a series of blog posts to highlight key aspects of the draft plan.



Finalizing the Plan & Board Adoption: Late 2019 – October 2020

The Growth Management Policy Board began reviewing over 1,600 unique comments gathered through the draft plan public comment period in October 2019. Over three extended meetings, the board considered hundreds of minor edits and board-sponsored amendments to the draft plan. In December 2019, the Growth Management Policy Board unanimously recommended an amended draft VISION 2050 plan to the Executive Board.

In January 2020, the Executive Board began discussing VISION 2050, reflecting on the Growth Management Policy Board's recommendation and public comments submitted throughout the planning process. After a delay due to COVID-19, the Executive Board once again took up consideration of the plan in July 2020. The Executive Board considered additional amendments to the draft plan and recommended adoption of VISION 2050 at its September 2020 meeting. The General Assembly considered final amendments to the plan and took final action to adopt VISION 2050 on October 29, 2020.

As the plan was reviewed and finalized during this phase, additional feedback was provided directly to the boards through verbal testimonies during public comment portions of meetings. Stakeholders also continued to provide written comments for board consideration. Written comments compiled during this final planning phase are available [here](#).



Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Spring 2020

Following the Growth Management Policy Board recommendation of a final preferred growth alternative in December 2019, PSRC issued the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS) in March 2020. The Final SEIS included data and impacts of the final preferred growth alternative and responded to comments submitted on the Draft SEIS. The Final SEIS was available to inform final Executive Board and General Assembly action on the plan.

In September 2020, PSRC issued an addendum to the Final SEIS to update assumptions used to model the alternatives.

Implementing VISION 2050

VISION 2050 is implemented through the collective work of PSRC, counties, cities, and other agency partners. The plan includes actions to guide regional and local implementation. Local comprehensive plans play a critical role in implementing VISION 2050.

Outreach to promote implementation of VISION 2050 is ongoing. PSRC will continue to share information and resources with elected leadership, cities and counties, and the public about how the region can work together to achieve the VISION 2050 plan.