

Regional Collaboration

GOAL: *The region plans collaboratively for a healthy environment, thriving communities, and opportunities for all.*

Coordinated planning across jurisdictions is a foundation of the Growth Management Act, which recognizes that cities and counties are interdependent and that systems, whether rivers or roads, span across and connect communities. VISION 2050 recognizes the necessity and opportunity for working together to achieve the region’s vision for a connected region with a high quality of life and opportunities for all.

The multicounty planning policies in this chapter support coordination and collaboration among cities, counties, tribes, special purpose districts and ports, and other agencies. These policies also address cross-cutting topics that have implications for other policy chapters, such as coordination with tribal nations, recognition of the importance of major military installations, and the need to address health and equity in all of the desired plan outcomes. Lastly, this chapter also provides policy direction for setting funding priorities and addressing the fiscal needs of the region.

Countywide Coordination

The Growth Management Act establishes broad goals to act as the basis for planning at the local, countywide, and regional scales. The law requires consistency between multicounty planning policies (VISION 2050), countywide planning policies, and local comprehensive plans, while recognizing that specific aspects of implementation often occur through local actions.

Under the Growth Management Act, counties are required to work with their respective cities to establish growth targets and adopt countywide planning policies. To support the periodic local comprehensive plan update process, which must next be completed by 2024, countywide planning policies and targets are expected to be updated by 2021.

Figure 4 – Washington State Planning Framework



Equity and Health Disparities

While VISION 2050 envisions that growth and change can benefit all residents of the region, it could also exacerbate challenges currently facing historically marginalized communities. These communities include Indigenous peoples, people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with low incomes, those with disabilities and health conditions, and people with limited-English proficiency. Some of these challenges include unmet housing demand and supply, difficulty in accessing jobs and education, economic and cultural displacement, and inequitable access to opportunity for some residents. These social inequities can often lead to poor health outcomes, with historically disadvantaged communities experiencing the greatest health disparities such as shorter life spans and higher rates of chronic illnesses. Disparate health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color underscore the relationship between health, race, and ethnicity. Addressing these issues will move the region closer to where being a



member of a historically marginalized community does not impact or predict where someone lives, how well they do in school, their net worth, or the likelihood they will be incarcerated.

Equity

All people have the means to attain the resources and opportunities that improve their quality of life and enable them to reach full potential. Communities of color, historically marginalized communities, and those affected by poverty are engaged in decision-making processes, planning, and policy-making.

Inequitable life outcomes in the central Puget Sound region cannot be attributed to a single factor. A long history of anti-Black and anti-Asian racism and other forms of discrimination continue to cause disinvestment and denial of opportunity. These situations laid the groundwork for today's systemic racism that often places Black and brown lives on completely different trajectories than those of the region's white residents. Past overtly discriminatory government policies, such as redlining, and the absence of policies that attempt to rectify past practices are some of the factors contributing to present inequities and health disparities. These factors and others require many solutions, some of which may begin to be addressed through VISION 2050 or continued work by PSRC and local jurisdictions.

Coordination with Tribal Nations

The central Puget Sound region is within the traditional ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Tribes. Under treaties signed with the United States in the 1850s, many tribes in the region ceded most of the state of Washington, but in exchange reserved fishing and hunting rights including off-reservation rights to fish in all usual and accustomed fishing grounds and the right to hunt and gather on open and unclaimed lands. Federal courts have interpreted the nature and extent of those retained rights and have ruled that sovereign tribes, along with the state of Washington, have co-management responsibility and authority over fish and wildlife resources.

Each tribe has its own government with its own governing charter or constitution and set of



Pioneer Square

general laws. The federal government currently recognizes nine tribal nations in the region:

- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Tribe
- Stillaguamish Indian Tribe
- Suquamish Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes

Like all governments, tribes engage in land use planning and economic development to provide jobs, housing, and services, as well as the infrastructure to support and plan for growth. As sovereign nations, tribes are not required to plan under the Growth Management Act





*Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Kitsap.
Source: U.S. Navy (photo by Thiep Van
Nguyen II, BSNS & IMF photographer)*

but recognize the importance of coordination and cooperation with all governments to deal with the challenges of population growth and climate change facing the region. It is important to meaningfully consult with tribes to coordinate local land use goals and expectations. With many treaty-protected resources lost or severely impacted, protecting water quality and restoring the habitat of the Salish Sea is of shared critical significance and is possible through meaningful consultation with tribes.

PSRC recognizes and respects the full sovereignty of each tribe and their traditional lands located within the jurisdictional boundaries of PSRC members. VISION 2050 aligns with the principles of government-to-government relationships stated in the Washington Centennial Accord of 1989, and in the Washington State administrative rule (May 2019) governing prior and informed consent and consultation for any policy, plans, projects, programs, or actions that directly and tangibly affect Indian tribes' sovereignty and treaty rights. VISION 2050 supports meaningful, regular and ongoing exchange of information and opinions for better informed decision-making and mutual understanding between Indian Tribes as sovereign nations and PSRC member jurisdictions on all policies and actions that have tribal implications. Further, PSRC supports partnerships with tribes on cultural and natural resource protection, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration, economic

development, and coordinated climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.

Coordination with Military Installations

Military installations are a vital part of the region, home to thousands of personnel and jobs and a major contributor to the region's economy. These bases vary in size and character, and include base services, industrial uses, airfields, ports, and natural lands. They act as large employment centers for civilians living in nearby jurisdictions and house significant numbers of enlisted personnel. While military installations are not subject to local, regional, or state plans and regulations, PSRC recognizes the relationship between regional growth patterns and military installations, and the importance of military employment and personnel in all aspects of regional planning. Whether planning for development near military installations or considering transportation projects and programs to serve and support them, it is crucial to involve military officials in regional and local planning efforts.

Coordination with Ports

Ports play a vital role in each county in the central Puget Sound. Ports often include facilities that cannot be relocated or replicated elsewhere and are crucial to the state's economy. Port and industrial jobs often provide career paths at a range of education levels and with pay that is superior to that of typical service sector jobs.





Tacoma

Coordinating land use and transportation planning with ports is key to maintaining these important economic functions and for the success of the region.

Funding Priorities and Fiscal Challenges

Local jurisdictions, state and county governments, transit agencies, and other service providers are consistently challenged to find the revenues necessary to maintain and operate services and facilities and to fund and develop new facilities to serve growth.

Creating and maintaining sufficient infrastructure to support the Regional Growth Strategy is critically important. This goal is shared by the jurisdictions of the region, who are responsible for transportation project and program implementation. Many of the actions described by multicounty planning policies and actions will require significant financial commitments from all levels of government to provide and maintain services and facilities.

PSRC provides local jurisdictions with access to federal transportation funds from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. Consistent with federal rules for project funding, PSRC establishes broad funding priorities in VISION 2050 policies. These policies

are implemented through the funding policy framework and merit-based project competitions that provide about \$260 million annually. While a significant investment in transportation infrastructure, this funding is a small part of the local, state, transit agency, and federal funding that supports transportation in the region.

The [Regional Transportation Plan](#), adopted in 2018, identifies \$200 billion in anticipated transportation investments through the year 2040. While the region has secured significant transportation funding in recent years, forecasts identify major disruptions in traditional revenue streams, including the fuel tax, due to technological advances, electrification, and inflation within the next 20 years that will require a new approach to funding transportation. Counties and cities are challenged to maintain existing facilities under current revenues. The Regional Transportation Plan contains a detailed financial strategy for meeting the region's transportation funding needs and is updated every four years as directed by federal regulations. Both the Regional Transportation Plan and the four-year Regional Transportation Improvement Program, which identifies currently funded projects, also contain a regional equity analysis.





Downtown Seattle



Regional Collaboration POLICIES

MPP-RC-1

Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, federally recognized tribes, ports, and adjacent regions, where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.

MPP-RC-2

Prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequities.

MPP-RC-3

Make reduction of health disparities and improvement of health outcomes across the region a priority when developing and carrying out regional, countywide, and local plans.

MPP-RC-4

Coordinate with tribes in regional and local planning, recognizing the mutual benefits and potential for impacts between growth occurring within and outside tribal boundaries.

MPP-RC-5

Consult with military installations in regional and local planning, recognizing the mutual benefits and potential for impacts between growth occurring within and outside installation boundaries.

MPP-RC-6

Recognize the beneficial impacts of military installations as well as the land use, housing, and transportation challenges for adjacent and nearby communities.

MPP-RC-7

Give funding priority – both for transportation infrastructure and for economic development – to support designated regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers, consistent with the regional vision. Regional funds are prioritized to regional centers.

MPP-RC-8

Direct subregional funding, especially county-level and local funds, to countywide centers, high-capacity transit areas with a station area plan, and other local centers. County-level and local funding are also appropriate to prioritize to regional centers.

MPP-RC-9

Recognize and give regional funding priority to transportation facilities, infrastructure, and services that explicitly advance the development of housing in designated regional growth centers. Give additional priority to projects and services that advance and support new and existing affordable housing that includes low- and very low-income residents.

MPP-RC-10

Identify and develop changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices, and other fiscal tools within the region to implement the vision.

MPP-RC-11

Explore new and existing sources of funding for services and infrastructure, recognizing that such funding is vital if local governments are to achieve the regional vision.

MPP-RC-12

Support local and regional efforts to develop state legislation to provide new fiscal tools to support local and regional planning and to support infrastructure improvements and services.

MPP-RC-13

Update countywide planning policies, where necessary, prior to December 31, 2021, to address the multicounty planning policies in VISION 2050.

MPP-RC-14

Monitor implementation of VISION 2050 to evaluate progress in achieving the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as the regional collaboration, environment, climate change, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions.

MPP-RC-15

Promote regional and national efforts to restore Puget Sound and its watersheds, in coordination with cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, utilities, and other partners.



Regional Collaboration ACTIONS

RC-Action-1

Plan Updates: PSRC will support efforts to update countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, and infrastructure and utility plans, including providing updated plan review and certification guidance.

RC-Action-2

Monitoring Program: PSRC will track the implementation of VISION 2050 through monitoring and periodic evaluation.

RC-Action-3

Regional Equity Strategy: PSRC, in coordination with member governments and community stakeholders, will develop and implement a regional equity strategy intended to make equity central to PSRC's work and to support the 2024 local comprehensive plan updates. The strategy could include components such as:

- Creating and maintaining tools and resources, including data and outreach, to better understand how regional and local policies and actions affect our region's residents, specifically as they relate to people of color and people with low incomes.
- Developing strategies and best practices for centering equity in regional and local planning work, including inclusive community engagement, monitoring, and actions to achieve equitable development outcomes and mitigate displacement of vulnerable communities.
- Identifying implementation steps, including how to measure outcomes.
- Identifying mechanisms to prioritize access to funding to address inequities.
- Developing a plan and committing resources for an equity advisory group that can help provide feedback on and help implement the Regional Equity Strategy.
- Developing and adopting an equity impact tool for evaluating PSRC decisions and community engagement.

RC-Action-4

Outreach: PSRC will develop an outreach program for VISION 2050 that is designed to communicate the goals and policies of VISION 2050 to member jurisdictions, regional stakeholders, the business community, and the public. This work program will have the following objectives:

- Build awareness of VISION 2050 among local jurisdictions in advance of the development of local comprehensive plans.
- Raise awareness of PSRC and the desired outcomes of VISION 2050 to residents across the region.

- Collaborate with residents who are historically underrepresented in the planning process to ensure all voices are heard in regional planning.

RC-Action-5

Project Selection Criteria: Incorporate criteria into regional infrastructure evaluation processes that would allow for the inclusion and funding of transportation projects, identified in a completed local or regional transportation study, that relate to and potentially benefit access to military installations and surrounding jurisdictions. Funding for such projects will be consistent with the goals and policies of VISION 2050, including support for regional centers and progress toward greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

RC-Action-6

Project Support for Puget Sound Recovery: PSRC will develop a methodology within the regional transportation funding process that would support projects that contribute to the recovery of the health of Puget Sound and its watersheds.

RC-Action-7

Funding Sources: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will investigate existing and new funding sources for infrastructure, services, economic development, military-community compatibility, natural resource planning, and open space, to assist local governments with the implementation of VISION 2050. Explore options to develop incentives and innovative funding mechanisms, particularly in centers and transit station areas. Provide technical assistance to help local jurisdictions use existing and new funding sources.

RC-Action-8

Communicate VISION 2050 to State Agencies and the Legislature: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will relay the goals and objectives of VISION 2050 to state agencies and the Legislature, in order to promote changes in state law and funding to best advance VISION 2050.

RC-Action-9

Fiscal Sustainability: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will advocate to the state Legislature about the needs for counties (including unincorporated areas), cities, and other public agencies and service providers to remain fiscally sustainable and the fiscal challenges facing local governments, public agencies and service providers related to accommodating growth, maintaining aging infrastructure, and the annexation of urban areas.

