Plan Review & Certification Program

June 30, 2021
Today’s Purpose

Provide resources to help you create local plans that advance regional goals around mobility, climate change, housing affordability, racial equity, and more!
Overview

- VISION 2050
- PSRC’s Plan Review Program
  - Updated Plan Review Manual
  - Plan certification
  - Local planning resources
- Q & A
We want to get to know you!
Growth Management Act

Vision 2050 & Multicounty Planning Policies

Countywide Planning Policies

Local Comprehensive Plans

The Plan Review Manual helps facilitates this work

- GMA requires PSRC to review and certify countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans.
- RCW 81.104.040 requires PSRC to review Sound Transit’s long-range system plans.
- 2017 MOU between PSRC & transit agencies calls for review of transit plans.
VISION 2050 is the plan for how to accommodate...

1.5 million more people and 1.1 million more jobs by 2050
Adopted October 29, 2020
Key Policy Themes

- Increase **housing** choices and affordability
- Provide **opportunities** for all
- Sustain a strong **economy**
- Significantly reduce greenhouse gas **emissions**
- Keep the region **moving**
- Restore the health of **Puget Sound**
- Protect a network of **open space**
- Growth in **centers** and near **transit**
- Act **collaboratively** and support **local efforts**
What’s different from VISION 2040?

- Extends planning horizon to **2050**
- Updated growth strategy aims for **more growth near transit**
- New chapter on **climate change**
- Directs regional work on **housing** and **equity**
- Advocates for **sustainable funding** sources
- Increases recognition of **Native Tribes** and **military installations**
Goals: Overarching plan objectives

Policies: Multicounty principles for regional and local planning

Actions: Step to implement policies

Regional Growth Strategy: numeric strategy to plan for new growth

Policy Sections
- Regional Collaboration
- Regional Growth Strategy
- Environment
- Climate Change
- Development Patterns
- Housing
- Economy
- Transportation
- Public Services
VISION 2050

Upcoming Planning Work

2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

VISION 2050 Adoption
VISION 2050 Implementation (Housing Strategy, Equity Strategy, other guidance)

Countywide Planning Policies & Local Growth Targets
Local Comprehensive Plan Updates

Regional Transportation Plan
Regional Economic Strategy
VISION 2040 to VISION 2050 Summary
https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/v2040-v2050-overview.pdf

VISION 2040 to VISION 2050 Policy Crosswalk

Plan Review Manual + VISION 2050 Consistency Tools
https://www.psrc.org/our-work/plan-review
Updating the manual implements VISION 2050’s RC-Action-1
Most recent reviews

- **2011/2012**: Last major updates to CPPs
- **2015/2016**: Last round of comprehensive plan updates
- **2016**: Sound Transit’s most recent long-range plan adopted
- **Ongoing**: Regional center plan and other transit agencies’ long-range plan updates
Jurisdictions...

- Found the Plan Review Manual and VISION 2040 to be helpful as plans were being updated
- Valued PSRC’s comments during draft review and plan certification
- Were confused by multiple checklists and requirements
- Were unclear on plan submittal procedures
Updating the Plan Review Manual: Contents

For each type of review:

- Legal Framework
- Policy Context
- Process
- VISION 2050 Consistency Tool
Plan Review Process: Getting your plan certified

Use the manual and plan tools throughout the planning process!
VISION 2050 Consistency Tools

How to use the tools:
- Reference in the manual
- Fill out tools using Formsite and submit with drafts and adopted plans

Tools should be used throughout the planning process

Go-to resources for VISION 2050 and Plan Review process

Icons show new or expanded focus areas

Open-ended questions to highlight innovation & engagement
New or expanded focus areas from VISION 2050

- Racial equity & equitable engagement
- Housing access & affordability
- Addressing health disparities
- Station area planning
- Resident & commercial anti-displacement
- Climate change
- Transportation electrification and other emerging technologies

Look for (!) or **NEW** in the tools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Focus Areas (Comp Plans)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GMA transportation-related requirements</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Land use assumptions and travel demand forecasts are consistent with each other and growth targets</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Service and facility needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Plan for transportation financing and investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Demand management</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pedestrian and bicycle planning</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consistency with Regional Transportation Plans</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transportation project lists, including financing strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Transportation modeling based on shared regional growth assumptions</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Consistency with VISION 2050 MPPs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Regional Growth Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Climate change and air quality through reduction of transportation-related GHG emissions and pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Equitable transit-oriented development (TOD)</td>
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<td>• Housing supply and choices near transit and job centers</td>
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# Plan Review Process

## Planning Process

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Targets/CPPs</th>
<th>Plan Scoping/Outreach/SEPA</th>
<th>Plan/Policy Development</th>
<th>Plan Adoption</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2021</strong></td>
<td><strong>2022-2023</strong></td>
<td><strong>2024-2025</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Coordination with PSRC</td>
<td>Use VISION Consistency Tool for scoping</td>
<td>Submit completed tool &amp; draft plan for review</td>
<td>Submit adopted plan and updated tool for final review and certification</td>
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Using the VISION 2050 Consistency Tools
Submitting draft plans for review helps certification

1. Fill out the VISION 2050 Consistency Tool
2. PSRC will contact you and review draft within 30 days
3. PSRC will identify any certification issues through comments
4. Consider suggested changes to plan prior to adoption
How else can PSRC staff help early in your process?

- **Meet one-on-one to discuss plan scope and schedule**
- **Present to councils, planning commissions, boards, etc.**
- **VISION 2050, consistency tools, or resources**

Email us at planreview@psrc.org
So you’ve adopted a plan...

Complete the consistency tool and upload your adopted plan for PSRC to review and initiate the certification process.

PSRC reviews the plan and prepares a certification report.

Certification report sent to jurisdiction or agency for review.

Once the report is finalized, the plan is scheduled for PSRC board review.

Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, and Executive.
For transit agencies (other than Sound Transit)

- Complete the consistency tool and upload your adopted plan for PSRC to review
- PSRC will provide comments on how the plan advances regional goals
### Possible Certification Outcomes

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<th>Certification</th>
<th>Conditional Certification</th>
<th>Not certified</th>
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| ▪ **Fully consistent** with VISION 2050, the Regional Transportation Plan, and state law requirements | ▪ **Meets majority of planning requirements**  
▪ Requires limited additional work for full conformity  
▪ Includes a shared agreement and timeframe to address the remaining work items  
▪ Still eligible for regional funding, provided conditions of approval are followed | ▪ **Inconsistent** with VISION 2050, Regional Transportation Plan, or state law requirements |

PSRC’s Executive Board is the final decision-making body for plan certification.
Plan Review FAQs

How does PSRC certification relate to Growth Management Hearings Board?

How does certification impact eligibility for transportation funding?

Is there an appeal process for certification decisions?

What do I do with annual amendments (outside of periodic updates)?
NEW! Resources Webpage

Existing Resources:
- Housing Innovations Program (HIP) refresh
- Growth Targets Guidance
- Displacement Risk & Opportunity Mapping
- Data products
- Peer Networking

Forthcoming guidance on VISION 2050 focus areas:
- Housing Strategy
- Equity Strategy
- Economic Development Element Guide
- Transit-supportive densities
- Multimodal Concurrency
- Climate change

https://www.psrc.org/vision-2050-planning-resources
What’s Next?

2022:
Survey to understand schedules and scoping for local plan updates

2022/2023:
Workshops on specific VISION 2050 & certification focus areas

Ongoing:
Continue hosting Peer Networking events
Releasing new resources and data products
What planning resources are you most excited about?
Questions

• Questions about VISION 2050 or the Plan Review Manual?
• Questions about PSRC’s plan review process?
Thank You

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