

Chapter 4: REGIONAL BICYCLE NETWORK

The **Regional Bicycle Network (RBN)** is a planning effort that facilitated regional coordination and cross-jurisdictional cooperation across the four-county region to identify a complete network of bicycle routes that connect regional destinations. The purpose is to highlight key gaps and missing links with the goal of creating a comfortable network of bicycle facilities that accommodate people of all ages and abilities to access regional destinations using active transportation.

This is a future, vision network made up of completed and future facilities. It is built from the existing networks of trails, bike lanes and neighborhood greenways and includes future planned projects and some aspirational links which are defined later in this chapter.

The development of this network implements one of the VISION 2040 Actions (T-Action-19) which states that:

The Puget Sound Regional Council will work with member jurisdictions and others to establish a safe and efficient regional non-motorized network that provides connections to and within centers and along corridors connecting centers.

Development

PSRC staff worked with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to develop initial criteria for the development of the Regional Bicycle Network which are guided by policies in VISION 2040. Then staff worked with jurisdictions from around the region to vet the network and align it with local plans.



Criteria:

Emphasis is based on connecting a continuous and connected network across jurisdictional boundaries which connect to the following locations:

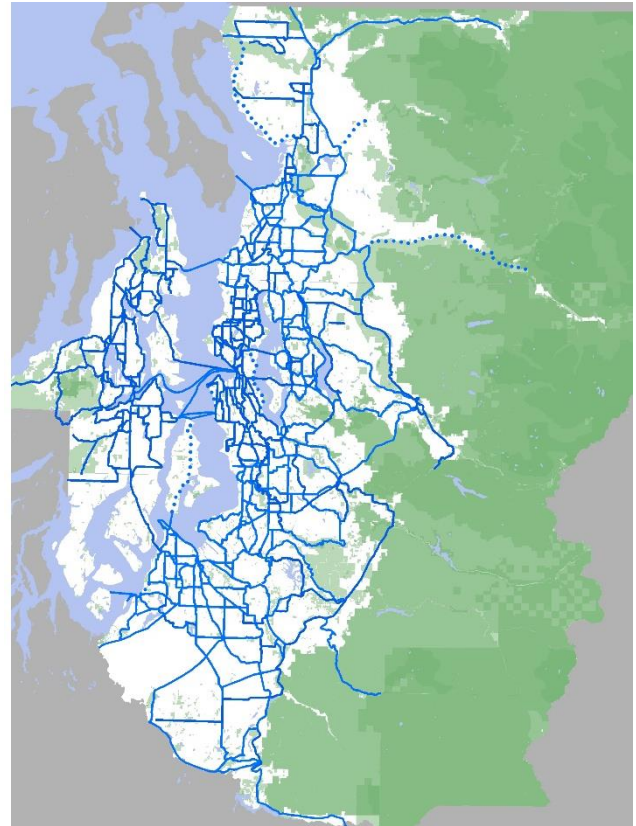
- regional centers
- regional transit locations
- high employment zones
- higher education institutions and high schools with high enrollment rates
- regional parks
- major trails in surrounding counties
- military bases
- connecting towns and cities of the central Puget Sound region

Built-in Flexibility

The Regional Bicycle Network is a framework within which local jurisdictions and regional agencies plan to develop more specific route alignments and facility types.

Segments of the Regional Bike Network are comprised of:

- **Completed Segments** include trails, protected bike lanes, traditional bike lanes, neighborhood greenways, sidepaths, and in some cases, paved and striped shoulders on rural roadways.
- **Planned Segments** have been identified within an adopted plan; actual alignments may change during design and construction.
- **Aspirational Routes** would complete gaps in the regional network or are popular scenic routes, and are either:
 - highly conceptual with less defined alignment, or
 - not identified in agency plans, or
 - difficult to implement due to funding and/or design challenges such as limited right-of-way, topography, etc.



Map 2: Regional Bicycle Network (screenshot)

Addressing All Ages and Abilities

Greater emphasis is being placed on design that accommodates all ages and abilities. The BPAC has recommended that shared use paths, protected bike lanes and neighborhood greenways are the preferred facility types for implementing the RBN because they meet a level of comfort that accommodates people of all ages and abilities.

Ongoing Bicycle Network Improvements

Segments of the Regional Bicycle Network are continuously under improvement to provide greater all ages and abilities bicycling opportunities. While the RBN illustrates a network of existing completed segments, these links may also be slated for important planned improvements or redevelopment along with the planned segments identified on the RBN map.

Map and link information

The Regional Bicycle Network map can be found on the [PSRC website](#). This is an interactive [on-line web map](#) that shows both the current existing system of bicycle facilities as well as the future regional vision for a connected network to regional destinations. Each link has information regarding completed or planned status and other relevant information.