

## **APPENDIX B: POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW (EXCERPT FROM VISION 2040 – PART IV: IMPLEMENTATION)**

*adopted April 2008*

The Regional Council has established a process for the review of local, countywide, and transit agency plans guided by: (1) the consistency provisions in the Growth Management Act, (2) state requirements for establishing common regional guidelines and principles for evaluating transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans, and (3) directives for coordination in the Regional Council's Interlocal Agreement and Framework Plan. (For additional information, see *Appendix 1*.)

### **Review of Local Comprehensive Plans, Certification of Transportation-Related Provisions**

Local jurisdictions are asked to incorporate a brief report in future updates to their comprehensive plans that addresses: (1) conformity with requirements in the Growth Management Act for comprehensive plan elements, (2) consistency with the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan* (including consistency with established regional guidelines and principles, physical design guidelines for centers, and compliance with federal and state clean air legislation), and (3) consistency with the multicounty planning policies. Information provided in this report will be a primary tool for developing the Regional Council's certification recommendation regarding the transportation-related provisions for the Council's boards to consider.

**Regional Guidelines and Principles.** State law requires regional guidelines and principles to be established for regional and local transportation planning purposes (RCW 47.80.026). Among the factors these guidelines and principles are to address are: concentration of economic activity, residential density, development and urban design that supports high capacity transit, joint and mixed use development, freight movement and port access, development patterns that promote walking and biking, transportation demand management, effective and efficient transportation, access to regional systems, and intermodal connections. Within VISION 2040, the multicounty planning policies are adopted to serve as the region's guidelines and principles. Many of the sidebars throughout the policy sections of VISION 2040 provide examples to serve as guidance for local planning efforts, especially related to transportation.

### **Review of Subarea Plans for Designated Regional Growth Centers and Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers**

Jurisdictions that have regionally designated centers – either regional growth centers or regional manufacturing/industrial centers – are asked to prepare a subarea plan for each center. The subarea plan should be adopted within four years of the designation of the center. The plan should include a brief report (similar to the one prepared for the jurisdiction-wide comprehensive plan) that outlines how the plan satisfies Growth Management Act requirements for subarea plans, as well as regionally established criteria for center planning. This report will be a primary tool for developing the Regional Council's certification recommendation for the Council's boards to consider.

## **Review of Countywide Planning Policies and Multicounty Planning Policies, including Certification of Countywide Policies for Consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan**

Countywide planning bodies are asked to include a report in updates to the countywide planning policies that addresses: (1) consistency of countywide planning policies and multicounty planning policies, and (2) consistency with the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan*. This report will be a primary tool for the Regional Council to develop a certification recommendation for consideration by the Council's boards. According to Policy MPP-G-2, countywide planning policies are to be updated to reflect revised multicounty planning policies by December 31, 2010.

### **Consistency Review of Transit Agency Plans**

To coordinate transit planning with local and regional growth management planning efforts, transit agencies are requested to incorporate a report in their long-term strategic plans that addresses: (1) conformity of the strategic plan with state planning requirements for transit planning, (2) consistency with the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan*, (3) compatibility of the strategic plan with multicounty planning policies, (4) compatibility of the strategic plan with the countywide planning policies for the county or counties in which the agency provides service, and (5) coordination with local governments within the agency's service area. The report should be considered and approved by the governing authority of the transit agency, and then transmitted to the Regional Council's boards for review and comment.

### **Certification of Plans Prepared by the Regional Transit Authority (Sound Transit)**

Washington state law requires the Regional Council to formally certify that the regional transit system plan prepared by the Regional Transit Authority – known as Sound Transit – is consistent with the regional transportation plan (RCW 81.104). Regional Council staff, together with Sound Transit staff, prepares a draft consistency report for review and comment. This report will be forwarded to the Regional Council's policy boards, which will transmit a recommendation to the Executive Board for action.