

# appendices

## **Appendix A: Puget Sound Regional Council Adopted Policy and Plan Review**

**Process.** Revised by the Executive Board in September 2003. Addresses the review of countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, transit agency plans, and center plans.

## **Appendix B: Policy and Plan Review/excerpt from VISION 2040 – Part IV:**

**Implementation.** Describes the expectations for countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, transit plans, and center plans. Summarizes the Regional Council's *Policy and Plan Review Process* (see Appendix A above).

**Appendix C: Multicounty Planning Policies.** Includes all 174 multicounty planning policies which were adopted as part of VISION 2040 in April 2008. Note: The entire set of multicounty policies serve as the *regional guidelines and principles* that are required for the certification review of the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans.

## **Appendix D. Growth Management Act Requirements for Transportation Planning.**

The requirements for local transportation planning from the Growth Management Act are provided in full. Note: These requirements must be fully addressed as part of the certification review process.

## **Appendix E: Topic-by-Topic Guidance**

A set of four additional appendices has been developed to further assist in the development of policy amendments and plan updates. The first three of these appendices, E-1, E-2, and E-3, are similar in format and design. Each includes a series of planning topics, with requirements and recommendations for how the topics could be addressed in policy and planning documents.

Under each topic, information is first presented on how the issue might be addressed in countywide planning policies, then local comprehensive plans, including in cities with designated regional centers, and then finally for transit agencies – as well as for other agency planning, such as planning carried out by special service districts. The final appendix, E-4, is different in that it is designed specifically to address additional considerations for planning in centers. *(Note: revised June 2014 to reflect updated Center Plan Checklist)*

Note: By design, these appendices have been crafted to be fairly comprehensive. Plans can demonstrate consistency without necessarily using all of the criteria identified here. Other planning approaches and provisions may be very appropriate.

- **Appendix E-1: VISION 2040 Consistency.** This appendix focuses on planning topics that relate most directly to the *Regional Growth Strategy* and the multicounty planning policies. The appendix is arranged to follow the sequence of policy topics as they are presented in VISION 2040. Note that the multicounty planning policies serve as the regional guidelines and principles that are to be used to certify the transportation-related provisions in plans.
- **Appendix E-2: Consistency with Transportation 2040.** The appendix provides guidance for how to approach consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan. The physical design guidelines in *Transportation 2040* have also been established as regional guidelines and principles for planning in centers.
- **Appendix E-3: Additional Requirements for Transportation-Related Provisions.** This appendix is primarily geared to local comprehensive plans and addresses the transportation planning requirements outlined in the Growth Management Act. These requirements are considered in the certification review of transportation-related provisions in plans. While the appendix focuses on local planning requirements, it also includes some recommendations for how countywide planning policies and other agency planning may want to address these issues.
- **Appendix E-4: Center Plans.** This appendix has been designed as an additional resource to provide further guidance for developing plans for centers, specifically regionally designated centers. The content is based on the criteria that have been established by the Regional Council for designating regional centers – both regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers. *(Note: revised June 2014 to reflect updated Center Plan Checklist)*



## APPENDIX A: PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL ADOPTED POLICY AND PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

*Revised September 2003*

A hallmark of planning in Washington State is its emphasis on coordinating issues that are interjurisdictional in nature. The Growth Management Act requires coordination and consistency among planning efforts where there are “common borders or related regional issues” (RCW 36.70A.100). The Act also requires countywide and multicounty planning policies to serve as frameworks for ensuring consistency among local comprehensive plans (RCW 36.70A.210). In addition, the Regional Transportation Planning Organization legislation, which was adopted with the Growth Management Act, mandates that regional agencies certify that the transportation elements in local comprehensive plans are consistent with regional transportation plans (RCW 47.80.023). To that end, the legislation requires regional organizations to “establish guidelines and principles” for the purpose of evaluating transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans (RCW 47.80.026).

The Puget Sound Regional Council’s *Interlocal Agreement for Regional Planning of the Central Puget Sound Area* and *Framework Plan* also provide direction for coordinating planning on interjurisdictional issues. The *Interlocal Agreement* calls for the Regional Council to develop a process for the review of countywide planning policies (VII-C). The *Framework Plan* directs the Regional Council to work with local and state agencies to ensure that provisions of the *Regional Growth Strategy* are reflected in local planning efforts (Section 5, 1-c-3).<sup>13</sup>

The process for reviewing planning policies and local and regional plans includes three types:

- (1) review of local comprehensive plans, including the certification of their transportation elements
- (2) review of countywide planning policies and multicounty policies, including certification of countywide policies for consistency with the regional transportation plan
- (3) consistency review of transit agency plans.

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<sup>13</sup> VISION 2040, last updated in 2008, serves as the region’s overall growth and transportation strategy. Incorporated into VISION 2040 are the multicounty planning policies required under the Growth Management Act. These policies provide a framework for local and regional planning in the four-county region. The regional transportation plan, *Transportation 2040*, is a functional plan of VISION 2040. Adopted in 2010, this long-range transportation plan includes the multicounty framework policies and transportation policies.

The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Policy Framework requires that only jurisdictions with certified transportation elements can submit applications for projects and programs to be considered for inclusion in the Regional TIP.

## **Type 1: Review of Local Comprehensive Plans, Including Certification of Transportation Elements**

A questionnaire to be completed by agency staff is the chief tool used in the review of local comprehensive plans. The questionnaire focuses on the multicounty planning policies contained in the adopted regional growth and transportation strategy.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to provide copies of their draft comprehensive plans to the Regional Council prior to or during their formal plan review period. This enables the Regional Council to address any potential issues prior to the adoption of the plan. Regional Council staff will be available to local jurisdictions and transportation agency staff to discuss any issues or problems.

The certification of transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans is based on (1) conformity with requirements in the Growth Management Act for comprehensive plan elements, (2) consistency with the regional transportation plan, including consistency with established regional guidelines and principles, and (3) compliance with federal and state clean air legislation.

- 1 Conformity with the Growth Management Act. Conformity with the Growth Management Act focuses on five requirements for transportation elements listed in the Act: (1) consistency with the land use element, (2) identification of facilities and service needs, (3) discussion of financing for transportation facilities and services, (4) description of intergovernmental coordination efforts, and (5) development of transportation demand management strategies (RCW 36.70A.070).
- 2 Consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan. Consistency with the regional transportation plan is determined through a comparison of the transportation-related provisions in local plans with the policies and provisions in the adopted regional transportation plan.

*Consistency with Established Regional Guidelines and Principles.* Regional guidelines and principles are formally incorporated into the regional transportation plan and identified in the questionnaire used in the review of local comprehensive plans. As required by law (RCW 47.80.026), these guidelines address the following factors: a) freight transportation and port access, b) circulation systems, access to regional systems, and effective and efficient highway systems, c) transportation demand management, d) present and future railroad right-of-way corridors, e) intermodal connections, f) concentration of economic activity, g) residential density, h) development corridors and urban design that support high-capacity transit, i) ability of transportation facilities and programs to retain existing and attract new jobs and private investment to accommodate growth in demand, j) joint and mixed use developments, and k) development patterns that promote pedestrian and nonmotorized transportation.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> See *Transportation 2040*, page 4.

*Physical Design Guidelines.* In addition, ten physical design guidelines have been established in the regional transportation plan.<sup>15</sup> These include: (1) encourage mix of complementary land uses, (2) encourage compact growth by addressing density, (3) link neighborhoods, connect streets, sidewalks and trails, (4) integrate activity areas with surrounding neighborhoods, (5) locate public and semipublic uses near stations, (6) design for pedestrians and bicyclists, (7) provide usable open spaces, (8) manage the supply of parking, (9) promote the benefits of on-street parking, and 10) reduce and mitigate the effects of parking.

3. Air Quality Conformity. For jurisdictions in the central Puget Sound region that are within the designated maintenance areas for carbon monoxide, ozone, and/or particulate matter, air quality conformity is determined based on the consistency of local plans with the regional transportation plan. For the purpose of determining conformity with the state's Clean Air Conformity Act and consistency with the regional plan, the transportation element should include, at a minimum, policy language and provisions that commits the jurisdiction to developing programs and measures that address federal and state air quality regulations and laws (WAC 173-420-080).

Provisions That Are Not Transportation-Related. In order to coordinate planning on issues other than the transportation-related provisions addressed in local and transit agency plans, the Puget Sound Regional Council will provide comments to localities and agencies during their formal review period. Both formal and informal consultation on these plans provides an opportunity to identify how local governments and transportation agencies are using the *Regional Growth Strategy* in their planning efforts. (This area of coordination is voluntary.)

Procedures for Certification. The certification of transportation-related provisions in local plans includes a two-step review. In the first step, the Regional Council performs a preliminary review as soon as the draft comprehensive plan is available, typically during the time that the draft plan is being reviewed by state agencies; that is, at least 60 days prior to plan adoption. Review of the transportation-related provisions in draft form provides the opportunity for the jurisdiction to address inconsistencies or potential problems prior to plan adoption. The certification review includes completion of the plan review questionnaire by agency staff, which is returned to the Regional Council for review.

Once the final plan is adopted, the transportation-related provisions are reviewed a second time, focusing on any changes made to the plan after the preliminary review. The Regional Council then prepares a report on certification and sends it to the jurisdiction. After the jurisdiction has had an opportunity to review the report and comment, a recommendation on certification is presented to one or both of the Regional Council's policy boards and then to the Executive Board for consideration and action.<sup>16</sup> Transportation elements of local comprehensive plans remain certified until amended.

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<sup>15</sup> See *Transportation 2040*, pages 21.

<sup>16</sup> Amendments addressing transportation-related provisions are reviewed by the Transportation Policy Board; amendments that address centers planning or other growth management issues are reviewed by the Growth Policy Board.

An appeals process is identified in the *Interlocal Agreement* for jurisdictions wishing to take issue with the Board's action. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Executive Board will direct that a five-member board of hearing examiners be constituted from the membership of the Board to resolve the conflict in a manner that would allow the transportation element to be certified.<sup>17</sup>

Certification of Subarea Plans for Designated Regional Centers. Jurisdictions which have formally designated regional centers are requested 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 address the criteria identified in the Regional Council's center plan checklist. The Regional Council performs a preliminary review on the draft center plan, during the time that draft is under review by state agencies. Once the final center plan is adopted, the Regional Council prepares a certification report and sends it to the jurisdiction for review and comment. A recommendation is then presented to one or both of the policy boards and Executive Board for consideration and action. The appeals process described in the previous paragraph applies.

## **Type 2: Review of Countywide Planning Policies and Multicounty Policies, including Certification of Countywide Policies for Consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan**

The review of countywide planning policies and multicounty policies is based upon a comparative analysis of countywide and multicounty policies. The comparison focuses on the policy areas for regional planning identified in the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.210). These policy areas include (1) designation of urban growth areas, (2) contiguous and orderly development and the provision of services, (3) transportation facilities and strategies, (4) siting regional capital facilities, (5) interjurisdictional planning, (6) economic development, and (7) affordable housing. In addition, multicounty policies also include policies on open space, resource protection and critical areas.

The review of countywide planning policies and multicounty policies is a collaborative review which is intended to provide information to allow enhanced coordination of regional planning. The comparison focuses on the consistency of each county's countywide policies with adopted multicounty policies. Regional Council staff, together with local government staff, prepares a draft consistency report and circulates it for review and comment by the counties and any countywide growth management planning bodies. Any identified problems shall first be addressed through staff to staff discussions. Unresolved issues are referred to the Executive Board, counties, and countywide growth management planning bodies for consideration. If inconsistencies remain, the Regional Council, any county, or any countywide growth management planning body may request the Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development to provide mediation services pursuant to the Growth Management Act.

Certification of Countywide Planning Policies and the Adopted Regional Transportation Plan for Consistency. The consistency certification of countywide planning policies and the regional transportation plan is based on a comparative analysis of the adopted countywide transportation-related planning policies and the regional transportation plan (RCW 47.80.023).

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<sup>17</sup> Interlocal Agreement for Regional Planning of the Central Puget Sound Area (VII.A.4 and VII.A.5).

Regional Council staff reviews the countywide policies and the regional transportation plan and prepares a certification report noting any possible inconsistencies. (Note: This report may be a section of the consistency report comparing countywide and multicounty policies, if the transportation-related provisions are provided as part of a whole set of policies.) The report shall identify any recommended amendments to the countywide policies or the regional plan, or both, to make them consistent with each other. The report shall be submitted to one or both of the policy boards and Executive Board for action and then to the counties and the respective countywide growth management planning bodies for consideration. Any inconsistencies shall be addressed by consideration of amendments either to the policies or the plan, or both, according to the procedures established by law for amendment.

If a county or a countywide growth management planning body disagrees with a recommended amendment to its policies, it may appeal the recommendation. Appeals shall be made to the Executive Board, which shall either make recommendations to the General Assembly to amend the regional transportation plan to allow certification or deny certification.

Proposed amendments or updates to countywide planning policies shall be submitted by each county to the Regional Council for preliminary review at least 60 days in advance of action by the countywide growth management planning body. Preliminary review shall identify and recommend amendments to allow certification. After adoption of the policies they shall be reviewed for any changes made after the preliminary review, which would affect certification. A certification report and recommendation shall then be prepared as described above. Countywide planning policies remain certified until amended.

### **Type 3: Consistency Review of Transit Agency Plans**

To coordinate planning among the Regional Council, local governments and transit agencies, the Regional Council provides comments to transit agencies during the development of their transit development plans (six-year) and longer-term strategic plans. Coordination and consultation regarding these plans and the adopted regional growth and transportation strategy provides an opportunity to identify how transit agencies are using the regional strategy and reflecting growth management provisions in their planning efforts. Agencies are encouraged to provide copies of their draft plans to the Regional Council prior to or during their formal review period. This enables the Council to address any potential issues prior to the adoption of the plan. Regional Council staff is available to transit agency staff to discuss any issues or problems.

For major plan updates, Regional Council staff, together with transit agency staff, prepares a draft consistency report and circulates it for review and comment by the transit agency. The report is revised accordingly and transmitted to one or both of the policy boards and Executive Board for consideration. Any identified problems shall first be addressed through staff to staff discussions. Unresolved issues are referred to the Executive Board and transit agency officials for consideration.

### 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). The agency is encouraged to provide the Regional Council with drafts of its plan prior to or during the formal plan review period. This enables the Regional Council to address potential issues prior to final adoption. Regional Council staff, together with Sound Transit staff, prepare a draft consistency report for review and comment by the authority. A recommendation is then forwarded to one or both of the policy boards and Executive Board for consideration and action. If the authority disagrees with the recommendation, it may appeal to the Executive Board.

### **Land Uses Adjacent to General Aviation Airports**

Washington state law requires local jurisdictions to establish plans, zoning ordinances and development regulations which discourage the siting of incompatible land uses adjacent to public use general aviation airports (RCW 36.70.547). As part of its review of local comprehensive plans, the Regional Council assesses whether localities are addressing this requirement.

### **The Review of Amendments and Updates to Local Comprehensive Plans, Countywide Planning Policies and Transit Agency Plans**

All amendments to countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, and Sound Transit's plan shall be submitted to the Regional Council for review. However, action by the Regional Council's boards concerning certification of local comprehensive plans and countywide planning policies is limited to the certification-related issues addressed in the amendment(s).<sup>18</sup> Transit agencies are requested to submit any updates and amendments to their plans to Regional Council for review and comment.

### **Frequency of Plan Review and Certification**

Local jurisdictions' transportation elements are certified until amended or updated. Any changes to the transportation-related provisions will require certification. Countywide planning policies are also certified until amended or updated. Any changes will be reviewed against the multicounty policies and the regional transportation plan, as appropriate.

The policy and plan review process needs to be flexible in order to incorporate changes made over time. The regional transportation plan will itself be amended and updated regularly in accordance with federal requirements to reflect changes in local comprehensive plans and other related transportation plans. Amendments and updates to local plans and countywide policies are expected to demonstrate consistency with the version of the regional transportation plan in place at the time countywide or local adoption action is taken.

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<sup>18</sup> For example, if a jurisdiction amends only its policies addressing transportation demand management, then only that set of policies would be reviewed and acted upon for certification.

## **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.

## **APPENDIX C: MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES**

*adopted April 2008*

*Note: The entire set of Multicounty Planning Policies serves as the “regional guidelines and principles” used for certification of policies and plans – including the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans.*

### **GENERAL POLICIES**

**MPP-G-1** Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, and federally recognized Indian tribes where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.

**MPP-G-2** Update countywide planning policies, where necessary, prior to December 31, 2010, to address the multicounty planning policies in VISION 2040.

**MPP-G-3** Monitor implementation of VISION 2040 to evaluate progress in achieving the regional growth strategy, as well as the environment, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions.

#### *Fiscal*

**MPP-G-4** 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-G-5** Identify and develop changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices, and other fiscal tools within the region to implement the vision.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

***Overarching Goal:** The region will care for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants, and addressing potential climate change impacts. The region acknowledges that the health of all residents is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels should consider the impacts of land use, development patterns, and transportation on the ecosystem.*

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** The region will safeguard the natural environment by meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.*

**MPP-En-1** Develop regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions and countywide planning groups.

**MPP-En-2** Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide and local levels.

**MPP-En-3** Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality, and climate change.

**MPP-En-4** Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of social or economic status, live in a healthy environment, with minimal exposure to pollution.

**MPP-En-5** Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.

**MPP-En-6** Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards established by any level of government.

**MPP-En-7** Mitigate noise caused by traffic, industries, and other sources.

## **EARTH AND HABITAT GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: The region will preserve the beauty and natural ecological processes of the Puget Sound basin through the conservation and enhancement of natural resources and the environment.*

**MPP-En-8** Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries.

**MPP-En-9** Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.

**MPP-En-10** Preserve and enhance habitat to prevent species from inclusion on the Endangered Species List and to accelerate their removal from the list.

**MPP-En-11** Identify and protect wildlife corridors both inside and outside the urban growth area.

**MPP-En-12** Preserve and restore native vegetation to protect habitat, especially where it contributes to the overall ecological function and where invasive species are a significant threat to native ecosystems.

## WATER QUALITY GOAL AND POLICIES

*Goal: The region will meet or do better than standards established for water quality. The quality of the water flowing out of the region – including Puget Sound – should be as good as or better than the quality of water entering the region.*

**MPP-En-13** Maintain natural hydrological functions within the region's ecosystems and watersheds and, where feasible, restore them to a more natural state.

**MPP-En-14** Restore – where appropriate and possible – the region's freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.

**MPP-En-15** Reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers to the extent feasible and identify alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

**MPP-En-16** Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region's hydrological systems.

## AIR QUALITY GOAL AND POLICIES

*Goal: The overall quality of the region's air will be better than it is today.*

**MPP-En-17** Maintain or do better than existing standards for carbon monoxide, ozone, and particulates.

**MPP-En-18** Reduce levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases.

**MPP-En-19** Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.

## CLIMATE CHANGE GOAL AND POLICIES

*Goal: The region will reduce its overall production of harmful elements that contribute to climate change.*

**MPP-En-20** Address the central Puget Sound region's contribution to climate change by, at a minimum, committing to comply with state initiatives and directives regarding climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases. Jurisdictions and agencies should work to include an analysis of climate change impacts when conducting an environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act.

**MPP-En-21** Reduce the rate of energy use per capita, both in building use and in transportation activities.

**MPP-En-22** Pursue the development of energy management technology as part of meeting the region's energy needs.

**MPP-En-23** Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources and by reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.

**MPP-En-24** Take positive actions to reduce carbons, such as increasing the number of trees in urban portions of the region.

**MPP-En-25** Anticipate and address the impacts of climate change on regional water sources.

## **DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

***Overarching Goal:** The region will focus growth within already urbanized areas to create walkable, compact, and transit-oriented communities that maintain unique local character. Centers will continue to be a focus of development. Rural and natural resource lands will continue to be permanent and vital parts of the region.*

## **URBAN LANDS GOALS AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** The region will promote the efficient use of land, prevent urbanization of rural and resource lands, and provide for the efficient delivery of services within the designated urban growth area.*

**MPP-DP-1** Provide a regional framework for the designation and adjustment of the urban growth area to ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the urban growth area consistent with the regional vision.

**MPP-DP-2** Encourage efficient use of urban land by maximizing the development potential of existing urban lands, such as advancing development that achieves zoned density.

***Goal:** The region, countywide planning bodies, and local jurisdictions will work together to set population and employment growth targets consistent with the regional vision.*

**MPP-DP-3** Use consistent countywide targeting processes for allocating population and employment growth consistent with the regional vision, including establishing: (a) local employment targets, (b) local housing targets based on population projections, and (c) local housing and employment targets for each designated regional growth center.

**MPP-DP-4** Accommodate the region's growth first and foremost in the urban growth area. Ensure that development in rural areas is consistent with the regional vision.

## **REGIONAL GROWTH CENTERS GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: The region will direct growth and development to a limited number of designated regional growth centers.*

**MPP-DP-5** Focus a significant share of population and employment growth in designated regional growth centers.

**MPP-DP-6** Provide a regional framework for designating and evaluating regional growth centers.

**MPP-DP-7** Give funding priority – both for transportation infrastructure and for economic development – to support designated regional growth centers consistent with the regional vision. Regional funds are prioritized to regional growth centers. County-level and local funding are also appropriate to prioritize to regional growth centers.

## **REGIONAL MANUFACTURING/INDUSTRIAL CENTERS GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: The region will continue to maintain and support viable regional manufacturing/industrial centers to accommodate manufacturing, industrial, or advanced technology uses.*

**MPP-DP-8** Focus a significant share of employment growth in designated regional manufacturing/industrial centers.

**MPP-DP-9** Provide a regional framework for designating and evaluating regional manufacturing/industrial centers.

**MPP-DP-10** Give funding priority – both for transportation infrastructure and for economic development – to support designated regional manufacturing/industrial centers consistent with the regional vision. Regional funds are prioritized to regional manufacturing/industrial centers. County-level and local funding are also appropriate to prioritize to these regional centers.

## **OTHER CENTERS GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: Subregional centers, such as those designated through countywide processes or identified locally, will also play important roles in accommodating planned growth according to the regional vision. These centers will promote pedestrian connections and support transit-oriented uses.*

**MPP-DP-11** Support the development of centers within all jurisdictions, including town centers and activity nodes.

**MPP-DP-12** Establish a common framework among the countywide processes for designating subregional centers to ensure compatibility within the region.

**MPP-DP-13** Direct subregional funding, especially county-level and local funds, to centers designated through countywide processes, as well as to town centers, and other activity nodes.

#### **COMPACT URBAN COMMUNITIES POLICIES**

**MPP-DP-14** Preserve and enhance existing neighborhoods and create vibrant, sustainable compact urban communities that provide diverse choices in housing types, a high degree of connectivity in the street network to accommodate walking, bicycling and transit use, and sufficient public spaces.

**MPP-DP-15** Support the transformation of key underutilized lands, such as brownfields and greyfields, to higher density, mixed-use areas to complement the development of centers and the enhancement of existing neighborhoods.

#### **CITIES IN RURAL AREAS POLICIES**

**MPP-DP-16** Direct commercial, retail, and community services that serve rural residents into neighboring cities and existing activity areas to prevent the conversion of rural land into commercial uses.

**MPP-DP-17** Promote transit service to and from existing cities in rural areas.

#### **UNINCORPORATED URBAN GROWTH AREAS GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** All unincorporated lands within the urban growth area will either annex into existing cities or incorporate as new cities.*

**MPP-DP-18** Affiliate all urban unincorporated lands appropriate for annexation with an adjacent city or identify those that may be feasible for incorporation. To fulfill the regional growth strategy, annexation is preferred over incorporation.

**MPP-DP-19** Support joint planning between cities and counties to work cooperatively in planning for urban unincorporated areas to ensure an orderly transition to city governance, including efforts such as: (a) establishing urban development standards, (b) addressing service and infrastructure financing, and (c) transferring permitting authority.

**MPP-DP-20** Support the provision and coordination of urban services to unincorporated urban areas by the adjacent city or, where appropriate, by the county as an interim approach.

## RURAL LANDS GOAL AND POLICIES

*Goal: The region will permanently sustain the ecological functions, resource value, lifestyle, and character of rural lands for future generations by limiting the types and intensities of development in rural areas.*

**MPP-DP-21** Contribute to improved ecological functions and more appropriate use of rural lands by minimizing impacts through innovative and environmentally sensitive land use management and development practices.

**MPP-DP-22** Do not allow urban net densities in rural and resource areas.

**MPP-DP-23** Avoid new fully contained communities outside of the designated urban growth area because of their potential to create sprawl and undermine state and regional growth management goals.

**MPP-DP-24** In the event that a proposal is made for creating a new fully contained community, the county shall make the proposal available to other counties and to the Regional Council for advance review and comment on regional impacts.

**MPP-DP-25** Use existing and new tools and strategies to address vested development to ensure that future growth meets existing permitting and development standards and prevents further fragmentation of rural lands.

**MPP-DP-26** Ensure that development occurring in rural areas is rural in character and is focused into communities and activity areas.

**MPP-DP-27** Maintain the long-term viability of permanent rural land by avoiding the construction of new highways and major roads in rural areas.

**MPP-DP-28** Support long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture and forestry within rural areas.

## RESOURCE LANDS GOAL AND POLICIES

*Goal: The region will conserve its natural resource land permanently by designating, maintaining, and enhancing farm, forest, and mineral lands.*

**MPP-DP-29** Protect and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas.

**MPP-DP-30** Establish best management practices that protect the long-term integrity of the natural environment, adjacent land uses, and the long-term productivity of resource lands.

**MPP-DP-31** Support the sustainability of designated resource lands. Do not convert these lands to other uses.

**MPP-DP-32** Ensure that resource lands and their related economic activities are not adversely impacted by development on adjacent non-resource lands.

## **REGIONAL DESIGN GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** The region will use design to shape the physical environment in order to create more livable communities, better integrate land use and transportation systems, and improve efforts to restore the environment.*

**MPP-DP-33** Identify, protect and enhance those elements and characteristics that give the central Puget Sound region its identity, especially the natural visual resources and positive urban form elements.

**MPP-DP-34** Preserve significant regional historic, visual and cultural resources including public views, landmarks, archaeological sites, historic and cultural landscapes, and areas of special character.

**MPP-DP-35** Develop high quality, compact urban communities throughout the region's urban growth area that impart a sense of place, preserve local character, provide for mixed uses and choices in housing types, and encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use.

**MPP-DP-36** Provide a wide range of building and community types to serve the needs of a diverse population.

**MPP-DP-37** Support urban design, historic preservation, and arts to enhance quality of life, improve the natural and human-made environments, promote health and well-being, contribute to a prosperous economy, and increase the region's resiliency in adapting to changes or adverse events.

**MPP-DP-38** Design public buildings and spaces that contribute to a sense of community and a sense of place.

**MPP-DP-39** Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places and public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.

**MPP-DP-40** Design transportation projects and other infrastructure to achieve community development objectives and improve communities.

**MPP-DP-41** Allow natural boundaries to help determine the routes and placement of infrastructure connections and improvements.

**MPP-DP-42** Recognize and work with linear systems that cross jurisdictional boundaries – including natural systems, continuous land use patterns, and transportation and infrastructure systems – in community planning, development, and design.

## **BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: The region's communities will be planned and designed to promote physical, social, and mental well-being so that all people can live healthier and more active lives.*

**MPP-DP-43** Design communities to provide an improved environment for walking and bicycling.

**MPP-DP-44** Incorporate provisions addressing health and well-being into appropriate regional, countywide, and local planning and decision-making processes.

**MPP-DP-45** Promote cooperation and coordination among transportation providers, local government, and developers to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are designed to promote and improve physical, mental, and social health and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments.

**MPP-DP-46** Develop and implement design guidelines to encourage construction of healthy buildings and facilities to promote healthy people.

**MPP-DP-47** Support agricultural, farmland, and aquatic uses that enhance the food system in the central Puget Sound region and its capacity to produce fresh and minimally processed foods.

## **INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES POLICIES**

**MPP-DP-48** Encourage the use of innovative techniques, including the transfer of development rights, the purchase of development rights, and conservation incentives. Use these techniques to focus growth within the urban growth area (especially cities) to lessen pressures to convert rural and resource areas to more intense urban-type development, while protecting the future economic viability of sending areas and sustaining rural and resource-based uses.

**MPP-DP-49** Support and provide incentives to increase the percentage of new development and redevelopment – both public and private – to be built at higher performing energy and environmental standards.

**MPP-DP-50** Streamline development standards and regulations for residential and commercial development, especially in centers, to provide flexibility and to accommodate a broader range of project types consistent with the regional vision.

## **INCOMPATIBLE LAND USES POLICIES**

**MPP-DP-51** Protect the continued operation of general aviation airports from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

**MPP-DP-52** Protect military lands from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

**MPP-DP-53** Protect industrial lands from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

## **CONCURRENCY POLICIES**

**MPP-DP-54** Develop concurrency programs and methods that fully consider growth targets, service needs, and level-of-service standards. Focus level-of-service standards for transportation on the movement of people and goods instead of only on the movement of vehicles.

**MPP-DP-55** Address nonmotorized, pedestrian, and other multimodal types of transportation options in concurrency programs – both in assessment and mitigation.

**MPP-DP-56** Tailor concurrency programs for centers and other subareas to encourage development that can be supported by transit.

## **HOUSING**

***Overarching Goal:** The region will preserve, improve, and expand its housing stock to provide a range of affordable, healthy, and safe housing choices to every resident. The region will continue to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people.*

## **POLICIES**

### ***Housing diversity and affordability***

**MPP-H-1** Provide a range of housing types and choices to meet the housing needs of all income levels and demographic groups within the region.

**MPP-H-2** Achieve and sustain – through preservation, rehabilitation, and new development – a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of low-income, moderate-income, middle-income, and special needs individuals and households that is equitably and rationally distributed throughout the region.

**MPP-H-3** Promote homeownership opportunities for low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income families and individuals.

### ***Jobs-housing balance***

**MPP-H-4** Develop and provide a range of housing choices for workers at all income levels throughout the region in a manner that promotes accessibility to jobs and provides opportunities to live in proximity to work.

### *Centers housing*

**MPP-H-5** Expand the supply and range of housing, including affordable units, in centers throughout the region.

**MPP-H-6** 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 affordable housing.

### *Best housing practices*

**MPP-H-7** Encourage jurisdictions to review and streamline development standards and regulations to advance their public benefit, provide flexibility, and minimize additional costs to housing.

**MPP-H-8** Encourage the use of innovative techniques to provide a broader range of housing types for all income levels and housing needs.

**MPP-H-9** Encourage interjurisdictional cooperative efforts and public-private partnerships to advance the provision of affordable and special needs housing.

## **ECONOMY**

*Overarching Goal: The region will have a prospering and sustainable regional economy by supporting businesses and job creation, investing in all people, sustaining environmental quality, and creating great central places, diverse communities, and high quality of life.*

### **BUSINESS GOAL AND POLICIES**

*Goal: The region's economy prospers by supporting businesses and job creation.*

**MPP-Ec-1** Support economic development activities that help to retain, expand, or diversify the region's businesses. Target recruitment activities towards businesses that provide family-wage jobs.

**MPP-Ec-2** Foster a positive business climate by encouraging regionwide and statewide collaboration among business, government, education, labor, military, workforce development, and other nonprofit organizations.

**MPP-Ec-3** Support established and emerging industry clusters that export goods and services, import capital, and have growth potential.

**MPP-Ec-4** Leverage the region's position as an international gateway by supporting businesses, ports, and agencies involved in trade-related activities.

**MPP-Ec-5** Foster a supportive environment for business startups, small businesses, and locally owned businesses to help them continue to prosper.

**MPP-Ec-6** Ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, services, and information in and through the region with infrastructure investments, particularly in and connecting designated centers, to meet the distinctive needs of the regional economy.

**MPP-Ec-7** Encourage the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to incorporate environmental and social responsibility into their practices.

## **PEOPLE GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** The region's economy prospers by investing in all of its people.*

**MPP-Ec-8** Promote economic activity and employment growth that creates widely shared prosperity and sustains a diversity of family-wage jobs for the region's residents.

**MPP-Ec-9** Ensure that the region has a high quality education system that is accessible to all of the region's residents.

**MPP-Ec-10** Ensure that the region has high quality and accessible training programs that give people opportunities to learn, maintain, and upgrade skills necessary to meet the current and forecast needs of the regional and global economy.

**MPP-Ec-11** Address unique obstacles and special needs – as well as recognize the special assets – of disadvantaged populations in improving the region's shared economic future.

**MPP-Ec-12** Foster appropriate and targeted economic growth in distressed areas to create economic opportunity for residents of these areas.

**MPP-Ec-13** Support the contributions of the region's culturally and ethnically diverse communities in helping the region continue to expand its international economy.

**MPP-Ec-14** Sustain and enhance arts and cultural institutions to foster an active and vibrant community life in every part of the region.

## **PLACES GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** The region's economy prospers through the creation of great central places, diverse communities, and high quality of life that integrates transportation, the economy, and the environment.*

**MPP-Ec-15** Ensure that economic development sustains and respects the region's environmental quality.

**MPP-Ec-16** Utilize urban design strategies and approaches to ensure that changes to the built environment preserve and enhance the region's unique attributes and each community's distinctive identity in recognition of the economic value of sense of place.

**MPP-Ec-17** Use incentives and investments to create a closer balance between jobs and housing, consistent with the regional growth strategy.

**MPP-Ec-18** Concentrate a significant amount of economic growth in designated centers and connect them to each other in order to strengthen the region's economy and communities and to promote economic opportunity.

**MPP-Ec-19** Maximize the use of existing designated manufacturing and industrial centers by focusing appropriate types and amounts of employment growth in these areas and by protecting them from incompatible adjacent uses.

**MPP-Ec-20** Provide an adequate supply of housing with good access to employment centers to support job creation and economic growth.

**MPP-Ec-21** Recognize the need for employment in cities in the rural areas and promote compatible occupations (such as, but not limited to, tourism, cottage and home-based businesses, and local services) that do not conflict with rural character and resource-based land uses.

**MPP-Ec-22** Support economic activity in rural and natural resource areas at a size and scale that is compatible with the long-term integrity and productivity of these lands.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

***Overarching Goal:** The region will have a safe, cleaner, integrated, sustainable, and highly efficient multimodal transportation system that supports the regional growth strategy and promotes economic and environmental vitality, and better public health.*

### **MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT, AND SAFETY GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:** As a high priority, the region will maintain, preserve, and operate its existing transportation system in a safe and usable state.*

**MPP-T-1** Maintain and operate transportation systems to provide safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people, goods, and services.

**MPP-T-2** Protect the investment in the existing system and lower overall life-cycle costs through effective maintenance and preservation programs.

**MPP-T-3** Reduce the need for new capital improvements through investments in operations, pricing programs, demand management strategies, and system management activities that improve the efficiency of the current system.

**MPP-T-4** Improve safety of the transportation system and, in the long term, achieve the state's goal of zero deaths and disabling injuries.

### ***Sustainable Transportation***

**MPP-T-5** Foster a less polluting system that reduces the negative effects of transportation infrastructure and operation on the climate and natural environment.

**MPP-T-6** Seek the development and implementation of transportation modes and technologies that are energy-efficient and improve system performance.

**MPP-T-7** Develop a transportation system that minimizes negative impacts to human health.

**MPP-T-8** Protect the transportation system against disaster, develop prevention and recovery strategies, and plan for coordinated responses.

### **SUPPORTING THE GROWTH STRATEGY GOAL AND POLICIES**

**Goal:** *The future transportation system will support the regional growth strategy by focusing on connecting centers with a highly efficient multimodal transportation network.*

#### ***Coordination***

**MPP-T-9** Coordinate state, regional, and local planning efforts for transportation through the Puget Sound Regional Council to develop and operate a highly efficient, multimodal system that supports the regional growth strategy.

**MPP-T-10** Promote coordination among transportation providers and local governments to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are designed in a way that improves overall mobility and accessibility to and within such development.

#### ***Centers and Compact Communities***

**MPP-T-11** Prioritize investments in transportation facilities and services in the urban growth area that support compact, pedestrian- and transit-oriented densities and development.

**MPP-T-12** Give regional funding priority to transportation improvements that serve regional growth centers and regional manufacturing and industrial centers.

**MPP-T-13** Make transportation investments that improve economic and living conditions so that industries and skilled workers continue to be retained and attracted to the region.

**MPP-T-14** Design, construct, and operate transportation facilities to serve all users safely and conveniently, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users, while accommodating the movement of freight and goods, as suitable to each facility's function and context as determined by the appropriate jurisdictions.

**MPP-T-15** Improve local street patterns – including their design and how they are used – for walking, bicycling, and transit use to enhance communities, connectivity, and physical activity.

**MPP-T-16** Promote and incorporate bicycle and pedestrian travel as important modes of transportation by providing facilities and reliable connections.

### ***Freight***

**MPP-T-17** Ensure the freight system meets the needs of: (1) global gateways, (2) producer needs within the state and region, and (3) regional and local distribution.

**MPP-T-18** Maintain and improve the existing multimodal freight transportation system in the region to increase reliability and efficiency and to prevent degradation of freight mobility.

**MPP-T-19** Coordinate regional planning with railroad capacity expansion plans and support capacity expansion that is compatible with state, regional, and local plans.

### ***Context and Design***

**MPP-T-20** Design transportation facilities to fit within the context of the built or natural environments in which they are located.

**MPP-T-21** Apply urban design principles in transportation programs and projects for regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas.

**MPP-T-22** Implement transportation programs and projects in ways that prevent or minimize negative impacts to low-income, minority, and special needs populations.

## **GREATER OPTIONS AND MOBILITY GOAL AND POLICIES**

***Goal:*** *The region will invest in transportation systems that offer greater options, mobility, and access in support of the regional growth strategy.*

**MPP-T-23** Emphasize transportation investments that provide and encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel and increase travel options, especially to and within centers and along corridors connecting centers.

**MPP-T-24** Increase the proportion of trips made by transportation modes that are alternatives to driving alone.

**MPP-T-25** Ensure mobility choices for people with special transportation needs, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, the young, and low-income populations.

**MPP-T-26** Strategically expand capacity and increase efficiency of the transportation system to move goods, services, and people to and within the urban growth area. Focus on

investments that produce the greatest net benefits to people and minimize the environmental impacts of transportation.

**MPP-T-27** Improve key facilities connecting the region to national and world markets to support the economic vitality of the region.

**MPP-T-28** Avoid construction of major roads and capacity expansion on existing roads in rural and resource areas. Where increased roadway capacity is warranted to support safe and efficient travel through rural areas, appropriate rural development regulations and strong commitments to access management should be in place prior to authorizing such capacity expansion in order to prevent unplanned growth in rural areas.

**MPP-T-29** Promote the preservation of existing rights-of-way for future high-capacity transit.

**MPP-T-30** Encourage public and private sector partnerships to identify and implement improvements to personal mobility and freight movement.

**MPP-T-31** Support effective management of existing air transportation capacity and ensure that future capacity needs are addressed in cooperation with responsible agencies, affected communities, and users.

**MPP-T-32** Integrate transportation systems to make it easy for people and freight to move from one mode or technology to another.

**MPP-T-33** Promote transportation financing methods, such as user fees, tolls, and pricing, that sustain maintenance, preservation, and operation of facilities and reflect the costs imposed by users.

## **PUBLIC SERVICES**

***Overarching Goal:** The region will support development with adequate public facilities and services in a coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective manner that supports local and regional growth planning objectives.*

### **SERVICES IN GENERAL POLICIES**

**MPP-PS-1** Protect and enhance the environment and public health and safety when providing services and facilities.

**MPP-PS-2** Time and phase services and facilities to guide growth and development in a manner that supports the regional vision.

**MPP-PS-3** Promote demand management and the conservation of services and facilities prior to developing new facilities.

**MPP-PS-4** Do not provide urban services in rural areas. Design services for limited access when they are needed to solve isolated health and sanitation problems, so as not to increase the development potential of the surrounding rural area.

**MPP-PS-5** Encourage the design of public facilities and utilities in rural areas to be at a size and scale appropriate to rural locations, so as not to increase development pressure.

**MPP-PS-6** Obtain urban services from cities or appropriate regional service providers, and encourage special service districts, including sewer, water, and fire districts, to consolidate or dissolve as a result.

#### **SERVICES BY TYPE GOAL AND POLICIES**

**MPP-PS-7** Develop conservation measures to reduce solid waste and increase recycling.

**MPP-PS-8** Promote improved conservation and more efficient use of water, as well as the increased use of reclaimed water, to reduce wastewater generation and ensure water availability.

**MPP-PS-9** Serve new development within the urban growth area with sanitary sewer systems or fit it with dry sewers in anticipation of connection to the sewer system. Alternative technology to sewers should only be considered when it can be shown to produce treatment at standards that are equal to or better than the sewer system and where a long-term maintenance plan is in place.

**MPP-PS-10** Replace failing septic systems within the urban growth area with sanitary sewers or alternative technology that is comparable or better.

**MPP-PS-11** Use innovative and state-of-the-art design and techniques when replacing septic tanks to restore and improve environmental quality.

**MPP-PS-12** Promote the use of renewable energy resources to meet the region's energy needs.

**MPP-PS-13** Reduce the rate of energy consumption through conservation and alternative energy forms to extend the life of existing facilities and infrastructure.

**MPP-PS-14** Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to serve growth and development in a manner that is consistent with the regional vision and friendly to the environment.

**MPP-PS-15** Coordinate, design, and plan for public safety services and programs.

**MPP-PS-16** Encourage health and human services facilities to locate near centers and transit for efficient accessibility to service delivery.

*Goal: Residents of the region will have access to high quality drinking water that meets or is better than federal and state requirements.*

**MPP-PS-17** Identify and develop additional water supply sources to meet the region's long-term water needs, recognizing the potential impacts on water supply from climate change and fisheries protection.

**MPP-PS-18** Promote coordination among local and tribal governments and water providers and suppliers to meet long-term water needs in the region in a manner that supports the region's growth strategy.

**MPP-PS-19** Reduce the per capita rate of water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation, and reuse.

**MPP-PS-20** Protect the source of the water supply to meet the needs for both human consumption and for environmental balance.

#### **SITING FACILITIES POLICIES**

**MPP-PS-21** Site schools, institutions, and other community facilities that primarily serve urban populations within the urban growth area in locations where they will promote the local desired growth plans.

**MPP-PS-22** Locate schools, institutions, and other community facilities serving rural residents in neighboring cities and towns and design these facilities in keeping with the size and scale of the local community.

**MPP-PS-23** Site or expand regional capital facilities in a manner that (1) reduces adverse social, environmental, and economic impacts on the host community, (2) equitably balances the location of new facilities, and (3) addresses regional planning objectives.

**MPP-PS-24** Do not locate regional capital facilities outside the urban growth area unless it is demonstrated that a non-urban site is the most appropriate location for such a facility.

## **APPENDIX D: GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

### *Chapter 36.70A.070(6), Revised Code of Washington*

(a) The transportation element shall include the following subelements:

(i) Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;

(ii) Estimated traffic impacts to state-owned transportation facilities resulting from land use assumptions to assist the department of transportation in monitoring the performance of state facilities, to plan improvements for the facilities, and to assess the impact of land-use decisions on state-owned transportation facilities;

(iii) Facilities and services needs, including:

(A) An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation facilities and services, including transit alignments and general aviation airport facilities, to define existing capital facilities and travel levels as a basis for future planning. This inventory must include state-owned transportation facilities within the city or county's jurisdictional boundaries;

(B) Level of service standards for all locally owned arterials and transit routes to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system. These standards should be regionally coordinated;

(C) For state-owned transportation facilities, level of service standards for highways, as prescribed in chapters 47.06 and 47.80 RCW, to gauge the performance of the system. The purposes of reflecting level of service standards for state highways in the local comprehensive plan are to monitor the performance of the system, to evaluate improvement strategies, and to facilitate coordination between the county's or city's six-year street, road, or transit program and the department of transportation's six-year investment program. The concurrency requirements of (b) of this subsection do not apply to transportation facilities and services of statewide significance except for counties consisting of islands whose only connection to the mainland are state highways or ferry routes. In these island counties, state highways and ferry route capacity must be a factor in meeting the concurrency requirements in (b) of this subsection;

(D) Specific actions and requirements for bringing into compliance locally owned transportation facilities or services that are below an established level of service standard;

(E) Forecasts of traffic for at least ten years based on the adopted land use plan to provide information on the location, timing, and capacity needs of future growth;

(F) Identification of state and local system needs to meet current and future demands. Identified needs on state-owned transportation facilities must be consistent with the statewide multimodal transportation plan required under chapter 47.06 RCW;

(iv) Finance, including:

(A) An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against probable funding resources;

(B) A multiyear financing plan based on the needs identified in the comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as the basis for the six-year street, road, or transit program required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems. The multiyear financing plan should be coordinated with the six-year improvement program developed by the department of transportation as required by \*\*RCW 47.05.030;

(C) If probable funding falls short of meeting identified needs, a discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or how land use assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that level of service standards will be met;

(v) Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions;

(vi) Demand-management strategies;

(vii) Pedestrian and bicycle component to include collaborative efforts to identify and designate planned improvements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles.

(b) After adoption of the comprehensive plan by jurisdictions required to plan or who choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, local jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit development approval if the development causes the level of service on a locally owned transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the transportation element of the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made concurrent with the development. These strategies may include increased public transportation service, ride sharing programs, demand management, and other transportation systems management strategies. For the purposes of this subsection (6) "concurrent with the development" shall mean that improvements or strategies are in place at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is in place to complete the improvements or strategies within six years.

(c) The transportation element described in this subsection (6), and the six-year plans required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems, and \*\*RCW 47.05.030 for the state, must be consistent.

## APPENDIX E: TOPIC BY TOPIC GUIDANCE

A set of four appendices have been developed to provide topic-by-topic guidance to policy development for various types of plans. These appendices provide a greater level of detail than the checklists or reporting tools in Part 3. Recommendations are included for how specific issues or topics should be addressed in countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, plans for cities with designated centers, and transit agency and other agency planning.

*Appendix E-1* describes issues and approaches for achieving **consistency with VISION 2040**. This section follows the outline of the multicounty planning policies, which also serve as the *regional guidelines and principles* required for certifying the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans and countywide planning policies.

*Appendix E-2* addresses issues related to **consistency with *Transportation 2040***, the adopted regional transportation plan.

*Appendix E-3* describes provisions in the **Growth Management Act for local transportation planning**, which also are factors for the certification of transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans.

*Appendix E-4* addresses **planning in centers**. While this information is geared primarily to designated regional centers, it also has applications for planning for central places and more compact activity areas of different types. (*Note: revised June 2014 to reflect updated Center Plan Checklist*)

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## APPENDIX E-1: VISION 2040 CONSISTENCY

*...including regional guidelines for certification of transportation provisions*

VISION 2040 represents regional agreement on issues of regional impact and significance. VISION 2040 features a four-county *Regional Growth Strategy*, an overarching theme on sustainability, a set of goals and multicounty planning policies, and implementation actions. This section addresses the provisions of VISION 2040 that countywide planning bodies, local jurisdictions, transit agencies, and other planning efforts should incorporate into their plans.

### Regional Growth Strategy

VISION 2040 features a numeric *Regional Growth Strategy*, which provides guidance for where population and employment growth should be located to achieve the goals of VISION 2040. The *Regional Growth Strategy* is based on regionwide growth forecasts and covers a planning period of 2000-2040. It is organized around “*regional geographies*,” which are groups of cities that share similar characteristics, along with categories for *Unincorporated Urban Areas* and *Rural Areas*. There are four types of regional geographies for cities: *Metropolitan Cities*, *Core Cities*, *Larger Cities*, and *Small Cities*.

Compared to the growth targets<sup>19</sup> established in the four-county region prior to the adoption of VISION 2040, the *Regional Growth Strategy* plans for an increased role for *Metropolitan Cities* and *Core Cities*, as well as *Larger Cities*. At the same time, the *Regional Growth Strategy* plans for a decreased role for *Rural Areas*. Targets are to be set for both population and employment; the population targets should be expressed in terms of housing units. Counties are to collaborate to ensure compatibility among their respective target-setting processes. The Regional Council is a forum for counties to work on collaboration.

#### ⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

The growth targeting processes undertaken at the countywide planning level are particularly important for implementing the *Regional Growth Strategy*. These processes allocate official county-level planning forecasts and assign growth to individual cities and unincorporated planning areas. Beginning with the next round of growth targeting work conducted in each county, adopted growth targets are to apply the regional guidance contained in the *Regional Growth Strategy*. The December 2010 update of countywide planning policies provides a practical opportunity to align growth targets with VISION 2040’s *Regional Growth Strategy*. Subsequent amendments to countywide planning policies should reflect any updates to VISION 2040 and provide further direction to local plans for aligning with the *Regional Growth Strategy*.

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<sup>19</sup> The Growth Management Act and some of the countywide planning policies use both the term “targets” and “allocations” to refer to the countywide process for the numeric distribution of growth among local jurisdictions for planning purposes. Following VISION 2040, this manual uses the term “allocation” to refer to the *Regional Growth Strategy* and “growth target” to refer to the countywide processes. However, countywide and local planning efforts should use whatever terminology is appropriate in their own processes when employing the guidance in the manual.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

- Address how local growth targets are to align with the *Regional Growth Strategy* – both at the county-level and regional geography-level
- Address setting growth targets for population (expressed as housing units), as well as for employment growth targets consistent with the *Regional Growth Strategy*.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Planning***

Local comprehensive plans are to be consistent with the growth targets that are adopted through each respective countywide process. Local planning processes need to be able to accommodate future housing and employment needs as identified by the growth target. Such processes must also address having sufficient zoning and infrastructure capacity.

Cities should participate in their countywide growth target process and then incorporate these adopted targets into their comprehensive plans. Incorporating targets into the local comprehensive plan means:

- Documenting the growth targets – for residential (expressed in housing units) and employment – in the land use element.
- Preparing land use assumptions (to accommodate housing units and commercial space anticipated over the planning period) that are consistent with the targets.
- Planning and budgeting for the public facilities and services needed to serve the anticipated growth.

In the event that growth targets have not been established at the countywide level in time to be used for the local comprehensive plan updates in 2011, cities should address steps they are taking to align with the *Regional Growth Strategy*. Subsequent regular updates to local plans should demonstrate actions and steps to further align with VISION 2040.

⇒ ***for Cities with Designated Regional Centers***

Cities with designated regional growth centers and/or regional manufacturing/industrial centers should prepare subarea plans for each center within their jurisdiction. These subarea plans, like the city's comprehensive plans, should be explicit about how much residential and employment growth is being planned for. (In the case of manufacturing/industrial centers, the focus would be only on employment growth.) The city should use its adopted citywide growth target as a basis for developing a target for each designated center.<sup>20</sup>

- Cities with formally designated regional centers should include in their plans housing and employment targets for each regional growth center and employment targets for each manufacturing/industrial center.
- These targets should be developed from the city's overall housing and employment targets, and should reflect the centers' status as priority locations for housing, affordable housing, and employment growth.

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<sup>20</sup> The *Designation Criteria for Regional Growth and Manufacturing Centers*, adopted by the PSRC Executive Board in June 2003, requires a minimum target of 45 activity units (jobs + population) per gross acre in the center. Manufacturing/industrial centers should have an employment target of at least 20,000 jobs total.

⇒ ***for Transit Agency and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

Other agencies, such as transit agencies, utilities, and special service districts, need to work to implement the *Regional Growth Strategy*. Agencies should coordinate their planning efforts with local comprehensive plans and should plan for sufficient public facilities and services to support the population and employment growth called for in the *Regional Growth Strategy* and local growth targets.

**Consistency with Multicounty Planning Policies**

VISION 2040 contains a set of multicounty planning policies for the central Puget Sound region as required by RCW 36.70A.210(7). The multicounty planning policies complement and implement the *Regional Growth Strategy* and sustainability framework, and provide an integrated framework for addressing land use, economic development, transportation, other infrastructure, and environmental planning. The multicounty planning policies provide a common framework for planning at various levels within the region and provide the policy structure for the Regional Council’s functional plans (*Transportation 2040* and the *Regional Economic Strategy*).

State law requires that *regional guidelines and principles* be established for regional and local transportation planning purposes (RCW 47.80.026). The multicounty planning policies in VISION 2040 have been adopted to serve as the region's guidelines and principles.

The multicounty planning policies are grouped in six overall categories: (1) *environment*, (2) *development patterns*, (3) *housing*, (4) *economy*, (5) *transportation*, and (6) *public services*. A small set of general policies is also included.

GENERAL MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES

A small set of general multicounty planning policies address planning coordination, monitoring, and fiscal challenges and opportunities. MPP-G-1 echoes the Growth Management Act’s call for coordinated comprehensive planning. MPP-G-2 calls for the update of countywide planning policies by December 2010 to ensure that these policies are in place to guide amendments and updates to local comprehensive plans. The Growth Management Act provides a schedule for review and updates to local plans.

Two *general* multicounty policies (MPP-G-4 and MPP-G-5) recognize the importance of infrastructure and public service funding to the successful implementation of VISION 2040. Cities, counties, and other planning agencies should explore existing and new sources of funding for public facilities and services and should identify and develop changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Address coordination among jurisdictions, agencies and tribes to address existing and new requirements in state law, provisions in VISION 2040, and other issues where there is countywide agreement.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Planning, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers*

**Funding for Infrastructure**

Resources for information on infrastructure funding are available

at:

[www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/implementation/infrastructure/](http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/implementation/infrastructure/)

- Address coordination with adjacent jurisdictions, transit agencies, and special districts to ensure that common regional and local planning goals and objectives are being met.
- Identify existing and new sources of financing for public facilities and services, including changes to fiscal tools currently used.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Update plans to make them consistent with VISION 2040, countywide planning policies, and local comprehensive plans.
- Identify existing and new sources of funding for public facilities and services.

**THE ENVIRONMENT**

VISION 2040 calls for the region to recognize that its health, its economy, and ultimately its sustainability is impacted by how the region's communities are planned. Planning for complex ecological systems in the region (and beyond) requires a system-level, interdisciplinary approach. The *Environment* section includes specific provisions addressing environmental stewardship, habitat, water quality, air quality, and climate change.

*Stewardship* addresses managing resources in a manner that is fiscally responsible and protects key ecological functions. VISION 2040 calls for coordinating environmental planning in the region and using the best information possible at all levels of planning.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Consider adding a policy section on the environment and sustainability
- Provide guidance for addressing the environment within countywide and local planning processes – including the use of system approaches to planning for whole ecosystems (such as waterways and their entire watersheds), adaptive management principles, and landscape-scale analysis that considers the relationship between aquatic and land use processes.
- Provide guidance for addressing regionwide environmental planning initiatives, such as the Department of Ecology's watershed resource inventory areas (WRIA) process.
- Include direction for locating development in environmentally sensitive ways.
- Address procedures for decision-making based on the best information available.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

- Consider adding an environmental element in the comprehensive plan
- Apply a systems approach to planning for the environment – including adaptive management principles and landscape-scale analysis.
- Address regionwide environmental planning initiatives, such as the Department of Ecology’s water resource inventory areas (WRIA) process.
- Include provisions to locate development in environmentally sensitive ways.
- Address procedures for planning decision-making based on the best information available.
- Include measures to mitigate noise impacts from traffic, industries, and other sources.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Address the environment and sustainable practices in planning, infrastructure design, and the provision of services – in a manner consistent with regional and local growth management objectives.
- Address regionwide environmental planning initiatives, such as the Department of Ecology’s water resource inventory areas (WRIA) process.
- Base planning decisions on the best information available.
- Include measures to mitigate noise impacts from traffic, industries, and other sources.

**Puget Sound Partnership**

*The Partnership’s four-part Action Agenda calls for (1) protection, (2) restoration of viable ecological functions, stopping pollution at its source, and (4) fixing the regulatory process. Protection includes establishing easements for habitat and planning at an ecosystem scale. Restoration includes salmon recovery plans and estuary and near-shore projects. Stopping pollution includes retrofitting storm systems and incorporating low-impact development practices. Process issues include shoreline protection, funding for critical area planning, and addressing failing septic systems.*

*For detailed information on the Action Agenda, low-impact development practices, and other resources, see: [www.psp.wa.gov/](http://www.psp.wa.gov/).*

**Earth and Habitat**

VISION 2040 calls for the protection of open space, critical environmental areas, habitat areas and corridors, and native vegetation.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide direction for coordinating jurisdictions’ work to designate and protect critical areas to make identifying and regulating these areas more consistent.
- Provide direction for developing common methodologies for assessing habitat needs of critical and sensitive species.
- Address planning for open space and greenbelts that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Planning, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers*

- Identify open space areas in comprehensive plans and develop programs for protecting or acquiring them.
- Coordinate efforts with adjacent jurisdictions to protect critical areas and habitat.
- Include provisions to address the protection and restoration of native vegetation.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Ensure that service provision protects critical areas and habitat.

## Water Quality

VISION 2040 calls for maintaining natural hydrological functions and, where possible, improving and restoring this natural hydrology. It addresses restoring freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries, reducing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and mitigating the impacts of climate change on the region's hydrology.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide direction for developing standards and targets to monitor waterways.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Planning, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers*

- Maintain hydrological functions with ecosystems and watersheds, and where feasible, restore them to a more natural state. Update stormwater treatment facilities, maintain flows in waterways, use green building techniques, and create buffers.
- Take steps to restore shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries.
- Include provisions to limit pollution in water; advance the reduction of the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Provide services in a manner that does not affect water quality. Treat runoff with state-of-the-art methods.
- Convert septic systems in urban areas to sewers.

### **Air Quality Conformity**

*The Washington State Clean Air Conformity Act establishes guidelines and directives for implementing the federal Clean Air Act requirements. For the purpose of determining conformity, as well as consistency with the regional plan, the transportation-related provisions in local plans should include, at a minimum, policy language and provisions that commit the jurisdiction to developing programs and measures that address federal and state air quality regulations and laws. For specific guidance – see Puget Sound Clean Air Agency policy guidance on the following page.*

## Air Quality

Most of the region's urban area (see map) is currently designated under the federal Clean Air Act as an attainment maintenance area for carbon monoxide. Parts of the region are designated as a maintenance area for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Plans and projects within the region are subject to requirements of the federal Clean Air Act, the Washington State Clean Air Act, and the adopted State Implementation Plan.

The Washington Administrative Code (WAC) requires local comprehensive plans to include policies and provisions that promote the reduction of criteria pollutants (WAC 173-420-080). Local comprehensive plans must also identify those aspects of the existing transportation system whose modification offers the best opportunity for improving air quality.

VISION 2040 calls for improving air quality beyond adopted standards for criteria pollutants. It also calls for reducing levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases.

### ⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for local air quality planning efforts appropriate to each county.

### ⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Planning, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers*

- Include both policies and implementation actions to address federal and state clean air legislation, and to ensure that air quality meets or is better than established standards, including the reduction of pollutants that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Incorporate the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's policies in the comprehensive plan (see sidebar)

## **Criteria Pollutant Standards**

*Under the federal Clean Air Act, EPA established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principal, or criteria, pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. Primary standards set limits to protect public health; secondary standards set limits to protect the environment, including protection against decreased visibility and damage to wildlife, plants, and buildings. The six criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>), ozone (nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)), and sulfur oxides.*

## **Policy Guidance for addressing Air Quality and Growth Management**

*The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has adopted the following policies for local jurisdictions to use in their growth management planning efforts.*

- *Implement air-friendly and climate friendly design, construction and operation practices*
- *Promote cleaner travel choices*
- *Reduce exposure to air pollution*
- *Install clean fireplaces and stoves*
- *Support environmental justice*
- *Use the State Environmental Policy Act as a tool and safety net*
- *Alternatives to driving alone – including carpooling, biking, telecommuting & using transit – are principal ways to improve air quality.*

*More information is available at:*  
[www.pscleanair.org/actions/landuse/growth2007.aspx](http://www.pscleanair.org/actions/landuse/growth2007.aspx)

- Take significant measurable steps to reduce criteria pollutants beyond adopted standards, as well as air toxics.
- Include provisions to limit exposure to air pollution.
- Identify aspects of the transportation system where modification offers the best opportunities for improving air quality.

### Legislation on Climate Change

*The Washington Legislature has established specific greenhouse gas emission targets to address climate change. By January 1, 2020, the annual statewide greenhouse gas emission levels must be no greater than the emission levels that occurred in 1990. By January 1, 2035, the annual statewide greenhouse gas emission levels must be 25 percent below the levels in 1990. By 2050 the levels must be 50 percent below 1990 level (RCW 80.80.020 – see also RCW 70.235).*

#### *⇒ for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Address the programs and services that reduce criteria pollutants beyond adopted standards, as well as the reduction of air toxics.
- Address limiting exposure to air pollution.

### Climate Change

Although climate change is a global problem, local action is an important part of the solution. In the central Puget Sound region, transportation is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gases, accounting for nearly half of the related emissions.

Other contributors include electricity generation and industrial. VISION 2040 calls for the central Puget Sound region to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases to achieve compliance with state goals (RCW 80.80.020).

#### *⇒ for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide direction for programs and strategies to address reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.
- Provide guidance for addressing interjurisdictional issues relating to greenhouse gas emissions, such as pass-through traffic.
- Provide guidance for addressing climate change in environmental review processes under the State Environmental Policy Act.

### Transportation 2040

*A variety of strategies and tools will be required to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Transportation 2040 discusses a four-part strategy. See Appendix E2 for more information.*

#### *⇒ for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Incorporate provisions to actively reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Include an evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions as part of environmental analysis documents prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- Develop provisions to adapt to the effects of climate change.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Develop plans and programs to help the region avoid, mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Related Issue: SEPA Environmental Review

*Note: This issue is not explicitly incorporated into VISION 2040, but is offered here as a useful recommendation for countywide, local, and agency planning efforts.*

The VISION 2040 environmental impact statement was prepared with the recognition that countywide planning groups, local jurisdictions, and other agencies developing plan amendments and updates could reference the regional environmental analysis. Plans and plan amendments demonstrating consistency with VISION 2040 could use the VISION 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address anticipated impacts within the range analyzed by the EIS.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

**Urban.** VISION 2040 calls for accommodating population and employment growth in a more sustainable way. This includes directing development to the region’s existing urban lands, especially in centers. Growth is to be limited in the rural areas. Compact urban development creates vibrant, livable, and healthy urban communities that offer economic opportunities for all, provide housing and transportation choices, and use resources wisely.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Ensure that the region’s growth is accommodated first and foremost in the urban growth area.
- Address the regional framework for designating and adjusting the urban growth area.
- Provide direction for a countywide target setting process to (a) establish county level

**International Council for Local Environment Initiative**

*ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. Our basic premise is that locally designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives.*

*More information and planning resources are available at: [www.iclei.org/](http://www.iclei.org/)*

residential and employment targets, (b) translate population targets into housing units, and (c) to set local jurisdiction residential and employment growth targets in a manner that supports the adopted *Regional Growth Strategy* –using consistent data and technical assumptions among the counties.

- Address programs and strategies for brownfield and contaminated site clean-up, as well as redevelopable sites.
- Provide direction for establishing development standards that are consistent between cities and adjacent unincorporated urban areas.

⇒ **for Local Comprehensive Plans**

- Include provisions to advance the development of compact urban communities and central places with densities that support transit and walking.
- Identify and redevelop underused land.

⇒ **for Cities with Designated Regional Centers**

- (See more detailed discussion below and in Appendix E-4.)

⇒ **for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts**

- Invest strategically in facilities and services in cities and centers in a manner that makes the best use of the region’s land and implements the *Regional Growth Strategy*.

**Centers.** Developing centers is an efficient way to take advantage of existing infrastructure and provides environmental benefits as well – both by encouraging development in a manner that curbs urban sprawl and by relying less on forms of transportation that contribute to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. VISION 2040 identifies *regional growth centers* as places that play an important role as locations of the region’s most significant business, governmental, and cultural facilities.

*Regional manufacturing/industrial centers* are recognized as locations for more intensive industrial activity and employment opportunities. VISION 2040 identifies *regional growth centers* and *regional manufacturing/industrial centers* as focal points for economic development funding and transportation infrastructure investments.

**Subregional centers**, including downtowns in suburban cities and other neighborhood centers, also play an important role in VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy. These, too, are strategic locations for concentrating jobs, housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities. VISION 2040 calls for each of the region’s cities to develop one or more central places as a more compact mixed-use hub for concentrating residences, jobs, shops, and community facilities.

⇒ **for Countywide Planning Policies**

- Address the common framework (*to be developed*) for designating and evaluating regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers.
- Address the common framework (*to be developed*) for identifying subregional centers to ensure regionwide compatibility.
- Ensure that infrastructure and economic development funding efforts prioritize projects and services in centers, including countywide and local funds.

⇒ **for Local Comprehensive Plans**

- Identify one or more central places as a community focal point and location for more compact, mixed-use development.
- Prioritize funding to advance the development of centers and central places.

- Consider developing a subarea plan to guide development in each center or central place.

⇒ ***for Cities with Designated Regional Centers***

- Prioritize funding to assist the development of regional centers, including regional, countywide and local funding.
- Develop subarea plans for each regional growth center and regional manufacturing/industrial center.
- Establish transportation mode-split goals for each regional center.
- *(See more detailed discussion of expectations for Center Plans in Appendix E-4.)*

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

Transit providers, special service districts, and other planning agencies should do their part to plan for and support the development of centers, especially prioritizing services within and between centers.

***Unincorporated Urban Areas.*** Within the designated urban growth area there are unincorporated areas that are urban in form and character, but remain under county jurisdiction. Oftentimes development in these areas has not occurred to the same standard as in nearby cities. VISION 2040 calls for joint city-county planning in these areas, including establishing common standards for development review and permitting, as well as for services and infrastructure, to ensure that development is both efficient and compatible with adjacent communities.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide direction for joint planning in unincorporated urban growth areas, including coordination of the provision of services.

**Planning for Centers**

*The Regional Council has developed the following resources to assist with planning for centers.*

- *Puget Sound Milestones: Central Puget Sound Regional Growth Centers*
- *Designation Criteria for Regional Growth and Manufacturing Industrial Centers*
- *Center Plan Checklist*
- *Parking Management Plan Checklist*
- *Development Toolkit: Success Stories from the Centers*

*These and related resources can be accessed on the Growth Management webpage at:*  
<http://psrc.org/growth/centers>

- Provide direction for affiliating unincorporated urban areas with cities with a view toward annexation.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

- Include provisions to ensure the orderly transition of unincorporated areas to city governance, including the provision of services and infrastructure financing.
- Counties should establish urban development standards that are compatible with those of adjacent municipalities and coordinate the review of permits. These should be crafted through a joint planning agreement.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Recognize that cities are the preferred provider of urban services, coordinate service delivery with adjacent cities.
- Ensure that the provision of services within urban areas is at urban standards.

**Rural.** VISION 2040 emphasizes the preservation of rural lands and the protection of their important ecological, social, and economic functions. It calls for continued use of rural lands for farming, forestry, open space, and low-density development supported by rural services.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Address minimizing environmental impacts to rural lands, while providing long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of rural-based industries.
- Address the appropriate character, scale, and location of development in rural areas, and identify tools and strategies to achieve permanent protection of rural and resource lands.
- Further address that facilities that primarily support urban residents should not be located in the rural area, including urban-sized schools and other facilities.
- Include provisions to avoid new highways and major roads in rural areas to limit development pressure and the conversion of rural lands.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Ensure that development in rural areas is rural in character.
- Demonstrate environmentally sensitive and sustainable land use practices in rural areas.
- Encourage any rural development that does occur to focus in areas that are already developed.
- Avoid creating new fully contained communities; if such communities are proposed, make the proposal available to the PSRC and the other counties in the region for review.
- Develop actions and provisions to address vested development.
- Support those economic activities which are at an appropriate scale for rural areas.
- Provide direction to avoid new and expanded roadway facilities in rural areas.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

- Avoid new and expanded roadway facilities in rural areas.
- Do not site services and facilities that primarily serve urban residents in rural areas.
- Ensure that facilities in rural areas are rural in character and are designed to provide a rural service standard.

**Resource Lands.** VISION 2040 recognizes that the region’s resource lands—forest, agricultural, and mineral lands—are crucial to the region’s sustainability. It also recognizes that, in addition, to supporting the regional economy, these lands provide an environment for wildlife habitat, open space, and groundwater recharge. Curbing the conversion and encroachment of the region’s economically and ecologically vital resource lands is a challenge that requires mutually supportive and coordinated efforts among counties and cities.

⇒ **for Countywide Planning Policies**

- Countywide planning policies should include provisions to ensure the long-term sustainability of resource lands.

⇒ **for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers**

- County comprehensive plans should limit the amount of growth in resource areas, take steps to preserve designated resource lands, and ensure that the character of whatever development does occur is appropriate for these areas.
- Cities should participate in transfer of development rights programs and similar projects to reduce development pressures on resource lands.

⇒ **for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts**

- Ensure that planning and programming is carried out in a manner that limits impacts on resource areas.

**REGIONAL DESIGN**

The Growth Management Act advances “orderly development” to ensure that growth is contiguous and can be served efficiently. In particular, good design is an important factor to ensure that the region grows strategically, gracefully, and sustainably. Design advances a systems approach to address land use, transportation, environmental, urban form, and social concerns holistically. VISION 2040 calls for designing facilities throughout the region that create public amenities, contribute to the character of communities, and provide opportunities for recreation and physical activity.

⇒ **for Countywide Planning Policies**

- Provide guidance for preservation of significant historic, visual, and cultural resources.
- Advance the use of design guidelines to encourage construction of healthy (and green) buildings and facilities.
- Discuss the use of natural features and boundaries to help determine the routes and placement of public facilities and services.

**Regional Design Strategy**

*As part of the work to develop VISION 2040, PSRC worked with design professionals and interested persons to create the Regional Design Strategy. The Strategy supports the goals of VISION 2040 by providing design concepts, strategies, and tools to implement VISION 2040’s policies at the local level. It is a useful source of information for addressing design-related issues that are important for successful implementation of VISION 2040 and the Regional Growth Strategy.*

*A particularly useful feature of the Regional Design Strategy is its compendium of best practices. The Strategy is available on-line at <http://psrc.org/growth/vision2040/background>*

*See also the **Physical Design Guidelines** in Transportation 2040, which are discussed in Appendix E-3.*

- Encourage coordinated planning that works with linear systems which cross jurisdictional boundaries – including natural systems, continuous land use patterns, and transportation and infrastructure systems.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

- Incorporate design provisions in local comprehensive plans, standards and development regulations – cities may want to consider including an urban design element in their comprehensive plans.
- Address preservation of significant historic, visual, and cultural resources.
- Establish design guidelines to encourage construction of healthy (and green) buildings and facilities.
- Address the design of public buildings so that they contribute to a sense of community and a sense of place.
- Use natural features and boundaries to help determine the routes and placement of public facilities and services.
- Apply the *Transportation 2040* Physical Design Guidelines (see Appendix E-2) in planning for high capacity transit station areas. These guidelines may have application to other types of compact urban communities as well.

⇒ ***for Cities with Designated Regional Centers***

- Demonstrate that the *Transportation 2040* Physical Design Guidelines (see Appendix E-2) are applied in planning for development and services in each regional growth center. (While these guidelines do not apply to manufacturing/industrial centers, those centers should address urban design mitigate aesthetic and other impacts of manufacturing and industrial activities both within the center and on adjacent areas)

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Ensure that planning and programming takes steps to preserve significant historic, visual, and cultural resources.
- Design facilities to fit the context of the communities in which they are located and to contribute to a sense of community and a sense of place.
- Consider natural features and boundaries to help determine the routes and placement of public facilities and services.

## HEALTH AND ACTIVE LIVING

VISION 2040 recognizes the important relationship between a healthy environment – both the natural and built environment – and healthy people. As a result, health issues, including environmental health, pollution exposure, and transportation’s impact on health, are addressed throughout VISION 2040. Attention to health in planning and infrastructure decisions can pay dividends in terms of improved quality of life, reduced health care costs, and reduced costs from lost productivity. VISION 2040 provides guidance for addressing the

Growth Management Act requirement for local plan land use elements to address “planning approaches that promote physical activity” (RCW 36.70A.070(1)).

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Incorporate health considerations into countywide decision-making, including the location and operation of public facilities and services.
- Provide guidance for planning that addresses the three major health-related themes of (1) healthy environment, (2) physical activity and well-being, and (3) safety.
- Address creating an improved environment for walking and bicycling, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities that cross jurisdictional boundaries.
- Support local food production within the region – including protecting productive agricultural lands.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Regional Centers***

- Incorporate health into local decision-making, including the location and operation of public facilities and services.
- Include health provisions in local comprehensive plans that address (1) healthy environment, (2) physical activity and well-being, and (3) safety.
- Consider developing a health element in the comprehensive plan.
- Develop design guidelines to facilitate the construction of healthy buildings and facilities.
- Improve the built environment for walking and bicycling.
- Develop opportunities to promote local food production.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Incorporate health considerations into planning and decision-making, including planning for a healthy environment, physical activity and well-being, and safety.
- Protect and enhance the environment and public health when providing public facilities and services.
- Design for and support improvements that provide walking and bicycling access to transit routes and stations.

## HOUSING

VISION 2040 encourages sufficient housing production to meet existing and future needs. It places a major emphasis on the location of housing, increased housing diversity and affordability, and promotes fair and equal access to housing. VISION 2040 calls for preserving and expanding affordable housing options for households at all income levels, incorporating quality and environmentally friendly design in homebuilding, and offering healthy and safe housing choices for all the region’s residents.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide direction for increasing housing production, including diverse types and styles, for all demographic segments of the population.
- Provide direction for addressing affordable housing, including housing for all economic segments of the population and parameters for its distribution.
- Consider addressing affordable housing needs through a countywide fair share housing strategy.
- Provide direction for addressing jobs-housing balance at the countywide level, consistent with the *Regional Growth Strategy*, and for promoting affordable workforce housing options throughout the county for workers at all wage levels with good access to employment centers.
- Promote housing production, including affordable housing, in centers.
- Advance strategies for providing homeownership opportunities for low- and middle-income households.
- Promote strategies and best housing practices to encourage regulatory streamlining, innovative techniques, and interjurisdictional cooperative efforts and public-private partnerships to advance the provision of affordable and special needs housing.

**Housing**

*Jurisdictions should address housing diversity, housing affordability, special needs housing, housing in centers, and innovative approaches to stimulate housing production. Planning for and ensuring the production of housing should be coordinated regionally and with other jurisdictions and agencies.*

*For further assistance, see [www.prosperitypartnership.org/foundation/housing/](http://www.prosperitypartnership.org/foundation/housing/)*

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Express the local growth target in terms of housing units.

**HealthScape**

*A King County effort to promote health by improving how communities are built and how we travel. Land use patterns and transportation investments can play key roles in making communities healthier. Well-planned neighborhoods have features like connected street networks, nearby shopping, walking paths, and transit service. These reduce dependency on cars, increase opportunities to be physically active, and improve air quality.*

*Resources and related materials are available at: [www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/healthscape.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/transportation/healthscape.aspx)*

- Refine housing element, as needed, to advance regional housing objectives described in VISION 2040.
- Address changing demographics and the need for housing to serve all segments of the population
- Consider establishing affordable housing production goals for households at: (a) less than 50 percent of the area median income, (b) between 50 and 80 percent of the area median income, and (c) 80 to 120 percent of area median income to guide development of local housing provisions.
- Identify “show-your-work” provisions

in the housing element and related sections of the local comprehensive plan – such provisions outline existing measures in place as well as new commitments and anticipated actions to increase housing diversity and the supply of affordable housing to meet the needs of households at all income levels. Documentation should include

implementation actions, timelines, monitoring programs for addressing housing targets and goals.

- Include strategies and programs to provide homeownership opportunities for low- and middle-income households.
- Include strategies and programs to advance workforce housing, including transit-oriented development, with good access to employment centers.
- Revise codes and regulations to promote efficient and streamlined development processes, environmentally friendly housing design, and safe and healthy housing.
- Advance innovative approaches to encourage production of diverse and affordable housing.

### **“Show-Your-Work” on Housing**

*In reporting on the housing provisions, local jurisdictions are asked to describe not only their planning policies, but also actions and programs to increase the supply of housing – including affordable housing.*

*Documentation should include implementation actions, timelines, and monitoring programs,*

*PSRC will compile this information regionally and provide an assessment report on progress and challenges in meeting regional housing needs. Where there are gaps, PSRC will work with member jurisdictions to determine how to close those gaps.*

#### **⇒ *for Cities with Designated Regional Growth Centers***

- Increase housing production within each center, including diverse types and affordable options, for all segments of the population.
- Consider establishing affordable housing targets for each center for households at: (a) less than 50 percent of the area median income, (b) between 50 and 80 percent of the area median income, and (c) 80 to 120 percent of the area median income.
- Document strategies and programs to promote additional supply of housing in each center and to address affordable workforce housing objectives.

#### **⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Target investments and services to advance regional and local housing objectives in a manner that implements the Regional Growth Strategy
- Prioritize investments and services to centers to support the development of housing

### **Regional Economic Strategy**

*Regional Economic Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region* is a set of detailed action initiatives focused on strengthening our region’s leading industry clusters and rebuilding the foundations of our economy. Information and related resources are available at:

[www.prosperitypartnership.org/strategy/](http://www.prosperitypartnership.org/strategy/)

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

VISION 2040’s overarching economic goal is to achieve a thriving and sustainable economy, embodied by a favorable business atmosphere with new jobs, as well as a focus on environmental stewardship, centers, cultural diversity, and high quality of life. Its economic provisions are organized around the topics of *business*, *people*, and *places*. The multicounty planning policies emphasize enriching the region’s businesses and employment market through job retention, growth, and diversification. The region’s designated growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers are primary locations of commerce of employment and are therefore prioritized for economic development and transportation funding.

#### **⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Address economic development strategies for economically

distressed areas.

- Advance programs for promoting investments in communities.
- Address planning for industry clusters.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

Include an economic development element in the comprehensive plan (Ec-Action-6), that addresses:

- Business, people and places
- Small and locally owned businesses
- Industry clusters
- Economically distressed areas

⇒ ***for Cities with Designated Regional Growth Centers***

- Craft approaches for promoting development to support increased housing and jobs within each center.
- Include strategies to promote affordable housing within each center.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Develop plans and programs that support the safe and reliable movement of people, goods and services, and information through the region in a manner that supports the *Regional Growth Strategy* and the *Regional Economic Strategy*.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

As the region plans for growth, both improved efficiencies in providing services and conservation are essential for meeting many of the region's present and future service needs. VISION 2040 stresses the benefits of conservation, including the financial and energy savings from maximizing the use of existing facilities, reducing pollution, and curbing waste. The *Regional Growth Strategy* highlights the need for strategic investments in services and facilities, especially to support growth and development in centers and compact urban communities.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Address the consistency of capital improvement programming with local comprehensive plans, countywide planning policies, and VISION 2040.
- Advance conservation principles for the provision of services (reuse, recycle, renew).
- Provide guidance for counties (and, where appropriate, cities) to review special district plans for consistency with local comprehensive plans and VISION 2040; also, provide guidance for the review of special district criteria for location and design of schools and other public facilities.
- Develop strategies to reduce the number of special districts.
- Provide guidance for locating facilities serving urban population within the urban growth area, precluding urban services in rural areas, and ensuring that facilities in rural area are rural in character.
- Identify strategies to promote renewable energy, alternative energy sources.

- Promote strategies to use water more efficiently, as well as strategies to ensure adequate water supply, including adapting to climate change.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers***

- Demonstrate conservation principles for the provision of services (reuse, recycle, renew), including demand management before capacity expansion
- Include a financial plan for providing services to support the local land use element and *Regional Growth Strategy*.
- Include a consistency assessment of the jurisdiction's capital improvement program with the local comprehensive plan and VISION 2040 (PS-Action-8).
- Work with special districts to ensure consistency with local plans and VISION 2040, including the review of special district criteria for location and design of schools and other public facilities (note: schools should be avoided in manufacturing industrial centers).
- Identify opportunities for co-location of facilities, such as schools and parks (note: schools and parks should be avoided in manufacturing industrial centers).
- Develop actions to transfer public facility and service responsibilities to cities, where appropriate.
- Locate facilities serving urban population within the urban growth area (note: population should be avoided in manufacturing industrial centers).
- Address failing septic systems.
- Promote renewable energy and alternative energy sources.
- Include strategies to use water more efficiently, as well as strategies to ensure adequate water supply, including adapting to climate change.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts***

- Use conservation principles for the provision of services (reuse, recycle, renew), including demand management before capacity expansion.
- Include a financial plan for providing services to support the *Regional Growth Strategy* and local jurisdictions' comprehensive plans.
- Transit agencies and special service districts should make their plans available to counties (and where appropriate to cities) for review.
- Ensure that criteria for location and design of schools and other public facilities are consistent with the *Regional Growth Strategy* and local growth management planning objectives
- Identify opportunities for co-location of facilities.
- Develop processes, where appropriate, to transfer the provision of urban services to cities.
- Ensure that facilities serving urban populations are located within the urban growth area; do not extend urban services into rural areas, and ensure that facilities in the rural area are rural in character.

## TRANSPORTATION

The transportation provisions in VISION 2040 are organized around three broad areas:

(1) maintenance, management and safety, (2) supporting the *Regional Growth Strategy*, and (3) greater options and mobility. VISION 2040 addresses federal and state laws and directives designed to ensure mobility for people, goods, and services by focusing on maintenance, management, and safety. Protecting and enhancing the environment, promoting energy conservation, and improving the quality of life must be considered as part of meeting our current and future mobility needs.

VISION 2040 calls for better-integrated land use and transportation planning and provides guidance for the development of a transportation system that will support the *Regional Growth Strategy*. VISION 2040's emphasis on developing centers includes prioritizing transportation investments in regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers. VISION 2040 is committed to increasing transportation choices while improving the region's natural environment. There is an emphasis on transportation investments that offer greater mobility options, more alternatives to driving alone (and therefore reduced vehicle miles traveled), and lower transportation-related energy consumption, which in turn lowers particulate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

### ⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

#### *MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY*

- Address the development of a clean regional transportation system, including changes in fuels, technologies (including renewable resources for energy), and how we travel.
- Provide direction for decision-making that promotes environmentally sensitive transportation activities that reduce water and air pollution – with attention to human health, low-impact design, and environmentally friendly (i.e., green) streets.
- Provide direction for ensuring that strategies, programs and investment decision-making identify reliable and predictable revenues for maintaining and preserving the existing system.
- Provide direction for reducing the need for new projects and facilities through improved operations, system management and demand management strategies.
- Identify cooperative strategies and programs to protect the transportation system against disasters, develop prevention and recovery strategies, and plan for coordinated responses for transportation in an emergency.

#### **Green Streets**

*A street that uses vegetated facilities to manage stormwater runoff at its source is often referred to as a "green street." VISION 2040 advances sustainable stormwater strategies for street and roadways, as well as other features to improve the environment of urban streets – including landscaping and pedestrian-friendly treatments.*

*Resources are available through the Environmental Protection Agency at:  
[www.epa.gov/owow/podcasts/greenstreetsusa.html](http://www.epa.gov/owow/podcasts/greenstreetsusa.html)*

*See also the Low Impact Development Center at:  
[www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/greenstreets/](http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/greenstreets/)*

#### *SUPPORTING THE GROWTH STRATEGY*

- Prioritize transportation investments that serve centers, including key projects and programs in centers, as well as connecting centers with a highly efficient multimodal network. Give additional priority to projects that advance housing development,

including affordable housing, in regional growth centers.

- Promote joint- and mixed-use development projects as ways to improve mobility and accessibility
- Provide direction for the development of “complete streets,” including transportation corridors that pass through more than one jurisdiction.
- Advance the application of urban design principles, especially in centers and transit station areas

#### *GREATER OPTIONS AND MOBILITY*

- Provide direction for travel options to driving alone and overall reduction of vehicle miles traveled.
- Address the role of bicycling and walking as important travel modes by providing guidance for improving nonmotorized mobility and safe access.

- Provide direction to ensure the compatibility level-of-service standards between jurisdictions and across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Develop provisions to improve the compatibility of concurrency programs, as well as to address multimodal solutions.

- Coordinate planning for rail among jurisdictions, including the preservation of right-of-way for high-capacity transit.
- Address transportation financing methods that sustain maintenance, preservation, and operations of facilities.

### **Complete Streets**

*A “complete street” is a roadway that is designed and operated with all users in mind – including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. Such streets are designed to be safer, more livable, and welcoming to everyone.*

*Resources and more information are available through the National Complete Streets Coalition at: [www.completestreets.org/](http://www.completestreets.org/).*

- Develop practices for transportation activities that reduce water and air pollution, including low-impact design and green streets.
- Incorporate environmental factors into transportation decision-making, including attention to human health and safety.

### **Context Sensitive Design**

*This approach to the design of transportation facility takes into account the specific community or physical setting in which a street or roadway is located. The design addresses scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental features, while maintaining safety and mobility.*

*More information and resources are available through the Federal Highway Administration at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/context/index.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/context/index.cfm)*

*See also the following:*

*Institute of Transportation Engineers at: [www.ite.org/css/](http://www.ite.org/css/)*

*Context Sensitive Solutions at: [www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/](http://www.contextsensitivesolutions.org/)*

*Washington State Department of Transportation at: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Biz/csd/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Biz/csd/)*

- Identify stable and predictable funding sources for maintaining and preserving existing transportation facilities and services.
- Reduce need for new projects through improved operations, system management and demand management strategies – such as signalization, channelization, ramp meeting, and bus bypasses.
- Identify programs and strategies to protect the transportation system against disaster, develop prevention and recover strategies, plan for coordinated responses to emergencies.

#### *SUPPORTING THE GROWTH STRATEGY*

- Invest in and promote joint- and mixed-use developments in order to improve overall mobility and accessibility.
- Develop full standards for transportation facilities to improve travel for all users – including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and the delivery of goods and services (i.e., “complete streets”).
- Improve local street patterns for walking, biking, and transit use.
- Address multiple modes of transportation in concurrency programs that factor in the movement of people, goods, and services, and not only the movement of vehicles.
- Design transportation facilities to fit within their context.
- Apply urban design principles for transportation facilities, especially in centers and transit station areas.

#### *GREATER OPTIONS AND MOBILITY*

- Prevent or minimize adverse impacts of transportation facilities on lower-income, minority, and special needs populations.
- Ensure mobility for people with special needs.
- Emphasize alternatives to driving alone, increase proportion of trips made by alternatives to driving alone; establish goals for reducing driving alone (consistent with RCW 47.01.440 and RCW 70.235.020).
- Establish level-of-service standards that address people-moving capacity over vehicle movement
- Avoid new or expanded facilities in rural areas.
- Incorporate bicycling and walking as important travel modes by improving and adding facilities and reliable connections.
- Address freight transportation.
- Preserve rights-of-way for high-capacity transit.
- Encourage public/private sector partnerships for transportation projects.
- Address transportation financing methods that sustain maintenance, preservation, and operations of facilities.

⇒ *for Cities with Designated Regional Centers*

- Improve local street patterns within centers for walking, bicycling, and transit use, including smaller blocks (note: this is not applicable to manufacturing industrial centers)
- Prioritize investments to regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers
- Improve multimodal connections for access to centers from adjacent areas
- Establish mode split goals for regionally designated centers (DP-Action-18)
- Tailor concurrency programs for centers.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning – including Special Service Districts*

*MAINTENANCE, MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY*

- Advance programs and services that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including changes in fuels, technologies, and travel patterns.
- Develop practices for transportation activities that reduce water and air pollution.
- Incorporate environmental factors into transportation decision-making, including attention to human health and safety.
- Develop programs and strategies to protect the transportation system against disaster, develop prevention and recover strategies, plan for coordinated responses to emergencies.

*SUPPORTING THE GROWTH STRATEGY*

- Ensure that joint and mixed use developments are supported with regular transit service; invest in transportation facilities and services that support housing in regional growth centers.
- Prioritize investments to regional growth centers and regional manufacturing centers.
- Improve multimodal connections for access to centers from areas that are adjacent.
- Work with jurisdictions to develop full standards for streets and urban roadways to serve all users (i.e., “complete streets”); improve local street patterns for walking, biking, and transit use; incorporate bicycle and pedestrian travel as important modes by providing facilities and reliable connections.
- Design transportation facilities to fit within their context; apply urban design principles, especially in centers and transit station areas.

*GREATER OPTIONS AND MOBILITY*

- Work with jurisdictions to increase the proportion of trips made by alternatives to driving alone; develop plans and programs that help to reduce driving alone.
- Improve connections among modes of travel.
- Prevent or minimize adverse impacts to lower-income, minority, and special needs populations.
- Ensure mobility and access for people with special needs.

- Work with jurisdictions to develop multimodal approaches to concurrency.
- Avoid new or expanded facilities in rural areas; ensure that service within the rural area focuses on connections to and between rural towns.
- Coordinate planning for rail.
- Promote right-of-way preservation for high-capacity transit.
- Encourage public/private sector partnerships for transportation projects.
- Address transportation financing methods that sustain maintenance, preservation, and operations of facilities.

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## **APPENDIX E-2: CONSISTENCY WITH TRANSPORTATION 2040**

State planning law requires countywide planning policies and the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans to be consistent with the adopted regional transportation plan. Together, VISION 2040 and its functional transportation plan, Transportation 2040, adopted in May 2010, provide the policy and planning framework for transportation planning in the central Puget Sound region.

VISION 2040 is the region's long-range integrated strategy for environmental, growth management, economic development, and transportation planning. The multicounty planning policies in VISION 2040 provide the full policy framework for both Transportation 2040 and the Regional Economic Strategy (which is also a functional plan of VISION 2040). Because VISION 2040 provides this framework, consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan incorporates many of the factors discussed in Appendix A-1.

Transportation 2040 is organized into seven chapters: (1) *Toward a Sustainable Transportation System*, (2) *A Strategic Approach to Regional Mobility*, (3) *A Sustainable Environment*, (4) *A Sustainable Financial Framework*, (5) *Regional Programs and Projects*, (6) *Monitoring Implementation and System Performance*, and (7) *Future Planning, Programming, and Implementation*. Each chapter is briefly summarized below, along with guidance on how Transportation 2040 applies to countywide planning efforts, local comprehensive planning, and other agency planning.

### **Toward a Sustainable Transportation System**

This chapter establishes three integrated strategies for addressing (1) congestion and mobility, (2) the environment, and (3) transportation funding. Investments are prioritized for centers and compact urban communities. Transportation 2040 calls for a transportation system that is safe, secure, and efficient. This includes moving people and goods in ways that support a healthy environment and a strong economy. Sustainable transportation means relying on cleaner and renewable sources of energy, as well as more environmentally friendly design and construction to reduce impacts. Transportation sets the region on a course to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also takes steps toward sustainable financing.

#### **⇒ for *Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide guidance for countywide and local transportation planning efforts, consistent with the objectives of Transportation 2040, to address:
  - Prioritization for developing centers.
  - Safety, security, and efficiency.
  - Transportation that supports a healthy environment and strong economy.
  - Clean and renewable sources of energy.
  - Environmentally friendly transportation design and construction practices.
  - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Sustainable transportation financing.

#### **⇒ for *Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers***

- Ensure that local transportation planning provisions advance regional planning objectives, including:

- Prioritization for developing centers.
- Safety, security, and efficiency.
- Transportation that supports a healthy environment and strong economy.
- Clean and renewable sources of energy.
- Environmentally friendly transportation design and construction practices.
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sustainable transportation financing.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts***

- Ensure that agency transportation provisions advance regional planning objectives, including:
  - Prioritization for developing centers.
  - Safety, security, and efficiency.
  - Transportation that supports a healthy environment and strong economy.
  - Clean and renewable sources of energy.
  - Environmentally friendly transportation design and construction practices.
  - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Sustainable transportation financing.

Physical Design Guidelines

A set of 10 guidelines have been established to address design principles and site development characteristics that advance the mutually supportive relationship between land use and transportation. The physical design guidelines are specifically directed to designated regional centers and high-capacity transit station areas. However, they have applicability to all types of centers and compact urban development within the region. The physical design guidelines include:

1. Encourage a mix of complementary land uses.
2. Encourage compact growth by addressing density.
3. Link neighborhoods, connect streets, sidewalks and trails.
4. Integrate activity areas with surrounding neighborhoods.
5. Locate public and semipublic uses near stations.
6. Design for pedestrians and bicyclists.
7. Provide usable open spaces.
8. Manage the supply of parking.
9. Promote the benefits of on-street parking.
10. Reduce and mitigate the effects of parking.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide additional detail and specificity for addressing the physical design guidelines at the local level, especially for various types of centers and high capacity transit station areas.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Apply the physical design guidelines to planning for high capacity transit station areas. Also, work with the guidelines in other aspects of comprehensive planning, including development review, to create compact urban communities that are walkable and transit-oriented.

⇒ *for Cities with Designated Centers*

- For each designated regional growth center and high-capacity transit station area, demonstrate that the ten physical design guidelines in Transportation 2040 have been addressed. For manufacturing/industrial centers, develop design standards to mitigate aesthetic and other impacts of manufacturing and industrial activities both within the center and on adjacent areas.

**Physical Design Guidelines**

*For further guidance and information, see the Design Guidelines Manual (2003) on-line at: <http://www.psrc.org/assets/254/designmanual.pdf>*

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Address the physical design guidelines in planning efforts and decision-making for regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas.

**A Strategic Approach to Regional Mobility**

This chapter addresses mobility and congestion relief through (1) land use planning, (2) managing system demand, (3) transportation system management and operations, and (4) strategically adding capacity to the transportation system.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide additional detail and specificity to guide countywide and local planning for:
  - Land use planning – including planning for centers and compact communities, and ensuring that in rural areas new highways or major roads expansions are avoided.
  - Managing system demand.
  - Transportation system management and operations.
  - Strategically adding capacity to the transportation system.
  - Developing “complete streets” provisions for making roadways better serve all users, including motorists, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Incorporate provisions and strategies for improving accessibility and mobility through:
  - Land use planning, including prioritizing centers, developing more compact urban communities that are walkable and more transit-friendly, and avoiding new highways and road expansions in rural areas
  - Advancing a full array of demand management strategies. Examples include ridesharing, telecommuting, alternatives to driving alone, flexible work schedules.

- Advancing a complete array of system management strategies. Examples include traffic signal coordination, transit prioritization treatments, parking management.
- strategically adding capacity to the transportation system in a manner consistent with adopted regional policy and local comprehensive planning objectives.
- Developing a “complete streets” programs for evolving roadways into multimodal transportation facilities that better serve all users, including motorists, transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Consider developing a typology of different kinds of complete street approaches for different types of roadways and streets.

⇒ ***for Cities with Designated Centers***

- Incorporate provisions and strategies for improving accessibility and mobility in centers through:
  - Land use planning, including developing plans and actions for transit-oriented development in regional growth centers, as well as related provisions and strategies to improve walking, bicycling, and access to transit – including complete street design for centers.
  - Managing system demand, including parking management planning.
  - Transportation system management and operations.
  - Strategically adding capacity to the transportation system in a manner consistent with mode split goals established for each designated center.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts***

- Incorporate provisions and strategies for improving accessibility and mobility in centers through:
  - Land use planning, including transit system planning focused on centers, route planning that serves compact urban communities, partnering with local jurisdictions to develop plans and actions for transit-oriented development, focusing rural service to connecting towns in the rural area.
  - Managing system demand.
  - Transportation system management and operations.
  - Strategically adding capacity to the transportation system in a manner consistent with adopted regional policy and local comprehensive planning objectives.

Mobility for Those with Special Needs

Special needs transportation services provides a range of mobility options for those who cannot or do not drive. Community and private operators provide mostly demand response services. Student transportation services may be provided by public transportation agencies or by school districts.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide additional detail and specificity to guide countywide and local planning to serve the mobility and accessibility needs of those who cannot or do not drive.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers*

- Incorporate provisions and strategies for improving the mobility of those who do not or cannot drive by addressing barrier-free accessibility in the built environment, improved opportunities for walking, bicycling, and using transit, and siting schools and facilities housing public services in locations more central to the populations being served.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- Identify opportunities to increase frequency of all-day core transit service.
- Regularly update paratransit plans to serve the needs of a growing and changing population.
- Regularly review and, as needed, revise programs for demand response service.

**Coordinated Transit-Human Services  
Transportation Plan**

*For further information, see Appendix K in  
Transportation 2040 –or – go on-line to:  
[www.psrc.org/transportation/special-needs/](http://www.psrc.org/transportation/special-needs/)*

**A Sustainable Environment**

Transportation 2040 addresses the relationship between transportation and the environment. The plan was developed with a focus on reducing the potential environmental impacts of transportation infrastructure and operations. Transportation 2040 speaks to (1) maintaining and improving air quality, (2) reducing greenhouse gas emissions, (3) improving water quality, and (4) improving and promoting health.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide additional detail and specificity to guide countywide and local planning to reduce transportation-related impacts on air quality and climate, water quality and habitat, and on public health, including exposure to pollutants and noise, as well as improving opportunities for walking and bicycling.

**Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy**

*A variety of strategies and tools will be required to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Transportation 2040 discusses a four-part strategy:*

- **Land Use** – continue to develop compact urban communities
- **User Fees** – transition over time to a roadway pricing system to reduce vehicle miles traveled
- **Choices** – continue to provide more options to driving alone
- **Technology** – improvements in fuel efficiency and the transition to alternative forms of energy

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers*

- Incorporate provisions and strategies, including construction practices and for transportation operations, that measurably improve air quality, water quality, and habitat.
- Develop “green street” programs and strategies that integrate innovative stormwater management practices for roads and other transportation facilities, as well as provide for enhanced landscaping and vegetation along thoroughfares and other streets.
- Develop a jurisdictional-level greenhouse gas reduction strategy that addresses (1) land use, including the development of compact, walkable communities, (2) user fees,

including parking fees, (3) improved choices for alternatives to driving alone, and (4) technology, including the use of more fuel-efficient vehicles in the jurisdiction's fleet.

- Address public health in planning for and operating transportation, including creating improved opportunities for walking and bicycling, and reducing the public's exposure to air, water, and noise pollution from transportation facilities.
- Develop factors for addressing health impacts and emissions reductions in transportation decision-making

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- Incorporate provisions and strategies, including construction practices and for transportation operations, that measurably improve air quality, water quality, and habitat.
- Develop programs and strategies that integrate innovative stormwater management practices, as well as provide for enhanced landscaping and vegetation.
- Work with regional agencies and local jurisdictions to continue to develop viable alternatives to driving alone.
- Develop factors for addressing health impacts and emissions reductions in transportation decision-making.

**A Sustainable Financial Framework**

Transportation 2040 advances a financing strategy designed to address the challenges associated with funding transportation investments. The strategy envisions local actions to adjust levy rates, impact and development fees, and parking pricing. State efforts are needed to identify additional local option taxes, secure transit funding, and distribute state transportation revenues in a manner that supports best practices. Tolls and other user fees would also become a more prominent part of funding transportation.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for transportation investments at the countywide and local level, based on Transportation 2040 financing strategy and overall transportation objectives.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Demonstrate that local transportation improvement programs and related investments commit to maintenance and preservation of local transportation facilities and services.
- Show that local investment strategies prioritize transportation improvements in centers – including regional growth centers and locally identified centers.
- Develop parking management plans that include strategies for parking pricing.
- Maximize efforts to support investments through levies, impact and development fees, and other local financing options.

⇒ *for Cities with Designated Centers*

- Prioritize investments in regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers.
- Strategically leverage investments in regional growth centers to support the development of housing.
- Consider establishing improvement districts to pay for infrastructure and other investments in centers.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- Demonstrate that agency programs commit to maintenance and preservation of transportation facilities and services.
- Show that local investment strategies prioritize transportation improvements in centers and high-capacity transit station areas.
- Maximize efforts to stabilize funding for transit infrastructure and service.

**Regional Programs and Projects**

This chapter describes programs and projects that have been identified to implement the region's transportation strategy. Two broad categories of investments are presented: (1) constrained and (2) unprogrammed. Constrained investments in the plan's financial strategy are funded through currently available and/or reasonably expected new revenue sources. The unprogrammed portion needs additional funding or financial analysis.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance to ensure that programs and projects identified in countywide and local transportation planning are consistent with adopted regional policy and included in Transportation 2040.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers*

- Demonstrate strategies and actions to maintain and preserve local streets, roads, sidewalks, and pathways to serve mobility and the movement of goods.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- Maximize efforts to reliably finance transit operations and capital replacements.

**Monitoring Implementation and System Performance**

Transportation 2040 includes a commitment to regularly report on how the region is doing to take the steps necessary to implement VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040. While VISION 2040 includes an integrated approach to measuring both implementation of regional goals and performance in achieving a broad range of desired policy outcomes, Transportation 2040 discuss the monitoring of mobility and accessibility, mode split for various travel options, addressing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, preserving water quality, the application of tolling and user fees, and expenditures for transportation.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for ensuring compatibility among regional, countywide, and local monitoring and reporting efforts.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Provide data and information needed to support regional, countywide, and local monitoring efforts.
- Provide the outcomes of monitoring to local officials to help inform decision-making processes.

⇒ *for Cities with Designated Centers*

- Establish mode-split goals for designated regional centers, and regularly report on travel by driving alone, ridesharing (including carpools and vanpools), transit, and nonmotorized travel.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- Regularly report on transit ridership and cooperative planning efforts for transit-oriented development.

**Future Planning, Programming, and Implementation**

Transportation 2040 is designed to be a planning document that continues to evolve. It includes implementation actions, information on amending the plan, a discussion of corridor planning, and descriptions of the region’s transportation improvement program (TIP) and plan review process.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for implementation of Transportation 2040 at the countywide level and locally.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans, including Cities with Designated Centers*

- As regional transportation planning efforts evolve, local comprehensive plans should be regularly reviewed and routinely updated to reflect changes and new provisions in VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Districts*

- As regional transportation planning efforts evolve, local comprehensive plans should be regularly reviewed and routinely updated to reflect changes and new provisions in VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040.

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## APPENDIX E-3: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION OF TRANSPORTATION-RELATED PROVISIONS

A final part of the certification responsibilities of regional transportation planning organizations is to ensure that the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans conform with comprehensive planning provisions for transportation in the Growth Management Act. The transportation element in local comprehensive plans is required to contain, at a minimum, the following seven sub-elements:

- Land use assumptions used in estimating travel.
- Estimated traffic impacts to state-owned transportation facilities resulting from land use assumptions.
- Identification of facilities and service needs.
- Discussion of financing for transportation facilities and services.
- Intergovernmental coordination efforts.
- Transportation demand management strategies.
- Pedestrian and bicycle component.

The Act outlines specific provisions to be addressed for each of the subelements. The Regional Council's review of the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans incorporates a review of each subelement for conformity with the provisions of the Act.

### Washington Administrative Code

*Besides the guidance provided in this Appendix for transportation planning, jurisdictions should also consult Section 365-195-325 of the Washington Administrative Code.*

*Note: Since these requirements are specifically directed to local comprehensive plans, the following discussion focuses in more detail on how they are to be addressed by local jurisdictions. The discussion of countywide planning policies and other agency planning efforts is therefore more generalized, offering recommendations of how they can add value to local planning efforts.*

### Land Use Assumptions and Forecast of Travel Demand

The land use assumptions used in estimating travel demand help determine where future transportation improvements and infrastructure are most needed and play a major role in capital facilities planning. Under the Growth Management Act, the comprehensive plan must include a forecast of travel demand for a period of *at least* 10 years. The forecast must demonstrate the application of land use assumptions.

#### ⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for coordinating the land use assumptions of adjacent jurisdictions in the development of the transportation element in local comprehensive plans.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Demonstrate that travel demand forecast and transportation needs assessments are always based on land use assumptions, are consistent with adopted growth targets.
- Ensure that population and employment assumptions, as well adopted land use maps, are consistent throughout the plan (e.g. land use element, transportation element, housing element).
- Ensure that population and employment assumptions in the transportation element are consistent with the most recently adopted growth targets.
- Document that travel demand forecasts extend for a period of at least 10 years.
- Include state-owned facilities included in the travel demand model. Estimate impacts on state facilities.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Demonstrate that needs assessments and service decisions for transportation are consistent with established growth targets and locally adopted comprehensive plans

## **Service and Facility Needs**

The transportation-related provisions in local plans are required to address service and facilities needs. The identification of needs should include an inventory of transportation facilities, regionally coordinated level-of-service standards for all locally owned arterials and transit routes, level-of-service standards for state-owned highways, a list of specific actions for locally owned transportation facilities or services as they relate to addressing established standards, and identification of state and local system needs to meet current and future demands.

### Facility Inventories

As a basis for future planning, local transportation facility inventories define existing capital facilities and travel levels. Under the Act, comprehensive plans must include an inventory of air, water, and ground transportation facilities within the borders of a jurisdiction. The inventory in local comprehensive plans must include both local and state-owned facilities.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for needs assessment and infrastructure decision-making, such as common formats for developing facility inventories.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Include inventories for each transportation system, including roadways, transit, bicycles, pedestrians, freight, airports (where appropriate), and ferry facilities (where appropriate).
- Consider including maps and descriptions of conditions.
- Include state-owned facilities in the inventory.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Consider including inventories for each transportation system. These inventories should be coordinated with local jurisdictions.

Level-of-Service Standards

Local jurisdictions are required to adopt level-of-service standards for locally owned arterials and transit routes to help ensure that transportation improvements and services are available to serve existing communities and proposed development. The Growth Management Act stresses that level-of-service standards be regionally coordinated, and requires that local jurisdictions include in their transportation elements the adopted level-of-service standards for all highways of regional and statewide significance.

VISION 2040 states that level-of-service standards should focus on the movement of people and goods, not just on the movement of vehicles (see Policy MPP-DP-54). Jurisdictions therefore should develop level-of-service standards that take into account various modes of travel besides vehicles.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- provide guidance for addressing service standards and mobility issues that transcend local jurisdiction boundaries, including multimodal approaches to transportation concurrency and issues related to pass-through travel.
- Provide guidance to transit agencies for establishing level-of-service standards and/or performance standards, and how those standards are stated in local comprehensive plans.
- Consider providing guidance for establishing level-of-service standards for other modes of travel.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Include adopted level-of-service standards for arterials.
- Emphasize people-moving capacity rather than vehicles in establishing level-of-service standards.
- Consider establishing service or performance standards for other transportation modes, including for bicycling and pedestrian facilities.

**Level-of-Service Standards**

***Transit Service.** Regarding the directive in the Growth Management Act to adopt level-of-service standards for transit, service is provided in central Puget Sound by transit agencies that operate at the countywide level, rather than by individual cities and towns (with the exception of Everett Transit). As a result, the Regional Council encourages transit agencies to coordinate with local jurisdictions in establishing service or performance standards for transit. The agencies should then provide information to cities and counties regarding how to express the established service standards in local comprehensive plans.*

***Standards for Highways of Statewide Significance.** For information on level-of-service standards for state facilities, see WSDOT's *Highway System Plan*, Appendix E. [/www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E2120591-893A-4BB4-AFDC-121A41210E5D/0/10Appendix.pdf](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E2120591-893A-4BB4-AFDC-121A41210E5D/0/10Appendix.pdf)*

***Standards for Regionally Significant State Highways,** PSRC has adopted level-of-service standards for regionally significant state highways. Information is on-line at: [www.psrc.org/transportation/destination2030/ios/](http://www.psrc.org/transportation/destination2030/ios/)*

- Reference and discuss the service standards for neighboring jurisdictions, including the consistency of these standards.
- Cite level-of-service or performance standards for transit.
- State how adopted level-of-service standards for state and regional facilities are reflected in the plan’s transportation provisions.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts***

- Establish level-of-service standards or performance standards for transit – and other services.
- Develop these standards in cooperation with local jurisdictions to advance regional and local growth management planning objectives.
- Provide guidance to cities and counties for expressing established standards in their local comprehensive plans.

Related Issue: Concurrency

The Growth Management Act emphasizes the provision of public facilities to adequately support existing communities and new development as it occurs. As a result, the Act requires that local jurisdictions to adopt a concurrency ordinance to ensure the provision of adequate transportation facilities to serve development at the time it is to be occupied, or within six years. In 2005, the Act was amended to encourage multimodal transportation considerations in addressing concurrency – including walking, bicycling, and transit – in addressing transportation impacts and solutions.

**Concurrency**

*The Regional Council has developed a series of reports on transportation concurrency, including analysis of practices in the region, recommendations for local concurrency programs, and options for making concurrency more multimodal.*

*These reports and other resources are available at:*  
[www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/implementation/concurrency](http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/implementation/concurrency)

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide guidance for developing compatible approaches to concurrency among local jurisdictions.
- Address consistency of concurrency programs along jurisdictional boundaries and for facilities that serve more than one jurisdiction.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

- Has the city or county established a concurrency ordinance?
- Are there specific policies or provisions in the comprehensive plan that address concurrency?
- Does the concurrency program account for multimodal travel?
- Is the concurrency program coordinated with and supportive of neighboring jurisdictions’ land use plans and transportation systems?

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts***

- Address multimodal aspects of concurrency and coordinate efforts with local jurisdictions to identify multimodal solutions to transportation needs.

## **Financing**

The Growth Management Act requires that the transportation-related provisions of comprehensive plans address the financing of the local transportation system. The local plan must include a multiyear financing plan with: (1) an analysis of estimated costs related to maintenance, construction, and operations, (2) an analysis of funding capability, including revenues and probable funding sources, and (3) a reassessment of funding that identifies how the jurisdiction will respond should probable funding not be available. (See discussion below.) The multiyear financing plans serve as the basis for the six-year street, road, or transit program for cities, counties, and public transportation systems and should be coordinated with the state's six-year transportation improvement program.

### Reassessment Strategy

Under the Act, each jurisdiction must craft a "reassessment strategy" to be in place to guide decision-making should a funding shortfall occur. The reassessment strategy must address one or more of the following factors: (1) how additional funding would be raised, (2) how level-of-service standards would be adjusted, or (3) how land use assumptions would be reassessed. The Regional Council encourages jurisdictions to craft reassessment strategies that first consider identifying additional funding or adjusting level-of-service standards, before considering reassessment of land use assumptions.

#### *⇒ for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for common approaches to (1) analyzing funding capabilities, (2) developing provisions to include in a multiyear financing plan, and (3) addressing possible funding shortfalls in a reassessment strategy.
- Provide guidance for investment decision-making and accessing new transportation revenues.
- Describe county level and interjurisdictional sources of funding.

#### *⇒ for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Fully account for both existing and new sources of revenue.
- Fully describe investment decision methodologies.
- Include a multiyear financing plan, based on the local transportation system needs.
- Include an analysis of funding capability relative to probable funding resources.
- Include a reassessment strategy in the event of a funding shortfall.

#### *⇒ for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Fully account for both existing and new sources of revenue.
- Fully describe investment decision methodologies.
- Develop a multiyear financing plan, in cooperation with local jurisdictions.

## Intergovernmental Coordination

The Growth Management Act places an emphasis on coordinating local, regional, and state planning efforts. Under the Act, the comprehensive plan of each county or city is to be coordinated and consistent with the comprehensive plans of other jurisdictions with which it shares common borders or related regional issues. The plan must include an assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent cities and counties. It should also explicitly address how its land use assumptions and transportation network impact transportation in adjacent jurisdictions.<sup>21</sup>

### Demand Management

*Transportation demand management (TDM) strategies and programs include:*

- Investing in the infrastructure to support alternatives to driving alone, including transit alignments and stations, high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes and business and transit (BAT) lanes, bikeways and complete streets
- Transit-supportive land uses and compact urban form
- Ridesharing, vansharing, and carpooling
- Telecommuting and flexible work schedules
- Parking management

*On-line resources include:*

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/TDM](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TDM)

VICTORIA TRANSPORT INSTITUTE

[www.vtpi.org/tdm/](http://www.vtpi.org/tdm/)

NATIONAL TDM AND TELEWORK CLEARINGHOUSE

[www.nctr.usf.edu/clearinghouse/](http://www.nctr.usf.edu/clearinghouse/)

MUNICIPAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES CENTER

[www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Transpo/TDM.aspx](http://www.mrsc.org/Subjects/Transpo/TDM.aspx)

#### ⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for addressing coordination and joint planning for transportation facilities and services, as well as for mobility issues that have interjurisdictional implications, such as pass-through travel and related traffic

#### ⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Include provisions addressing coordination with neighboring cities, the county, regional agencies, special districts providing transportation, and the state.
- Address whether transportation facilities and standards compatible at shared jurisdictional borders.
- Include provisions for joint planning for transportation facilities in unincorporated urban growth areas.

#### ⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Coordinate agency planning with that of

local jurisdictions and other service providers.

## Demand Management

By working to alter or reduce travel demand instead of increasing roadway supply, transportation demand management strategies play a critical role in alleviating congestion and mitigating transportation-related impacts on the natural environment. The Growth Management Act requires transportation demand management strategies and programs to be included in local plans. Examples include efforts to shift trips outside of peak travel time, efforts to shift trips to transit,

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<sup>21</sup> Examples include referencing outputs from a travel demand model when an impact is shown on neighboring jurisdictions or including some discussion of the implications of a particular land use strategy on neighboring jurisdictions.

ridesharing, bicycling or walking, efforts to decrease trip lengths, and efforts to eliminate certain vehicle trips all together.

A specific transportation demand strategy required in Washington is the Commute Trip Reduction Program. The Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) law requires major employers to develop and implement a commute trip reduction program that is designed to reduce the number and length of drive-alone commute trips made to the worksite. Examples include vanpools, telecommuting options, providing for flexible work schedules, and public transit subsidies.

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Provide guidance for offering comprehensive programs for alternatives to driving alone, including transit and ridesharing, flexible work schedules and telecommuting.
- Address coordination of demand management programs that are multi-jurisdictional in nature.

⇒ ***for Local Comprehensive Plans***

- Include programs and strategies designed to manage travel demand – including transit and ridesharing, telecommuting, parking management, bicycling and pedestrian travel.
- Include commute trip reduction programs.

⇒ ***for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts***

- Coordinate service provisions with local and regional efforts to provide alternatives to driving alone.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Component**

Planning for bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are well-designed and strategically sited helps to improve accessibility and mobility – and offers travel choices that are safe, clean, and efficient, and increase physical activity. In 2005, the Growth Management Act was amended to require comprehensive plans to “include a pedestrian and bicycle component to include collaborative efforts to identify and designate planned improvements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced community access and promote healthy lifestyles” [RCW 36.70A.070(6)(a)(7)].

⇒ ***for Countywide Planning Policies***

- Address the development of bicycle and pedestrian transportation networks that cross local jurisdictional boundaries.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning**

*Excerpts from the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Implementation Strategy (2002)*

- *Provide for safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian use on streets and roadway projects.*
- *Maintain and improve existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; design projects according to established standards*
- *Invest to achieve greater system continuity by addressing missing linking and removing barriers and deterrents*
- *Locate new pedestrian and bicycle facilities in centers and other compact communities*
- *Provide for education on safe biking and walking; enforce safety laws*

*Further guidance and information is on-line at: [www.psrc.org/transportation/bikeped/](http://www.psrc.org/transportation/bikeped/)*

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Include a bicycle and pedestrian component in the transportation element
- Include strategies, programs, and projects that address bicycle and pedestrian travel as a safe and efficient transportation options – including pedestrian and bicycle planning, project funding and capital investments, education and encouragement, safety improvements and enforcement, and ongoing monitoring.
- Improve local street patterns to enhance walking and biking; design streets to safely accommodate all users, including pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Include provisions to promote physical health and active living (land use-based approaches, transportation-based approaches).

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Design facilities and services to better accommodate walking and biking to transit stops and stations.

## Land Uses Adjacent to Airports

Washington State law includes provisions to protect public use general aviation airports from land use encroachment (RCW 36.70.547). Any county or city that has a general aviation

### Review Criteria for Compatible Land Use Adjacent to Airports

- *List airports in or adjacent to your jurisdiction. If the airport is owned by the jurisdiction, include it in the transportation and capital facilities plan elements; the airport should also be designated as an essential public facility.*
- *Include a Land Use Inventory for airport property and adjacent areas:*
- *Identify existing and planned land uses in the vicinity of the airport. Document residential densities.*
- *Document places of public assembly (indoors and outdoors) in the vicinity of the airport (include schools, civic centers, theaters, malls, office buildings).*
- *Document existing vacant land and contiguous open space, for example, critical areas, passive use parks.*

airport within or adjacent to its jurisdictional boundaries is required to discourage the siting of incompatible uses next to the airport. The Regional Council has developed review criteria for airport planning and reviews airport compatible land use as part of its comprehensive plan review and certification process.

⇒ *for Countywide Planning Policies*

- Provide guidance for coordinating land use planning in areas adjacent to airports, especially where more than one jurisdiction abuts an airport.

⇒ *for Local Comprehensive Plans*

- Identify and address airport(s) located within or adjacent to the jurisdiction.
- Provide an inventory of existing and planned land use near the airport.

- Include policies and/or reference development regulations that prevent land use encroachment and discourage incompatible land uses adjacent to the airport.
- Address height hazard areas, safety zones, and noise impact areas for the airport in the plan and/or development regulations.
- Identify the ground transportation access.

⇒ *for Transit Agencies and Other Agency Planning, including Special Service Districts*

- Coordinate the provision of services in a manner that does not create incompatible uses next to airports.

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## APPENDIX E-4: CENTER PLANS<sup>22</sup>

VISION 2040 describes multiple types of centers, including regionally designated centers (regional growth centers and regional manufacturing industrial centers), other centers (centers in Larger Cities and centers in Small Cities/Town Centers), and other central places (such as neighborhood centers, activity nodes, and station areas).

The creation and development of growth centers as mixed-use, walkable locations of more intense residential and employment development is key to implementing VISION 2040. Each city in the region should take steps to identify one or more centers (or central places) as a compact area with a mix of housing, employment, shops, cultural facilities, and entertainment. Similarly, the creation and development of manufacturing industrial centers as concentrations of basic industries that provide family wage jobs is essential to the region's economic health. Centers that are the most regionally significant have been designated as *regional growth centers* or *manufacturing/industrial centers*.

VISION 2040 directs local jurisdictions having one or more *regionally* designated centers to prepare a subarea plan for each such center (see DP-Action-17 and VISION 2040 –Part IV: Implementation) within four years of designation. Subarea plans must be consistent with the jurisdiction-wide comprehensive plan and are required to fully address all planning requirements in the Growth Management Act. (Subarea plans should be a chapter or section in the comprehensive plan.)

The Regional Council established criteria for consideration when a center is proposed for designation (Executive Board, June 2003). These criteria are incorporated in the Center Plan Checklists and discussion below.

What follows is an outline of key concepts and provisions that jurisdictions should use in planning for their designated centers. The criteria for both *regional growth centers* and *manufacturing/industrial centers* are available on-line, along with other planning resources, at: <http://www.psrc.org/growth/centers>.

### GROWTH CENTERS

#### Center Plan Concept (or “Vision”)

The center plan should include a vision for the center, as well as an overview which describes its commitment to human scale urban form. The plan should address its relationship to the jurisdiction's overall comprehensive plan, as well as to VISION 2040 and relevant countywide planning policies. Additionally, an explanation of the center's relationship to other adjacent and nearby places is useful. A market analysis of the center's development potential, including total developed and undeveloped area, as well as

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<sup>22</sup> Revised June 2014 to reflect updated Center Plan Checklist

infill and redevelopment potential, could also be included. A market analysis is recommended for all jurisdictions with centers, and expected for designation of new centers.

## **Environment**

Planning for centers needs to consider the natural environment as well as the built environment. A center subarea plan should address critical areas, parks and open space, habitat, water quality, air quality, and climate change.

- Identify critical areas and develop provisions to protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Address parks and open space, including public spaces and civic places and include provisions to encourage accessible open space.
- Include or reference policies and programs for innovative stormwater management.
- Include or reference policies and programs to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Land Use**

The center should have defined boundaries, and planning area boundaries should fully encompass the designated regional growth center. Each center should be compact in size and integrated into the larger fabric of the surrounding community. General guidance is for regional growth centers to be approximately one square mile in size, or walkable from a central point to the edge in approximately 15 to 20 minutes. This suggests a roughly uniform shape. Unless there is a clear rationale and objective, centers should not be elongated or gerrymandered.

The center should have an allocated portion that represents a significant share of the jurisdiction's overall residential growth targets (expressed in housing units) and employment growth targets. Both existing and planned urban form, including residential densities and building intensities, should be described.

Each center should contain a mix of land uses appropriate to its size and function. The center plan should include land use policies and maps that describe the distribution and location of existing and future land uses, including housing, commercial, retail, public facilities, transit and utility facilities, and open space. Also, design standards should be pedestrian-friendly and stimulate transit ridership and transit-oriented development. Transition(s) to adjacent neighborhoods and districts are also important so that the center is well-integrated with surrounding areas.

## **Housing**

Center plans should provide for a variety of housing types, including housing affordable to all income groups. (Note: Housing is discouraged in manufacturing/industrial centers.) The plan should enumerate total existing and targeted housing units for a 20-year planning period. The

center plan should delineate a diversity of housing types with policies and provisions addressing the following:

- Dwelling types
- Density standards
- Affordable housing (for households that are (a) below 50 percent of the average median income, (b) between 50 and 80 percent, and (c) 80 to 120 percent of average)
- Special needs housing

Jurisdictions should identify strategies and implementation plans to meet housing targets and goals. Regular reporting on meeting targets and goals is to take place through both local and regional monitoring efforts.

### **Economy**

The center plan should address the economic and residential role the center plays within the jurisdiction, along with description of key sectors and industry clusters and policies and programs addressing economic development in the center. (See discussion of employment growth targets under *Land Use* above.)

### **Public Facilities**

The center plan should reference or describe existing and planned capital facilities, including how each will be financed (such as sewer, water, gas, electric, telecommunications). Both public and semi-public facilities and services should be identified, such as civic buildings, libraries, fire and police stations, arts centers, and related facilities. Efforts should be demonstrated to locate public facilities near transit stations.

### **Transportation**

One of the hallmarks of VISION 2040 and *Transportation 2040* is their emphasis on integrating land use and transportation planning as mutually reinforcing. Center plans must develop their transportation provisions based on land use assumptions. Transportation planning for centers should address or reference:

- An integrated multimodal transportation network, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as linkages to adjacent neighborhoods and districts.
- Relationship to regional high-capacity transit (i.e., bus-rapid transit, commuter rail, light rail, and ferry)
- “Complete street” treatments to design roadways for all users, including transit, pedestrians, cyclists, and freight.
- Context-sensitive design for transportation facilities to fit the urban character of the center
- “Green street” treatments should emphasize protection of the environment, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and aesthetic street-scaping.

- Transportation system management and demand management programs and services.

Level-of-service standards and concurrency provisions should be specifically tailored to address the unique circumstances and character of each designated center. The standards should be multimodal and stress the movement of people rather than only vehicles.

Center plans should have well-developed parking management strategies to:

- Manage the supply of parking.
- Promote benefits of on-street parking.
- Reduce and mitigate the effects of parking.

## MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIAL CENTERS

### Center Plan Concept (or “Vision”)

The center plan should include a vision for the center as well as an overview which clearly describes its commitment to the preservation of its urban industrial land base and the economic role of the center within the city, county and the region. The plan should describe its relationship to the jurisdiction’s overall comprehensive plan, as well as to VISION 2040 and relevant countywide planning policies. Additionally, an explanation of the center’s relationship to other adjacent and nearby places is useful. When considering the development of a center plan, it will be useful to include a market analysis of the center’s development potential, including total developed and undeveloped area, as well as infill and redevelopment potential. A market analysis is recommended for all jurisdictions with centers, and expected for designation of new centers.

### Environment

Planning for centers needs to consider the natural environment as well as the built environment, even in these areas of intense employment activity. The center plan should address critical areas, parks and open space (as appropriate to these areas), water quality, air quality, and climate change.

- If applicable, identify critical/environmentally sensitive areas in the manufacturing/industrial center and reference relevant policies and programs to protect those areas.
- As appropriate, address open spaces and open space connections.
- Include or reference policies and programs for innovative stormwater management (*related to Public Services*).
- Include or reference policies and programs to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Land Use**

The center should have defined boundaries, and the planning area boundaries should fully encompass the designated regional manufacturing/industrial center. Manufacturing industrial centers will assume a variety of sizes and shapes, based upon their location, the type of manufacturing or industrial activity they contain, the extent of land parcels zoned for manufacturing and industrial uses, and the presence of supporting infrastructure. Although it is not critical that MICs be physically compact, jurisdictions should have a clear rationale for why particular boundaries or configurations are in place.

The center should have an allocated portion of the jurisdiction's employment target and should demonstrate the capacity to accommodate the planned levels of growth.

The center plan should ensure that a high percentage of the property within the manufacturing industrial center boundaries have planned future land use and current zoning designations for industrial and manufacturing uses. In addition, the center plan should include complementary regulatory strategies to restrict land uses that are incompatible with manufacturing, industrial uses, such as large retail uses, housing, or non-related office uses. The sizes of office and retail uses should be limited primarily to accessory uses. This may include regulations and plans to preserve and encourage the aggregation of vacant parcels and parcels with non-industrial uses within the center to create lots of sufficient size for expanded or new manufacturing and industrial uses. Large parcels and blocks are often desirable for manufacturing and industrial activity.

The center plan should include design standards that are used to mitigate aesthetic and other impacts of manufacturing and industrial activities both within the center and on adjacent areas.

## **Economy**

The center plan should describe strategies to support or maintain manufacturing industrial industries (i.e., workforce, apprenticeships, land value policies, parcel aggregation, etc.) as well as key sectors and industry clusters in the center. (See discussion of employment growth targets under *Land Use* above.)

## **Public Facilities**

The center plan should describe or reference local capital plans for infrastructure (such as sewer, water, gas, electric, telecommunications), including how each will be financed. The plan should explain strategies to ensure facilities are provided consistent with targeted growth. Both public and semi-public facilities and services should be identified.

## **Transportation**

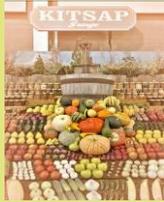
All proposed centers should have a plan to identify and address deficiencies in street, sidewalk, and trail/bicycle path networks. The center plan should assess the current adequacy

and availability of transportation facilities and services necessary to support industrial and manufacturing uses, and describe how the jurisdiction plans to provide adequate capacity to serve planned activity levels.

Transportation networks within manufacturing industrial centers should provide for the needs of freight movement and employee commuting by ensuring a variety of transportation modes, such as fixed-route and high-capacity transit, rail, trucking facilities, or waterway, as appropriate.

Document the jurisdiction's plans and capital program for the provision of infrastructure, services and amenities to support planned growth within the center. This may include identification of physical gaps or barriers in the transportation system as well as projects that improve safety, reduce modal conflicts, or improve access for one or more modes to major employment sites.

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## APPENDIX F: EXAMPLE OF A PLAN REVIEW REPORT

*Note: This example is for illustrative purposes only – the actual formatting of plan review reports may be revised as needed.*

### CERTIFICATION & CONSISTENCY REPORT

for

#### ***THE CITY'S 2011 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE***

January 2, 2012

#### **BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION**

Within the central Puget Sound region, member agencies and the Puget Sound Regional Council have worked together to develop an overall process for reviewing local, countywide, regional, and transportation agency policies and plans for compatibility and consistency.<sup>23</sup> This process also provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information related to local and regional planning. The City adopted its first comprehensive plan in 1994 and was certified in 1995. Minor amendments were adopted in 1998 and 2002. The city's 2004 update focused on more detailed strategies related to mixed use, neighborhood development, housing opportunities, and the retention of natural vegetation.

The most recent update was adopted on December 1, 2011. The plan now includes an environmental element that addresses water quality, climate change, and public health. A new section has been added on compact urban develop and design. In addition, the transportation element emphasizes clean transportation solutions for addressing existing and future mobility needs, including new stormwater treatment regulations for streets and roadways, improved pedestrian and bicycle connections to transit routes, and converting the city's motor vehicle fleet to hybrid automobiles.

Based on review of the adopted plan, the following recommendation is proposed for action.

#### **Recommendation for Certification**

**The Executive Board of the Puget Sound Regional Council should certify that the transportation-related provisions in the City's 2011 Comprehensive Plan update conform to the Growth Management Act and are consistent with Transportation 2040.**

<sup>23</sup> The certification requirement in the Growth Management Act is described Chapter 47.80, Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The specific requirements for transportation planning in local comprehensive plans are spelled out in Chapter 36.70A.070, RCW. The Regional Council's *Interlocal Agreement*, Section VII, also provides direction for the review of local comprehensive plans and countywide policies (Resolution A-91-01, amended March 1998). VISION 2040's Implementation chapter (Part IV) provides further guidance for the review of policies and plans and the certification of transportation-related provisions.

### **Conformity with state requirements for transportation**

Washington state law requires that transportation provisions in local comprehensive plans conform with the following: (1) established regional guidelines and principles, (2) the adopted long-range regional transportation plan, and (3) transportation planning requirements in the Growth Management Act. Within the central Puget Sound region, the multicounty planning policies have been established as the guidelines and principles to guide regional and local planning.

Multicounty Planning Policies

**Environment.** The City's comprehensive plan commits to environmental stewardship, to maintain and restore the natural environment, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plan includes policies to encourage changes in fuels, technologies, and travel patterns. The City commits to incorporate an evaluation of greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental analysis it conducts under the State Environmental Policy Act.

*Comment: The City's systems approach to environmental planning is noteworthy, especially the steps described in the plan to protect critical areas and habitat. However, it is recommended that when the City next updates its plan, that it further address the Action Plan developed by the Puget Sound Partnership.*

**Development Patterns and Housing.** The land use element in the plan further advances the City's commitment to compact urban development by identifying a series of neighborhood centers as key locations for mixed-use, transit-oriented development. A set of design guidelines have been developed to ensure that higher density development creates vibrant streets and transitions well with adjacent single family neighborhoods. The City has developed a detailed program for ensuring that diverse and affordable housing is provided in its town center and districts identified for redevelopment.

*Comment: The City's housing element addresses regional housing goals and fully achieves its contribution to meet affordable housing objectives in the region. The City may want to consider tailoring its concurrency provisions for its town center and to establish mode-split goals for that area, even though it is not a formally designated regional growth center.*

**Economic Development.** The 2011 includes the City's first economic development element in its comprehensive plan. The element includes three subsections that reflect the Economy section in VISION 2040: business, people, and places. The City has applied its growth targets for housing and employment in a manner that helps it to better achieve a jobs-housing balance.

*Comment: The economic development element provides a detailed discussion of the city's role in the clean technology sector described in the Regional Economic Strategy.*

**Public Services.** The City commits to conservation principles in the provision of needed services and infrastructure to accommodate its growth targets. The plan describes programs and strategies to reduce and reuse water, as well as to work with its energy provider to identify alternative forms of energy. The City has also worked with the school district to establish new development standards that would allow for multistory school buildings in the town center.

The City's capital facilities plan also have been revised to prioritize improvements and investments which best address multiple regional and local growth management objectives, including compact urban development, the reduction in vehicle miles traveled, and public health and well-being.

*Comment: The City's policies and programs for providing services emphasize clean solutions. Particularly noteworthy is the climate change assessment it conducts as part of its capital improvement program process.*

**Transportation.** The City has developed an agreement with the state department of transportation to ensure that context-sensitive design is applied to transportation projects along key state highways within the jurisdiction. The City commits to applying complete facility standards for major arterials to ensure that streets accommodate all user groups, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, vehicles, and freight. It has incorporated a bicycle network plan into the transportation element, which includes both dedicated bike lanes and off-street bicycle trails connecting each of the neighborhoods with the town center.

*Comment: The City's approach to multimodal transportation solutions demonstrates a strong commitment to providing its residents and employees with improved transportation choices. (For additional comments on transportation-provisions see the Growth Management Act section below.)*

### **Consistency with Transportation 2040**

*Transportation 2040*, the region's long-range transportation plans, calls for the development of a regionwide, multimodal transportation system that links centers with high capacity transit. It addresses sustainable transportation, maintenance and safety, supporting the *Regional Growth Strategy*, and greater travel options to improve mobility.

**Maintenance and Safety.** The City's overall goal for its transportation system is to "establish a safe and efficient transportation system that responds to the needs of a growing and diverse resident population, supports future commercial and industrial development, and provides convenient access to areas within the city and to areas in the surrounding region." The City has developed a program for ensuring that locally-generated revenues are adequate for routine maintenance of streets and trails.

*Comment: Several policies in the City's plan reinforce its dedication to maintaining and preserving its transportation system in a safe, usable state, which is consistent with Transportation 2040. However, the plan should also address in more detail how the City anticipates dealing with transportation functions in the case of an emergency situation, such as a natural disaster.*

**Supporting the Growth Strategy.** The City prioritizes transportation projects that help to develop the street network and transportation network to create a pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented town center. It has also invested in improved pedestrian connections between its civic center complex in the town center and its Sound Transit high-capacity transit station.

*Comment: The priority on transportation investments in the town center is consistent with VISION 2040 and the multicounty planning policies.*

**Offering Greater Mobility Options.** The City is planning to enhance connections between modes of travel. For example, the City is also working with the state department of transportation to create a more direct access for transit to high-occupancy vehicle lanes on the state highway. The transportation element also discusses a rail alignment located adjacent to the city's boundaries and plans to preserve the right-of-way.

*Comment: The City demonstrates a commitment to improving alternatives to driving alone. However, when the plan is next updated, the City should include a more complete discussion of freight access from its industrial district.*

### **Growth Management Act Requirements for Transportation Planning**

**Land Use Assumptions.** The transportation element includes a background section which demonstrates how the revised 10-year traffic forecast is based on the growth targets and development strategy described in the land use element.

*Comment: The City satisfies this requirement in the Growth Management Act.*

**Facility and Service Needs.** The transportation element includes an inventory of local streets, nonmotorized facilities, and transit routes with a discussion of needs to meet the demands based on the growth targets and development strategy. The City has developed a multimodal approach to its level-of-service standards, which considers the movement of people instead of vehicle flow. Both state and regional level-of-service standards are also identified. In addition, the transportation element addresses how the transit agency's performance standards are used to evaluate transit needs to serve future residential growth targets in the City.

*Comment: The City satisfies this requirement in the Growth Management Act. The multimodal approach to level-of-service is particularly noteworthy.*

**Financing.** The capital facilities element describes current funding sources for transportation investments, including the City's impact fees program. The reassessment strategy in the case of a funding shortfall commits the City to first seeking to identify new revenue sources, and then to adjust its level-of-service standards, before considering any adjustments to its land use strategy.

*Comment: The City satisfies this requirement in the Growth Management Act – however, the City should provide a cross-reference in the transportation element to the discussion of financing in the capital facilities element.*

**Intergovernmental Coordination.** The transportation element describes a number of cooperative projects with the local transit agency and state department of transportation. The background section of the element describes coordination that took place with adjacent cities in establishing level of service standards and concurrency provisions. The plan also discusses coordination among jurisdictions to ensure that transportation and land use planning are mutually reinforced.

*Comment: The City satisfies this requirement in the Growth Management Act. As Sound Transit plans for expanded service in the jurisdiction, the City should also address coordination with that transportation agency.*

**Transportation Demand Management.** The City encourages flex schedules for city employees and participates in regional rideshare programs. It is working with its local cable provider to improve computer-access connections in homes, schools, businesses, and other employment sites to encourage telework. The nonmotorized network includes route signage to bus stops and transit stations.

*Comment: When the plan is next updated, the city should consider developing a parking management plan for its town center area and other employment districts.*

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Component.** The City’s nonmotorized network calls for connecting each neighborhood with nearby schools, the town center, parks and recreation areas, and the regional transit center. The transportation element calls for improved signage at key locations with information on bicycle and pedestrian safety. Street improvement projects are to reconstruct existing arterials to established standards for all users, including pedestrians and bicyclists.

*Comment: The City satisfies this requirement in the Growth Management Act.*

### **Consistency with VISION 2040**

The Growth Management Act requires coordination among jurisdictions and agencies where there are common borders or related regional issues. *VISION 2040* represents regional, agreement on how the region will grow over coming decades. While the multicounty planning policies contained within *VISION 2040* satisfy certain Growth Management Act requirements, *VISION 2040* also provides guidance for other areas of regional agreement – including the *Regional Growth Strategy*, implementation actions, and monitoring.

#### ***VISION 2040 Statement***

The City’s *VISION 2040 Statement* describes a commitment to advance sustainable approaches to accommodating residential and employment growth targets. The statement addresses goals to maintain and restore critical areas and key habitats. Steps are identified to ensure that a health environment remains available for future generations. The City commits to conservation methods in the provision of public services. The statement advocates for cleaner transportation and mobility.

#### ***The Regional Growth Strategy***

The City worked through its countywide planning body to establish both housing and employment growth targets for the year 2031. These targets were negotiated with other cities in the county identified as *Larger Cities*, one of the regional geography categories in *VISION 2040*.

Approximately 50 percent of new development will be directed to the town center, and the adjacent corridor slated for redevelopment. The City has also completed a joint planning agreement with the county to ensure that its municipal development standards are being applied to development projects in its potential annexation area.

*Comment: The City’s targets are in line with the guidance provided by the Regional Growth Strategy. The joint planning agreement with the county serves as a model effort for intergovernmental cooperation.*

#### ***Implementation Actions***

**Identification of Underutilized Lands.** The City completed an inventory of redevelopment and infill sites as part of the plan update. Following the adoption of the citywide plan update, the City has developed a work program to create a subarea plan for one of the districts with a large concentration of potential infill sites.

**Collaboration with Special Districts.** The City and the school district have revised development standards for school buildings located in the town center to enable midrise structures that are more urban in character.

*Comment: The City has addressed key implementation actions in VISION 2040. It is encouraged to work other special districts to ensure that their facilities are sited and designed in a manner that support regional and local growth management objectives.*

***Monitoring***

Among the implementation actions and strategies identified in the City's 2011 comprehensive plan is a monitoring program. The City plans to report regularly on permitting and development occurring in the jurisdiction. Additional monitoring efforts are related to joint work the City conducts with the state department of ecology on water resources and with the county public health department on chronic diseases. The City has also begun to work with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency to establish a citywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

*Comment: The City has an excellent start on monitoring its performance and implementation efforts related to many of its key comprehensive planning provisions. It is encouraged to also work with the county to evaluate and monitor the conditions of critical areas and wildlife habitat.*

**Counties**

King County  
Kitsap County  
Pierce County  
Snohomish County

**Cities and Tribes**

Algona  
Arlington  
Auburn  
Bainbridge Island  
Beaux Arts Village  
Bellevue  
Black Diamond  
Bonney Lake  
Bothell  
Bremerton  
Buckley  
Burien  
Clyde Hill  
Covington  
DuPont  
Duvall  
Eatonville  
Edgewood  
Edmonds  
Enumclaw  
Everett  
Federal Way  
Fife  
Fircrest  
Gig Harbor  
Granite Falls  
Hunts Point  
Issaquah  
Kenmore  
Kent  
Kirkland  
Lake Forest Park  
Lake Stevens  
Lakewood  
Lynnwood  
Maple Valley  
Marysville  
Medina  
Mercer Island  
Mill Creek  
Milton  
Monroe  
Mountlake Terrace  
Muckleshoot Indian Tribal Council  
Mukilteo

Newcastle  
North Bend  
Orting  
Pacific  
Port Orchard  
Poulsbo  
Puyallup  
Redmond  
Renton  
Ruston  
Sammamish  
SeaTac  
Seattle  
Shoreline  
Skykomish  
Snohomish  
Snoqualmie  
Stanwood  
Steilacoom  
Sultan  
Sumner  
The Suquamish Tribe  
Tacoma  
Tukwila  
University Place  
Woodinville  
Woodway  
Yarrow Point

**Statutory Members**

Port of Bremerton  
Port of Everett  
Port of Seattle  
Port of Tacoma  
Washington State Department of Transportation  
Washington Transportation Commission

**Associate Members**

Port of Edmonds  
Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs  
Island County  
Puyallup Tribe of Indians  
Snoqualmie Tribe  
Thurston Regional Planning Council  
The Tulalip Tribes

**Transit Agencies**

Community Transit  
Everett Transportation Service  
Kitsap Transit  
Metropolitan King County  
Pierce Transit  
Sound Transit



Puget Sound Regional Council

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