Regional Centers Framework Update Approved

Centers play a big role in how the region accommodates growth. The region's centers framework defines the types of central places that are the focus of growth, planning, and investment. The Growth Management Policy Board has been guiding a three year-long effort to evaluate the centers framework and recommend changes to recognize different scales of centers using consistent designation criteria and procedures.

The new Centers Framework:
- Encourages larger Regional Growth Centers to plan for more growth
- Creates a new path for designating Manufacturing Industrial Centers
- Provides an approach to re-designate existing regional centers
- Recognizes Major Military Installations
- Increases planning and performance for all centers
- Establishes guidelines to designate countywide centers

After a robust debate, that included discussion about how best to recognize military installations, the provision of transit for manufacturing industrial centers, and minimum standards for countywide centers, the Executive Board opted to vote requiring a two-thirds supermajority to pass. The new framework passed with 76% of the vote. Executive Board votes are weighted by population of the jurisdictions they represent.

The next steps for the framework are to:
- Update the Designation Procedures for New Centers
- Identify issues for the VISION 2050 Update, including:
  - Recognition of major military installations
  - Implementation of center types
- Work with countywide organizations on implementation of countywide centers
- And complete other work plan steps, such as:
  - Additional research on displacement and community engagement strategies
  - Research of transportation funding sources for military base access

For more information, contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann at 206-464-6174 or LUnderwoodBultmann@psrc.org.

In other business, the board:
- Welcomed the City of Des Moines as a new member.
- Adopted a routine amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program that added new phases of several projects underway by Kitsap Transit including all three passenger only ferry routes into downtown Seattle as well as the Wheaton Way Transit Center. The amendment also included two projects on I-5 in downtown Seattle.
- Certified the Comprehensive Plan for Milton.