March 1, 2018

2050 forecasts of population and jobs

PSRC staff briefed the board on the draft regional macroeconomic forecast for 2050. This is a long-range forecast of projected jobs, population, and households at the regional scale. It establishes the future growth assumptions for the development of the VISION 2050 plan.

For more information, please contact Carol Naito at 206-464-7535, cnaito@psrc.org, or Michael Jensen at 206-464-7538, mjensen@psrc.org.

Trends shaping the region

The board heard a presentation on regional trend data as background for the VISION 2050 planning process. Among the trends:

- The region has seen a surge of new residents since 2010, reaching over 80,000 annually for the past two years.
- Minority residents comprise a growing share of the region's population, a trend that has spread from central cities to many suburban communities.
- By the year 2030, 1 in 5 residents of the region will be 65 or over, double the share in the year 2000.
- Vehicle delay has grown significantly across major freeway corridors in the region, especially I-5.
- For the seventh year in a row, more people are riding transit.

For more information, contact Michael Hubner, AICP, Principal Planner, (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org.

Regional growth strategy update

The board discussed a proposed approach to updating the regional growth strategy for VISION 2050, including schedule, phases of work, and a process for the board to develop plan alternatives. Board members reviewed data showing performance of the current regional growth strategy, including distribution of actual population and employment growth since 2000, at the regional scale and in each county.

For more information, contact Michael Hubner, AICP, Principal Planner, (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org.

Certification for City of Milton comprehensive plan

The growth board recommended full certification of the comprehensive plan for Milton. The plan had been conditionally certified in 2016. Since then, the city amended its plan to address conditions for full certification. The growth board found that the plan is now fully consistent with regional policies and conform to the Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning.
Provisional center designation for Sumner-Pacific manufacturing/industrial center

The board recommended extending the provisional center designation for the Sumner-Pacific manufacturing/industrial center to April 2019 to allow one additional year to complete the joint center subarea plan. The joint planning process between the two cities, including work on floodplain management, has added complexity to the planning effort, requiring additional time to complete the plan.

For more information, contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann at 206-971-3289 or lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org.