Growth Management Policy Board

Thursday, November 29, 2018 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

The meeting will be streamed live over the Internet at www.psrc.org.

1. Call to Order (10:00) - Councilmember Ryan Mello, Chair
2. Report of the Chair
3. Communications and Public Comment
4. Director’s Report
5. Consent Agenda (10:15)
   a. Approve Minutes of Growth Management Policy Board Meeting Held November 1, 2018
6. Action Item (10:20)
   a. Recommend Certification of the Sumner-Pacific Manufacturing/Industrial Center Subarea Plan -- Andrea Harris-Long, PSRC
7. Action Item (10:25)
   a. Recommend Certification of the Metro Everett Regional Growth Center -- Ben Kahn, PSRC
8. Discussion Item (10:30)
   a. VISION 2050: Online Survey Results -- Laura Benjamin, PSRC
9. Discussion Item (10:45)
   a. VISION 2050 Development Patterns - Transit-Oriented Development and Centers - Maggie Moore and Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC
10. Discussion Item (11:10)
    a. VISION 2050 Environment Chapter Update -- Erika Harris, PSRC
11. Discussion Item (11:35)
    a. Climate Change in VISION 2050 -- Kelly McGourty, PSRC
12. Information Item
    a. PSRC Public Participation Plan
13. Next Meeting: January 3, 2019, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., PSRC Boardroom
    Major Topics for January:
    VISION 2050: Health, Transportation, and Development Patterns
14. Adjourn (12:00)
Board members please submit proposed amendments and materials prior to the meeting for distribution. Organizations/individuals may submit information for distribution. Send to Kristin Mitchell, e-mail kmitchell@psrc.org, fax 206-587-4825; or mail.

Sign language, and communication material in alternative formats, can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling 206-464-7090, TTY Relay 711. Arabic, Chinese, Deutsch, German, Française, French, 한국어, Русский, Español, Tagalog, Tiếng việt, Vietnamese Call 206-587-4819.
MINUTES
Growth Management Policy Board
November 1, 2018
PSRC Boardroom

[To watch a video of the meeting and hear the discussion, go to

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Councilmember Ryan Mello, Chair.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Mello welcomed new board member Barb Mock. Ms. Mock will be representing the Regional Staff Committee on the board in a non-voting position.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

The board received public comments from Alex Tsimerman.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director of Growth Management Paul Inghram shared that he attended the Master Builders Association housing event. The event was focused on how to work with partners to address the demand for housing.

The next GMPB meeting is the 5th week of November on Thursday, November 29, in lieu of a December meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve Minutes of Growth Management Policy Board Meeting held October 4, 2018

ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Margeson/Ryan) to adopt the Consent Agenda. The motion passed.
RECOMMEND CERTIFICATION OF TACOMA MALL SUBAREA PLAN

Senior Planner Andrea Harris-Long presented the Tacoma Mall Subarea plan. Chair Mello shared that Tacoma has been working on the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan for about three years with community engagement including the mall owner – Simon Properties. Chair Mello is looking forward to seeing the neighborhood transform. Staff recommended certification of the subarea plan.

**ACTION:** It was moved and seconded (Margeson/Tosta) to recommend that the Executive Board certify the Tacoma Mall Subarea Plan. The motion passed.

VISION 2050: ACTION TO PROCEED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR VISION 2050

Principal Planner Liz Underwood-Bultmann updated the board on the changes to the Regional Growth Strategy scenarios since the board last discussed it. Ms. Underwood-Bultmann highlighted that proceeding with scenarios to analyze is step one of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will be released in March 2019 and then the board will select the preferred alternative in spring 2019. Mr. Inghram stated that taking action at today’s meeting moves the process forward to start a detailed analysis of the alternatives with consultants Parametrix.

PSRC staff recommended including three growth pattern alternatives in the analysis:

- Stay the Course (No Action Alternative), as required by SEPA
- Transit Focused Growth
- Reset Urban Growth – combines scenarios discussed at previous meetings

The board discussed their ongoing concerns about social equity and displacement risk which are scheduled to be discussed in depth at the February 2019 board meeting. The DSEIS will include supplemental information about equity to inform review of the alternatives. The board commended the staff for working with everyone on the alternatives and shared appreciation for the work that went into creating the Reset Urban Growth alternative as a comparison point to the other alternatives.

Commissioner Wolfe stated that Kitsap County supports the staff recommendation although the county has concerns that the revised 5% population allocation share for the county is too low.

The board discussed ongoing concerns around affordable housing. Staff shared that housing will be part of the upcoming analysis work on the alternatives, but there are limitations on analyzing the future housing market through modeling. Chair Mello requested that the board have a work session at an upcoming meeting on economics and job balance.
ACTION: It was moved and seconded (Ryan/Margeson) to direct staff to proceed with preparation of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for VISION 2050, including analysis of the No Action (Stay the Course), Transit Focused, and Reset Urban Growth alternatives. The motion passed.

ECONOMY AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Principal Economic Development Manager Jason Thibedeau reviewed the economy chapter and highlighted how it connects with other VISION chapters. Mr. Thibedeau shared that Amazing Place, the regional economic strategy, will be incorporated into VISION 2050 including encouraging economic growth across all parts of the region.

The board discussed the Amazing Place Implementation Goals:
- Open economic opportunities to everyone
- Compete globally
- Sustain a high quality of life

The board discussed that there can be times when those goals can be difficult to reconcile, especially around the impact on the environment and by extension a measure of quality of life in the region. Mr. Thibedeau shared the value of lands and the opportunities they create are part of the economic strategy. This is the first review of the Economy Chapter for the board. It will be discussed again at a future board meeting with suggested changes for the VISION 2050 Economy Chapter. The board indicated that it would like to spend extra time on economic strategies around dispersed job balance around the region at a future board meeting.

Assistant Planner Ben Kahn reviewed the Public Services chapter with the board. Staff recommend updates that refine the scope of the chapter and to remove outdated and unrelated information. Mr. Kahn reviewed an existing policy that relates to a 2017 state law regarding school siting and the potential to include a new policy to better describe objectives for siting schools.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29 which will focus on the VISION 2050 Development Patterns and Environment chapters, including climate change.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.
GROWTH MANAGEMENT POLICY BOARD Attendance Roster – November 1, 2018

GMPB MEMBERS & ALTERNATES PRESENT

*Italicized = alternate*

Patricia Akiyama, Master Builders Association – Business/Labor
Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold, Kirkland – Other Cities & Towns in King County
Councilmember Scott Bader, Metropolitan Center—Everett
Dr. Anthony Chen, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department – Community/Environment
Councilmember John Holman, Auburn – Other Cities & Towns in King County
Councilmember Rob Johnson, Metropolitan Center—Seattle
Marty Kooistra, Housing Development Consortium – Seattle/King County
Councilmember Hank Margeson, Redmond – Other Cities & Towns in King County
Robin Mayhew, Transportation Agency – WSDOT
John McClellan, Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
Councilmember Ryan Mello, Metropolitan Center—Tacoma
Barb Mock, Regional Staff Committee
Councilmember Ron Peltier, Bainbridge Island – Other Cities & Towns in Kitsap County
Mayor Rob Putaansuu, Port Orchard – Other Cities & Towns in Kitsap County
Deputy Mayor Lynne Robinson, Metropolitan Center—Bellevue
Councilmember Terry Ryan, Snohomish County
Councilmember Jan Schuette, Arlington – Other Cities & Towns in Snohomish County
Edna Shim, Seattle Children’s – Business/Labor
Councilmember Nancy Tosta, Burien – Other Cities & Towns in King County
Dr. Susan Turner, Kitsap Public Health District – Community/Environment (via remote)
Mayor Greg Wheeler, Metropolitan Center—Bremerton
Councilmember Paul Winterstein, Issaquah – Other Cities & Towns in King County
Commissioner Edward Wolfe, Kitsap County
Bryce Yadon, Futurewise
Councilmember Derek Young, Pierce County (via remote)

GMPB MEMBERS ABSENT (*alternate present*)

*Mayor John Chelminiak, Metropolitan Center—Bellevue
Councilmember Tim Curtis, Fife – Other Cities & Towns in Pierce County
Councilmember Larry Gossett, King County
Clayton Graham, Municipal League of King County – Business/Labor
Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, King County
Peter Mayer, Metro Parks Tacoma – Community/Environment
Mark McCaskill, WA State Department of Commerce
*Commissioner Paul McIntyre, Alderwood Water & Wastewater District
Ian Morrison, NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Association – Business/Labor
Councilmember Mike O’Brien, Metropolitan Center—Seattle
Deputy Mayor Cynthia Pratt, Lacey – Thurston Regional Planning Council
Rob Purser, Suquamish Tribe
Commissioner Peter Steinbrueck, Port of Seattle – Ports*
GUESTS AND PSRC/STAFF PRESENT
(As determined by signatures on the attendance sheet and documentation by staff.)
Ben Bakkenta, PSRC
Laura Benjamin, PSRC
Leah Bolotin, WSDOT
Jill Czarnecki, Parametrix
Carolyn Downs, PSRC
Erika Harris, PSRC
Andrea Harris-Long, PSRC
Michael Hubner, City of Seattle
Paul Inghram, PSRC
Kathryn Johnson, PSRC
Ben Kahn, PSRC
Kristin Mitchell, PSRC
Maggie Moore, PSRC
Ian Munce, City of Tacoma
Marianne Seifert, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood
Jason Thibedeau, PSRC
Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC
Karen Wolf, King County
ACTION ITEM

To: Growth Management Policy Board

From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject: Recommend Certification of the Sumner-Pacific Manufacturing/Industrial Center Subarea Plan

IN BRIEF

Consistent with PSRC’s adopted plan review process, PSRC staff reviewed and recommends certification of the center subarea plan listed below.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board should recommend that the Executive Board certify that the Sumner-Pacific Manufacturing/Industrial Center subarea plan addresses planning expectations for regional manufacturing/industrial centers. This action removes the center’s provisional status, finalizing the designation of the Sumner-Pacific Manufacturing/Industrial Center.

1) Sumner-Pacific MIC Subarea Plan (certification report)

DISCUSSION

A major emphasis of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) is the need to coordinate local, regional, and state planning efforts. Within the central Puget Sound region, local governments and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) have worked together to develop an overall process for reviewing local, countywide, regional, and transit agency policies and plans for compatibility and consistency.

VISION 2040, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Adopted Policy and Plan Review Process call for PSRC to review and certify subarea planning efforts of jurisdictions with designated regional centers. VISION 2040 includes an action (DP-
Action-17, p. 98) for jurisdictions with regional growth centers and/or manufacturing/industrial centers to develop subarea plans for those centers.\(^1\) This expectation has been in place since the PSRC Executive Board adopted its Plan Review Process in 2003. Review of center subarea plans provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information related to local and regional planning.

The Cities of Sumner and Pacific adopted the Sumner-Pacific Manufacturing/Industrial Center (MIC) Subarea Plan in August 2018. The MIC consists of 2,160 acres, approximately 90 percent in Sumner and 10 percent in Pacific. The MIC largely contains manufacturing, warehousing, and transportation and utilities jobs. Sumner-Pacific was provisionally designated as an MIC in 2016, with the expectation that a subarea plan would be adopted within two years. With an extension on the time limit, the cities have completed a subarea plan that addresses MIC subarea plan requirements and submitted the plan to PSRC.

PSRC staff has reviewed the subarea plan and finds that it addresses the planning expectations for MICs. PSRC staff coordinated with city staff in the review of the Plan Review and Certification Reports. The newly adopted Regional Centers Framework (2018) calls for review of centers and center planning again in 2025, and PSRC may provide additional comments or guidance for center planning as part of that work.

For more information, please contact Andrea Harris-Long at (206) 464-1179 or aharris-long@psrc.org or Liz Underwood-Bultmann at (206) 464-6174 or LUnderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.

\(^1\) The specific requirements for center planning are provided in PSRC’s Plan Review Manual, and the process is also described in VISION 2040, Part IV: Implementation. Certification of the jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan for consistency with the regional transportation plan, regionally established guidelines and policies, and Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning is completed through a separate board action.
ACTION ITEM

November 20, 2018

To: Growth Management Policy Board

From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject: Recommend Certification of the Metro Everett Regional Growth Center

IN BRIEF

Consistent with PSRC’s adopted plan review process, PSRC staff reviewed and recommends certification of the Metro Everett Subarea Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board should recommend that the Executive Board certify that the following subarea plan address planning expectations for regional growth centers:

1) Metro Everett Subarea Plan (certification report)

DISCUSSION

A major emphasis of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) is the need to coordinate local, regional, and state planning efforts. Within the central Puget Sound region, local governments and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) have worked together to develop an overall process for reviewing local, countywide, regional, and transit agency policies and plans for compatibility and consistency.

VISION 2040, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Adopted Policy and Plan Review Process call for PSRC to review and certify subarea planning efforts of jurisdictions with designated regional centers. VISION 2040 includes an action (DP-Action-17, p. 98) for jurisdictions with regional growth centers and/or
manufacturing/industrial centers to develop subarea plans for those centers. This expectation has been in place since the PSRC Executive Board adopted its Plan Review Process in 2003. Review of center subarea plans provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information related to local and regional planning.

**Metro Everett**

The City of Everett adopted the Metro Everett Subarea Plan in August 2018. The regional growth center consists of 670 acres and includes the historic Everett downtown. It is served by Everett Transit, Community Transit, and Sound Transit, and will be home to the northern terminus of the Link Light Rail expected in 2036. Originally designated as a regional center in 1995, the new plan builds upon recent planning efforts in the city, including the Everett Station Area and Downtown plans. The city completed the subarea plan to address PSRC regional growth center subarea plan requirements and submitted the plan to PSRC.

For more information, please contact Ben Kahn at (206) 464-6172 or bkahn@psrc.org or Liz Underwood-Bultmann at (206) 464-6174 or LUnderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.

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1 The specific requirements for center planning are provided in PSRC’s Plan Review Manual, and the process is also described in VISION 2040, Part IV: Implementation. Certification of the jurisdiction’s comprehensive plan for consistency with the regional transportation plan, regionally established guidelines and policies, and Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning is completed through a separate board action.
DISCUSSION ITEM

November 20, 2018

To: Growth Management Policy Board

From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject: VISION 2050: Online Survey Results

IN BRIEF

The Growth Management Policy Board will be briefed on the findings of the VISION 2050 online public opinion survey.

DISCUSSION

To support the VISION 2050 process, PSRC is reaching out to the public, members, and other stakeholders. Engagement efforts to date include online notices and newsletters, social media and blog posts, direct emails and letters to PSRC boards and committees, and in-person events.

In addition to the public outreach activities, PSRC conducted a statistically valid public opinion survey to gauge the broad public sentiment towards growth and planning in the region. PSRC worked with consultant Cocker Fennessy to develop and field the survey in early 2018. The results of the survey, presented to the GMPB in May 2018, underscore many of the comments received during the VISION 2050 scoping comment period and highlight opinions on various planning issues. A summary of these results is available online.

PSRC also posted a similar survey online in multiple languages to provide an opportunity for additional residents and stakeholders to share their opinions. The online survey was open from April through October 2018 and received over 2,100 responses. Results from the online survey are very similar to the statistically valid version. Staff will present the results of the online survey at the November 29 meeting.

For more information, please contact Laura Benjamin, Senior Planner, at 206-464-7134, Lbenjamin@psrc.org.
DISCUSSION ITEM

November 20, 2018

To: Growth Management Policy Board

From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject: VISION 2050 Development Patterns - Transit-Oriented Development and Centers

IN BRIEF

PSRC staff will present the first part of the Development Patterns chapter for the board to review potential policy refinements and actions regarding transit-oriented development (TOD) and centers.

DISCUSSION

GMPB has initiated review of potential updates to the policy chapters in VISION 2040.

The board started this review process with the Housing chapter and will begin discussion of the Development Patterns and Environment chapters at its November 29 meeting. The board will be asked to confirm high-level issues to address through updated policy and action language for each chapter. Based on board feedback, staff will develop strike-thru language for board consideration in winter and spring 2019.

The Development Patterns chapter in VISION 2040 describes the character of development patterns that support the Regional Growth Strategy, livable and healthy communities, and other land use concepts under the Growth Management Act. The chapter emphasizes an integrated approach to development and traditional and innovative approaches to maintaining a wide variety of healthy, accessible, and well-designed communities. The chapter discusses the growth of regional and subregional centers, building on the concept of creating employment centers and mixed-use central places connected by an efficient transportation system.

Development Patterns is the largest chapter in VISION, with 56 policies and 18 actions. Discussion of the chapter will occur through multiple meetings of the Growth

Doc ID 2415
Recent Initiatives on Transit Oriented Development and Centers
Since VISION was adopted in 2008, PSRC has completed work that can inform updates to the Development Patterns chapter.

Completed in 2013, the Growing Transit Communities (GTC) Strategy is an implementation plan to promote thriving and equitable transit communities in the central Puget Sound region. As the region continues to build out a regional high-capacity transit network and has committed to billions of dollars in additional investments in the coming decades, this initiative focused on equitable development outcomes in station areas to benefit both existing and future residents. The GTC Strategy advances goals of attracting a significant share of the region’s growth around high-capacity transit, providing housing choices affordable to a full range of incomes near high-capacity transit, and increasing access to opportunity for existing and future community members in transit communities. The strategies that emerged apply to these and many other transit-served locations in and outside of light rail corridors, including many regional growth centers, countywide centers, and local centers.

Among the GTC Strategy’s recommendations are numerous actions to be taken by state, regional, and local governments, transit agencies, and non-governmental organizations. VISION 2040 supports growth in centers and near transit, but the GTC Strategy places additional emphasis on planning to accommodate growth near high capacity transit communities, both in designated regional centers and elsewhere. The strategy includes calls for PSRC to explore potential next steps that include formal designation of transit communities, recognizing the role of transit-oriented development in the regional growth strategy, promoting transit-supportive densities, and making targeted transportation investments that support growth and equity in transit communities.

In 2018, PSRC’s Executive Board adopted the Regional Centers Framework Update. The framework reassessed the system in place today and opportunities to recognize other places that are serving important roles in the region. The Regional Centers Framework outlines a revised structure and criteria for regional and countywide centers and direction to update policies and procedures to update the regional centers framework. There are many avenues to implement the Regional Centers Framework Update, including updated procedures and guidance, updating countywide planning policies, and regular monitoring. Executive Board action on the framework called for incorporating appropriate provisions in VISION 2050.

In the context of VISION, the framework identifies different types of regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers, with different growth expectations for each. In accordance with direction provided by the Executive Board in the adopted
centers framework, major military installations are also proposed to be included as a regional geography in the Regional Growth Strategy.

Proposed Changes for Discussion

The following are excerpts from the Regional Growth Strategy objectives from the board and Regional Staff Committee that are used to inform proposed changes to the Development Patterns chapter:

- Within cities, create and support centers to serve as concentrations of jobs, housing, services, and other activities
- Build transit-oriented development around planned infrastructure
- Use existing infrastructure and new investments efficiently

**Overall Discussion Question:** Do the potential changes identified below reflect the region’s goals and interests in transit-oriented development and centers? Are there other changes that should be considered?

Development Patterns Chapter Overall

- **Update Organization of Chapter**
  The current Development Patterns chapter is divided into two subsections: (1) Land Use and (2) Elements of Orderly Development and Design. Staff propose combining these sections to acknowledge the importance of design features of urban development before defining the different land uses. Reorganizing the chapter will improve the flow and help streamline text throughout the chapter.

Growing Transit Communities

- **Incorporate new policies to address Growing Transit Communities**
  Staff propose including additional policies that reflect the region’s objective to leverage transit infrastructure investments by planning for growth in transit station areas. Depending on future development of the preferred alternative for the Regional Growth Strategy, the board may consider incorporating a regional objective for the amount of population and employment in station areas. The board could also consider policies for jurisdictions with significant transit investments to direct a significant share of growth to those transit station areas. MPPs related to equitable development around current and future transit station areas may also be considered.

- **Transit-Supportive Densities and Land Uses**
  The Growing Transit Communities Strategy calls for adopting land use plans and zoning regulations that accommodate and promote transit supportive uses and densities. Based on previous board and committee discussion, the plan could include policies encouraging or requiring densities to support transit near high capacity stations, policies to encourage middle density housing, or policies to promote use of inclusionary or incentive zoning when considering upzones near high capacity transit stations.
• **Update Terminology to Promote Transit Station Areas and TOD**
VISION 2040 includes discussion of “station areas along major transit routes” in the “other centers” or “subregional centers” as secondary hubs that serve important roles. The goal for subregional centers, along with DP-11 – DP 13 should be updated to reflect countywide centers and transit station areas.

The proposed goal revision updates the “other centers” and “subregional centers” terminology and includes transit station areas alongside countywide and local centers. This is also reflected in the proposed changes to the MPPs. Transit station areas have been defined through the Regional Growth Strategy update as the walkshed around high capacity transit stations, such as light rail, bus rapid transit, ferries, and commuter rail stations.

• **Update Action to Address Monitoring Implementation and Goals for GTC**
An existing action calls for the Puget Sound Regional Council to study, track, and evaluate growth and development occurring in the central Puget Sound region in terms of meeting the goals and objectives of the regional vision. Consistent with the GTC strategy, staff recommend incorporating regular monitoring of growth goals in transit station areas and implementation of the Growing Transit Communities Strategy.

• **Incorporate an Action to Promote Planning for Transit Station Areas**
The Growing Transit Communities Strategy encourages subarea planning for transit station areas. VISION could include a local action to adopt station area plans and/or policies for high capacity transit communities which are expected to attract significant new population and employment growth.

**Regional Centers**

• **Update Text and Mapping to Address Regional Centers**
Update text and mapping in the Development Patterns chapter to reflect the different types of regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers defined in the Regional Centers Framework, goals for each, and references to designation criteria for these centers.

**TOD and Centers in Other Sections of VISION 2050**

• **Supplemental Guidance for the Regional Growth Strategy**
Through development of the Regional Growth Strategy alternatives, the RSC and GMPB have discussed that the strategy does not provide specific growth assumptions for each set of local circumstances. However, the revised Regional Growth Strategy could include additional guidance on other issues raised regarding the development of growth targets and implementation of the Strategy. While the guidance is likely to accompany the Regional Growth Strategy section of the plan, TOD and centers are likely to feature prominently in that guidance.
Potential TOD and centers topics for additional Regional Growth Strategy guidance:
  o The role of manufacturing/industrial centers in establishing employment targets
  o Expectations for cities with more than one regionally-designated center
  o Communities with different levels of transit investments
  o Other factors, such as the role of tribal lands in the Regional Growth Strategy

Input from the board on key issues to address for centers and transit station areas would be helpful as staff draft supplemental guidance for discussion.

NEXT STEPS

Following issue review by Regional Staff Committee and the Growth Management Policy Board, staff will develop policy language for consideration in early 2019. Staff will also solicit comments from the Regional TOD Advisory Committee at their November 30 meeting.

The board will continue to discuss Development Patterns at future meetings and will be briefed on potential annexation and urban growth area policy issues for the Development Patterns chapter at their January meeting.

For more information, please contact Maggie Moore at (206) 464-6171 or MMoore@psrc.org or Liz Underwood-Bultmann at (206) 464-6174 or LUnderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.
DISCUSSION ITEM  

To:  
Growth Management Policy Board

From:  
Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject:  
VISION 2050 Environment Chapter Update

IN BRIEF

Staff will present potential changes to the Environment Chapter in VISION 2050 for discussion.

DISCUSSION

The Environment Chapter in VISION 2040 acknowledges the importance of the environment in the region’s quality of life and economy. It provides a solid foundation for the update in VISION 2050. The chapter provides information, goals, multicounty planning policies, and actions for five environmental issues: environmental stewardship, earth and habitat, water quality, air quality, and climate change. VISION 2040’s environment goals, policies, and actions are listed in Attachment A.

Some of these issues have evolved substantially since VISION 2040 was adopted in 2008, pointing to the need to update information and provisions to address them. Climate change has become a more urgent issue, and promising mitigation measures and the impacts from climate change to the region are better understood. The health of Puget Sound has also become a more urgent issue, with the death of orcas, the decline of salmon populations, and the ruling requiring removal of fish blockage culverts being regularly featured in the news. Strategies that can help to recover the health of Puget Sound are also better understood, but funding to implement them is limited. In addition, the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan was recently published. It identifies a regional open space network and strategies to protect, restore and improve access to these regionally-important open spaces.

The issues outlined above point to areas where PSRC can update information, policies,
and actions to support local, tribal, regional, state, and federal initiatives related to these issues. The overarching environment goal could remain essentially the same, with only minor wording updates such as removing “potential” to the phrase “addressing potential climate change impacts.” The sections below describe potential updates to the climate change, water quality, earth and habitat, air quality, and stewardship sections in VISION 2040’s Environment Chapter. Climate Change is discussed in the next memo.

Since VISION 2040’s adoption, PSRC has been further exploring and defining its role in environmental planning. The Growth Management Policy Board provides regional policy direction for environmental planning. PSRC’s role in environmental planning has included:

• Collecting and sharing data, information, and innovative practices across the region
• Encouraging the consideration of environmental resources at the regional scale
• Integrating information and discussions to address interdisciplinary challenges and encourage multiple-benefit solutions, including the benefits and impacts of the Regional Growth Strategy
• Developing and assisting in the development of regional-scale environmental planning information and policies

The board is encouraged to discuss other roles for PSRC in environmental planning.

**Water Quality**

In the water quality section, information from Puget Sound Partnership on the state of Puget Sound’s health and the Action Agenda will be updated. VISION 2040 contains policies on maintaining natural hydrological functions, restoring the region’s freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds and estuaries, reducing the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and identifying and addressing climate change impacts on hydrological systems. Despite current efforts and the policies above, many Puget Sound species are struggling. Stormwater pollution and changes in the hydrology of runoff patterns are the biggest threats to Puget Sound water quality and are not currently well integrated into land use and transportation planning. Coordination on stormwater issues across jurisdictions is also needed. Policy updates may be appropriate to more directly address these water quality issues, and to emphasize reducing stormwater pollution through encouraging the integration of stormwater, transportation, and land use planning on the watershed scale.

**Earth and Habitat**

Information and mapping from the Regional Open Space Conservation plan will be added to the Earth and Habitat section. VISION 2040 contains policies on identifying, preserving, and enhancing significant open space networks, designating, protecting, and enhancing significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas, preserving and enhancing habitat, identifying and protecting wildlife corridors, and preserving and restoring native vegetation. Although progress has been made in conserving open space in the region, many regionally-important open space lands remain unprotected, gaps in access to parks and open space remain, and tree canopy is in decline. The
advisory committee for the plan recommended updating VISION’s open space policies to reflect recommendations from the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan, including protecting and restoring lands in the regional open space network, enhancing tree canopy in the region, and increasing equitable access to open space.

Environmental Stewardship
Recognizing that public and private ownership practices play key roles in the management of environmental lands, the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan identified stewardship as a key strategy to preserve the ecological value of open space. Although the public can benefit from stewardship actions on both public and private lands, regional and local policy support for these actions is limited. To address this issue, the open space advisory committee recommended a new regional policy on encouraging stewardship on public and private land.

Air Quality
Information on air quality in the region and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency will be updated. VISION 2040 contains policies on maintaining or doing better than existing standards, reducing levels for air toxics, fine particulates, and greenhouse gases, and continuing efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities. The Regional Staff Committee was helpful in the review of the Environment chapter. Some expressed a need for bolder, more directive policies in consideration of the large amount of growth anticipated in the region and the lack of environmental restoration over the last ten years. Members also expressed interest in addressing environmental justice, resiliency, ecosystem services, preparation for hazard impacts, and integration of the environment with planning for land use and transportation. Members recommended reaching out to resources agencies to seek their input during the update.

NEXT STEPS

Following environmental issue identification by the Regional Staff Committee and the Growth Management Policy Board, staff will develop policy language for review at the February Regional Staff Committee meeting and the March Growth Management Policy Board meeting.

For more information, please contact Erika Harris, Senior Planner, (206) 464-6360, eharris@psrc.org.

Attachments:
A - VISION 2040 Environment Goals and Policies
The following are goals, policies and actions in the Environment Chapter of VISION 2040.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOALS 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 GOALS 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 GOALS 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.
DISCUSSION ITEM

November 20, 2018

To: Growth Management Policy Board

From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management

Subject: Climate Change in VISION 2050

IN BRIEF

Staff will brief the board on work to address climate change in VISION 2050 at its November 29 meeting.

DISCUSSION

PSRC has been working to address climate change in long-range planning since VISION 2040 was adopted in 2008. VISION 2040 seeks to specifically address climate change and prepare for its impacts with climate-related strategies in all policy sections. VISION’s Environment chapter also includes a focused section on climate change with multicounty planning policies on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and analyzing climate impacts in environmental review, reducing energy use per capita both in buildings and transportation activities, pursuing energy management technologies, expanding conservation and alternative energy sources, reducing vehicle miles travelled, reducing carbon through increasing trees, and addressing climate change impacts on water sources (see Attachment A of the Environment Chapter Update memo). In addition, the Regional Growth Strategy, multicounty planning policies, and actions in VISION 2040 promote compact growth patterns, low-carbon travel choices, forest protection, and other sustainable strategies that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Since 2010, the Regional Transportation Plan has adopted a Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy encompassing land use, transportation choices, user fees, and technology. The strategy is designed to complement statewide efforts to achieve statutory limits. Over the past several years, significant progress within all categories has been made towards implementation of the Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy,
and the plan as adopted in 2018 discusses additional steps the region can pursue to make even further strides in reducing emissions.

PSRC staff are working on a background paper for VISION 2050 that will expand on the climate change work conducted for the Regional Transportation Plan and the current status of the Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy. At this meeting, staff will provide a high-level overview of this work planned to support VISION 2050, including the approach of the background paper and review of existing policies, as well as the analysis of the pending Regional Growth Strategy alternatives.

For more information, please contact Kelly McGourty at (206) 971-3601 or KMcGourty@psrc.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2018
Contact: Michele Leslie, mleslie@psrc.org, 206-587-4819

PSRC Seeking Comment on Draft Public Participation Plan

SEATTLE - The Puget Sound Regional Council is seeking public comment on its draft Public Participation Plan. The 45-day public comment period will run from October 30 to December 14, 2018. The draft Public Participation Plan is available online or from PSRC’s Information Center at (206) 464-7532. An accessible MS Word document of the plan is also available.

The Puget Sound Regional Council is updating its Public Participation Plan to reflect changes to public comment at PSRC meetings. Under the new plan, public comment at PSRC board meetings would need to be in reference to an action or discussion item on the agenda. The draft plan also removes public comment from the agendas of committee meetings primarily composed of staff.

The draft Public Participation Plan also reflects improvements to the accessibility of documents posted on the website.

The Public Participation Plan outlines PSRC’s current practices for public involvement, consultation with interested parties, interagency consultation, and agency governance and operations, all in one document for public reference.

How to make a comment:
Email: Michele Leslie at mleslie@psrc.org
US Mail: Michele Leslie, 1011 Western Ave, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104
In person at a PSRC Board Meeting: November 1 at 10am at the Growth Management Policy Board meeting, November 8 at 9:30am at the Transportation Policy Board meeting, November 29 at 10am at the Growth Management Policy Board meeting, or December 6 at 10am at the Executive Board meeting.

PSRC worked with its membership, boards and committees, interagency consultation process, stakeholder groups, interested parties and the public to develop its public involvement practices. PSRC adopted its first Public Participation Plan in 1993. It was updated in 1994, 2002, 2007, 2012 and last in 2016. It was refined through public processes by incorporating outreach strategies that proved effective in involving the public during specific studies, as well as new federal and state guidance.
PSRC develops policies and coordinates decisions about regional growth and transportation planning in King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. The Council is composed of over 80 county, city, port, transit, tribal and state agencies serving the region. It coordinates the distribution of about $240 million in Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration funds each year. PSRC sets priorities and evaluates the most efficient ways to target those funds to support state and local transportation and growth management plans.

Title VI Notice: PSRC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. For more information, or to obtain a Title VI Complaint Form, contact PSRC at 206-587-4819 or see https://www.psrc.org/title-vi.

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