Growth Management Policy Board Equity Work Session
February 12, 2019

At their February 7, 2019 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) had an extended work session on centering equity in VISION 2050. The board was asked to discuss how our communities would look in an equitable region and how to operationalize this vision. The questions asked and board feedback are listed below.

Development Patterns

What does equitable development look like?

- Is this an aspirational goal? Is it impossible to truly achieve equitable development?
- Needs to be scaled up - go beyond one block or neighborhood
- Fair and inclusive: racially, ethnically, culturally, socio-economically
- Does not cause displacement
- Transportation access for all
- People can afford to live in proximity to work
- How can people live close to work when high wage jobs are concentrated in a few locations?
- How can we coordinate local land use decisions to drive regional equitable development goals?
- Type of jobs and income levels, particularly living wage jobs, are more geographically dispersed
- Require new housing to include affordable units (inclusionary zoning)
- Need policies to require affordable units – can’t rely on the market/developers to provide
- A care is not required for daily activities
- Kids can walk and bike safely
- How would development in historically underserved communities differ?
  How can we reduce displacement while investing in a community?
- How do we engage the current community in planning and decision-making processes?
• We need incentives and/or requirements for housing affordable to low- and moderate-income households – the market is only producing units for higher incomes
• Go beyond “inclusive” – recognize historically marginalized communities bear undue burden of growth, annexation, and displacement
• Public investment promotes development that allows community to grow without displacing current residents
• Recognize historical inequities and disparities in power and privilege
• Applies to residential and commercial development
• Affordable housing at all levels – income, type, density
• Access to jobs, schools including higher ed, recreation and open space, community gathering spaces

What do local jurisdictions needs to advance equity? What tools/resources can PSRC provide?

• Strengthen the commitment in VISION 2050 to protect and preserve industrial lands – majority of middle class/living wage jobs are industrial jobs
• Economic and development incentives – tax increment financing

Environment

What equitable outcomes do we want related to the natural environment?

• Intergenerational equity should be considered when addressing climate change.
• Environmental disparities by location should be eliminated (example: disproportionately impacted neighborhoods near the Duwamish River)
• Everyone has access to healthy, clean air, water, and other natural resources
• Everyone has healthy indoor and outdoor air quality
• Equitable siting of industrial and hazardous uses (not disproportionately affecting concentrations of people with low-income or people of color)
• Use of safer building materials in schools and other institutional structures
• Equitable refuge from environmental hazards
• 10-min walk/access to parks and open space, regardless of ability
• Engage and listen to underserve communities to conserve environment
• Remove barriers to community engagement for certain groups by offering transportation options, stipends, child care, etc.
• Access to more abundant resources and healthy ecosystems
• Restore the carrying capacity of the environment so that it can support the anticipated population growth
• Health and community impacts of projects (especially hazardous) will be fairly considered before implementation
• All people live in communities that are free from hazardous environmental threats
• Create opportunities and organizations for more equitable outreach, education, and preservation efforts so that all people have the opportunity to learn from and preserve the environment.
• Address fossil fuel infrastructure and prevent expansion
• Share the benefits and adverse impacts of environmental planning decisions with all communities and ask for input from impacted communities specifically. Make sure communities understand potential impacts.
• Eliminate disparities in health outcomes (life expectancy, asthma rates, obesity rates, etc.)

VISION 2040 Goal Review

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.

Is this goal statement being achieved for all communities? What can be included in VISION 2050 to better achieve the equitable outcomes we identified?
Transportation

What does an equitable transportation system look like?

- Prioritize areas with gaps. Gaps include different types of users and geographic areas.
- Evaluate access. I.e. How far anyone has to travel to get to a system that gets them anywhere in the region.
- Evaluate access to locations of services for both residents and other users. Services include education, employment, stores, healthcare, etc.
- People of all abilities (e.g. physical and language) are able to access and use the transportation system
- A system where everyone is equitably cost-burdened
- Affordable

What do local jurisdictions need to advance equity? What tools/resources can PSRC provide?

- Training (partner with WA-APA and other professional organizations)
- Develop a toolkit to understand and apply a consistent equity lens
- Use the IAP2 public participation model to ensure authentic engagement
- Provide resources and funding to address existing disparities
- Reallocate funds based on disparities
- Revive the Regional Equity Network
VISION 2040 Goal Review
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

Is this goal statement being achieved for all communities? What can be included in VISION 2050 to better achieve the equitable outcomes we identified?

- Current system does not work for those who are constrained by time or financially
- Housing choice and affordability moves people outside of system, leading to less affordable and efficient transportation options
- Need to recognize the limitations of the transportation system to make up for land use decisions
- Race should be named explicitly in goal statement or we’ll miss it
- Include community most impacted in decision making process by providing financial support and training to effectively participate
- Focused development and funding in centers leaves other areas behind, needs flexibility

What do local jurisdictions need to advance equity? What tools/resources can PSRC provide?

- Data to show where gaps exist in the current system:
  - Demographic information
  - Existing system: transit, pedestrian infrastructure, investments
  - Destinations and areas of opportunity
  - Qualitative data from listening to the community
- Expand and increase usage of ORCA LIFT (reduced fare transit based on income) throughout the region and to other parts of the transportation system (i.e., tolls)