Regional Centers Framework – Implementation Overview

How will the update to the Centers Framework be implemented?
The centers framework update will be implemented through multiple paths, including PSRC plans, policies, procedures and other steps. Key steps for implementation will include:
- Updates to VISION 2040
- Updates to the regional centers designation procedures and PSRC’s plan review manual
- Updates to countywide planning policy and centers designation procedures

These and other updates are identified below. At the conclusion of the centers framework update, staff will seek Executive Board direction to move ahead with these implementation steps.

VISION 2040: What elements of the framework would be implemented through the VISION 2040 update?
Changes to regional policy or changes to the status of regional centers would be implemented through an update of VISION 2040. VISION 2040 is adopted by the General Assembly.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework may include:
- Recognition of regional military installations
- Changes to the designation of regional centers and new center areas
- Regional growth expectations for cities and counties with regional centers

Centers Designation Procedures: What elements of the framework would be implemented through the Designation Procedures?
The Designation Procedures contain detailed requirements for designation of centers. The procedures are adopted by the Executive Board.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework may include:
- Detailed eligibility and designation criteria for regional centers
- Application window for designation of new centers
- Administrative procedures for existing centers

Plan Review Manual: What elements of the framework would be implemented through the Plan Review Manual?
The Plan Review Manual contains guidance and requirements for comprehensive plan certification, including center subarea plans. The manual is revised based on adopted policy and is updated with input from the Regional Staff Committee.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework may include:
- Updated planning expectations in the Regional Center Plans Checklist for subarea plans to be included in local comprehensive plans
- Guidance on recommended issues to be addressed through center plans
**What elements of the framework would be implemented through the regional funding policy?**
The regional funding policy currently includes prioritization for centers and the corridors that serve them. While the regional funding policy is established by the Executive Board through a separate process, the relationship of centers designation to funding has been identified as a key consideration and the outcome of the centers framework could provide input to the next regional funding policy review process.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework may include:
- Designation of additional centers that would be eligible for regional funding

**What elements of the framework would be implemented through the countywide planning policies?**
The countywide planning policies include criteria and processes for countywide center designation and criteria for the countywide review stage of regional center designation, although these have varied considerably from county to county. The countywide planning policies are adopted through countywide planning groups and generally include a local ratification process. PSRC certifies changes to the countywide planning policies for consistency with regional policy.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework in countywide planning policies may include:
- Countywide center criteria and process
- Updated criteria for regional center nomination
- Designation of countywide centers

**What elements of the framework would be implemented through other means?**
The Stakeholder Working Group report and the equity proposal include research, guidance, and analysis that may be implemented through the PSRC work plan.

For example, implementation steps from the centers framework may include:
- Research opportunities for funding for centers planning and technical assistance
- Review and monitor distribution of centers
- Research and analysis on equity impact review tools, displacement, and community engagement strategies