As the region plans for 2050, public facilities and utilities will need to expand accordingly to provide services to an additional 1.8 million people. Recognizing the challenges of building and maintaining facilities, PSRC held a Peer Networking work session on February 21, 2019 focused on siting public facilities to identify strategies that have the greatest promise for consideration by the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) for VISION 2050 or PSRC’s future work program. The work session included presentations from guest experts and round table discussions to consider how regional planning efforts can support public facilities at the local level. Presentations and materials shared at the work session are available online.

Three themes were consistent throughout the small group discussions: 1) Center public facility siting on equity to ensure the benefits and burdens of facilities do not disproportionately affect communities of color; 2) Better coordinate decisionmakers to ensure the impacts of siting facilities are addressed holistically; and 3) Better communicate the benefits of public facilities and the resources needed to operate and expand facilities to ensure all residents live in safe and healthy communities.

**What is the current state of siting and maintaining facilities?**

- Agencies are siloed and don’t work together to consider all issues with siting facilities.
- Siting considerations are zoning, affordability, space, and political feasibility.
- Managing and maintaining facilities requires significant time and resources.
- For bus stops, siting is driven by data according to optimal ridership. Individual concerns about stop locations are addressed as needed. There are equity concerns, though they don’t appear to be too well defined.

**What is the ideal future for siting and maintaining facilities?**

- For bus stops, there is a need for greater consideration of equity. Where are services most needed? Regularly reevaluate bus stop locations with an equity lens and work closer with property owners.
- Environmental needs and conditions are addressed thoroughly and comprehensively.
- Constituents understand the costs and benefits of siting.
- City departments work together to promote local and regional goals and the greater good.
- Policymakers understand the importance of collaboration in siting.
- High school and college curriculums geared towards future public servants and officials emphasize collaboration.
- Greater flexibility incorporated into siting process.

What needs to change to transition from the current state to the ideal future? How can regional support – best practices, funding, accountability – support this transition?

- Periodic regional charettes/workshops/forums
- Align plans at different levels of government
- Better communicate on the importance of operation and maintenance budgets. These are wonky topics with low public understanding. Increasing literacy on these subjects helps inform better decision making and public acceptance.
- Increased coordination between capital facilities providers
- Better convey costs and benefits of siting facilities.
- More transparency overall
- More money and resources toward outreach and communications
- Collaboration occurs for transportation and other areas of regional planning, but not for facilities.
- Concurrency
- Critical to get the right stakeholders in the room.