Overview

• Goals and Policies in VISION 2040
  • Urban Growth Area
  • Annexation
• Changes since 2008
• Potential Changes for Discussion
• Next Steps
UGA in VISION 2040

Goal

The region will promote the efficient use of land, prevent urbanization of rural and resource lands, and provide for the efficient delivery of services within the designated urban growth area.

- Plan text emphasizes the importance of a stable UGA
- Narrow set of policies and actions on the UGA
- Mostly limited changes to the UGA since VISION was adopted
Policy + Action

MPP-DP-1: Provide a regional framework for the designation and adjustment of the urban growth area to ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the urban growth area consistent with the regional vision.

DP-Action-1: The Puget Sound Regional Council will develop a framework for the review of and comment on adjustments to the urban growth area throughout the four-county region. (short-term) (MPP-DP-1)

Results and Products: Regional Framework adopted by Executive Board
Discussion Questions

• Should MPP-DP-1 state a more direct policy regarding the urban growth area? Should other changes be considered?

• Should DP-Action-1 be updated or removed? Should the plan include other policy changes or actions related to the urban growth area?
Annexation in VISION 2040

Goal
All unincorporated lands within the urban growth area will either annex into existing cities or incorporate as new cities.

Policies
- MPP-DP-18 states that all urban unincorporated lands should be affiliated for annexation or incorporation.
- MPP-DP-19 supports joint planning between counties and cities for smooth transfer of governance.
- MPP-DP-20 supports the provision and coordination of urban services by adjacent cities, or by the county, where appropriate, as an interim approach.
DP-Action-15: Coordinated Planning in Unincorporated Urban Areas *(County Level Action)*

- Work with cities to develop approaches to reconcile different standards for development and infrastructure in unincorporated urban areas.
- Efforts should ensure that appropriate forms, densities, and mixes of uses are identified and addressed in development that occurs prior to annexation.

*Results and Products:*
Counties and cities are to evaluate and revise standards and practices to reconcile differences.
Annexation Progress

Amount (in acres) of Unincorporated Urban Growth Area, 2000-2017

Source: Office of Financial Management, Annexation Detail report

23% of the UGA is unincorporated.

635,336 residents
Annexation Progress

Annexed Population by Time Period

Annexed Acreage by Time Period
Challenges to Annexation

- Annexation methods in state law
- Financial implications
- Interjurisdictional coordination
- Community engagement
Potential Updates

• Expand DP-Action-15
  • Address challenges to annexation
  • Call for PSRC to communicate with the state Legislature
  • PSRC could organize peer networking sessions and workshops to encourage idea sharing and coordination

Is this new action on the right track? Are there other changes that should be considered?
Next Steps

- January 3 GMPB Meeting: UGA/Annexation Overview
- February 21 RSC Meeting: Discuss strikethrough policy language for Development Patterns chapter
- March 7 GMPB Meeting: Discuss strikethrough policy language for Development Patterns chapter
Thank you.

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