Regional Staff Committee

January 18, 2018 • 9:30 – 12:00 pm [extended meeting]
PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500 • Seattle, WA 98104

9:30  1. Welcome and Introductions – Barb Mock, Snohomish County, Co-Chair

9:35  2. Public Comment

3. Reports:
   a. Meeting Summary for December 21, 2017*
   b. PSRC Board Reports*
   c. Updates from PSRC Planning Department

9:45  4. Discussion: Critical Areas Monitoring & Adaptive Management Workshop*
      Heather Ballash, Washington State Department of Commerce

10:05 5. Discussion: Regional Centers Framework Update*
      Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

10:30 6. Discussion: Update on VISION 2050*
      Paul Inghram & Michael Hubner, PSRC

10:45 7. Discussion: Draft VISION 2050 Public Engagement Plan*
      Laura Benjamin & Maggie Moore, PSRC

11:15 8. Discussion: Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update*
      Erika Harris & Maria Sandercock, PSRC

11:40 9. Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan Update: Preliminary Themes from Public Comment* – Kelly McGourty, PSRC

10. Information Items:
    a. January 18 Peer Networking Event: Disaster Mitigation and Management*
    b. 2018 Regional Staff Committee Schedule*

11. Future Meeting: February 15, 2018, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room (meeting length TBD)

12:00 12. Adjourn

*Supporting materials attached

Meeting Call-in Option Available Upon Request – Contact Casey Moreau, cmoreau@psrc.org

Sign language and communication material in alternate formats can be arranged given sufficient notice by calling (206) 464-7090 or TTY Relay 711. 中文 | Chinese, 한국 | Korean, Русский | Russian, Español | Spanish, Tagalog, Tiếng việt | Vietnamese call 206-587-4819.
Members and Alternates Represented at the Table
Rob Allen, Pierce County; Charlene Anderson, Kent; *Russ Blount, Fife; Nicholas Bond, Port Orchard-via remote; Allan Giffen, Everett; Mark Gulbranson, PSRC, Co-Chair; Jesse Hamashima, Pierce County, Co-Chair; *Peter Heffernan, King County; Shane Hope, Edmonds; Craig Kenworthy, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency; Mike Kattermann, Bellevue; Tracy Krawczyk, Seattle; Doug McCormick, Snohomish County; Barb Mock, Snohomish County; Ian Munce, Tacoma; *Alex O'Reilly, Bellevue; *Shawn Phelps, Pierce County-via remote; *Geri Poor, Port of Seattle; Charles Prestrud, WSDOT; Lindsey Sehmel, Gig Harbor-via remote; Marianne Seifert, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Dept; Eric Shields, Kirkland; Elaine Somers, US EPA-via remote; Andrea Spencer, Bremerton, Co-Chair-via remote; Karen Wolf, King County; Lindsay Wolpa, Port of Seattle
*PSRC committee representative

Other Guests and Alternates (for all or part of the meeting):
Patricia Akiyama, MBA; Hayley Bonsteel; Danielle Butsick, Kent; Chandler Felt, King County; Sophie Glass, KRCC; Brian Perry, SCA; Marguerite Richard, Seattle Poverty Action Network; Hester Serebrin, Transportation Choices; Alex Tsimerman, SUA

PSRC Staff: Ben Bakkenta; Laura Benjamin; Josh Brown; Gil Cerise; Erika Harris, Craig Helmann; Michael Hubner; Paul Inghram; Kathryn Johnson; Mitch Koch; Brian Lee; Kristin Mitchell; Casey Moreau; Carol Naito; Liz Underwood-Bultmann; Emily Wittman

Welcome and Introductions, Public Comment
Jesse Hamashima, Co-Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. There were around the room introductions. Alex Tsimerman and Marguerite Richard provided public comment.

Reports
Co-Chair Hamashima informed the committee that the Regional Staff Committee (RSC) meeting summary and PSRC board report was in the packet. There was a request for recommendations from RSC members for meeting space locations for upcoming VISION 2050 public outreach meetings.

Regional Centers Framework Update
Ms. Underwood-Bultmann provided an update on the Centers project. She reviewed discussion from the November 30 Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) meeting and provided an overview of the changes to the framework proposal as noted in the packet. Ms. Underwood-Bultmann provided a summary of comments received during the public comment period. GMPB will continue to review comments on the draft framework update prior to making a recommendation to the Executive Board. Members shared comments and questions regarding the process to finalize the proposal and comments on the substance of the proposal.

For more information, contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC (206) 464-6174, lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org.

Regional Growth Strategy Performance Data
Michael Hubner provided a presentation comparing the Regional Growth Strategy with growth trends in the region. PSRC compiled data on actual population and employment growth from the year 2000 to the present for each of the geographic areas addressed in the RSC. Mr. Hubner noted that the RGS covers a forty-year period; the data analysis being presented covers the first fifteen years of the forty year period. Mr. Hubner shared detailed findings of the analysis with the committee and discussed implications for VISION 2050. He asked for the committee to provide feedback on the data presented and their perspectives on the trends analysis.
The committee will continue discussing the Growth Strategy as we go into the VISION 2050 process. Committee members requested the data spreadsheet used to create the presentation.

For more information, contact Michael Hubner, PSRC (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org; Carol Naito, PSRC (206) 464-7535, cnaito@psrc.org.

VISION 2050 Scoping

Paul Inghram provided an outline for the draft VISION 2050 scoping statement, reviewed the process for the scope’s development and engagement that would begin in 2018. Mr. Inghram provided a recap of feedback received from RSC and GMPB. He highlighted specific issues that committee members were interested in, such as how have things been performing, wanting to discuss the Regional Growth Strategy and how to reach out to the public. The Draft VISION Scoping Statement was shared with the committee. Mr. Inghram gave an overview of the GMPB scoping process, noting that GMPB will discuss the scoping statement at the January 4 meeting. After GMPB discussion and review, the scoping statement may be released for public comment in February.

For more information, contact Paul Inghram, PSRC (206) 464-7549, pinghram@psrc.org; Michael Hubner, PSRC (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org.

Information

Co-Chair Hamashima informed the committee that the 2018 calendar of RSC meetings was included in the packet.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2018, 9:30 – 11:30 am
The Growth Management Policy Board met January 4, 2018, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the GMPB meeting materials page.

For information on the GMPB, contact Paul Inghram, Program Manager, pinghram@psrc.org, 206-464-7549.

The Transportation Policy Board met January 11, 9:30 – 11:30 am. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting will be available on the TPB meeting materials page.

For information on the TPB, contact Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager, kmcgourty@psrc.org, 206-971-3601.
MEMORANDUM

January 18, 2018

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Heather Ballash, Washington State Department of Commerce

SUBJECT: Proposed Agenda for Critical Areas Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workshop – “Beyond Armwaving and Anecdotes: How well are your critical areas regulations working?”

In Brief
The Washington State Departments of Commerce, Ecology, and Fish and Wildlife will be conducting a series of workshops around the state on critical areas monitoring and adaptive management. The workshops are based on a new draft chapter in the Commerce Critical Areas Handbook. The state agencies are seeking input on the workshop design to ensure that it will meet the needs of central Puget Sound jurisdictions. Heather Ballash with the Department of Commerce will be asking the Regional Staff Committee for their input on the workshop design for the central Puget Sound workshop scheduled for February 27, 2018, at the Puget Sound Regional Council.

Background
All counties and cities in the state have adopted critical areas regulations and permitting procedures under the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act, respectively. They have adopted these regulations to facilitate protection of critical areas. A Department of Commerce survey revealed that many local governments don’t have systematic ways to follow through on implementation and effectiveness of their permit processes and the on-the-ground results of critical areas regulation (See questions 9 – 13 of the survey). Many local governments would benefit from a feedback loop to help determine whether goals are being met, and if the goals are not being met, how to improve the process. The Commerce survey revealed many jurisdictions have an interest in building monitoring and adaptive management programs but have limited resources.

Workshop Concept and Preliminary Agenda for Committee Input
The workshops are intended to provide tools for and get feedback from counties and cities on how to build local and state monitoring and adaptive management programs for critical areas regulations. The preliminary workshop agenda includes:

- A framework and steps for developing a monitoring and adaptive management program based on the draft chapter in the Critical Areas Handbook.
- State tools to implement the program – e.g., High Resolution Change Detection (HRCD) developed by WDFW to track land cover change at no cost to local government, and how it would apply to Kitsap County, for example.
Examples of local government monitoring programs – Snohomish County’s Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program, City of Kirkland’s Shoreline Tracking (See Chapter 7, pages 14 and 25, and Appendix A).

Time to engage planners in a conversation as to how this could be implemented:
  o What are the challenges for implementing a monitoring and adaptive management program?
  o How can state tools such as HRCD help to address those challenges?
  o Ideas for funding sources and/or state technical assistance to develop and implement a program?

Questions for the Regional Staff Committee
  • What do you think about the proposed workshop agenda? Would this be a good use of your time?
  • How can we tailor the proposed workshop agenda to your group’s needs?
  • Who are the right audiences in the Puget Sound region for this workshop?

Lead Staff
Heather Ballash, AICP
Senior Planner, Growth Management Services
Local Government & Infrastructure Division
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heather.ballash@commerce.wa.gov

Washington State Department of Commerce
1011 Plum Street SE, Olympia, WA. 98504
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Senior Planner

SUBJECT: Regional Centers Framework Update

In Brief
At the January meeting, the Regional Staff Committee will hear an update on the Regional Centers Framework Update.

Discussion
Since 2015, PSRC has been working with its members and other partners to evaluate the regional centers framework to better recognize and support centers throughout the region. This effort carries out a scope of work adopted by the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB). GMPB has discussed updates to the centers framework throughout 2017. At their October meeting, the board directed staff to release a draft centers framework proposal for public comment and identified specific issues where PSRC should actively solicit additional feedback. The board discussed comments at their November 30 and January 4 meetings.

Staff will provide an update on the project, review the board discussion, and provide an overview of potential amendments to the framework proposal.

The most current version of the proposal [December 14 version] is provided. The table that summarizes comments received during the comment period is also available online.

Next Steps
GMPB will continue to review comments on the draft framework update prior to making a recommendation on the centers framework to the Executive Board.

Lead Staff: Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Senior Planner, 206-464-6174, LUnderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.

Attachment:
A – December 14, 2017 Centers Framework Draft Proposal
Regional Centers Framework – DRAFT Proposal
December 14, 2017 version

This draft is a redline version of the October 10 Centers Framework Update public review draft. It has been marked up to show potential changes in response to comments provided in the comment period, including Group C comments [minor text/policy changes] and reorganized section on redesignation standards.

The Growth Management Policy Board may continue to edit this draft prior to making a recommendation to the Executive Board.

Changes from November 28 version:
• Edits in document reference specific comments in summary table
• Additional minor changes/corrections identified by board at November 30 meeting

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Purpose and Background

Purpose

Centers are the hallmark of VISION 2040 and the Regional Growth Strategy. They guide regional growth allocations, advance local planning, inform transit service planning, and represent priority areas for PSRC’s federal transportation funding.

In 2015, the Growth Management Policy Board adopted a scope of work to review the existing centers framework. The regional centers have been integral to regional planning for over 20 years, and this update represented an opportunity to reassess 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 to the regional centers framework.

This update will:

- Clearly define the types of central places—both larger and smaller—within the region that are the focus of growth, planning, and investment.
- Establish criteria and planning expectations that ensure centers are developing as thriving and connected communities with sufficient market potential to accommodate new jobs and residents.
- Provide for consistent designation of centers at the regional and countywide levels across the region.
- Address requirements for new centers and redesignation of existing regional centers.

Growth in centers has significant regional benefits, including supporting multimodal transportation options, compact growth, housing choices near jobs, climate goals, and access to opportunity. As important focal points for investment and development, regional centers represent a crucial opportunity to support equitable access to affordable housing, services, health, quality transit service, and employment, as well as to build on the community assets currently present within centers.

Implementation

This framework establishes key opportunities for the region to support VISION 2040’s objective of encouraging development of compact, livable centers as an opportunity to accommodate a significant portion of the region’s growth. Adoption of the framework in itself does not change regional or local policies, regulations, or funding mechanisms. Implementation of the framework will take several steps that are discussed in Section 12 of the framework:

- Updating new center designation procedures
- Developing new administrative procedures for monitoring of existing centers
- Updating VISION 2040, including guidance on growth expectations for centers
- Updating countywide planning policies with countywide criteria and designations
- Measuring performance and outcomes over time
- Completing additional analysis on social equity strategies for centers
- Completing additional review and consultation with tribes on the role of tribal lands in the centers framework
- Research funding opportunities for centers
- Research the number and distribution of centers.
The framework proposal focuses on the criteria and process to designate and evaluate regional and countywide centers. The proposal does not recommend prioritizing funding based on center size or type. The proposal identifies different types and sizes of regional centers to better tailor expectations for future growth and development in centers.

Development of the board proposal has focused on providing opportunities for jurisdictions to designate new centers and flexibility to maintain existing centers, including at least two growth centers and one manufacturing/industrial center in each county. The centers framework should continue to maintain appropriate regional distribution and provide for opportunities to designate new centers.

Guiding Principles & Objectives
In the project scope of work, the Growth Management Policy Board adopted the following guiding principles for the project:

- Support the Growth Management Act and VISION 2040.
- Focus growth consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy.
- Recognize and support different types and roles of regional and subregional centers.
- Provide common procedures across the region.
- Guide strategic use of limited regional investments.
- Inform future planning updates at regional, countywide, and local levels.

PSRC convened a joint board session in 2016 that identified several project Objectives to guide the project and establish at a joint board session in 2016:

- **Growth**: Centers attract robust population and employment growth—a significant and growing share of the region’s overall growth.
- **Mobility**: Centers provide diverse mobility choices so that people who live and work in centers have alternatives to driving alone.
- **Environment**: Centers improve environmental sustainability by diverting growth away from rural and resource lands, habitat, and other critical areas, and towards urban areas with existing infrastructure.
- **Social Equity and Opportunity**: Centers offer high access to opportunity, including affordable housing choices and access to jobs, to a diverse population.
- **Economic Development**: Centers help the region maintain a competitive economic edge by offering employers locations that are well connected to a regional transportation network, and are attractive and accessible to workers.
- **Public Health**: Centers create safe, clean, livable, complete and healthy communities that promote physical, mental, and social well-being.

The Regional Centers Framework Update project included significant outreach and committee and board discussions. The process was informed by staff-level Technical Advisory Group and Stakeholder Working Group, joint board sessions, county-level workshops, and ongoing outreach to local governments. A staff-level Stakeholder Working Group met from June 2016 through January 2017 and identified recommendations and alternatives for PSRC’s boards to consider. Their final report informed deliberation by the Growth Management Policy Board in 2017.
2. Regional Centers Designation Procedures

The Designation Procedures for New Centers contain detailed requirements for designation and review of regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers. The procedures are adopted by the Executive Board.

As part of the implementation of this framework, PSRC will update the Designation Procedures for New Centers to incorporate the following procedural changes:

- When designating new regional centers, the PSRC boards will also consider:
  - Distribution of centers throughout the region, including by county, and whether new center locations would be advantageous for overall regional growth objectives. Centers should be distributed in rational places locations consistent with the regional vision, and in areas that do not place additional development pressure on rural and resource lands. Environmental factors may be considered in designating new centers.
  - The overall number of centers in the region, supported by research on the number and distribution of centers.
- Application and review of new regional centers will be limited to major regional growth plan updates (VISION 2040 and its successor plans) and approximately every five years, following the results of performance monitoring. As an interim measure, the application period for new centers will remain open through the fall of 2019.
- Employment and/or activity thresholds for new regional centers will be reviewed and potentially updated when the regional growth plan is updated to account for overall growth in centers over time. Center designations should remain relatively stable over the long term, but will allow centers to change into new types when they have achieved higher levels of activity and other criteria.

3. Regional Growth Centers Eligibility and Criteria

Regional growth centers are locations of more compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of housing, jobs, retail, services, and other destinations. The region’s plans identify centers as areas that should receive a significant share of the region’s population and employment growth compared with other parts of the urban area, while providing improved access and mobility—especially for walking, biking, and transit.

Eligibility Criteria for New Regional Growth Centers

The minimum eligibility requirements for new centers ensure consistency in centers designation and ensure that new regional growth centers meet the intent of VISION 2040 while allowing for flexibility. The
Designation Procedures for New Centers will be updated to identify additional supporting documentation:

- **Local commitment.** Evidence center is a local priority and sponsor city/county has sustained commitment over time to local investments in creating a walkable, livable center.
- **Planning.** Completion of a center plan (subarea plan, plan element or functional equivalent that provides detailed planning or analysis) that meets regional guidance in advance of designation. Environmental review that demonstrates center area is appropriate for dense development.
  - Assessment of housing need, including displacement risk, as well as documentation of tools, programs, or commitment to provide housing choices affordable to a full range of incomes and strategies to further fair housing.
- **Jurisdiction and Location.** New Regional growth centers should be located within a city, with few exceptions. LINK light rail stations in unincorporated urban areas (including those funded through the Sound Transit 3 ballot measure) may be eligible for center designation at any scale, provided they are affiliated for annexation or planned for incorporation. Joint planning of unincorporated center areas is encouraged. Other unincorporated urban areas may be eligible for countywide center status, provided they are affiliated for annexation or planned for incorporation.
- **Existing Conditions.** Existing infrastructure and utilities sufficient to support new center growth, a mix of both existing housing and employment, justification of size and shape. Recommend centers to be nodal with a generally round or square shape, and avoid linear or gerrymandered shapes that are not readily walkable or connected by transit and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, amenities, and a street pattern that supports walkability.

Designation Criteria for New Regional Growth Centers

The Regional Centers Framework Update defines two distinct types of regional growth centers with tailored minimum criteria as described in this section. The type of regional center does not establish a distinction for the purpose of PSRC’s regional funding process. The criteria are expanded to include discussion of appropriate size, minimum transit service, market potential, and regional role. **Transit service is an important factor for growth in centers.** Local governments should work with transit providers to plan for appropriate transit service levels in centers. The center types will be used to inform future growth planning.

### Regional Growth Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban Growth Center</th>
<th>Metro Growth Center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These centers have an important regional role, with dense existing jobs and housing, high-quality transit service, and planning for significant growth. These centers may represent areas where major investments – such as high-capacity transit – offer new opportunities for growth.</td>
<td>These centers have a primary regional role – they have dense existing jobs and housing, high-quality transit service, and are planning for significant growth. They will continue to serve as major transit hubs for the region. These centers also provide regional services, and serve as major civic and cultural centers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Urban Growth Center Criteria

Center must meet each of the following criteria:

- **Existing density.** 18 activity units per acre minimum
- **Planned target density.** 45 activity units per acre minimum
- **Size.** 200 acres minimum - 640 acres maximum (may be larger if served by an internal, high capacity transit system)
- **Transit.** Existing or planned fixed route bus, regional bus, Bus Rapid Transit, or other frequent and all-day bus service. May substitute high-capacity transit mode for fixed route bus. Service quality is defined as either frequent (< 15-minute headways) and all-day (operates at least 16 hours per day on weekdays) or high capacity
- **Market potential.** Evidence of future market potential to support planning target
- **Role.** Evidence of regional role
  - Clear regional role for center (serves as important destination for the county)
  - Jurisdiction is planning to accommodate significant residential and employment growth under Regional Growth Strategy

## Metro Growth Center Criteria

Center must meet each of the following criteria:

- **Existing density.** 30 activity units per acre minimum
- **Planned target density.** 85 activity units per acre minimum
- **Size.** 320 acres minimum - 640 acres maximum (may be larger if served by an internal, high capacity transit system)
- **Transit.** Existing or planned light rail, commuter rail, ferry, or other high capacity transit with similar service quality as light rail. Service quality is defined as either frequent (< 15-minute headways) and all-day (operates at least 18 hours per day on weekdays) or high capacity (e.g., ferry, commuter rail, regional bus, Bus Rapid Transit). Evidence the area serves as major transit hub and has high quality/high capacity existing or planned service.
- **Market potential.** Evidence of future market potential to support planning target
- **Role.** Evidence of regional role:
  - Clear regional role for center (for example: city center of metropolitan cities, other large and fast-growing centers; important regional destination)
  - Jurisdiction is planning to accommodate significant residential and employment growth under Regional Growth Strategy

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4. **Manufacturing/Industrial Centers Eligibility and Criteria**

Manufacturing/industrial centers preserve lands for family-wage jobs in basic industries and trade and provide areas where that employment may grow in the future. Manufacturing/industrial centers form a critical regional resource that provides economic diversity, supports national and international trade, generates substantial revenue for local governments, and offers higher than average wages.

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1 "Planned" transit means funded projects or projects identified in the constrained portion of Transportation 2040. The Transportation 2040 constrained project list incorporates projects in transit agency long-range plans where funding is reasonably expected during the 2040 planning horizon.
VISION 2040 calls for the recognition and preservation of existing centers of intensive manufacturing and industrial activity and the provision of infrastructure and services necessary to support these areas. These centers are important employment locations that serve both current and long-term regional economic objectives.

Manufacturing/industrial centers have very different characteristics and mobility needs than regional growth centers. For example, transit may not be viable for all types of manufacturing/industrial centers, but identifying transportation demand management strategies, including carpool and vanpools, can help reduce congestion impacts regardless of transit access. The criteria to designate manufacturing/industrial centers focuses on these and other factors to support the long-term industrial base of the region.

The Industrial Lands Analysis (2015) identified strategies to ensure an adequate supply of industrial land in the region, including protecting priority users of industrial land and limiting commercial and office uses that compete with industrial use. The centers designation criteria provide some flexibility for non-industrial uses in manufacturing/industrial centers, which may include amenities and services for employees, some commercial uses, and other types non-industrial uses.

Eligibility Criteria for New Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
Minimum eligibility requirements ensure consistency in centers designation and ensure that new regional growth centers meet the intent of VISION 2040 while allowing for flexibility. The Designation Procedures for New Centers should be updated to identify additional supporting documentation:

- **Local commitment.** Evidence center is a local priority had city/county has sustained commitment over time to local investments in infrastructure and transportation. Demonstrated commitment to protecting and preserving industrial uses, incentives to encourage industrial uses in the center, and established partnerships with relevant parties to ensure success of manufacturing/industrial center.
- **Planning.** Completion of a center plan (subarea plan, plan element or functional equivalent) that meets regional guidance in advance of designation. Environmental review that the area is appropriate for development.
- **Location.** Manufacturing/industrial centers should be located within a city with few exceptions.
- **Existing Conditions.** Adequate infrastructure and utilities to support growth, access to relevant transportation infrastructure, documentation of economic impact, and justification of size and shape of manufacturing/industrial center.

Designation Criteria for New Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
The Regional Centers Framework Update identifies two distinct pathways to designate new manufacturing/industrial centers. Minimum eligibility for regional designation is described in this section. The criteria are expanded to include discussion of appropriate employment type, core industrial zoning, industrial preservation strategies, and regional role. The center pathways may be used to inform future growth planning.
New Manufacturing/Industrial Centers

These centers are highly active industrial areas with significant existing jobs, core industrial activity, evidence of long-term demand, and regional role. They have a legacy of industrial employment and represent important long-term industrial areas, such as deep-water ports and major manufacturing. The intent of this designation is to, at a minimum, preserve existing industrial jobs and land use and to continue to grow industrial employment in these centers where possible.

Center must meet each of the following criteria:

- Existing jobs: 10,000 minimum
- Planned jobs: 20,000 minimum
- Minimum 50% industrial employment
- Access to transit or defined transportation demand management strategies in place
- Presence of irreplaceable industrial infrastructure
- At least 75% of land area zoned for core industrial uses
- Industrial retention strategies in place
- Regional role

Center must meet each of the following criteria:

- Minimum size of 2,000 acres
- Existing jobs: 4,000 minimum
- Planned jobs: 10,000 minimum
- Minimum 50% industrial employment
- Access to transit or defined transportation demand management strategies in place
- At least 75% of land area zoned for core industrial uses
- Industrial retention strategies in place
- Regional role

Commented [LU22]: Comment B-18

Commented [LU21]: Comments C-16, C-18

1 Industrial-related infrastructure that would be irreplaceable elsewhere, such as working maritime port facilities, air and rail freight facilities.

2 Zoning designations dominated by traditional industrial land uses such as manufacturing, transportation, warehousing and freight terminals. Core industrial does not include zoning that permits both industrial and commercial uses together. Core industrial zoning should strictly limit non-industrial uses. Some core industrial zones may allow both industrial and commercial uses together, but the industrial uses are primary and commercial uses are accessory.
5. Regional Center Redesignation Standards

Regional centers have been a central strategy of the regional plan for decades, although centers have been designated through different procedures depending on when they were first designated. An objective with the regional centers framework update is to establish a more consistent system between new and existing centers. Recognizing both that existing centers were designated through different processes and the objective of working toward greater consistency, PSRC will develop administrative procedures for review of existing centers. The procedures are anticipated to be drafted in the first half of 2018, with a review of existing centers to follow in 2018 and 2019 during the VISION 2050 planning process.

- **Initial redesignation.** The first evaluation of existing centers will occur in 2018-2020 as part of the VISION 2040 update. All designated regional centers as of 2017 are automatically redesignated, provided that they meet the following criteria:
  - Adopted center plan (subarea plan, plan element or functional equivalent) by 2020. Different approaches to subarea planning may be appropriate in some instances but future updates should be equivalent to a subarea plan by 2025.
  - Designation of the regional center in the adopted local comprehensive plan and countywide planning policies.

- **PSRC staff** will work with cities and counties to identify the applicable center types and whether all the criteria are already met or could be met.

- **Monitoring review of regional growth centers.** A first monitoring review period, scheduled for 2025, will follow the next major comprehensive plan periodic update (due in 2023 and 2024) and will reoccur about every five years thereafter. At the first monitoring review in 2025, existing regional growth centers will be expected to fully meet eligibility and designation criteria similar to new centers:
  - **Local commitment.** Evidence center is a local priority and sponsor city/county has sustained commitment over time to local investments in creating a walkable, livable center.
  - **Planning.** An updated center plan (subarea plan, plan element or functional equivalent) that provides detailed planning or analysis that addresses regional guidance and plans for a mix of housing and employment, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, amenities, and a street pattern that supports walkability.
    - Assessment of housing need, including displacement risk, as well as documentation of tools, programs, or commitment to provide housing choices affordable to a full range of incomes and strategies to further fair housing.
  - **Location.** Existing regional growth centers not located within a city should be affiliated for annexation or in a location planned for incorporation. Joint planning of the center area is encouraged.
  - **Capital investments.** Capital investments by the local government in the center in the current or prior 5-year capital planning cycle, and commitment to infrastructure and utilities in the jurisdiction’s capital improvement program sufficient to support center growth, pedestrian infrastructure, and public amenities.
  - **Center criteria.** Consistent with designation criteria for sized, planning, transit, market potential, and role for new regional growth centers in Section 3. Existing centers will...
remain designated if they do not meet the new center density criteria, provided that the center is consistent with other criteria identified in this section.

- **Market study.** Regional growth centers that have existing density employment levels below the level required for new regional centers at the time of the review must complete a market study to evaluate the potential for and opportunities to best support center growth.

### Monitoring review of manufacturing/industrial centers

- **Monitoring review of manufacturing/industrial centers.** A first monitoring review period, scheduled for 2025, will follow the next major comprehensive plan periodic update (due in 2023 and 2024) and will recur every five years thereafter. At the first monitoring review in 2025, existing manufacturing/industrial centers will be expected to fully meet eligibility and designation criteria similar to new centers:
  - **Local commitment.** Evidence center is a local priority and sponsor city/county has sustained commitment over time to local investments in infrastructure and transportation. Demonstrated commitment to protecting and preserving industrial uses, incentives to encourage industrial uses in the center, and established partnerships with relevant parties to ensure success of the manufacturing/industrial center.
  - **Planning.** An updated center plan (subarea plan, plan element or functional equivalent that provides detailed planning or analysis) that addresses regional guidance, and plans for access to transportation infrastructure and economic development.
  - **Location.** If existing manufacturing/industrial centers are not located within a city, joint planning and annexation/incorporation are encouraged as feasible. Affiliated for annexation or in a location planned for incorporation. Joint planning of center area is encouraged.
  - **Capital investments.** Capital investments by the local government in the center in the current or prior 6-year capital planning cycle, and commitment to infrastructure and utilities in the jurisdiction’s capital improvement program sufficient to support center growth and planned transportation infrastructure.
  - **Center criteria.** Consistent with designation criteria for new manufacturing/industrial centers in Section 4. Existing centers will remain designated if they do not meet the new center existing or planned jobs criteria, provided that the center is consistent with other criteria identified in this section.
  - **Market study.** Manufacturing/industrial centers that have existing employment levels below the level required for new centers at the time of the review must complete a market study to evaluate the potential for and opportunities to best support center growth.

At that time, jurisdictions that do not meet adopted minimum activity requirements must demonstrate progress planning for and investing in the center, including:

- Adopted subarea plan.
- Completed market study.
- Availability of transit service (not required for manufacturing/industrial centers), and
Recent capital investments by the local government in the center and commitment to appropriate infrastructure in the jurisdiction’s capital improvement program to support planned growth.

- The board will maintain flexibility in evaluating existing centers to consider when centers are very close to the existing conditions criteria, to account from economic recessions, progress and growth, local investments or the lack of investments, and regional importance of a particular area.
- Criteria related to physical improvements should be included in center plans, but may need to be addressed over the long-term, such as developing a complete walkable street network.
- Cities and counties will have some form of center plan (subarea plan or similar) already in place by the time of the VISION 2040 update (2020), recognizing that the adopted plan may not be fully consistent with the new criteria. At the latest, cities and counties would be required to meet the updated planning requirements for regional centers by the next major comprehensive plan periodic update in 2023/2024.

6. Countywide Centers

Each county’s countywide planning policies include criteria and processes for countywide centers, though the approach currently varies significantly by county. Through the Centers Framework Update, designation of countywide centers remains delegated to a countywide process while providing a baseline of consistent regional standards for each county to use. PSRC reviews and certifies countywide planning policies, but PSRC’s role does not include review of countywide centers.

Countywide growth centers serve important roles as places for concentrating jobs, housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities. These are often smaller downtowns, high-capacity transit station areas, or neighborhood centers that are linked by transit, provide a mix of housing and services, and serve as focal points for local and county investment. Countywide industrial centers serve as important local industrial areas. These areas support living wage jobs and serve a key role in the county’s manufacturing/industrial economy. The checklist below represents basic standards expected for countywide centers in each county. Depending on county circumstance and priorities, countywide planning policies may include other numeric or additional criteria (such as planning requirements or mix of uses) or other additional standards within this overall framework. Countywide center designations will be reviewed by an established timeframe and process set by the countywide planning body.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countywide Growth Center</th>
<th>Countywide Industrial Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center must meet each the following criteria:</td>
<td>Center must meet each the following criteria:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Located within a city or unincorporated urban area</td>
<td>Located within a city or unincorporated urban area</td>
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Commented [LU32]: Board member requested change – text duplicative (Nov 30 meeting)

Commented [LU33]: Several Group A comments (board review questions – purpose of countywide centers)

Commented [LU34]: Comment C-52

Commented [LU35]: Comments C-04, C-05
### Countywide Centers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countywide Growth Center</th>
<th>Countywide Industrial Center</th>
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<td><strong>[cont.]</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstration that the center is a local planning and investment priority:</td>
<td>Demonstration that the center is a local planning and investment priority:</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Identified as a countywide center in a local comprehensive plan; subarea plan recommended</td>
<td>o Identified as a countywide center in a local comprehensive plan; subarea plan recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>o Clear evidence that area is a local priority for investment, such as planning efforts or infrastructure</td>
<td>o Clear evidence that area is a local priority for investment, such as planning efforts, or infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The center is a location for compact, mixed-use development; including:</td>
<td>The center supports industrial sector employment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o A minimum existing activity unit density of 10 activity units per acre</td>
<td>o Minimum existing jobs and/or acres of industrial land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Planning and zoning for a mix of uses, including residential</td>
<td>o Defined transportation demand management strategies in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Capacity and planning for additional growth</td>
<td>o At least 75% of land area zoned for core industrial uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The center supports multi-modal transportation, including:</td>
<td>o Industrial retention strategies in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Transit service</td>
<td>o Capacity and planning for additional growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Pedestrian infrastructure and amenities</td>
<td>o Important county role and concentration of industrial land or jobs with evidence of long-term demand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Street pattern that supports walkability</td>
<td>o Compact, walkable size of one-quarter mile squared (160 acres), up to half-mile transit walkshed (500 acres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Bicycle infrastructure and amenities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Important county role and concentration of industrial land or jobs with evidence of long-term demand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Local Centers and Other Types of Centers

VISION 2040 calls for central places in all jurisdictions to support a centers-based approach to development in the region. These places range from neighborhood centers to active crossroads in communities of all sizes. These centers play an important role in the region and help define our community character, provide local gathering places, serve as community hubs, and are often appropriate places for additional growth and focal points for services.

The Regional Centers Framework recognizes the importance of these places, but does not envision a regional or county designation for all types of local centers. The designation criteria outlined in this document may provide a path to regional or county designation for locations that continue to grow and change over time.
Per program eligibility requirements, rural centers that participate in PSRC’s Rural Town Centers and Corridors funding competition are located in either a freestanding city or town that is outside the region’s contiguous urban growth area or a county’s unincorporated rural area. These centers are designated through a local planning process, not through the Regional Centers Framework process.

6. Military Installations

Military installations are a vital part of the region, home to thousands of personnel and jobs and a major contributor to the region’s economy. While military installations are not subject to local, regional, or state plans and regulations, PSRC recognizes the relationship between regional growth patterns and military installations, and recognizes the importance of military employment and personnel all aspects of regional planning.

Recognition of military installations in the update to VISION 2040 can better acknowledge the role these installations play in the regional economy and in regional growth patterns. Designation criteria for installations can also help establish common expectations for how the region works with and supports military installations. Stakeholders throughout the process have emphasized the need to address base transportation access to benefit surrounding communities, as well as the installations. Per federal statutes, PSRC transportation funds cannot be spent on military installations, but surrounding communities may be eligible to receive funds for projects that connect to installations.

Designation Criteria for Types of Military Installations

PSRC’s Executive Board will identify Major Military Installations in the update to VISION 2040, subject to adoption of the plan by the General Assembly. Major installations are defined as installations with more than 5,000 enlisted and service personnel. As of 2017, four installations met the minimum size criteria: Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Pierce County, Naval Base Kitsap—Bangor and Naval Base Kitsap—Bremerton in Kitsap County, and Naval Station Everett in Snohomish County.

This recognition in the regional plan advances active collaboration between military installations, neighboring jurisdictions, and the region. The region recognizes military installations are major employers, associated with congestion, and that regional designation can help work to alleviate impacts.

Through this recognition, regional expectations include:

- Ongoing coordination between the military installation, countywide planning forum, and neighboring jurisdictions regarding planned growth, regional impacts, and implementation of multimodal transportation options
- Support for multimodal commute planning and mode split goals for installation
- Completed Joint Land Use Study or similar coordinated planning effort

Smaller military installations may continue to be recognized by countywide planning forums as a type of countywide center or equivalent. The minimum size criteria for countywide center designation will be as specified by RCW 36.70a.530 and identify “federal military installation[s], other than a reserve center,”

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Commented [LU36]: Comment C-22
Commented [LU37]: Comment C-21
Commented [LU38]: Board member requested clarification
Commented [LU39]: Comment C-23

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Footnote: For the purpose of regional centers designation, jurisdictions may count military activity towards center thresholds when the installation is directly adjacent or surrounded by the center (such as Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton and the downtown Bremerton regional growth center).
that employs one hundred or more full-time personnel.” As of 2017, five installations met the minimum criteria: Naval Base Kitsap Keyport, Seattle Coast Guard Station, Naval Base Kitsap Jackson Park, Camp Murray, and Naval Base Everett – Smokey Point Support Complex.

9. Planning Requirements
PSRC’s Plan Review Manual contains guidance and requirements for comprehensive plan certification, including center subarea plans. The Regional Center Plans Checklist in the PSRC’s Plan Review Manual addresses planning expectations for center subarea plans. PSRC will work with the Regional Staff Committee to update the Plan Review Manual to amend requirements and provide best practices, with consideration for local variability.

The Regional Growth Center Plan Checklist will be updated to address the following topics:
- Affordable housing, including housing targets, needs assessment, affordable housing goals, and strategies to encourage new housing production with long-term affordability
- Displacement risk analysis and strategies to prevent or mitigate displacement
- Transit access, including transit service, transit-dependent populations, and safe and connected pedestrian and bicycle networks
- Equitable community engagement
- Access to opportunity, including employment and education opportunities and neighborhood quality of life
- Environmental justice impacts
- Specific transportation planning investments, programs, and resources identified.
- Availability of public services, like K-12 education, to meet needs of households with children.

The Regional Manufacturing/Industrial Center Plan checklist will be updated to address the following topics:
- Equitable community engagement
- Access to opportunity, including employment and education opportunities
- Environmental justice impacts
- Expectations around core industrial uses, residential encroachment, and commercial and office uses that do not support manufacturing/industrial function
- Clearly articulated long-term commitment to protect and preserve manufacturing/industrial land uses and businesses in the center
- Specific transportation planning investments, programs, and resources identified

10. Regional Support
Funding to Support Centers
Staff will research and identify other potential funding sources or programs to support development in centers. This may include housing in regional growth centers, economic development, other capital funds, additional state resources, marketing, and other strategies. PSRC should collaborate with other agencies and funders to identify additional funding sources for designated centers. PSRC will also explore funding for centers planning and technical assistance.

Regional Center Types
Regional Centers Framework – DRAFT Proposal
December 14, 2017 version

The Regional Centers Framework does not establish a distinction between different types of regional centers for the purpose of PSRC’s funding framework.

11. Performance Measures

In the VISION 2040 update, PSRC will work with local governments and other stakeholders to develop performance measures for centers as a whole to evaluate success of the overall framework. Like previous monitoring studies, PSRC will lead the effort, with support and review from local governments. Performance measures should focus on a limited number of centers and consider the project outcome statements to support growth, mobility, environment, social equity and opportunity, economic development, and public health. Metrics may include overall growth goals or mode split goals for centers, level of local or regional investment, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, or other measures as appropriate, such as housing affordability, mix of uses, and health and equity.

PSRC will continue to conduct ongoing monitoring of performance measures for individual centers. This may include progress towards growth targets and mode split goals, tracking implementation actions, or tracking other measures consistent with the designation requirements.

- PSRC will publish a centers performance monitoring summary every five years in order to stay on top of regional trends in centers development.
- PSRC will review centers for performance as part of the monitoring review and prior to regional plan update years, and consider possible changes or reclassification if the local jurisdiction is not taking steps to plan and support growth in center to meet targets or goals.

12. Implementation

Procedures and Planning Expectations. The board directs staff to prepare updates to the Designation Procedures for New Centers, Regional Center Plans Checklist, and develop administrative procedures for existing centers.

Plan Updates. The board directs staff to identify issues for VISION 2040 update:

- Identification of military installations a regional geography
- Preservation of industrial land, both within designated manufacturing/industrial centers and in other industrial areas in the region
- Growth goals for regional centers

Countywide Planning Policies. The board requests updates to the countywide planning policies in each county during the next GMA update cycle (by 2023/2024) to implement countywide centers and achieve consistency with the regional framework. PSRC staff should work collaboratively with countywide groups on technical assistance and implementation of updated criteria.

\[\text{Commented [LU40]: Comments C-38, C-47} \]
\[\text{Commented [LU41]: Comment C-31, C-35} \]
\[\text{Commented [LU42]: Comment C-8, C-25, C-50} \]
\[\text{Commented [LU43]: Comment C-32} \]
\[\text{Commented [LU44]: Comment C-3} \]

1 The framework may inform an update to the Regional Growth Strategy but does not commit the region to any particular distribution of growth or definition of regional geographies.
PSRC Work Plan. The board directs staff to develop an implementation work plan and schedule to engage with PSRC membership and other stakeholders as appropriate on additional analysis, research, and guidance. The work plan should incorporate the following tasks to support ongoing work on regional and countywide centers:

- **Performance measures.** Develop in consultation with jurisdictions and other stakeholders, develop framework to track performance and outcomes over time and identify challenges or barriers over time. Performance measures should consider project outcome statements to support growth, mobility, environment, social equity and opportunity, economic development, and public health. The measures may include assessment of demographic characteristics, housing affordability, employment, amenities, and access to opportunity.

- **Update growth planning guidance.** Update the guidance paper on center targets to discuss changes to growth expectations for centers and the mix of employment and residential activity envisioned in regional growth centers.

- **Market studies.** Provide additional guidance on recommended components of market studies for centers.

- **Social equity**
  - Complete additional analysis and research on displacement and displacement risk in centers.
  - Provide additional resources and best practices addressing equitable community engagement, including opportunities for local planning staff and policy-makers to learn about tools that have been successfully used by cities and counties in the region.
  - Research and recommend a best practice approach to a comprehensive equity impact review tool to address social equity through policies and implementation decisions for centers throughout the region.

- **Tribal land & centers.** Complete additional review and consultation with tribes on the role of tribal lands in the centers framework.

- **Funding opportunities.** To achieve the vision of growth in centers, research other funding opportunities and opportunities to leverage existing designations. Collaborate with other agencies and funders to identify additional funding sources to designated centers. Explore funding including a set-aside, for centers planning and technical assistance.

- **Military installations.** PSRC, countywide groups, and local jurisdictions should continue to work with state and federal partners to secure infrastructure resources, provide support for military installations, and address impacts on surrounding jurisdictions.

- **Economic measures.** Given their important role in the regional economy, PSRC should consider additional research on economic impact measures for manufacturing/industrial centers (e.g., revenue generators, export value).

- **Projects supporting centers.** Review and develop policy guidance on types of projects that support development in centers and corridors connecting centers.

- **Number and distribution of centers.** During the VISION 2040 update, research guidelines to manage the number and distribution of centers, factoring in minimum density standards, projected growth, jurisdictional size, location within the county, competition for market share, and allocation of limited regional resources.
MEMORANDUM

January 18, 2018

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Paul Inghram, Senior Program Manager, PSRC

SUBJECT: Update on VISION 2050

In Brief
PSRC staff will provide an update on work to prepare a VISION 2050 scoping statement for release in early February for public comment, including input from the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB) and anticipated outreach and engagement.

Discussion
PSRC is working towards the start of the two-year planning process for VISION 2050, which will launch in the spring of 2018. Formal scoping is scheduled to begin in February to seek public input on how to update VISION 2040 and to identify regional issues to address in the plan. To inform the project scope and environmental review process, it will be important to collect input from the members, stakeholders and the public. Public input will also help the board identify key issues to address in the update and guide how to best consider extension of the Regional Growth Strategy.

Both Regional Staff Committee and Growth Management Policy Board have reviewed guiding principles for the update along with a draft scoping statement describing the project and soliciting public input. At its January 4 meeting, the board provided input on revising the scoping statement and directed staff to finalize the document for public release in February, to be followed by a 45-day comment period commencing on February 2 and ending on March 19. PSRC will actively seek comments during that period, including through the following approaches:

- Public scoping sessions – four total, one in each county
- Oral comment opportunity at the March 2, 2018, Growth Management Policy Board meeting
- Countywide planning forum briefings
- Briefings to other PSRC committees
- General notice inviting written comments consistent with PSRC’s public engagement plan

The scoping sessions, briefings and other outreach activities will provide an opportunity for city and county staff and members of the public to obtain information on the VISION 2050 project, the integrated planning and SEPA process, to ask questions of staff, and to provide input on the scope of the environmental review.
Additional information regarding VISION 2050 and the environmental review process will be available on the PSRC website at: https://www.psrc.org/vision.

Following the comment period, the Growth Management Policy Board is scheduled to review the public input at its April 5th meeting and adopt a final project scope on May 3rd.

A draft project schedule for the entire VISION 2050 project is attached. Meetings of the GMPB and RSC throughout the next two years will focus almost entirely on VISION 2050, including extending the Regional Growth Strategy to the year 2050, review of the Multicounty Planning Policies, and establishing an updated set of regional actions to implement the plan. While specific issue areas will be identified through the scoping process, staff proposes a general work program structure that includes:

- A possible Executive Board work session to explore the Regional Growth Strategy and begin to identify options for extending it to 2050 – late spring/summer 2018
- Extended GMPB work sessions – on priority issue areas potentially in July, September and October 2018
- Ad hoc working groups of GMPB and Regional Staff Committee members to support development of each priority issue and the Regional Growth Strategy extension
- An extended GMPB work session on the extension of the Regional Growth Strategy in early 2019
- Release of a draft plan and Supplemental EIS in summer 2019 for public comment
- GMPB recommendation to the Executive Board at the end of 2019

Following the public comment period and the board’s direction on the scope of the project, the work program will be adjusted, if needed, to best fit the breadth and depth of issue review.

**Next Steps**

A final scoping statement, formatted for public release, will be transmitted to the GMPB ahead of its next meeting on February 2. Subsequent to that meeting, the scoping statement will be released publicly at the start of the comment period.

A draft list of potential agenda items for upcoming committee meetings includes:

- New forecasts of population and job growth through the year 2050 that provide a starting point for extending the Regional Growth Strategy
- Continued identification of priority areas to address in the update
- Additional data on VISION 2040, including implementation actions and performance outcomes
- Review of scoping comments

The aim is to provide the committee and board with sufficient background information about VISION 2040 and current planning issues over the course of the next several meetings to inform decisions about the scope of the project and to begin to analyze key issues.

**Lead Staff**

Michael Hubner, Principal Planner, (206) 971-3289, mhubner@psrc.org

**Attachment:**

A - VISION 2050: Draft Schedule
# VISION 2050: Draft Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoping and Work Plan</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review VISION 2040 &amp; RGS</td>
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<tr>
<td>45-day comment period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final scoping document</td>
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<td>Public engagement plan</td>
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<th>Data Collection &amp; Analysis</th>
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<td>Review past performance</td>
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<td>New information and issues review</td>
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<td>RGS analysis</td>
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<td>Round table workshops</td>
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<td>Issue updated centers procedures</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Accept applications for new centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft/SEIS 45-day comment period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comment review and revisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation to Exec Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Board review and action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final adoption by General Assembly</td>
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= Exec Board  
● = General Assembly  
= GMPB Extended Work Session
MEMORANDUM

January 18, 2018

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Laura Benjamin, Associate Planner, PSRC
       Maggie Moore, Assistant Planner, PSRC

SUBJECT: Draft VISION 2050 Public Engagement Plan

In Brief
At the January meeting, the Regional Staff Committee will discuss the draft VISION 2050 public engagement plan.

Discussion
PSRC is developing a public engagement plan to guide engagement efforts during the VISION 2050 update. In developing the draft public engagement plan, PSRC staff reviewed the engagement efforts undertaken during the VISION 2040 process and more recent PSRC plan updates, and tools and best practices that have emerged since VISION 2040 was adopted in 2008, including social media and greater focus on equitable engagement.

The plan includes goals and strategies for reaching a wide range of stakeholders to solicit substantive input throughout the VISION 2050 process. To meet these goals, PSRC plans to use a variety of tools and techniques, including direct engagement, digital and electronic materials, printed materials, and meetings and interagency coordination. The plan must also comply with PSRC’s Public Participation Plan, and Federal and State requirements.

PSRC plans to reach diverse audiences through ongoing engagement work and efforts specific to VISION 2050. Many of PSRC’s ongoing outreach efforts will feed into the VISION 2050 engagement work, including Board and Committee meetings, the agency website, email communications, and PSRC participation at countywide and regional forums. Direct engagement, such as public meetings and workshops, present opportunities to work more closely with the public, including historically underrepresented communities. PSRC plans to host a variety of events throughout the planning process and staff are also reaching out to community based organizations, advocacy groups, and service providers to identify opportunities for PSRC to present at established community meetings. Direct engagement opportunities will begin with the release of the draft scoping statement in early February 2018.

Next Steps
GMPB will review the draft plan at their February meeting. The public engagement plan is a living document that will be updated as new and enhanced opportunities for engagement are identified. As engagement occurs, this document will be updated into a final version available at the completion of VISION 2050. PSRC staff are also available to periodically brief the Regional Staff Committee on engagement efforts.
Lead Staff
Laura Benjamin, Associate Planner, (206) 464-7134, LBenjamin@psrc.org.

Attachment
A – Draft Public Engagement Plan, dated January 5, 2018
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Overview
This document provides an overview of public engagement and outreach efforts by the Puget Sound Regional Council for the 2020 update of VISION 2050. Since it was adopted in 2008, VISION 2040 has helped the region coordinate planning and prepare communities for growth. When cities and counties next update their plans, they will begin to look beyond 2040. Extending VISION another decade provides an umbrella for the next round of local growth targets and comprehensive plan updates. The update provides an opportunity to understand growth and demographic change in the region, to learn from successes and challenges in implementing VISION 2040, and to consider emerging regional issues.

PSRC will extend VISION 2040 to VISION 2050 to accomplish these objectives:

- Build on VISION 2040’s current framework – goals, policies, and regional growth strategy – as the starting point for developing VISION 2050.
- Be bold. VISION 2050 will continue to be an ambitious strategy for a more sustainable region.
- Focus the update on select items that will advance the region toward VISION.
- Put in motion a set of actions and roles to realize the goals of VISION 2050.
- Reflect the diversity of the region – demographic, culture, income, geography, and economy.
- Look for opportunities to make VISION more accessible and usable.

This update to VISION 2050 will continue to ask and answer this central question:

*How should the region accommodate the anticipated growth of people and jobs while enhancing the environment and overall quality of life?*

Goals and Strategies
The following goals and objectives will guide the outreach process. They are subject to revision as appropriate.

**Goal 1: Engage a wide range of stakeholders, including: the general public, elected officials, local jurisdiction staff, other public agencies, and interest groups.**

**Strategies:**

- Ensure the public and the media have access to available information
- Involve appropriate groups in data collection, policy and technical analysis, recommendations, plan preparation, and plan adoption throughout the update process
- Provide information to PSRC committees and boards for review and feedback
- Keep the public informed about the schedule, tasks, and opportunities for input
- Use a variety of methods to obtain input
- Document how outreach efforts meet SEPA and PSRC Public Participation Plan requirements

**Goal 2: Carry out a robust equitable engagement strategy that reaches a range of diverse communities, including: low income, minorities, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, persons with limited literacy, rural populations, seniors, and veterans.**
Strategies:

• Make connecting and engaging with PSRC simple and easy to understand
• Provide opportunities for targeted populations to engage in a variety of ways throughout the plan update process
• Help build long-term relationships, particularly with newly engaged community groups
• Educate about the role PSRC plays in regional growth, transportation, environmental, and economic planning
• Leverage existing relationships to aid outreach efforts
• Tailor outreach opportunities to fit the varying needs and abilities of stakeholders

Goal 3: Solicit substantive input on the VISION update. Build on public engagement carried out for other recent PSRC planning efforts, reducing redundancy, and focusing on obtaining new information.

Strategies:

• Coordinate with PSRC staff who led the Regional Transportation Plan outreach work to build on their efforts, and continue best practices
• Review past outreach materials and events to remove and/or revise unnecessary and ineffective past outreach practices
• Partner with community groups to develop and review outreach and informational materials to ensure questions are appropriate

Goal 4: Use new and innovative techniques such as a greater online/social media presence – go beyond traditional in-person workshops and open houses.

Strategies:

• Provide new and enhanced opportunities for stakeholders to engage remotely through online open houses and other web-based platforms
• Use social media platforms to showcase the central Puget Sound region and engage stakeholders in “fun” activities
• Use online analytics to assess the effectiveness of digital outreach opportunities and continually refine efforts to be as effective at reaching targeted populations as possible

Goal 5: Effectively communicate public input to the boards and incorporate that input into aspects of the plan update considered by the boards.

Strategies:

• Show how stakeholders can help inform the process
• Document public input in an easy to understand format that takes into consideration language and literacy needs
• Provide periodic summaries of input that represent the issues and considerations
• Include a feedback loop for those commenting to know how their comments will be addressed
Summary of Methods and Techniques
To meet these goals and strategies, PSRC will employ a range of tools and techniques which are standard procedure for regional outreach and are consistent with the PSRC Public Participation Plan. Communication and outreach activities are organized under four headings: 1) Direct Engagement, 2) Presentations and Meetings / Interagency Consultation, 3) Written and Printed Materials, 4) Digital and Electronic Materials, and 5) Other. Techniques to be employed throughout the plan update process are described below. An evaluation of the effectiveness of techniques will be included at the completion of the update process.

Direct Engagement

Public Opinion Survey
PSRC will work with a consultant to conduct a statistically valid survey to gather feedback from residents living in the central Puget Sound region regarding their opinions toward growth and growth-related topics including housing, environmental stewardship, access to services, and regional growth management planning and coordination. Survey results will help to inform the VISION 2040 update.

Equity engagement opportunity: Partner with community-based organizations to translate and distribute the survey to LEP residents and historically underrepresented communities. While the results of the second wave of the survey would not be statistically significant, they may highlight differences and similarities among different racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups across the region, and will provide an opportunity for equity communities and CBOs to engage in the plan update early in the process.

Location: NA/The survey will be fielded via phone and/or online, dependent on cost.
Timeframe: The survey will be fielded in early 2018, with results shared with PSRC staff by April 2018.
Audience: General public – central Puget Sound residents

Countywide Forums
PSRC staff will present at the countywide forums (staff groups and elected officials) to provide information on the plan update schedule, and specifically the scoping comment period. These presentations will provide an opportunity for feedback on the draft scope and provide stakeholders with...
more information on future opportunities to provide feedback on the scope and throughout the plan update process. PSRC staff regularly attend countywide forums and these briefings are a part of ongoing engagement with the staff groups and elected officials. See Presentations and Meetings below for more information.

Location: Regular meetings places for countywide forums
Timeframe: February 2018
Audience: Local planning staff, local elected officials

**Countywide Scoping Listening Sessions**
Four listening sessions to provide in-person opportunities for stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft scope. The sessions will also provide an opportunity to inform stakeholders on the update process, including schedule, timing, and resources available.

*Equity engagement opportunity: Leverage contacts at community-based organizations and work done for the Regional Transportation Plan to encourage participation by community members. Higher community member participation could be facilitated by hosting afternoon sessions and providing food, childcare, travel subsidies, and translation services.*

Location: One session per county (elaborate/clarify when available)
Timeframe: Four listening sessions will be held around the region during the 45-day scoping comment period.
Audience: Local planning sessions will be held around the region during the 45-day scoping comment period.
Audience: Local planning staff, Tribes*, staff from CBOs and NGOs, community members.
*Tribal leaders and staff will be sent a letter with more information on the plan update and future engagement opportunities.

**2018 General Assembly**
Project launch. Share high level results of public opinion survey, and potentially photos from social media campaign.

Location: TBD
Timeframe: May 2018
Audience: PSRC members

**PSRC Board Event**
Members and alternates of the Growth Management Policy Board, Transportation Policy Board, Economic Development Board, and Executive Board will hold a special joint board meeting to review and discuss the Regional Growth Strategy. This will include an overview of the performance of the RGS since its adoption in 2008, alternatives, and the potential outcomes and costs and benefits of the proposed alternatives.

Location: PSRC
Timeframe: June 2018 Executive Board meeting
Audience: GMPB, TPB, EDB, EB members and alternates
Peer Networking Series Work Sessions
In lieu of the regular monthly 90-minute panel and group discussions, the Peer Networking Series will host quarterly three-hour work sessions on topics identified during scoping. These work sessions will provide local planning staff with information, tools, and resources on the identified topics, and an opportunity for participants to share their thoughts on actions and strategies to address these issues regionally. The feedback received at the Peer Networking sessions will help to inform the extended work sessions the Growth Management Policy Board will hold on these same topics.

Location: PSRC and webinar
Timeframe: May 17, September 20, and November 15, 2018
Audience: Local planning staff, key stakeholders for each work session topic

GMPB Work Sessions
Multiple work sessions will be held to engage the board on specific topics related to the plan. These topics will be determined as the plan develops and as identified during scoping. The work sessions will provide opportunities for “deep dives” for board members to discuss topics and potential ways to address them in the plan update.

Location: PSRC
Timeframe: July 5, September 6, and November 1, 2018
Audience: GMPB members and alternates

Regional Engagement Events
PSRC will host two half-day events at off-site locations to provide an opportunity for a diverse group of stakeholders to discuss key issues identified in the scope. These roundtable discussions will allow stakeholders from various sectors to talk to each other and to develop and refine potential actions and strategies to address regional issues. This feedback will be shared with the GMPB and may help to inform the draft updates to the policies and actions in the plan.

Equity engagement opportunity: Leverage contacts at community-based organizations and work done for the Regional Transportation Plan to encourage participation by community members. Higher community member participation could be facilitated by hosting afternoon events and providing food, childcare, travel subsidies, and translation services.

Location: TBD, preferably one event in south Snohomish County and a second event in the Tacoma area.
Timeframe: Fall 2018
Audience: Elected officials, CBOs, NGOs, resource agencies, Tribes, community members, business and trade representatives

2019 General Assembly
Provide a general update on the status of the plan. Share relevant data and findings, and success stories as appropriate.

Location: TBD
Timeframe: Spring 2019
Draft Plan Feedback Sessions
Four sub-regional events will take place around the region to present the draft plan and solicit feedback from local stakeholders. The feedback sessions will also provide an opportunity to inform stakeholders on the update process, including schedule, timing, and upcoming hearings and additional opportunities to provide formal comment and feedback.

Equity engagement opportunity: Leverage contacts at community-based organizations and work done for the Regional Transportation Plan to encourage participation by community members. Higher community member participation could be facilitated by hosting afternoon sessions and providing food, childcare, travel subsidies, and translation services.

Location: One session per county (elaborate/clarify when available)
Timeframe: Summer 2019 (elaborate/clarify when available)
Audience: local planning staff, Tribes, staff from CBOs and NGOs

Online Open House
PSRC will develop and host an online open house to showcase the draft plan. The open house will be live during the 45-day comment period and will provide stakeholders and the general public an opportunity to review the draft plan materials on their own time and at their own pace and to provide feedback via comment boxes. The online open house will provide the same information as the draft plan feedback sessions.

Equity engagement opportunity: Leverage contacts at community-based organizations and work done for the Regional Transportation Plan to encourage participation by community members. This may include translating the website and including information on the website in various community newsletters.

Location: NA/ Open house will be hosted online
Timeframe: Summer 2019, during 45-day draft comment period
Audience: General public

Public Hearing
Hold a public hearing pursuant to SEPA and agency requirements.

Location: TBD
Timeframe: Summer 2019, at conclusion of 45-day draft comment period
Audience: General public

Presentations & Meetings / Interagency Consultation
Board and Committee Meetings
PSRC will provide regular briefings and presentations to boards and standing committees throughout the planning process.
**Regional Staff Committee**

The Regional Staff Committee will play a key role in the planning process. The committee is composed of the region's lead planning, public works, and transportation professionals and provides valuable insight and recommendations to PSRC staff, as well as providing direct input to the Growth Management Policy Board. In addition, PSRC will engage a subgroup of RSC members and other technical and subject matter experts during summer 2018 to help define and refine alternatives to the Regional Growth Strategy.

A list of key PSRC boards, committees, and groups is included in Table 1.

**Table 1. PSRC Boards, Committees, and Advisory Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSRC BOARDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executive Board (EB)</td>
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<td>Operations Committee (OC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Policy Board (TPB)</td>
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<td>Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB)</td>
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<td>Economic Development District Board (EDD)</td>
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<tr>
<th>PSRC ADVISORY GROUPS AND COMMITTEES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Staff Committee (RSC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional TOD Advisory Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Use Technical Advisory Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Committees as needed</td>
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</table>

**Regional Forums**

In addition to consulting with the agency's organizational and advisory committee structure, PSRC staff regularly attends other regional policy and advisory group meetings.

*King County*
- Growth Management Planning Committee
- Interjurisdictional Team
- King County Panning Directors
- Project Evaluation Committee
- Sound Cities Association

*Kitsap County*
- Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council
- Land Use Technical Advisory Committee
- Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
Each of these forums may also have technical and policy subcommittees or advisory groups that inform their work. PSRC staff regularly present to and meet with both the formal forum groups and their subgroups.

Tribal Outreach
PSRC continues to seek ways to improve engagement with Tribal Nations consistent with the Tribal Consultation Best Practices Guide for Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Planning Organizations in Washington State. Engagement efforts will be documented here.

Environmental Resource Agencies
Engagement with state and federal environmental and resource agencies will be documented here.

Engagement with Community Partners
The Community Partners are a group of local stakeholders established during the update to the Regional Transportation Plan to provide guidance on outreach to equity communities and to identify opportunities for collaboration with community groups. PSRC will continue to work with the Community Partners and leverage CBOs identified and relationships developed during the Regional Transportation Plan.

An Ad Hoc group consisting of a subgroup of the Community Partners and other interested parties may be assembled to assist with the development of a screening tool to analyze equity in proposed policies.

Written and Printed Materials

Environmental Documents
Documents will be distributed in accordance with SEPA. This process will be documented here.

Public Comment
Public comment will be encouraged throughout the entire planning process, with two 45-day public comment periods during Scoping and the release of the Draft Plan/SEIS. Comments will be accepted by email, mail, fax, and in person. Comments will be available on the PSRC website.

Media Relations
PSRC uses media relations to get the word out to a broad and diverse audience of readers throughout the four counties. News releases are distributed to area media.

Periodic Mailings and Postings
When the Draft Plan and Supplemental EIS are released, PSRC will distribute the documents in hard copy and electronic form as needed. Electronic copies of the draft documents will be emailed to Executive
Board, Transportation Policy Board, and Growth Management Policy Board members. Regional Staff Committee members will be emailed the draft plan in electronic format. All documents will be made readily available on the PSRC website. The five major area libraries will receive hard copies of Draft and Final Plan and SEPA documents.

**Digital and Electronic Materials**

**PowerPoint Presentations**

PowerPoint presentations are the primary visual medium for communicating information about the VISON 2050 Update to boards, committees, and outside stakeholder groups. Throughout the planning process, PowerPoint slide presentations featuring bullet points, diagrams, tables, and charts will be used to illustrate information about the process, schedule, analyses, and decisions. These presentations will be posted on the PSRC website.

**Blog and Social Media**

PSRC maintains a blog and social media accounts to provide up-to-date information to the public:

- Blog: [https://www.psrc.org/whats-happening](https://www.psrc.org/whats-happening)
- Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/PugetSoundRegionalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/PugetSoundRegionalCouncil)
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/SoundRegion](https://twitter.com/SoundRegion)
- Instagram: [http://www.instagram.com/soundregion](http://www.instagram.com/soundregion)

**Email**

PSRC maintains an email list of members and interested parties, including environmental justice populations, resource agencies and community based organizations. This list of nearly 7,000 receives updates on PSRC’s work nearly every week.

Email is widely used as the primary communication tool to inform and remind members of meeting times, distribute agendas and documents, announce the release of important documents and request their review and comment during comment periods, direct members to the website, and provide additional information related to the process.

**At Work**

PSRC summarizes what occurred at the meetings of the Executive Board, Transportation Policy Board, Growth Management Policy Board, and Economic Development Board. These summaries are available on the PSRC website.

**Website**

The PSRC website at [psrc.org](http://psrc.org) offers a variety of resources to inform the public and invite participation in the outreach effort. The website is used to announce meetings, events and publicize key junctures in the planning process schedule. In addition, the website offers links to related background materials, and draft and final reports and plans.

**Web Streaming of Meetings**

**Other**

**Systematic Documentation of Public Comments**
Public comment will be solicited and documented throughout the planning process.

**Public participation framework for PSRC**

The PSRC Public Participation Plan for the Puget Sound Regional Council (adopted in 1994 and most recently updated in 2017) specifically outlines the public review process the agency must conduct to prepare regional plans pursuant to state and federal laws including the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

According to the agency’s public participation plan, PSRC may employ a variety of notification and participation procedures to encourage "early and continuous" involvement of individuals, jurisdictions, communities, and other interests in the planning and decision-making processes of the Regional Council. The agency’s public participation plan also allows PSRC to conduct additional outreach efforts as appropriate to provide opportunities for involvement including workshops, open houses, forums, and other events.

Public involvement is essential for ensuring that the adopted policies and strategies in VISION 2050 are consistently represented and addressed throughout the region and in all PSRC planning and project funding. This commitment relies on a variety of methods and techniques to reach out to the wide range of people, groups, organizations, partner agencies, stakeholders, and member agencies with an interest in this update.

**Overview of Requirements**

**PSRC’s Desired Outcomes for its Public Participation** – Public Participation Plan
- Receive public input on PSRC’s activities and decisions
- Share information with a broad cross-section of the public
- Ensure notification and participation of all populations, including people of color, low-income and special needs groups
- Increase overall awareness of regional planning activities
- Ensure planning decisions incorporate the concerns, needs, and visions of the region

**PSRC Title VI Plan** – January 2016
- Title VI and Executive Order 12898 addressing environmental justice populations
- The 1994 USDOT Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- The 1998 FHWA Actions to address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
- The 1999 FHWA and FTA Memorandum Implementing Title VI Requirements in Metropolitan Planning

**SEPA – Environmental Review - SAFETEA-LU Section 6001 (2005)**
• **WAC 197-11-620** Supplemental EIS Procedures
• **Additional documentation** for SEPA public involvement – scoping period, comment period, public hearing

**FTA C 4703.1 – Environmental Justice Policy Guidance**

**FTA C 9070.1G - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

Must include participation by stakeholders identified in the law: seniors; individuals with disabilities; representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human service providers; and other members of the public.

**Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) (2015)**

Section 1201 addressing resource agencies and tribes.  **USC Title 23, Section 134(5)(A)**

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the ADA Coordinator.

**Detailed Requirements**

**Washington State SEPA Requirements** – WAC 197-11-620 Supplemental EIS Procedures

(1) An SEIS shall be prepared in the same way as a draft and final EIS (WAC 197-11-400 to 197-11-600), except that scoping is optional. The SEIS should not include analysis of actions, alternatives, or impacts that is in the previously prepared EIS.

(2) The fact sheet and cover letter or memo for the SEIS shall indicate the EIS that is being supplemented.

(3) Unless the SEPA lead agency wants to prepare the SEIS, an agency with jurisdiction which needs the SEIS for its action shall be responsible for SEIS preparation.

**Environmental / Resource Agency Outreach - SAFETEA-LU Section 6001 (2005)**

- Continuing, Cooperative, and Comprehensive planning process
- Consultation with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies
  - Land use management
  - Natural resources
  - Environmental protection
  - Conservation
  - Historic preservation
- Review and comparison of the evolving transportation plan with:
  - State and tribal conservation plans and maps
  - Inventories of natural and historic resources
• Discuss potential mitigation activities in consultation with federal, state, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies
• Include equity as one of the criteria for evaluating plan alternatives.

PSRC Title VI Plan
• Title VI and Executive Order 12898 addressing environmental justice populations
• The 1994 USDOT Order to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
• The 1998 FHWA Actions to address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations
• The 1999 FHWA and FTA Memorandum Implementing Title VI Requirements in Metropolitan Planning

FTA C 4703.1 – Environmental Justice Policy Guidance
FTA/ FHWA joint planning regulations for public engagement require seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income, minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services. This includes requirements for where to hold public meetings and the methods of engagement to use:
  o Hold public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times
  o Employ visualization techniques to describe plans
  o Make public information available in electronically accessible formats

Fixing America’s Surface Transportation System (FAST Act) (2015)
Section 1201 addressing resource agencies and tribes. The fundamental principles of Section 1201 are:
• Planning process shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive
• Develop plan in consultation with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies in charge of:
  • Land use management
  • Natural resources
  • Environmental protection
  • Conservation
  • Historic preservation
• Review and comparison of the evolving transportation plan with:
  • State and tribal conservation plans and maps
  • Inventories of natural and historic resources
• Discuss potential mitigation activities in consultation with federal, state, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies
• Include equity as one of the criteria for evaluating plan alternatives
Compliance

**Consistency with PSRC’s Public Participation Plan**

1. Ensure notification and participation of all populations, including people of color, low-income and special needs groups. Examine and refine the agency’s public involvement process to ensure full and fair participation in decision-making.

2. Plan review allows for 45-day public comment period.

**Compliance with Addressing Resource Agencies and Tribes**

Section 1201 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) for addressing resource agencies and tribes was carried forward into the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The following identifies the fundamental principles of Section 1201:

- Planning process shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive
- Develop plan in consultation with federal, state, tribal, and local agencies in charge of:
  - Land use management
  - Natural resources
  - Environmental protection
  - Conservation
  - Historic preservation
- Review and compare the evolving plan with:
  - State and tribal conservation plans and maps
  - Inventories of natural and historic resources
- Discuss potential mitigation activities in consultation with Federal, State, and tribal wildlife, land management, and regulatory agencies

**Compliance with Environmental Justice Requirements**

FTA/ FHWA joint planning regulations for public engagement require seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income, minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services. This includes requirements for where to hold public meetings and the methods of engagement to use:

- Hold public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times
- Employ visualization techniques to describe plans
- Make public information available in electronically accessible formats

**Compliance with Special Needs**

FTA C 9070.1G - Enhanced Mobility Of Seniors And Individuals With Disabilities must include participation by stakeholders identified in the law: seniors; individuals with disabilities; representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human service providers; and other members of the public.

**Compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)**

PSRC uses SEPA to guide its environmental review for key decision-making. A supplemental EIS [WAC 197-11-620] adds information and analysis to supplement the information in a previous EIS. It may address new alternatives, new areas of likely significant adverse impact, or add additional analysis to
areas not adequately addressed in the original document. VISION 2040 will provide the foundation for VISION 2050; therefore, the EIS for VISION 2040 will provide the foundation for the SEPA analysis of VISION 2050 and a supplemental EIS will be prepared. A supplemental EIS includes a draft (with comment period) and a final document, which essentially follows the same requirements as a draft EIS and final EIS. Although scoping for a supplemental EIS [WAC 197-11-400 to 600] is optional, there will be a scoping period for VISION 2050.

SEPA procedures adopted by PSRC require that whenever PSRC issues a determination of nonsignificance (DNS) under WAC 197-11-340(2) or a determination of significance (DS) under WAC 197-11-360(3), PSRC shall give public notice of the availability of those documents on PSRC’s website, give notice to the entities listed in WAC 197-11-340(2)(b), and give notice to anyone who has specifically requested in writing to be notified about the particular proposal. Those notification steps will also be followed whenever PSRC issues a DEIS under WAC 197-11-455 or a SEIS under WAC 197-11-620, or whenever PSRC proposes to change its adopted SEPA procedures. In the case of a DEIS, PSRC will also give notice to anyone who submitted comments during the scoping process. In the case of an SEIS, PSRC will also give notice to anyone who submitted comments on the EIS being supplemented. Whenever PSRC issues an FEIS under WAC 197-11-460, notice of the availability of the FEIS shall be given on PSRC’s website and provided to all agencies with jurisdiction, to anyone who commented on the DEIS, to anyone requesting a copy of the FEIS, and to those who received but did not comment on the DEIS. Whenever PSRC issues an Addendum under WAC 197-11-625, notice of the availability of the Addendum shall be given on PSRC’s website and provided to recipients of the initial DEIS or FEIS being addended. The PSRC SEPA notification procedures listed above may be supplemented by issuing a news release to major newspapers and news outlets and other notification techniques, such as sending a postcard, newsletter, publication, or email. When undergoing a SEPA process, PSRC often works with an environmental planning group to gain an understanding of the environmental issues and implications of the planning process. This group includes representatives from federal, state, local and tribal environmental and resource agencies.
TO: Regional Staff Committee  
FROM: Erika Harris, Senior Planner  
SUBJECT: Regional Open Space Conservation Plan Update

In Brief
The committee will hear an update on the regional open space conservation plan. The committee is encouraged to review the draft plan, which will be available later this month.

Discussion
The U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities awarded PSRC a grant to develop a regional open space conservation plan, which will help implement En-Action-2 and MPP-En-8. These provisions in VISION 2040 direct the region to identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries. Last winter and spring, the Regional Staff Committee and Growth Management Policy Board provided feedback on the work plan, advisory structure, content of the plan, and criteria for identifying the regional open space network.

To date, the plan has been developed through a data-driven, collaborative process that has involved a diverse set of stakeholders. The advisory committee for the plan, made up of representatives from counties, cities, tribes, resource agencies, nonprofits, and working lands businesses, has met three times and recently provided feedback on a preliminary draft plan. PSRC staff has worked closely with county staff to gather information, develop maps, and solicit feedback. PSRC staff also conducted interviews with over 150 people from nonprofits, resource agencies, tribes, and other stakeholder groups.

The regional open space conservation plan is intended to serve as a framework for conservation efforts in the central Puget Sound region. The strength of this plan and the regional open space network is that they integrate and build on conservation and planning efforts across sectors, across agencies, and across jurisdictions. The coordinated vision for open space in this plan serves to elevate the region’s conservation needs and can help attract funders interested in social impact investments.

The regional open space conservation plan:
- Compiles data on open space services from across the region into a geodatabase for planners and conservation groups;
- Presents a regional open space network and conservation opportunities within the network that can serve as a guide for open space conservation;
- Describes the threats to open space in the region; and
- Presents strategies, tools, and actions to conserve the region’s key open spaces.
The regional open space conservation plan is not a regulatory or policy document. The plan does not require jurisdictions to take specific actions. Rather, it provides a regional context and shares important information and knowledge that can help jurisdictions in their own conservation efforts. It highlights work that jurisdictions are already doing so that different groups can learn from each other. Perhaps most importantly, the plan provides a platform for working together toward collaborative and regional initiatives that are targeted and scaled to meet the region’s most pressing conservation priorities.

A draft plan will be ready for board review later in January. The Growth Management Policy Board, Regional Staff Committee, Open Space Conservation Plan Advisory Committee, and others will be encouraged to provide feedback on the draft plan through March 8, 2018. Links to the draft plan and directions for commenting will be on PSRC’s open space webpage. A final plan is expected to be prepared in June 2018.

**Next Steps**
A link to the draft plan will be provided to the committee once it has been posted. The committee is encouraged to review and comment on the plan.

**Lead Staff**
Erika Harris, Senior Planner, (206) 464-6360, eharris@psrc.org
Maria Sandercock, Associate Planner/GIS Analyst, (206) 971-3298, msandercock@psrc.org.
MEMORANDUM

January 18, 2018

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager – Transportation Planning

SUBJECT: Regional Transportation Plan Update: Preliminary Themes from Public Comment

In Brief
The Regional Transportation Plan was released for public comment on December 14, with the comment period concluding on January 31, 2018. Staff will be monitoring comments and providing a summary of preliminary themes to date.

Discussion
The schedule for the draft plan calls for the public comment period to run from December 14, 2017 to January 31, 2018. Staff will be working to categorize each individual comment and provide a staff response, but information on preliminary themes from the comments received through mid-January will be provided to the Regional Staff Committee at their meeting on January 18.

Next Steps
The Transportation Policy Board will be provided a high-level briefing in February on the comments, including themes and any key issues noted. The full detail of the public comment process, including the categorization of comments and staff responses, will be presented to the Board in March, with the Regional Staff Committee receiving this briefing at their February meeting. Recommendation of the plan by the Transportation Policy and Executive Boards is scheduled for April, with General Assembly adoption scheduled for May 31.

Lead Staff
Kelly McGourty, Senior Program Manager – Transportation Planning, (206) 971-3601, kmcgourty@psrc.org.
Third Thursdays
12:00-1:30PM
PSRC
1011 Western Avenue Suite 500
Seattle 98104

Peer Networking Series on Local Planning and Implementation

Monthly Panel Discussion & Webinar

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 12:00-1:30pm

Topic: Disaster Mitigation and Management

Description: The central Puget Sound is prone to flooding, earthquakes, and landslides. While disasters cannot be avoided, planners can help to mitigate the impacts to people and property, and help communities to respond and recover more efficiently.

Please join us for a discussion on best practices and case studies on disaster management from across the region. This session will include presentation from planners who have helped to develop and implement a variety of disaster management plans and programs, along with a panel discussion.

Speakers: Bob Freitag, UW Institute for Hazard Mitigation Planning and Research; Stephen Slaughter, Department of Natural Resources; Jason Biermann, Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management; Kelly McGourty, PSRC

Attend in person: January 18 from 12:00-1:30 at PSRC, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, 98104

Or attend via webinar: At www.bluejeans.com, click “Join Meeting” and enter meeting ID 322075066. If your computer has a microphone, you may participate in the webinar through your computer. If no microphone, you may call in at +1 888 240 2560, and enter Meeting ID. AICP CM unavailable by webinar.

Please visit the PSRC website for information on monthly topics and webinar links

AICP CM credit pending
The Regional Staff Committee meets the third Thursday of each month, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, 5th Floor. Agendas and support materials are available the Thursday prior to the meeting on our website: [www.psrc.org](http://www.psrc.org). Meetings are subject to change or cancellation based on the agenda. The August meeting is not regularly scheduled.