Regional Staff Committee

October 23, 2019 • 9:30 – 11:30 am
PSRC Board Room • 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500 • Seattle, WA 98104

9:30 1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chip Vincent, City of Renton

9:35 2. **Reports:**
   a. Meeting Summary for September 19, 2019*
   b. PSRC Board Reports*
   c. Updates from PSRC Planning Department

9:50 3. **Discussion: Active Transportation Plan Update***
   Barb Chamberlain, WSDOT

10:20 4. **Discussion: VISION 2050***
   a. Review July 19 – September 16 Public Comments
   b. Potential Edits and Amendments
   *Paul Inghram and Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC

5. **Future Meeting:** November 21, 2019, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room

6. **Information Items:**
   a. 2019 Regional Staff Committee Schedule*
   b. Toolbox Peer Networking Series-Thursday, November 21, 12:00-3:00 pm*

11:30 7. **Adjourn**

*Supporting materials attached

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

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العربية | Arabic, 中文 | Chinese, Deutsch | German, Français | French، 한국어 | Korean، Русский | Russian، Español | Spanish، Tagalog، Tiếng việt | Vietnamese، Call 206-587-4819.
Regional Staff Committee Meeting Summary

Date: September 19, 2019
Location: PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104

Presentations from the meeting are available on the PSRC website: https://www.psrc.org/rsc-meetings. Audio recording of the meeting is available by request.

Introductions and Announcements
Ben Bakkenta, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am. There were around the room introductions.

Reports
Co-Chair Ben Bakkenta introduced new RSC members: Rebecca Maskin, King County At-Large Alternate and Larry Epstein, Puget Sound Partnership Alternate. Ben spoke about the Regional TOD event happening on Friday, October 4 from 9 am to 3 pm in Bellevue. The event will bring together the community and industry leaders to explore innovative techniques and best practices for building thriving and equitable BRT communities.

Discussion: Puget Sound Partnership
Stephanie Suter, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), provided a presentation on the PSP and their role in the effort to restore and protect Puget Sound. PSP is a state agency created by the Legislature in 2007 and guided by six goals. PSP collaboratively develops an Action Agenda for Puget Sound. They also manage shared measures and bring together partners across sectors.

Ms. Suter announced the Puget Sound Vital Signs revision workshop Thursday, October 10, 10:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Kingston.

You can view the presentation here.
For more information, contact Stephanie Suter at stephanie.suter@psp.wa.gov or 360-791-3154.

Discussion: Draft VISION 2050 Plan

Paul Inghram and Liz Underwood-Bultmann, PSRC, briefed the committee on the draft VISION 2050 plan, engagement efforts and previewed general themes of comments received in the 60-day public comment period. The committee was informed that the GMPB would be provided a detailed comment matrix with PSRC responses and recommendations for the November meeting.

The committee then participated in an in-depth discussion on how local plan updates can address regional policies and respond to unique local conditions and priorities, while achieving the regional benefits of the Regional Growth Strategy. Staff focused discussion to elicit committee feedback on the Guidance for Aligning Growth Targets section of the draft VISION 2050 document. Staff also heard from the committee on how PSRC can support countywide target-setting processes and updates to comprehensive plans.

You can view the presentation here.

For more information, contact Paul Inghram at pinghram@psrc.org, 206-464-7549, Liz Underwood-Bultmann at lunderwoodbultmann@psrc.org, 206-464-6174.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Co-Chairs’ Working Session

The Co-Chairs’ working group met from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm to continue the agenda discussion. Audio recording of this discussion is available upon request.

Members and Alternates Represented at the Table

See attached attendance roster.

PSRC Staff and Other Guests Present

Hannah Bahn Miller, PSRC; Laura Benjamin, PSRC; Mitchell Brouse, Snohomish County; Josh Brown, PSRC; Gil Cerise, PSRC; Larry Epstein, Puget Sound Partnership; Erika Harris, PSRC; Andrea Harris-Long, PSRC; Paul Inghram, PSRC; Katherine Johnson, PSRC; Jacob Lambert, Snohomish City; Jonathan Lewis, SDOT/Seattle; Maggie Moore, PSRC; Casey Moreau, PSRC; Brian Parry, Sound Cities
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<tr>
<th>King County</th>
<th>Federal, Regional, State, Tribal &amp; Other Agencies</th>
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<td>King Co. (2)</td>
<td>Karen Wolf, County Executive Office, FHWA (1)</td>
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<td>Ivan Miller, County Executive Office, Alt</td>
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<td>Kelly Rider, County DCHS, FTA (1)</td>
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<td>Sunaree Marshall, County DCHS, Ned Connroy, Comm Planner, Alt</td>
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<td>King Co. At-Large (2)</td>
<td>Arun Sambataro, County Executive Office, Equity &amp; Social Justice</td>
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<td>Michael Kattermann, City of Bothell, X</td>
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<td>Rebecca Maskin, Alt, Health Departments (1)</td>
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<td>King Co. Transit (1)</td>
<td>Peter Heffeman, DOT Intergov. Relations, Ports (1)</td>
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<td>King Co. Economic Dev. (1)</td>
<td>Ashton Allison, County Executive Office, Economic Development, Craig Kenworthy, Executive Director</td>
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<td>Seattle (2)</td>
<td>X Michael Hubner, Long Range Planning, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Patrice Carroll, Planning &amp; Comm Dev, Alt, Puget Sound Partnership (1), Stephanie Suter, Planning Program Director</td>
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<td>Tracy Krawczyk, SDOT, Heather Saunders, Planning Manager Alt</td>
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<td>Bellevue (1)</td>
<td>X Lacey Jane Wolfe, Transportation Policy, Alt 1, Tribal Representative, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Joyce Nichols, Government Affairs, Alt 2, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Chip Vincent, Renton, Planning, RSC Co-Chair, US EPA (1), Elaine Somers, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Vacant Alt, Sound Transit, Matt Shelden, Planning &amp; Innovation</td>
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<td>X Eric Baker, Planning, WA Dept. of Commerce (1), Ike Nwankwo, Growth Management</td>
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<td>Jim Bolger, Comm Dev., Alt, Mark McCaskill, Growth Management, Alt</td>
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<td>R Karla Boughton, Planning &amp; Econ, Poulsbo, WSDOT (1), Jeff Storrar, Mobility</td>
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<td>Gary Christensen, Bainbridge Island, Alt, Theresa Turpin, Olympic Region</td>
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<td>X Edward Covelli, Kitsap Transit, PSRC Co-Chair (1), Ben Bakkena, Director of Regional Planning</td>
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<td>Kitsap Co. Economic Dev. (1)</td>
<td>Vacant Alt, BPAC (1), Thomas Noyes, WSDOT</td>
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<td>Bremerton (1)</td>
<td>X Andrea Spencer, Comm Dev, RSC Co-Chair, Eric Goodman, Community Transit</td>
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<td>Allison Satter, FAST Freight Adv. (1), Geri Poor, Port of Seattle, Gov. Affairs</td>
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<td>Other Cities/Towns (1)</td>
<td>Nick Bond, Comm Dev., Port Orchard, Christine Wolf, Northwest Seaport Alliance, Alt</td>
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<td>Gary Christensen, Bainbridge Island, Alt, Don Cairns, Redmond, RPEC Chair</td>
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<td>Pierce Co. (1)</td>
<td>X Dan Cardwell, Long Range Planning, SNTC (1), Marianna Hanefeld, SNOTRAC</td>
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<td>Jesse Hamashima, Transportation, RSC Co-Chair, Mark Smutry, Sound Generations, Alt</td>
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<td>R Eric Mendenhall, Sumner, Comm. Dev, Alt, X Jason Sullivan, Bonney Lake, Plan. &amp; Build.</td>
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<td>Erin Mendenhall, Sumner, Comm. Dev, Alt, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Pierce Co. Transit (1)</td>
<td>Darin Stavish, Pierce Transit (PSRC TOC Member), X = Present</td>
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<td>Pierce Co. Economic Dev. (1)</td>
<td>X = Remote attendance Rob Allen, Economic Development,</td>
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<td>Tacoma (1)</td>
<td>Peter Huffman, Planning &amp; Development Svcs,</td>
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<td>Ian Munce, Planning, Alt,</td>
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<td>Other Cities/Towns (1)</td>
<td>Katie Baker, City of Puyallup, David Swindle, University Place, Plan &amp; Dev.</td>
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<td>Snohomish Co. (1)</td>
<td>Steve Thomsen, Public Works, Doug McCormick, Public Works Alt</td>
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<td>X Barb Mock, Planning &amp; Dev, RSC Co-Chair, Ikuno Masterson, Alt</td>
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<td>Snohomish Co. Transit (1)</td>
<td>R Roland Behee, Community Transit, Kate Tourtellot, Community Transit, Alt</td>
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<td>Snohomish Co. Economic Dev. (1)</td>
<td>Kendee Yamauchi, County Executive Office, Vacant Alt</td>
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<td>Everett (1)</td>
<td>X Allan Giffen, Planning &amp; Comm Dev, David Stalheim, Long Range Planning, Alt</td>
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<td>Other Cities/Towns (1)</td>
<td>Shane Hope, Edmonds, Development Serv, Vacant Alt</td>
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INFORMATION ITEM

October 23, 2019

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: PSRC Staff

SUBJECT: PSRC Board Reports

The Executive Board met September 26, 2019, 10:00 am – 11:30 am. The post “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the EB meeting materials page.

For information on the EB, contact Sheila Rogers, Executive Assistant, srogers@psrc.org, 206-464-5815.

The Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board met October 2, 2019, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The post “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the CPSEDDB meeting materials page.

For information on the CPSEDDB, contact Jason Thibedeau, Principal Economic Development Manager, jthibedeau@psrc.org, 206-389-2879.

The Growth Management Policy Board met October 3, 2019, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. The “At Work Summary” of the meeting is available on the GMPB meeting materials page.

For information on the GMPB, contact Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, pinghram@psrc.org, 206-464-7549.

The Transportation Policy Board met October 10, 2019, 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, Director of Transportation Planning, kmcgourty@psrc.org, 206-971-3601.
MEMORANDUM

October 23, 2019

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Barb Chamberlain, Director, Active Transportation Division, WSDOT

SUBJECT: Active Transportation Plan Update

In Brief

The committee will be provided with an overview of the update to the State Active Transportation Plan and invited to provide input/feedback.

DISCUSSION

The WSDOT State Active Transportation Plan serves as the statewide needs assessment required under RCW 47.06.100. The presentation will include the approach and methodologies being developed for evaluation and prioritization of future improvements on state right-of-way. The plan is being developed within the context of working toward a complete, comfortable network across jurisdictions and creating decision-making tools that support efforts of WSDOT and partners. The committee is welcome to ask questions about the plan and discuss opportunities for collaboration around outreach and engagement as well as plan contents.

Lead Staff

Barb Chamberlain, Director Active Transportation Division, WSDOT, chambba@wsdot.wa.gov.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Staff Committee

FROM: Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Principal Planner, PSRC
Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management, PSRC

SUBJECT: VISION 2050

IN BRIEF

Staff will provide the Regional Staff Committee with an overview of the comments received on VISION 2050 and seek input from the committee on key topics identified by the Growth Management Policy Board.

DISCUSSION

At the October meeting staff will:

- Provide an overview of public comment themes on the draft plan and discuss the comment review process for the Growth Management Policy Board
- Seek committee input on key areas that the Growth Management Policy Board identified for additional consideration:
  - Regional Growth Strategy
  - Climate change
  - Fiscal sustainability
  - Jobs/housing balance

Public Comments

PSRC engaged in a significant public outreach process that was reviewed at the September meeting. In addition to open houses, workshops and local events, notice of the draft plan reach about 300,000 people through internet sites and social media. Over 9,000 unique users visited the online open house and the draft plan was downloaded over 1,300 times. In total, PSRC received 590 letters, emails or comments in other forms. The comments are organized by:

- Cities and Counties
- Organizations, Agencies, and Businesses
- Tribal Nations
- Individuals
PSRC staff are reviewing and organizing comments for more detailed board review at its November meeting. Staff are identifying minor recommended goal, policy, and action changes that are consistent with previous board direction. Staff are also identifying major changes requested by public comments that would require additional board direction. Staff are working to make minor text changes and will provide the board with documentation of them prior to the board’s action.

Staff will distribute the organized comment matrix for board review by October 24, which will assist board members in understanding major issues. Board members will be asked to review the matrix and identify specific amendments for consideration in advance of their November meeting. Staff request that any amendments from board members be submitted by noon on Monday, November 4 to allow time to distribute to the full board.

Regional Growth Strategy

At its September meeting, the Regional Staff Committee discussed the relationship between the Regional Growth Strategy and countywide growth targets and discussed how language in VISION 2050 (see page 43 of the draft plan) could be improved and how PSRC could provide enhanced communication leading up to the next cycle of target setting and comprehensive plan updates.

In addition to the work of the Regional Staff Committee, several public comments on the draft plan encouraged focusing urban growth in urban areas and protecting rural areas. Some comments questioned the amount of growth planned for rural Snohomish Council and were opposed to expansion of the Snohomish County urban growth boundary. Comments also expressed concern about growth in and around Black Diamond in King County. Some comment letters also raised concerns about consistency of the regional geographies throughout the region.

The draft plan includes a range of growth numbers for Pierce County geographies as a place holder for a specific allocation. Pierce County and Tacoma indicate that there are ongoing discussions about the growth strategy for the county. The City of Lakewood’s comment letter recommends a third option of growth numbers for the Pierce County geographies.
Lakewood recommendation: Metro: 38% (137,000), Core: 23% (85,000), HCT Communities: 14% (52,000), Urban Unincorporated: 15% (51,000), Cities & Towns: 7% (25,000), and Rural: 3% (11,000).

Pierce County’s letter describes growth trends and pipeline development in the urban unincorporated and rural areas. The county’s comment letter requests that the range be set at 50,000 (14%) to 60,000 (16%) persons for urban unincorporated areas. The letter also requests that, if the Regional Growth Strategy includes an allocation less than 22,000 persons for the rural area, that a policy and action step be included that supports the establishment of a regional funding source which would be used to acquire conservation easements within rural areas.

PSRC aims to work with the Growth Management Policy Board to define a final set of growth allocations prior to making a recommendation to the Executive Board.

Does the Regional Staff Committee have additional guidance on allocations in the Regional Growth Strategy?

Climate Change

PSRC reviewed with the Growth Management Policy Board the more than 300 comments seeking stronger action to address climate change and many asking for explicit inclusion of greenhouse gas reduction targets in VISION 2050 goals or policies. In addition to comments
from the public and climate organizations, several jurisdictional letters express support for addressing climate change and more explicitly incorporating emission targets. Kenmore asks how regional climate policies will change expectations for local plan updates and Mill Creek encourages adoption of realistic standards.

The draft of VISION 2050 includes a new Climate Change chapter and policy amendments that strengthen the regional plan’s direction on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. With the state and other regional and local agencies already having adopted greenhouse gas targets, the draft policies support them rather than create yet another separate target.

Considering that greenhouse gases are tied to transportation and the built environment, but also stem from other sources, like power generation, it's important for VISION 2050 to recognize the need to work collaboratively across several fronts to address climate change. The actions listed in VISION 2050 direct PSRC to continue to implement the Four-Part Strategy and to work with other agencies to reduce greenhouse gases.

Comments provide a range of suggestions on how to further amend the draft plan. For example, the City of Burien recommends modifying the Climate Change chapter goal to read:

> Goal: The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate change impacts.

This approach to focus on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency goals is supported by the comment letter from King County and several cities. The county, Burien and other cities also support VISION 2050’s narrative and policies on climate change and recommend actions such as a climate action plan.

*Does the Regional Staff Committee have additional guidance on the policies related to Climate Change in VISION 2050?*

**Fiscal Challenge**

The board has discussed how one of the key challenges with implementing the Growth Management Act is the fiscal challenge faced by city and county governments. While the fiscal circumstances for each community may be unique, the concern about having sufficient revenue to respond to growth and aging infrastructure is common among many jurisdictions. In the comments received on VISION 2050, several communities call out the need for more work to address fiscal constraints, including capturing the fiscal challenges faced by the state, transit agencies, ports, and other special districts.

VISION 2050 plays an important, but limited role in fiscal management. The growth pattern in VISION 2050 is specifically designed to better leverage growth near existing and planned infrastructure and amenities in a way that limits fiscal impacts on jurisdictions, relative to other growth patterns. This intent is broadly captured by policy, which states:
MPP-RC-10 Explore new and existing sources of funding for services and infrastructure, recognizing that such funding is vital if local governments are to achieve the regional vision.

This is also supported by action RC-Action-5:

RC-Action-5 Funding Sources: PSRC, together with its member jurisdictions, will investigate existing and new funding sources for infrastructure, services, economic development, natural resource planning, and open space, to assist local government with the implementation of VISION 2050. Explore options to develop incentives and innovative funding mechanism, particularly in centers and transit station areas. Provide technical assistance to help jurisdictions use existing and new funding sources.

Beyond the concern raised, only minor policy edits were provided in the comments on VISION 2050 to further address this topic. One option is to provide additional narrative text describing local funding challenges on page 17 of the draft.

Does the Regional Staff Committee have additional guidance on the policies or actions related to fiscal sustainability in VISION 2050?

Jobs/Housing Balance

Board members raised questions about how the growth strategy and housing policy could work together to better connect housing, jobs, and transportation together. Effectively reducing and shortening commute trips can occur by providing enough housing in high-job growth areas, supporting the development of a full range of housing types and densities, supporting a development pattern that best maximizes the transportation system, and providing greater housing affordability, especially to support lower wage jobs. Lack of balance can be mitigated by providing alternative and reliable transportation choices that connect people to job centers. Additional jobs in communities that lack transit or nonmotorized connections may not result in improved commutes or regional mobility.

VISION 2050 and the Regional Growth Strategy are designed to make significant improvement to jobs/housing balance compared to VISION 2040:

- The Regional Growth Strategy shifts 5% of regional employment growth from King County to Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. This will result in planning for 24,000 additional jobs, each, in Pierce and Snohomish counties, and 12,000 more in Kitsap County.

- Housing policy in VISION 2050 encourages planning for more housing, more types and greater affordability in all urban areas. Doing so will create more opportunity for people to find housing that meets their needs closer to where they work. The Housing chapter includes actions to prepare a Regional Housing Strategy, provide Regional Housing Assistance, and to seek state support to better address housing issues.
Policies in VISION 2050 directly address jobs/housing balance. Housing policy H-6 states:

*Develop and provided a range of housing choices for workers at all income levels throughout the region in a manner that promotes accessibility to jobs and provides opportunities to live in proximity to work.*

The Economy chapter includes a parallel policy (EC-18) regarding jobs development.

At the September and October Growth Management Policy Board meetings, the board discussed a range of potential strategies that could be expanded in VISION 2050, including the potential of shifting the regional population allocation to King County.

Several comment letters discuss jobs-housing balance, including the Pierce County Regional Council letter, which suggests revisions to VISION 2050.

**Housing Policy MPP-H-1:**

*Plan for housing supply, forms, and densities to meet the region’s current and projected needs consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy and to advance job-housing balance to the maximum extent feasible.*

**Housing Policy MPP-H-6:**

*Develop and provide a range of housing choices for workers at all income levels throughout the region in a manner that promotes accessibility to jobs and provides opportunities to live in proximity to work. High concentrations of jobs are located in manufacturing/industrial centers; careful consideration for protection of industrial land must be given when considering housing in proximity to a Manufacturing Industrial Center (MIC).*

These potential amendments will be included in the matrix of comments.

*Does the Regional Staff Committee have additional guidance on jobs/housing balance in VISION 2050?*

**Other Comments**

The countywide letters identify several other requested amendments.

**Military Installations.** The Pierce County Regional Council requests several additional policies and actions regarding military installations. These include:

**MML-1:** Recognize that military installations can have beneficial economic impacts but can also result in land use, housing, and transportation challenges for adjacent and nearby communities.

**MML-2:** While the region does not fund infrastructure improvements within Major Military Installations (MMI’s), it should assist proximate communities to address the challenges associated with MMI’s through planning and infrastructure development.
MML-Action-1: PSRC will support and assist communities proximate to MMI’s to meet their GMA obligations to plan for impacts associated with military installations.

MML-Action-2: PSRC will incorporate information, based on a completed local transportation study, how a project benefits transportation to and from a military installation into decision criteria for infrastructure funding allocations.

MML-Action-2: PSRC will coordinate with other agencies and NGOs regarding state level advocacy efforts for state and federal funding and policy support for military-community compatibility.

**UGA Flexibility.** The Snohomish County Tomorrow letter requests that VISION 2050 “include UGA boundary flexibility to allow for changing population distribution, taking into consideration logical service and natural boundaries.”

**Airports**
PSRC received a group of letters addressing the noise, community and pollution impacts related to airports and requests that regional planning better integrate air transportation planning and environmental health considerations.

**Does the Regional Staff Committee have additional guidance on these additional VISION 2050 comments?**

**NEXT STEPS**

A tabulated set of VISION 2050 comments and responses will be available for the board’s consideration at its November meeting by about October 24. Input from the Regional Staff Committee will help frame these key topics for the board’s review at its November meeting.

If board members would like to suggest additional revisions to the draft plan, they are asked to send them no later than noon on Monday, November 4, so that they can be distributed to the full board ahead of their November meeting.

The Growth Management Policy Board is scheduled to hold an extended meeting in November. The board could take action to make a recommendation to the Executive Board once they have completed review of potential changes at their November or December meetings. The December Growth Management Policy Board meeting will likely be held in the afternoon due to the schedule of the Executive Board.

For more information, please contact Liz Underwood-Bultmann at 206-464-6174 or lunderwood-bultmann@psrc.org or Paul Inghram at 206-464-7549 or pinghram@psrc.org.
The Regional Staff Committee meets the third Thursday of each month, 9:30 am, PSRC Board Room, 1011 Western Avenue, 5th Floor. Agendas and supporting materials are available the Thursday prior to the meeting on our website: www.psrc.org. Meetings are subject to change or cancellation based on the agenda. The August meeting is not regularly scheduled.
Partnerships to Tackle Big Problems

The region is facing sticky problems with local, regional and global implications – climate change, the opioid crisis, and housing affordability – just to name a few. Planners are seeking ways to make far-reaching and fundamental change on a variety of major issues at the local level. Through increased collaboration and creating likely and unlikely partnerships, many efforts can have a greater impact.

This work session will take a “deep dive” into this complex topic, with a three-hour session that includes an overview of new models for collaboration and small group activities for attendees to brainstorm how they can create partnerships to tackle big problems.

Thursday, November 21, 12 – 3pm
PSRC – 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle 98104

Bring your lunch!

More information at https://www.psrc.org/whats-happening/events/toolbox-peer-networking-series