



Appendix I-C: Glossary/Acronyms

This appendix includes a glossary of technical terms and definitions, as well as a list of acronyms, that appear in the document. Note: VISION 2040 also contains an appendix for terms that appear in that document.

Glossary

Activity Unit

A unit of measuring activity, calculated by adding together the number of residents (population) and jobs (employment) in a given area. Activity units represent the total amount of activity present in an area, and do not distinguish by the mix or proportion of the activity that is residential versus commercial. The Regional Council has used activity units for other projects; for example, an activity unit threshold has been established as one of the criteria for designating new regional growth centers.

Adverse Impact

Any undesirable or harmful effect to a person or to any natural or human-made resource.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is generally defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as housing where the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utility costs.

Alternative

Under Washington's State Environmental Policy Act, an environmental impact statement must evaluate reasonable alternatives that could feasibly attain the proposal's objective and are within a jurisdictional agency's authority to control. Alternatives should cover a broad enough range of scenarios such that all feasible options for a preferred alternative lie within the scope of impacts studied.

Brownfield

Abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities/sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. They can be in urban, suburban, or rural areas.

Critical Area

An area of specific environmental value that is protected from encroachment or adverse impacts from development. Under the Growth Management Act, five types of environmental features are identified as critical areas: wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas.



Cumulative Effect/Impact

Cumulative impacts from past actions or the incremental effect of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time.

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are increases in commercial floor to area ratio, typically provided to developers as a reward or incentive when they provide a public amenity such as parks, plazas, or affordable housing. A density bonus allows a developer to construct a building beyond the intensity allowed by zoning.

Design Guidelines

Design guidelines are regulations that govern the appearance of a development. Guidelines are typically used to create distinctive attractive places, and ensure that present and future development is context sensitive. Design guidelines add value to a community's built environment by ensuring well-designed buildings, attractive and useful signage, appealing facades, and street orientation that is distinctive to the community. Guidelines can apply to a variety of community elements – residences, commercial and retail uses, lighting, signage, transit shelters, benches, sidewalks, public spaces etc.

Destination 2030

The transportation component of VISION 2040, *Destination 2030* is the central Puget Sound region's adopted comprehensive metropolitan transportation plan. It defines long-term transportation strategies and investments for the metropolitan transportation system of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to address traffic congestion and make it easier for people to move between home and work, school, shopping, and recreation.

Ecoregion

These regions delimit large areas within which local ecosystems reoccur more or less throughout the region in a predictable pattern. Ecoregions are intended to provide a spatial framework for ecosystem assessment, research, inventory, monitoring, and management.

Ecosystem

A functional unit consisting of all the living organisms (plants, animals, and microbes) in a given area and their physical and chemical environment.

Endangered Species

Animals, birds, fish, plants, or other living organisms threatened with extinction by anthropogenic (human-caused) or other natural changes in their environment. Requirements for declaring a species endangered are contained in the federal Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Justice

Equal protection from environmental hazards for individuals, groups, or communities regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. This applies to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and implies that no population of people should be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength.

Extirpated Species

A species that no longer survives in regions that were once part of its range, but that still exists elsewhere in the wild or in captivity.

Growth Management Act

The Growth Management Act was adopted by the Washington State Legislature in 1990 and 1991, and represents the framework for land use planning and development in Washington State. The act is contained in chapter 36.70A of the Revised Code of Washington.

Impact Fee

An impact fee is a one-time charge imposed on new development, to help pay for off-site impacts and costs of development. In Washington state, impact fees can be levied only to help pay for improvements that are reasonably related to the development. Examples of improvements include: transportation infrastructure, schools, parks, and libraries.



Imperiled Species

An informal term referring to a species that might be in need of conservation action. This may range from a need for periodic monitoring of populations and threats to the species and its habitat, to the necessity for listing as threatened or endangered. Such species receive no legal protection and use of the term does not necessarily imply that a species will eventually be proposed for listing.

Impervious Surface

Surfaces that prohibit the movement of water from the land surface into the underlying soil or dirt. Buildings and paved surfaces (e.g., asphalt, concrete) are considered impervious covers. A natural condition (e.g., bedrock close to the surface, very dense soil layers such as hardpan that restrict water movement) is generally not considered an impervious surface.

Inclusionary Zoning

A system that requires a minimum percentage of lower and moderate income housing to be provided in new developments. Inclusionary programs are based on mandatory requirements or development incentives, such as density bonuses.

Infill Development

Development that takes place on vacant or underutilized parcels within an area that is already characterized by urban development and has access to urban services.

Lahar

A specific type of debris flow associated with volcanoes. They are dense mixtures of water-saturated debris that move down-valley looking and behaving much like flowing concrete. They occur when loose masses of unconsolidated material are saturated, become unstable, and move downslope.

Level of Service

A grading system developed by the transportation profession to quantify the degree of comfort (including such elements as speed, travel time, number of stops, total amount of stopped delay, and impediments caused by other vehicles) afforded to drivers or transit riders as they travel through an intersection or roadway segment. Can also be applied to other public services, such as the provision of parks, emergency response time, or pedestrian facilities.

Liquefaction

Liquefaction is the process by which loose, unconsolidated soils and fill respond to the shaking motion of an earthquake causing the soil to liquefy and flow like water, similar to quicksand. This process strongly amplifies ground motion and is a major source of catastrophic damage in earthquakes.

Littoral Zone

The region of a body of water extending from shoreline outward to the greatest depth occupied by rooted aquatic plants.

Location Efficient Mortgages

A Location Efficient Mortgage (LEM) is a means of capitalizing in mortgages the transportation savings achieved by residential and business location in pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use developments. LEMs work on the premise that vehicle ownership imposes major costs on households and that households without vehicles could be better loan risks than otherwise similar households. Since households that do not own vehicles are assumed to have relatively larger shares of income available for making mortgage payments, LEMs enable borrowers to qualify for larger loans or more preferential interest rates than they could otherwise obtain.

Maintenance Area (Air Quality)

Any geographic region of the United States previously designated nonattainment pursuant to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and subsequently redesignated to attainments subject to the requirement to develop a maintenance plan under section 175A of the Clean Air Act, as amended.

Manufacturing/Industrial Center

Regionally designated areas for the preservation of intensive manufacturing and industrial activity. These areas are characterized as large contiguous blocks served by the region's major transportation infrastructure, including roadways, rail, and port facilities.



Mitigation

Mitigation is defined as the following: (1) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, by using appropriate technology, or by taking affirmative steps to avoid or reduce impacts; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; (5) compensating for the impact by replacing, enhancing, or providing substitute resources or environments; and/or; (6) monitoring the impact and taking appropriate corrective measures.

No Action Alternative

The no-action alternative for a plan is generally defined as no change in existing regulations — zoning, development regulations, critical area ordinances, etc. (or the lack thereof) would be unchanged. The environmental impacts of predicted growth under this “no-action” scenario is then compared to that of the other alternatives.

Non-attainment Area

The geographic area designated as not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for a criteria pollutant. The boundaries are proposed by the governor, approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and include that area required to implement plans and programs for attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard published in the Federal Register.

Non-point Pollution

Diffuse pollution sources (i.e., without a single point of origin or not introduced into a receiving stream from a specific outlet). The pollutants are generally carried off the land by storm water. Common non-point sources are agriculture, forestry, urban, mining, construction, dams, channels, land disposal, saltwater intrusion, and city streets.

Particulate Matter

An air pollutant comprised of particles suspended in the air, including total suspended particulates (TSP) and the inhalable subgroup of TSP which is comprised of particulates 10 microns or less in diameter, particulate matter (PM₁₀). Automobile emissions are a major source of particulate matter.

Performance Zoning

Performance zoning is a type of zoning that permits uses based on a particular set of standards (e.g. environmental impacts) rather than on particular type of use. The requirements may target a single type of impact, or a range of impacts, such as stormwater runoff, emissions, and open space preservation.

Planned Unit Development

Areas that are planned and developed as one entity, by a single group. Planned unit developments usually include a variety of uses: different housing types of varying densities, open space, and commercial uses. Project planning and density is calculated for the entire development rather than individual lots.

Point Pollution

A stationary location or fixed facility from which pollutants are discharged or any single identifiable source of pollution, e.g., a pipe, ditch, ship, ore pit, factory smokestack.

Preferred Alternative

Under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act, the individual or hybrid alternative that is selected from those analyzed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for further environmental review in a Final or Supplemental Draft EIS.

Regional Growth Center

Regionally designated small areas of compact development where housing, employment, shopping and other activities are in close proximity. The term ‘regional growth center’ is used to differentiate centers that are designated for regional purposes from those that have a more local focus.

Riparian Corridor

Areas adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.



Scoping

The first phase of an environmental impact analysis process in which the extent of the project is established. The purpose for environmental scoping is to determine the scope and range of proposed actions, alternatives, environmental elements and impacts, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the environmental impact statement. The scoping process is also intended to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant, and those that have been covered by prior environmental review.

Sole Source Aquifer

An aquifer that supplies 50 percent or more of the drinking water to an area.

Threatened Species

An animal or plant species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Transfer of Development Rights

A planning tool which allows the development rights from a piece of property to be transferred to another parcel. The development rights represent the unused development potential of the property. These rights can be used on additional properties of the owner or sold for use elsewhere. This technique has been used to preserve historic buildings, save agricultural and environmentally sensitive land.

UrbanSim

A software-based simulation model for integrated planning and analysis of urban development, incorporating the interactions between land use, transportation, and public policy.

Vernacular Architecture

Vernacular architecture refers to structures built of local materials in a functional style devised to meet the needs of common people in their time and place. It is sometimes called folk architecture. Vernacular structures were built by people not schooled in any kind of formal architectural design. The anonymously built log cabins, barns, and farm outbuildings that can be seen in rural areas are good examples of vernacular architecture.

Watershed

The land area that drains into a stream; the watershed for a major river may encompass a number of smaller watersheds that ultimately combine at a common point.

Zero Lot Line Development

A development approach in which a building is sited on one or more lot lines with no yard. The intent is to allow more flexibility in site design and to increase the amount of usable open space on the lot.

Acronyms

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| BRT | Bus Rapid Transit | DEIS | Draft Environmental Impact Statement |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations | DRAM | Dynamic Resource Allocation Model |
| CO | Carbon Monoxide | EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| CO₂ | Carbon Dioxide | EMPAL | Employment Allocator |
| CPP | Countywide Planning Policy | EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| CTED | Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development | ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| DAHP | Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation | FAA | Federal Aviation Administration |
| | | FAZ | Forecast Analysis Zone |



| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--------------|--|
| FEIS | Final Environmental Impact Statement | SIP | State Implementation Plan |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Administration | SOV | Single Occupant Vehicle |
| FHWA | Federal Highway Administration | STEP | Synchronized Translator of Economic Performance |
| HAP | Hazardous Air Pollutant | TAZ | Transportation Analysis Zone |
| HCT | High Capacity Transit | TDM | Transportation Demand Management |
| HOV | High Occupancy Vehicle | TSM | Transportation System Management |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change | UGA | Urban Growth Area |
| MPP | Multicounty Planning Policy | ULSD | Ultra Low-Sulfur Diesel |
| NAAQS | National Ambient Air Quality Standards | USDOT | United States Department of Transportation |
| NAC | Noise Abatement Criteria | USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | USGS | United States Geological Survey |
| Nox | Nitrous Oxide | VHT | Vehicle Hours Traveled |
| NPS | National Park Service | VMT | Vehicle Miles Traveled |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places | VOC | Volatile Organic Compounds |
| PM | Particulate Matter | WAC | Washington Administrative Code |
| PSCAA | Puget Sound Clean Air Agency | WADNR | Washington State Department of Natural Resources |
| PSRC | Puget Sound Regional Council | WDFW | Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife |
| RCW | Revised Code of Washington | WRIA | Watershed Resource Inventory Area |
| SAFETEA-LU | Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users | WSDOT | Washington State Department of Transportation |
| SDEIS | Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement | WSF | Washington State Ferries |
| SEPA | State Environmental Policy Act | | |

