The Importance of the Regional Growth Strategy

The central Puget Sound region is forecast to continue to grow in the coming decades — up to 5 million people will live here by the year 2040. The Regional Growth Strategy provides guidance to cities and counties for accommodating that growth. The strategy is designed to preserve resource lands and protect rural lands from urban-type development. The strategy promotes infill and redevelopment within urban areas to create more compact, walkable, and transit-friendly communities.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy identifies the role that various cities, unincorporated areas, and rural lands categories play in accommodating the region’s residential and employment growth. The strategy is organized around categories of “regional geographies.” The majority of the region’s employment and housing growth is allocated to Metropolitan Cities and Core Cities, which together contain the more than two dozen designated regional growth centers. Larger Cities also play an important role over time as places that accommodate growth. Small Cities provide jobs and housing that support vital and active communities at a less intensive scale. Growth in the unincorporated urban growth area is prioritized for areas that are identified for annexation into adjacent cities. Significantly less growth is allocated to the rural areas than has occurred in the past.

Multicounty Planning Policies. The multicounty planning policies provide guidance for implementing the Regional Growth Strategy. Growth is to occur first and foremost in the designated urban growth area; less development is to occur in rural areas. Centers are recognized for their benefits in creating compact, walkable communities that support transit and other services. Housing and jobs should be located in a manner that provides for easy mobility and accessibility. Investments in transportation and other infrastructure should be prioritized to centers. Countywide target-setting processes for allocating population and employment growth are to be consistent with the regional vision.

Actions. Many of the implementation actions in VISION 2040 contribute to achieving the Regional Growth Strategy. For example, the Regional Council already began working with its member jurisdictions in 2008 to develop a regional...
methodology to guide countywide processes for establishing local residential and employment growth targets. The Regional Council will also monitor and evaluate growth to ensure that it continues to meet VISION 2040’s goals and objectives.

The table presents the regional allocation of population and job growth for the period between 2000 and 2040 by regional geography category, as well as the specific allocation for each of the four counties.

### Population and Employment Growth, 2000 to 2040

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY</th>
<th>KING</th>
<th>DISTRIBUtion BY COUNTY</th>
<th>PIERCE</th>
<th>SNOHOMISH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Cities (5)</td>
<td>People – %: 540,000 – 32%</td>
<td>294,000 – 41%</td>
<td>30,000 – 20%</td>
<td>127,000 – 32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue, Bremerton, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma</td>
<td>Jobs – %: 311,000 – 42%</td>
<td>311,000 – 45%</td>
<td>14,000 – 22%</td>
<td>97,000 – 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Cities and Silverdale (14)</td>
<td>People – %: 363,000 – 21%</td>
<td>230,000 – 32%</td>
<td>18,000 – 12%</td>
<td>75,000 – 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auburn, Bothell, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Lakewood, Lynnwood, Puyallup, Redmond, Renton, SeaTac, Silverdale, Tukwila</td>
<td>Jobs – %: 352,000 – 29%</td>
<td>262,000 – 38%</td>
<td>15,000 – 23%</td>
<td>40,000 – 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Cities (18)</td>
<td>People – %: 181,000 – 11%</td>
<td>98,000 – 14%</td>
<td>16,000 – 11%</td>
<td>23,000 – 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arlington, Bannbridge Island, Des Moines, Edmonds, Fife, Issaquah, Kenmore, Maple Valley, Marysville, Mercer Island, Mill Creek, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, Mukilteo, Sammamish, Shoreline, University Place, Woodinville</td>
<td>Jobs – %: 111,000 – 9%</td>
<td>69,000 – 10%</td>
<td>5,000 – 8%</td>
<td>6,000 – 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Cities (46)</td>
<td>People – %: 148,000 – 9%</td>
<td>39,000 – 5%</td>
<td>12,000 – 8%</td>
<td>57,000 – 15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algona, Beaumont, Black Diamond, Bonney Lake, Brier, Buckley, Carbonado, Carnation, Clyde Hill, Covington, Darrington, DuPont, Duvall, Eatonville, Edgewood, Enumclaw, Fircrest, Gig Harbor, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Hunts Point, Index, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, Medina, Milton, Newcastle, Normandy Park, North Bend, Orting, Pacific, Port Orchard, Poulsbo, Roy, Ruston, Skykomish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, South Prairie, Stanwood, Steilacoom, Sultan, Sumner, Wilkeson, Woodway, Yarrow Point</td>
<td>Jobs – %: 100,000 – 8%</td>
<td>25,000 – 4%</td>
<td>8,000 – 12%</td>
<td>37,000 – 18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated Area (assumed to be annexed over time)</td>
<td>People – %: 362,000 – 21%</td>
<td>43,000 – 6%</td>
<td>45,000 – 30%</td>
<td>87,000 – 22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs – %: 113,000 – 9%</td>
<td>23,000 – 3%</td>
<td>19,000 – 28%</td>
<td>25,000 – 12%</td>
<td>47,000 – 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Area</td>
<td>People – %: 118,000 – 7%</td>
<td>20,000 – 3%</td>
<td>28,000 – 19%</td>
<td>24,000 – 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs – %: 31,000 – 3%</td>
<td>5,000 – 1%</td>
<td>5,000 – 8%</td>
<td>7,000 – 3%</td>
<td>14,000 – 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Increase (which includes counties’ percentage shares of the regional total)</td>
<td>People – %: 1,712,000 – 100%</td>
<td>724,000 – 42%</td>
<td>149,000 – 9%</td>
<td>393,000 – 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs – %: 1,219,000 – 100%</td>
<td>695,000 – 57%</td>
<td>65,000 – 5%</td>
<td>212,000 – 17%</td>
<td>246,000 – 20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

The Regional Growth Strategy provides guidance for counties and cities to use as they develop new local residential and employment growth targets and update their local comprehensive plans. The 2010 update to countywide planning policies provides the opportunity to address revisions for the target-setting process in each county. VISION 2040’s implementation actions require counties to work together to use consistent processes for establishing local housing and employment targets. The Regional Council will collaborate with counties to revise and improve the regional growth targeting methodology, differentiating expectations among the regional geographies.

The state-required update of local comprehensive plans in 2011 provides the opportunity for local jurisdictions to incorporate new residential and employment targets into their comprehensive plans. Cities are encouraged to revise relevant zoning and development regulations to better implement the Regional Growth Strategy. Moreover, cities with designated regional growth centers are responsible for developing and adopting residential and employment targets for their centers. Transit agencies and other service providers also play an important role, and should target funding and decisionmaking to align with the VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy.

### For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and the Regional Growth Strategy is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
Preserving the natural environment, including protecting our water and air, provides important ecological, health, and aesthetic benefits. The environment also plays a strong role in the region’s economy, including recreation and tourism. Environmental stewardship calls on us as individuals and communities to protect and restore our natural systems and resources.

The Importance of Addressing the Environment

The central Puget Sound region enjoys a magnificent natural environment. The area’s abundant natural resources, including forests, lowlands, and aquatic habitats, contribute to our economic and social well-being. Both visitors and new residents are drawn to the region and its communities. However, certain development patterns and practices have damaged and threaten to further disrupt the region’s ecosystems. While some impacts are irreversible, we can curb pollution, change land use and transportation patterns, and better manage our waste to protect key ecological functions and help restore the environment. This includes managing natural resources through better planning and sustainable practices.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 stresses the ecological, economic, and health benefits of preserving and restoring our natural environment. The message of environmental stewardship and sustainability is expressed in VISION 2040’s theme of people, prosperity and planet. This theme recognizes the important relationship between our communities, our economy, and our environment.

VISION 2040 begins with a Framework for a Sustainable Environment and a call to care for and sustain a healthy environment for generations to come. It asserts that more sustainable practices can enhance the natural environment and
built environment, while ensuring that growth results in clean and vibrant communities. The sustainability principles in the Framework figure prominently in subsequent sections of VISION 2040.

**Multicounty Planning Policies.** VISION 2040 calls for stewardship of all aspects of the environment: earth, water, and air. The multicounty planning policies address managing our environment and natural resources in a manner that is ecologically sound. There are provisions that address open space retention and habitat protection, a commitment to a cleaner Puget Sound, and healthy water resources for drinking, agriculture, and wildlife. Compact development and opportunities for transit, walking, and biking are recognized for their potential to improve air quality and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Environmentally friendly building practices are promoted. Clean transportation is emphasized, including high-capacity transit and “green streets” — which feature innovative stormwater management techniques, enhanced landscaping, and state-of-the-art paving materials.

**Actions.** VISION 2040 emphasizes the need for planning approaches at all levels that consider the complexities of the region’s ecosystems. The Regional Council will determine what its ongoing role in regional environmental planning might be. VISION 2040 calls for a regional green space strategy and for an action plan to address climate change. Cities and counties should coordinate their efforts to protect critical areas, maintain healthy habitats, and ensure good water quality.

**What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region**

VISION 2040 recognizes that environmental issues transcend jurisdictional boundaries. Countywide planning policies should address how to advance a more integrated ecosystems approach to planning for the environment. The countywide policies should provide direction for:

1. coordinating critical areas designations and protection,
2. developing compatible processes for habitat assessment and inventory, and
3. establishing standards and targets to monitor water quality. Such coordination should also include tribes and special service districts.

Local jurisdictions and transit agencies should employ environmental system approaches in planning. Cities and counties should pursue more environmentally friendly development practices, such as low-impact development that filters and redirects storm run-off. Jurisdictions and agencies should also analyze climate change impacts when conducting environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act. Local regulations should also advance environmentally sound development and solutions. Zoning codes and development regulations could be revised as needed to advance green development and energy efficient practices, such as Built Green and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) programs.

**For More Information**

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses the environment is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
Climate change has the potential to dramatically affect not only our environment, but also our communities and economy. Significant steps are needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region and to plan for various impacts caused by climate change.

The Importance of Addressing Climate Change

Atmospheric pollution threatens to alter the way the natural environment functions and to affect human health and well-being. In the Pacific Northwest, average annual temperatures are already rising. Reduced snowpack and earlier spring runoffs could result in increasing water shortages and drought conditions. Approximately half of the greenhouse gas emissions in the central Puget Sound region come from cars, trucks, and other transportation. A long-term commitment to sustainable growth, clean transportation, and environmentally friendly development practices will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create healthier communities.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 recognizes that caring for our planet is critical for our personal and economic well-being, both now and for generations to come. While recognizing that climate change is a global phenomenon, VISION 2040 addresses steps the region can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of a changing climate. Provisions relating to climate change are found throughout VISION 2040.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040 provides guidance for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and planning for various impacts caused by climate change. Included is an overarching goal that calls for reducing pollutants which contribute to climate change. Multicounty planning policies commit the region to comply with recent state directives regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases and call on jurisdictions and agencies to include an analysis of climate change impacts when performing environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act. Additional provisions call for reducing the rate of energy use per capita and developing new energy management technology as part of meeting the region’s energy needs.

Actions. VISION 2040 calls for a regional Climate Change Action Plan to investigate ways to: (a) address state climate change initiatives, (b) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and (c) take specific mitigation steps to address climate change impacts. In addition, the Regional Council is directed to update its programming and project selection criteria to address health impacts and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation 2040, the functional transportation plan for VISION 2040, provides specific details for maintaining mobility while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled as required under state legislation.

What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Countywide planning policies should provide guidance for common strategies and programs for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, such as addressing emissions from pass-through traffic.
Cities and counties should address climate change by developing programs and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as planning for impacts associated with change in climate. Local jurisdictions can access tools from the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) to inventory their greenhouse gas emissions and identify ways to reduce pollutants.

Given the significant role of transportation as the primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in our region, local jurisdictions and transit agencies should advance more efficient and less polluting alternatives to driving alone. Regulatory and incentive approaches should also be explored, including changing zoning regulations to promote more mixed-use and higher-density development. These approaches can create more walkable and transit-friendly communities. Local jurisdictions should also encourage alternative energy sources at work and at home. Development practices that retain or restore vegetation and conserve water and energy also can help address issues related to climate change and should be pursued.

For More Information
Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses climate change is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.

Urban land refers to both cities and unincorporated areas within the urban growth area. The Washington state Growth Management Act includes goals to reduce sprawl and ensure that urban growth occurs in areas designated for urban uses, where services can be provided more efficiently. Properly managed land development can protect habitat and ecosystems, minimize pollution, and improve mobility.

The Importance of Addressing Urban Land

Accommodating population and employment growth in a more sustainable way means directing development to the region’s existing urban lands, especially in centers and compact communities. It means limiting growth on rural lands that play a vital role in the region’s economy. Compact development creates vibrant, livable, and healthy urban communities that offer economic opportunities for all, provide housing and transportation choices, and use our resources wisely.

Growth of the Region’s Urban Footprint

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 calls for focusing population and employment growth in cities and limiting population and employment growth in rural areas. The Regional Growth Strategy allocates 93 percent of the region’s future population growth and 97 percent of its employment growth into the existing urban growth area. Cities are divided into four distinct groups: Metropolitan Cities, Core Cities, Large Cities, and Small Cities. The groupings are based on (1) whether a city has a regional growth center, or (2) the total population and employment in the city. An additional geography is Unincorporated Urban Growth Areas. VISION 2040 recognizes that unincorporated urban lands are often similar in character to cities they are adjacent to. It calls for them to be affiliated with adjacent cities for joint planning purposes and future annexation.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040 calls for a more efficient, sustainable, and strategic use of land. Emphasis is placed on centers as compact, pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented locations with a mix of residences, jobs, retail, and other amenities. Strategic investment in urban facilities ensures that services are provided in efficiently. This includes prioritizing the siting of facilities and major public amenities in centers and compact urban communities.

Actions. VISION 2040 directs the Regional Council to develop a framework to review and comment on adjustments to the urban growth area. The Council is also to develop a common regional framework for identifying centers and central places. Existing regionally designated centers are to be monitored and regularly evaluated. Other actions
include work on best practices and approaches for incorporating sustainable development and regional design into various local, regional, and other agency planning processes.

Local jurisdictions should identify strategies to redevelop underutilized lands. Counties should work with adjacent cities to craft municipal standards for development in unincorporated urban areas.

**What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region**

The region’s four counties should develop compatible approaches for adjusting urban growth area designations, based on demonstrated need and an analysis of land capacity. Countywide planning policies should address brownfield and contaminated site clean-up, as well as redevelopable sites. Countywide planning bodies should provide direction in establishing development standards that are consistent between cities and adjacent unincorporated urban areas.

Local comprehensive plans should take steps to ensure that compact communities and centers have densities that support transit and walking. Each city should identify one or more central places for more compact, mixed-use development. Local development regulations should reinforce the effective use of urban land, including tools and practices such as flexible zoning, streamlined development regulations, and density bonuses. Transit agencies and service providers should promote the strategic investment in facilities and services in cities and centers.

**For More Information**

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses urban land use is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
VISION 2040 calls for the creation of central places with a mix of uses and activities. These centers are locations of more compact, pedestrian-oriented development with a mix of residences, jobs, retail, and entertainment. They are identified to receive a greater portion of the region’s population and employment growth. Centers are designed as places for improved accessibility and mobility — especially for walking, biking, and transit. As a result they also play a key transportation role.

The Importance of Centers

Centers provide easy access to jobs, services, shopping, and entertainment. With their mix of uses and pedestrian-friendly design, they can rely less on forms of transportation that contribute to air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Centers also provide community and economic benefits as gathering places and robust locations of commerce and business.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 identifies 27 regional growth centers. These places play an important role as locations of the region’s most significant business, governmental, and cultural facilities. The 18 cities that have one or more regional growth center are expected to accommodate a significant portion of the region’s residential growth (53 percent) and employment growth (71 percent).

Eight regional manufacturing/industrial centers have also been designated. These are locations for more intensive commercial and industrial activity. Both regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers are focal points for economic development and transportation infrastructure investments.
Subregional centers, including downtowns in suburban cities and other neighborhood centers, also play an important role in VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy. These, too, are strategic locations for concentrating jobs, housing, shopping, and recreational opportunities. VISION 2040 calls for each of the region’s cities to develop one or more central place as compact mixed-use hubs for concentrating residences, jobs, shops, and community facilities.

**Multicounty Planning Policies.** VISION 2040’s multicounty planning policies call for the region to focus significant residential and employment growth within centers. Regional centers are prioritized for regional infrastructure and economic development funding. Local jurisdictions with regional growth centers are to adopt housing and employment targets for each center.

**Actions.** VISION 2040 directs the Regional Council to continue to prioritize funding for projects and programs serving regional centers. The Regional Council and its member jurisdictions are also directed to pursue additional funding for regional growth centers to help develop center projects and facilities. The Regional Council is to evaluate existing designated regional centers to assess their consistency with VISION 2040’s goals, as well as their overall performance.

At the countywide level, the Regional Council is directed to develop a common framework for identifying various types of subregional and secondary centers. VISION 2040 directs cities with designated centers to develop a subarea plan for each center. It also calls for these plans to establish transportation mode-split goals for each center, in order to increase walking, biking, and transit use.

**What this Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region**

Countywide planning processes should reflect the common regional framework for identifying subregional centers. They should also ensure that their infrastructure and economic development funding efforts prioritize projects and services in centers. Additional strategies and incentives to encourage the development of centers should also be included.

All jurisdictions, as well as state agencies, transit providers, and special service districts, should do their part to plan for and support the development of centers. This includes streamlining the review process for development proposals for centers that meet regional and local goals to create more compact, mixed-use places. Planning for centers should include incentives for both redevelopment and new projects. Cities with regionally designated centers should ensure that subarea plans for their centers reflect established residential and employment growth targets, incorporate mode-split goals for transportation, and support strategies for a mix of residential housing types, including affordable housing.

**For More Information**

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses centers is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
The Importance of Addressing Rural Lands

In central Puget Sound, rural lands primarily contain a mix of low-density residential development and some resource-based uses. These areas accommodate many activities associated with natural resources, as well as small-scale farming and cottage industries. Managing rural growth by directing urban-type development into designated urban lands helps to preserve vital ecosystems and economically productive lands.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 emphasizes the preservation of rural lands. It calls for continued use of rural lands for farming, forestry, recreation, and low-density development supported by rural services. VISION 2040 acknowledges recent successes in directing growth away from rural lands. However, it also acknowledges continuing conversion pressures, particularly through vesting — a practice that allows development to take place under standards on the books at the time a permit was initially issued. The Regional Growth Strategy calls for rural areas to accommodate only 7 percent of the region’s population growth and 3 percent of employment growth between now and 2040.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040 states that rural and natural resource lands will continue to be a permanent and vital part of the region. Multicounty planning policies call for minimizing environmental impacts to rural lands, while providing long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of rural-based industries. They address the appropriate character, scale, and location of development in rural areas, and call for tools and strategies to permanently protect vital rural and resource lands. Facilities that primarily support urban residents should not be located in rural areas, including urban-sized schools and other facilities. The policies state that new highways and major roads should be avoided in rural areas to limit development pressure and the conversion of rural lands.

Actions. VISION 2040 calls for developing a regional program for the transfer of development rights (TDR), the purchase of development rights (PDR), and other innovative techniques and strategies designed to protect rural areas and
resource lands from overdevelopment. It also calls for the Regional Council to develop a best practices toolkit for sustainable design for both urban and rural areas including low-impact development and green development practices.

What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Curbing the conversion of rural lands is a challenge that requires mutually supportive and coordinated efforts among counties and cities. Countywide planning policies should address the ecological, economic, and lifestyle values of the region's rural lands. This means limiting the amount of growth in rural areas and ensuring that the character of development is at an appropriate type, size, and scale. The overarching goal of preserving rural land as a permanent and vital part of the region needs to be factored into processes for adjusting urban growth areas.

County local comprehensive plans must take steps to reduce the amount of growth in rural areas. This includes employing tools and practices to curb rural development and redirect growth into urban areas. Level-of-service standards appropriate for rural areas must be clearly defined and maintained. Innovative and meaningful strategies to address vested lots and nonconformity development should also be pursued.

All local comprehensive plans should incorporate strategies that reduce development pressure on the region’s rural land. Local governments can provide attractive and sufficient opportunities for sustainable land development within urban areas — such as planning for centers and compact communities, redeveloping underutilized lands, streamlining development processes, and offering incentive programs.

For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses rural land use is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
VISION 2040 recognizes the important relationship between a healthy environment — both the natural and built environment — and healthy people. As a result, health issues, including limiting pollution and reducing transportation’s impact on health, are addressed throughout VISION 2040.

The Importance of Addressing Health
The health and well-being of the region’s people is fundamental to maintaining and improving the region’s sustainability and quality of life. Human health is affected by the health of the natural environment, the strength of our region’s communities and social networks, and the way we build our cities and transportation systems. An increased focus on the impacts of the built environment and the way we travel is leading to collaboration between public health professionals, land use planners, and transportation staff to address human health in regional planning.

What’s in VISION 2040?
VISION 2040 addresses numerous ways that human health can be impacted in the central Puget Sound region, such as exposure to air and water pollution, automobile-related injuries and deaths, chronic diseases related to physical inactivity, and lack of fresh and healthy foods. Attention to health as a consequence of planning and infrastructure decisions can improve quality of life, reduce health care costs, and lessen impacts from lost productivity.

The same air pollutants that harm forests and wildlife are also associated with respiratory disease and reduced lung function in people. Contaminants in the region’s water bodies can be passed into the human food supply through fishing or shellfish gathering. VISION 2040 addresses many of these concerns by providing strategies that will significantly reduce air and water pollution from transportation activities and other sources.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040 states that health considerations should be addressed in regional and local planning and decision-making processes. Design guidelines should encourage construction of buildings and facilities that are healthy to live and work in. Regional farming and food production is encouraged as a way to produce fresh and minimally processed foods.

A core concept of VISION 2040 is improving the safety of the transportation system for drivers, passengers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and others. Multicounty planning policies call for designing transportation facilities to serve all users safely and efficiently. Building and improving sidewalks, bike lanes, trails and paths is a focus, as are land use strategies to bring homes closer to jobs, shopping, services, and recreation activities. Such efforts reduce the need for driving alone and create a better environment for walking and biking.

Actions. The Regional Council is directed to explore land use and planning practices that promote and improve physical, social and mental health. The region will also continue to develop a safe and efficient nonmotorized network that provides connections to and within centers.
What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Throughout the region, wellness issues are already addressed by health agencies that serve both county and city residents. County-wide planning policies should provide further guidance related to a health, safety, physical well-being — particularly as these relate to where we live and how we travel.

Cities and counties should incorporate health provisions in their local comprehensive plans. Land use elements should address "planning approaches that promote physical activity." Transportation elements should include a pedestrian and bicycle component. Jurisdictions should continue to improve the safety of their local transportation systems and make investment decisions that support opportunities to walk or bicycle for recreation and for transportation. This includes "complete street" programs to provide transportation facilities for walking and biking, as well as for vehicles. Improvement programs should invest in building and upgrading sidewalks and trails to link neighborhoods with commercial districts and community facilities. Local regulations should encourage the construction of healthy buildings and promote compact, mixed use, and walkable land use patterns.

For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses health is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.

Additional Resource: King County’s HealthScape Project, http://www.metrokc.gov/healthscape/

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Health and Physical Activity

A study by the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Health estimated costs related to physical inactivity in Washington State was $5 billion in 2002 (primarily through lost productivity). While the lack of activity is largely determined by individual decisions, those decisions are strongly affected by the availability of opportunities for activity. VISION 2040 addresses factors such as pedestrian and bicycle networks, availability of shops and services near homes and near each other, and access to recreation opportunities.

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1 Chapter 36.70A.070(1), Revised Code of Washington
2 Chapter 36.70A.070 (6) (a) (vii), Revised Code of Washington
Ensuring the availability and affordability of a variety of home types is crucial for meeting our region’s housing needs. Homes should be located in places that are accessible and where services can be provided most efficiently.

The Importance of Addressing Housing

To meet the demands of a growing and changing population, the region needs to develop vibrant communities that offer a variety of home choices. The region’s supply of homes should serve all economic segments of the population. It should provide residences that are safe and healthy, attractive, and close to jobs, shopping, and other amenities.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 encourages housing production that meets existing and future needs. It places a major emphasis on the location of housing and promotes fair and equal access to housing. VISION 2040 calls for preserving and expanding housing affordability, incorporating quality and environmentally friendly design in homebuilding, and offering healthy and safe home choices for all the region’s residents.

Multicounty Planning Policies. The multicounty planning policies address housing diversity and affordability, jobs-housing balance, and best practices for home construction. The region needs a diverse and well-distributed mix of homes affordable to both owners and renters in every demographic and income group. VISION 2040 encourages the construction, preservation, and ownership of a variety of homes — including for special needs and middle- to low-income households. VISION 2040 recognizes the importance of having employment, services, and transportation options close to home. Increasing housing choices and opportunities in regional growth centers and employment centers aims to improve efficiency and mobility and strengthen the region’s economy.

Actions. VISION 2040 calls for a regional housing strategy that assesses the specific housing needs of the region, identifies strategies to meet these needs, and coordinates regional housing efforts. The Regional Council is directed to create a regional housing program to offer guidance and technical assistance in developing housing targets and reviewing effective housing elements, and will assemble a clearinghouse of regional housing data and resources.

In conjunction with the Prosperity Partnership, the Regional Council will provide guidance and technical assistance to local governments creating policies that provide housing opportunities for all economic segments. Work already underway includes the creation of the Housing Education and Technical Assistance Program (HETAP), and the sponsorship of legislative actions that enable communities to develop and fund housing in concert with VISION 2040. The Regional Council will review housing elements in local comprehensive plans and provide guidance for developing housing targets, including targets for affordable housing.
What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Countywide planning efforts play an important role in addressing housing, beginning with their targeting processes for allocating residential and employment growth. Countywide planning policies should include common strategies and programs for creating affordable housing. Counties, in cooperation with their cities, should also continue to work on reducing homelessness.

Jurisdictions will need to work proactively to increase the supply of homes. Local governments are asked to demonstrate the ability to accommodate the number of homes needed to meet growth targets. Housing needs addressed in local plans must be coordinated with land use, transportation, capital facilities and economic development. This is key for addressing better connections between where jobs and residences are located, including workforce homes. Local plans and development regulations should allow for a diversity of types of homes and advance the production of affordable housing options. Where needed, approval processes should be revised to better facilitate the production of new units. Development regulations and zoning codes should enable mixed use and denser development in urban centers.

New approaches for increasing the supply of housing should be considered, including allowing smaller residential lots and expanding the range of allowable lot sizes, providing density or height bonuses for including affordable home choices in projects, encouraging infill development; establishing minimum densities, rehabilitating older structures, preserving or improving existing housing stock, providing tax incentives for multifamily housing in centers, and encouraging design to create attractive and compatible development that reflects existing neighborhood character.

For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses housing is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
The region’s economy is a complex system of business, trade, and individual relationships. A robust economy is integral to our region’s environmental, social, and financial well-being. A sustainable economy is marked by a high quality of life for all people in the region, as well as vibrant communities.

The Importance of Addressing the Economy

Good jobs and employment opportunities are primary benefits of having a strong economy. In addition, a healthy and diverse economy is vital for paying for public services — such as education, criminal justice, transportation, and environmental preservation. It allows us to support our arts and cultural institutions, maintain our parks, and build our communities. A sustainable economy enables us to provide for ourselves and our families, as well as to care for those who are vulnerable. It helps in preserving the quality of life that makes the central Puget Sound region such a special place.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 stresses population and employment growth that respects the natural environment and preserves community character. A sufficient supply of homes is needed, affordable for all income levels. Focusing jobs, services, and homes in designated centers accomplishes many of the goals and objectives in VISION 2040.

VISION 2040 guides the Regional Economic Strategy — the federally required economic development strategy for the region — and integrates it with growth management, transportation, and environmental objectives. Within the context of the global economy, our region is evolving toward more high-technology, information age jobs. A commitment to investing in higher education, cultural and ethnic diversity, and improving workers’ skills is of paramount importance.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040’s economic provisions are organized around the topics of business, people, and places. The multicounty planning policies emphasize enriching the region’s businesses and employment market through job retention, growth, and diversification. Small and locally owned businesses are also supported, because they create jobs and make vital contributions to the sustainability of the region’s economy. We need a variety of family-wage jobs to ensure prosperity for all within the region.

The Economic Development District and the Prosperity Partnership

In 2003, the Puget Sound Regional Council merged with the region’s Economic Development District, enhancing public and private partnerships for implementing the coordinated Regional Economic Strategy. This new structure improves coordination efforts for ongoing economic development planning in the region.

The Prosperity Partnership promotes the region’s economic strengths on a national and global stage. It has developed Foundation Initiatives and Cluster Initiatives to further enhance established and emerging industries. More information is available online at www.prosperitypartnership.org.
A large portion of the region’s commerce and employment is located in designated growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers. As a result, these centers are prioritized for economic development and transportation funding. The safe and reliable movement of people, goods and services, and information through the region is recognized as crucial for the region’s economic well-being.

**Actions.** VISION 2040 calls for maintaining the Regional Economic Strategy. The Regional Council is directed to provide assistance to local governments’ economic development planning efforts. Countywide planning processes should pursue investments that assist both regionwide and local economic development. Counties and cities should include an economic development element in their local comprehensive plans as outlined in the Growth Management Act.

**What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region**

Countywide planning policies should promote efforts to leverage public investments that encourage economic development. Local jurisdictions should inventory their economic strengths and deficiencies as they plan for meeting their own needs. Cities and counties should plan for both job and housing growth, using incentives as necessary to improve the balance between the two. Infrastructure should be maintained and enhanced to accommodate economic growth.

**For More Information**

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses the economy is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
A safe and efficient transportation system is essential to the quality of our lives. At the same time, improving mobility in a growing region is a challenging task. Protecting the environment, promoting energy conservation, and enhancing the livability of our communities must be considered as part of meeting our current and future mobility needs.

The Importance of Addressing Transportation

Efficient transportation is about personal mobility and the movement of freight and goods. Sustainable transportation moves people, information, goods and services in an efficient and environmentally sensitive way — with attention to health and safety. In our region transportation is the source for approximately half of the greenhouse gas emissions. It is also a primary source of pollution in Puget Sound itself. For the transportation system to become more sustainable, it must rely on cleaner operations, renewable energy resources, and dependable financing mechanisms.

What’s in VISION 2040?

VISION 2040 provides a framework for long-range transportation planning in the region by integrating planning for freight, ferries, roads, transit, bicycling, and walking. There is an emphasis on clean and safe transportation. Priority is placed on transportation investments that serve centers and compact urban communities. New or expanded roads are to be avoided in our rural areas. Importance is also placed on addressing the mobility needs of all residents — including persons with disabilities, the elderly, the young, and low-income individuals and families.

Multicounty Planning Policies. VISION 2040 addresses federal and state laws designed to ensure continued mobility for people, goods, and services. Maintenance, management, and safety are emphasized. The multicounty planning policies call for better integrated land use and transportation planning. The transportation system should be further developed to support the Regional Growth Strategy. VISION 2040’s emphasis on developing centers includes prioritizing transportation investments in regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers.

VISION 2040 commits to increasing transportation choices while improving the natural environment. It emphasizes on transportation investments that offer greater mobility options, alternatives to driving alone (and reduced vehicle miles traveled), and lower transportation-related energy consumption — which, in turn, lowers particulate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. This is a critical step to meet state benchmarks to address climate change.
**Actions.** Transportation 2040, the functional transportation plan for VISION 2040, implements the Regional Growth Strategy and VISION 2040’s policies and provisions. The Regional Council is directed to continue its work to advance congestion relief strategies, address improved safety, coordinate planning for freight, ferries, and aviation systems, establish a regional nonmotorized network, and pursue new technologies and innovative strategies for the region’s transportation system. The Regional Transportation Improvement Program is to be revised to implement VISION 2040. The Regional Council’s process for certifying the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans is also being updated.

**What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region**

Countywide planning policies should provide guidance for integrating and coordinating transportation planning and decision-making with land use planning and the provision of public services. Planning processes at the county level need to prioritize investments in transportation facilities and services that support centers and transit-oriented development.

Local transportation plans must consider the context and character of communities, as well as environmental impacts and user safety. Context-sensitive design tailors transportation facilities to fit better in local communities and neighborhoods. This includes maintaining or reestablishing friendly and safe environments for pedestrians and cyclists, providing convenient access for all users, and preserving the aesthetic, cultural, and environmental resources.

*Complete streets* are designed to accommodate all road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.

*Green streets* integrate innovative stormwater management techniques. They feature enhanced landscaping that contributes to improving air quality and adds to a community’s aesthetics.

Local concurrency programs are designed to ensure that facilities are adequate to serve the needs of development. Transportation concurrency programs should focus on the movement of people, goods and services, and not just the movement of vehicles.

Subarea plans for centers need to incorporate transportation mode-split goals that address transit, walking, and biking. Transit agencies need to make certain that their planning activities and decisions also support VISION 2040 and the Regional Growth Strategy. Their plans are reviewed by the Regional Council to ensure consistency with regional and local growth management planning objectives.

**For More Information**

Additional information on VISION 2040 and how it addresses transportation is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
Having adequate services and facilities ensures that the region can maintain the health, safety, and economic vitality of our communities. How and where schools, libraries, and other community facilities are sited is also essential for successfully managing growth and curbing sprawl.

The Importance of Addressing Public Services

Communities need adequate infrastructure to ensure that development occurs in an efficient and orderly manner. Public services and facilities should be located in a manner that allows jobs and housing to develop where they are desired and planned. The appropriateness and scale of particular public services does vary significantly between urban and rural areas. For example, urban areas require sanitary and storm sewer systems and other vital resources, while the service needs of rural areas are more limited.

What’s in VISION 2040?

Key urban services addressed in VISION 2040 include wastewater and stormwater systems, solid waste, energy, telecommunications, emergency services, and water supply. As the region plans for growth, conservation and improved efficiencies in providing services are essential. VISION 2040 describes conservation benefits, including financial and energy savings from maximizing the use of existing facilities, reducing pollution, and decreasing waste.

The Regional Growth Strategy highlights the need for strategic investments in services and facilities, especially to support growth and development in centers and compact urban communities. To accommodate growth, services are to be provided in an environmentally sensitive and timely way. Municipalities are identified in the Growth Management Act as the preferred providers of public services — a concept that VISION 2040 embraces as well. Urban types of services, such as municipal sewer systems, are not appropriate in rural areas.

Multicounty Planning Policies. An overarching goal of VISION 2040 is to provide sufficient and efficient public services and facilities in a manner that is healthy, safe, and economically viable. Multicounty planning policies address conservation measures to increase recycling and reduce waste. They also encourage more efficient use of water, low-impact development techniques, and renewable and alternative energy. Additional policies address siting of public facilities, especially regional capital facilities. Jurisdictions and agencies should invest in facilities and amenities that serve centers. Urban facilities are not appropriate in rural and resource areas. Schools and other institutions serving urban residents are discouraged from locating outside the urban growth area. Facilities should also be sited in ways that minimizes adverse social, environmental and economic impacts.

Actions. The Regional Council is directed to determine its appropriate role in addressing regional water issues, including water supply. Counties and cities are asked to work with special service districts to ensure that districts provide services and site facilities in ways that support regional and local growth management planning goals and policies. Local jurisdictions are also asked to perform a consistency assessment of their capital facilities programs to ensure compatibility with growth management objectives and VISION 2040.
What This Means for Other Planning Efforts in the Region

Countywide planning policies should consider improved collaboration with cities and special service districts to identify opportunities for co-location of facilities and services. (An example is placing parks next to schools.) They should also provide guidance for reviewing special district criteria for location and design of new facilities, including schools and other community buildings and structures.

Counties should review special service district plans and identify inconsistencies with regional and local growth management planning objectives. Counties should also work with adjacent cities to ensure that services provided in urban unincorporated areas are compatible with city standards. This will allow for easier annexation of these areas in the future.

As part of the Regional Council’s Plan Review Process, all jurisdictions are to assess their capital facilities programming processes for compatibility with adopted regional and local growth management plans.

Where failing septic systems occur, jurisdictions should work with residents to replace these systems in order to restore and improve environmental quality.

Transit agencies and special districts should provide services in a manner that supports regional and local growth management objectives. Urban facilities and service levels are not appropriate in rural areas. Service providers should consider conservation, demand management, and public health. Facilities should be designed at the appropriate scale for the communities in which they are located and use state of the art techniques. Energy providers should seek to obtain a greater portion of their power from renewable and alternative energy sources.

For More Information

Additional information on VISION 2040 is available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org.
The Regional Council process for reviewing various policies and plans is designed to further regional coordination and to satisfy requirements in the Growth Management Act to certify countywide planning policies and the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans.

The Executive Board adopted the Policy and Plan Review Process in September 2003. That process is also addressed in VISION 2040's Implementation section (Part IV), which was adopted in April 2008. The process guides the review of countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, center plans, and transit agency plans.

**Brief Summary of How the Plan Review Process Works**

**Step 1: Work Starts on Update or Amendments**
- Jurisdiction contacts PSRC regarding schedule and proposed work.
- Use the Plan Review Manual to identify issues and topics to be addressed.
  - PSRC Support:
    - PSRC staff is available as material is drafted for review and assistance.
  - Later Stages of Work on Draft Provisions:
    - Craft a VISION 2040 Statement to be included in the final adopted set of policies or plan.
    - Use the checklist portion of the reporting tool to ensure key provisions have been addressed.

**Step 2: Final Pre-Adoption Review**
- If not previously submitted, provide a completed draft reporting tool to PSRC staff for review, along with the draft revisions — at least 60-days prior to adoption. (Note: This time period corresponds with state agency review of draft amendments.)
- Work with PSRC comments to finalize policies or plan.

**Step 3: After Adoption**
- Submit adopted policies or plan to PSRC.
- Submit any changes to draft policies and plans made during the adoption process.
- PSRC staff drafts a Plan Review Report and certification recommendation — which is first made available to submitter for review and comment.
- Plan Review Report revised as needed and transmitted to PSRC's boards for action.

**A New Requirement: VISION 2040 Statement.**

VISION 2040 calls for countywide planning policies, local comprehensive plans, and agency plans to include a brief statement on how the plan addresses VISION 2040's policies and provisions, including the multicounty planning policies and the Regional Growth Strategy. The statement could be as brief as a few paragraphs. (Note: A model statement is provided in the Plan Review Manual.)
What's Required for Certification?

To be certified, the transportation-related provisions in local comprehensive plans must demonstrate consistency with:

1. **Multicounty planning policies** — the entire set serves as the regional guidelines and principles for both regional and local planning (see diagram on the right)
2. Transportation 2040, the region’s adopted transportation plan
3. **Transportation planning requirements** in the Growth Management Act

**Transportation 2040** includes an investment strategy, guidelines and practices for linking land use and transportation, implementation actions, and a financial section.

**Transportation planning requirements** in the Growth Management Act include:

- Using the same assumptions in planning for land use (and housing) as for transportation planning
- Identifying current and future facility and service needs — and setting service standards — that focus on moving people
- Financing, including a reassessment strategy in case of a funding shortfall
- Interjurisdictional coordination
- Transportation demand management
- Pedestrian and bicycle component

**VISION 2040 Implementation Actions for Local Jurisdictions**

Of the 68 implementation actions in VISION 2040, nine are specifically directed to local jurisdictions. Jurisdictions may opt to incorporate these actions as part of their comprehensive plan, or address them through other planning or implementation processes. These actions address:

- consistent local capital facilities programming
- planning for ecosystems
- identifying underused land
- including an economic development element
- collaborating with special service districts

Cities with designated regional centers are directed by VISION 2040 to develop subarea plans for their centers and to establish mode-split goals in each center.

**For More Information**

Additional materials to assist with local comprehensive planning are available by contacting the Puget Sound Regional Council’s Information Center at 206-464-7532 or info@psrc.org