

# VISION 2040

## & Transportation

people



prosperity



planet



*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](mailto:info@psrc.org).

