ACTION ITEM

May 21, 2009

To: Executive Board

From: Councilmember Mike Lonergan, Chair
Growth Management Policy Board

Subject: Approve Technical Amendment to the VISION 2040 Regional Growth Strategy

AT ISSUE

At its March 26 meeting, the Executive Board was briefed on the Growth Management Policy Board’s recommended technical amendment (comprised of Appendix I-A and I-C) to VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy. VISION 2040 (adopted in April 2008) authorizes the Executive Board to make periodic adjustments to the Regional Growth Strategy prior to each round of target-setting under the Growth Management Act (GMA), to provide counties and their cities with numbers that reflect current jurisdictional boundaries to use in developing new targets. This proposed technical amendment is intended to support counties updating (or considering updating) their local growth targets to align with VISION 2040 in advance of amending their countywide planning policies in 2010.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Executive Board should approve the technical amendment (comprised of Appendix I-A and I-C) to VISION 2040’s Regional Growth Strategy.

DISCUSSION

The amendment would update the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2040 to reflect jurisdictional boundaries and local population and employment as of April 1, 2007. As a result of the amendment, the following small cities would be reclassified to larger cities: Arlington (Snohomish County), Fife (Pierce County), Maple Valley (King County.), Mill Creek (Snohomish County), and Monroe (Snohomish County). The amendment would revise the Population Growth and Employment Growth tables on page 21 of VISION 2040 (General Assembly transmittal document, adopted on April 24, 2008), as well as related illustrative and narrative sections elsewhere in Part II: Regional Growth Strategy, and Part III: Multicounty Planning Policies.

Both the Regional Staff Committee and the Growth Management Policy Board reviewed materials that were drafted for this agenda item and agreed to revisions that have been incorporated into this transmittal package.
A. What Is the Purpose of the Technical Amendment?
The proposed Technical Amendment addresses two situations identified in VISION 2040 (see page 18):
1. Jurisdictional boundary changes due to annexations that have occurred and urban growth area adjustments that have been adopted since the 2000 base year.
2. Reclassification of cities from the Small City to Larger City regional geography due to annexations and/or real growth that occurred since the 2000 base year. (Note: The threshold for being classified as a Larger City is a combined population and employment base of 22,500 – see VISION 2040, pages 18 and 23.)

B. What Does the Technical Amendment Do to the Adopted Regional Growth Strategy?
The technical amendment updates the adopted Regional Growth Strategy as follows:
1. It shifts the 2000 base year population and employment associated with areas that have been annexed since 2000, along with adjusted urban growth areas. It also reclassifies cities into their reassigned regional geographies.
2. It shifts the proportional share of the 2000-2040 Regional Growth Strategy allocation associated with areas that have been annexed, and adjusted urban growth areas. It also reclassifies cities into their reassigned regional geographies.

By doing so, the amendment acknowledges the changed role of reclassified areas in implementing the Regional Growth Strategy. (For example, an unincorporated area that has been annexed by a Core City will share a portion of the role of Core Cities under the Regional Growth Strategy, as will a Small City reclassified as a Larger City.) In addition, the technical amendment makes minor revisions to the 2000 base year population and employment estimates to reflect data improvements and corrections, including the addition of enlisted military personnel (37,600 total) to the 2000 base year employment numbers.

There are some things the technical amendment does not do. The amendment does not change the base year of the Regional Growth Strategy; the base year remains 2000 and the Regional Growth Strategy allocations will continue to represent goals for the 40-year VISION 2040 planning period. The amendment also does not make any changes to the adopted policy guidance underlying the Regional Growth Strategy beyond updating the role of reclassified areas. As the Regional Growth Strategy is revisited in the future, the classification of regional geographies may also be assessed and recommendations for policy guidance may be developed.

C. How Was the Technical Amendment Developed?
PSRC staff worked closely with county technical/demographic staff representatives serving on the Growth Targets Land Use Technical Advisory Committee (LUTAC) to develop the Regional Growth Strategy technical amendment. Crafting the amendment required developing the following two data sets:
1. 2000 estimates of population and employment for each city, unincorporated urban growth area, and rural area by county, as well as each unincorporated community annexed or affected by an urban growth area adjustment between 2000 and 2007.

These estimates were used to shift the 2000 base year population and employment for annexed areas, adjusted urban growth areas and reclassified cities to their reassigned regional geographies. PSRC staff utilized the following data inputs to develop the baseline estimates: 2000 Census data, 2000 UrbanSim parcel-level estimates of housing and household population, PSRC establishment-level employment data, and county geographic information system (GIS) shape files of city boundaries, annexation areas, and urban growth areas.
2. Proxy measures of future residential and commercial development capacity, by county, of individual annexation areas, urban growth area adjustment areas, the Unincorporated Urban Growth Area, and the Rural area, as well as each reclassified Small City and the Small Cities total.

The proxy measures are used to redistribute proportional shares of the 2000-2040 Regional Growth Strategy allocations for the Unincorporated Urban Growth Area, Rural area and Small Cities associated with annexation areas, urban growth area adjustment areas and reclassified cities to their appropriate regional geographies. County buildable lands data and current 2007 population and employment estimates were used as the basis for developing these proxy measures of development capacity.

D. What Is Included in the Technical Amendment Package?
Materials that accompany the proposed technical amendment include:
3. Appendix I-C: Revised table of City Classifications by County by Regional Geography as an update to that published in “Appendix I-A: Preferred Growth Alternative: Technical Tables” of the VISION 2040 Final EIS.
5. Appendix II-B: PSRC Guidance for Aligning Local Growth Targets with the Regional Growth Strategy is an information piece to address moving forward with work at the countywide and local level.

E. The Technical Amendment and the Transportation 2040 Update
The proposed amendment to the Regional Growth Strategy is currently not reflected in the Transportation 2040 Update EIS alternatives modeling and analysis work being conducted. Anticipating that the technical amendment will be adopted by the Executive Board in May 2009, PSRC staff is prepared to incorporate the amended Regional Growth Strategy into the modeling and analysis of the Transportation 2040 preferred alternative, which is scheduled to be crafted over the Spring/Summer of 2009.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Ben Bakkenta at (206) 971-3286 or bbakkenta@psrc.org, or Carol Naito at (206) 464-7535 or cnaito@psrc.org.

Attachments:
(1) Appendix I-A: Regional Growth Strategy Charts & Tables
(2) Appendix I-B: Supplemental Technical Tables
(3) Appendix I-C: City Classifications by County by Regional Geography
(5) Appendix II-B: PSRC Guidance for Aligning Local Growth Targets with the Regional Growth Strategy