

**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:

1. Appendix I-A: Revised Regional Growth Strategy charts and tables as an update to those published on page 21 of the final VISION 2040 document (adopted April 24, 2008).
2. Appendix I-B: Supplemental Regional Growth Strategy technical tables as an addendum to those published in “Appendix I-A: Preferred Growth Alternative: Technical Tables” of the VISION 2040 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
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.
4. Appendix II-A: 2000-2007 Population & Employment Trends and the Regional Growth Strategy provides context for issues associated with recent trends that create challenges.
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](mailto:bbakkenta@psrc.org), or Carol Naito at (206) 464-7535 or [cnaito@psrc.org](mailto: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
  - (4) Appendix II-A: 2000-2007 Population & Employment Trends and the Regional Growth Strategy
  - (5) Appendix II-B: PSRC Guidance for Aligning Local Growth Targets with the Regional Growth Strategy