

Overall themes for a GMPC comment letter on the Draft VISION 2050 Plan as prepared by the IJT for consideration at the July 24th GMPC meeting.

Introduction: King County has been successfully implementing VISION 2040 by focusing the majority of growth into the cities and the urban growth area creating vibrant urban centers, protecting natural resource lands and rural areas, and focusing public investments to support efficient use of the land. King County intends to stay on this pathway of creating a sustainable future for our residents. The central Puget Sound region must continue this foundational work into VISION 2050. King County supports the common planning framework put forth in the Draft VISION 2050 Plan, which largely accomplishes this goal. This comment letter focuses on those issues we'd like to have greater emphasis in VISION 2050.

Overall Themes	Comments
<p><i>The growth pattern should maintain Integrity of the Urban Growth Area and prioritize cities and centers for accommodating growth.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regional Growth Strategy</i> • <i>Implementation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the proposed Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) in the Draft VISION 2050 Plan (RGS-1) • Maintain a centralized growth pattern (RGS-8) • Increase opportunities for people to better connect with jobs and services (RGS-8) • Avoid growth in proximity to the UGA, which increases pressure for UGA expansion • Limit growth in Urban Unincorporated Areas in all four counties (this does not include those areas categorized as High Capacity Transit) • Limit growth in the Rural Area in all four counties (RGS-4, RGS-13) <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for aligning growth targets (page 43) • Ensure balance between the RGS and local planning goals and implementation (RGS-3) • Expand monitoring program to include measures at the jurisdictional level (RC-Action 2)

Overall Themes	Comments
<p><i>VISION 2050 should advance racial and social equity as a cornerstone principle of the Plan.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policies</i> • <i>Implementation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that historic land use patterns that significantly impacted the quality of life in communities including Native Peoples, low income people and communities of color, and immigrants and refugees. Make intentional efforts to address these impacts by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating opportunities for development near transit, jobs, schools, parks, and other attributes of vibrant cultural communities (DP-1) ○ Reducing disparities in health and access for all residents (DP-2, DP-17) ○ Actively preventing and, where necessary, mitigating displacement (H-12, EC-12) ○ Creating opportunities to apply an equity lens to community-based placemaking efforts (DP-5) <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve and update the Displacement Risk Mapping Tool (page 72) • Develop a Regional Equity Strategy (RC-Action 3)
<p><i>VISION 2050 should allow for a variety of housing types while addressing housing affordability for all residents, especially for those in the lowest income categories.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policies</i> • <i>Implementation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge that achieving the Regional Growth Strategy is linked to meeting affordable housing goals because otherwise, people will be pushed out of the county • Address the need for housing that is affordable to low and very low income households (H-4) • Reduce households' housing cost burden by increasing the supply and diversity of housing, especially <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a range of housing choices (H-2) ○ Affordable housing near transit (H-7, H-8) ○ Middle density housing (H-9) • Support interjurisdictional cooperative efforts (H-11) <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Regional Housing Strategy that is modeled after and advances countywide efforts currently underway (H-Action-1) <i>(request that PSRC work with the King County GMPC Affordable Housing Committee when implementing this Action)</i>

Overall Themes	Comments
<p><i>VISION 2050 should reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and address hazard mitigation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policies</i> • <i>Implementation</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal should include numeric goals for reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases – use the adopted targets of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (CC-1) • Acknowledge the link between our development pattern and climate change • Discuss long-term resilience to natural hazards and the threat of earthquakes (PS-19, T-31) • Discuss need for investment in public infrastructure to build a baseline level of resilience • Discuss how to reduce vulnerabilities in our communities, including prioritization of investments in historically underserved communities (CC-6) <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance the implementation of Greenhouse Gas Strategy (CC-Action-1) • Engage in regional resilience planning (CC-Action-2)
<p><i>VISION 2050 should address the financial constraints facing counties and municipalities in implementing VISION 2050.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policies</i> • <i>Implementation</i> • <i>Road Map to Washington’s Future</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for fiscal tools to implement the vision (RC-9) • New funding sources for infrastructure for local governments (RC-10) <p>Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand funding sources to implement the goals and objectives of VISION 2050 (RC-Action 5) • Pay particular attention to the financial challenges faced by counties and municipalities from annexations and incorporations (DP-Action-6) • Pay particular attention to the financial challenges faced by cities with revenue shortfalls caused by the streamlined sales tax and the one percent levy limit on property taxes • Support for the Road Map Action 1.1 “Focus legislative efforts on enhanced state funding and new fiscal tools that enable cities, counties, regions, and state agencies to address needs and manage growth.”