

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA TITLE: Countywide Centers Designation Process

PRESENTED BY: Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT)

Today's Meeting

At today's meeting, the Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) will be briefed on the proposed work to establish a process to designate countywide centers in the countywide planning policies (CPPs).

Overview

In December 2021, the GMPC adopted Motion 21-3 approving the list of Candidate Countywide Centers in jurisdictions in King County (link to [presentation](#)). This interim "candidate" designation allowed King County jurisdictions with local centers that meet countywide center designation criteria to participate in the 2022 and 2024 countywide transportation funding competitions managed by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

The opportunity to establish Countywide Centers arose from an updated regional framework for centers established by the PSRC in 2018. As a part of implementing VISION 2050, the 2021 King County CPPs includes a revised centers framework that has been expanded to recognize *countywide* growth and industrial centers, in addition to *regional* growth and manufacturing/industrial centers. As noted in the motion, jurisdictions were to identify and plan for Countywide Centers as a part of their comprehensive plan updates in 2024 and, following that, the GMPC is scheduled to act in 2025-26 to adopt a more permanent set of Countywide Centers.

2021 Designation Process

In the 2021 process, staff from the Interjurisdictional Team contacted planning directors from all jurisdictions, informing them of the process and criteria, and inviting them to apply for the candidate designation. Jurisdictions had eight months to develop an application expressing the jurisdiction's intent to plan for their candidate center as a part of the 2024 comprehensive plan update and outlining how their proposed center met the criteria established in the proposed 2021 CPPs.

The Interjurisdictional Team (IJT) received applications for 41 Candidate Countywide Growth Centers and one Candidate Countywide Industrial Center from ten jurisdictions across King County. The IJT convened a subcommittee of its membership to review applications and recommend a set of Candidate Countywide Centers to IJT. The subcommittee reviewed the applications against the quantitative criteria within the centers framework and the qualitative expectations for planning in Countywide Centers.

The IJT recommended and the GMPC approved the following 38 locally identified centers as Candidate Countywide Centers (map shown at end of [presentation](#)). To aid jurisdictional planning for Countywide Centers in 2024 comprehensive plan updates and future applications, the IJT communicated specific planning recommendations relative to the centers framework criteria to most applicants; these were related to issues such as geographic size or shape, overlapping boundaries, densities, and zoning. Candidate Countywide Centers that received planning recommendations are indicated with an asterisk.

- Bellevue-BelRed
- Bellevue-Crossroads
- Bellevue-Eastgate*
- Bellevue-Factoria
- Bellevue-Wilburton/East Main*
- Bothell-Downtown*
- Federal Way-South Station Area*
- Kenmore-Downtown
- Kent-Canyon Ridge
- King County-White Center
- King County-Skyway*
- Renton-Grady TOD*
- Renton-Sunset*
- Redmond-Marymoor Village*
- Redmond-Southeast Redmond Industrial Center*
- Seattle-23rd/Union-Jackson*
- Seattle-Aurora/Licton Springs*
- Seattle-Ballard
- Seattle-Bitter Lake*
- Seattle-Columbia City*
- Seattle-Crown Hill
- Seattle-Eastlake
- Seattle-Fremont
- Seattle-Green Lake/Roosevelt
- Seattle-Lake City*
- Seattle-Madison/Miller*
- Seattle-Mt. Baker*
- Seattle-North Beacon Hill*
- Seattle-Othello*
- Seattle-South Park*
- Seattle-Rainier Beach*
- Seattle-Wallingford*
- Seattle-West Seattle Junction
- Seattle-Westwood/Highland Park*
- Shoreline-148th Station*
- Shoreline-185th Station*
- Shoreline-Shoreline Place*
- Shoreline-Town Center*

Future Activity

The 2024 GMPC workplan includes work to establish the process for the upcoming 2025 Countywide Center designations. As part of this, the IJT will review the criteria in the CPPs, communicate with jurisdictions, and develop application materials. Based on IJT review, staff will discuss potential amendments to the CPPs in relationship to jurisdictional planning for their Countywide Centers.

During this same timeframe, the PSRC is reviewing the designated *Regional* Centers and soliciting applications for new Regional Centers. As part of the King County work, IJT staff is coordinating with PSRC so that the two related processes are coordinated.

For More Information

If members and/or their staff are interested in additional detail, please contact Ivan Miller, GMPC lead staff, at ivan.miller@kingcounty.gov or 206-263-8297.