

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

AGENDA TITLE: VISION 2050

PRESENTED BY: Interjurisdictional Team (IJT)

Topics for Discussion:

The Puget Sound Regional Council is in process of updating VISION 2040, the long-range planning document for the four-county region. The updated plan is called VISION 2050. The GMPC will be asked to provide direction to staff on a draft comment letter for consideration at the March 27th GMPC meeting.

Background

VISION 2050 will build on the region's existing VISION 2040 growth strategy to keep the central Puget Sound region healthy and vibrant as it grows. As the region prepares to add more people and more jobs in the coming decades, VISION 2050 will provide a guide for sustaining a healthy environment, thriving communities, and a strong economy. PSRC is updating VISION to consider new information and perspectives about a changing region. The Growth Management Policy Board serves as the lead policy board during the VISION 2050 planning process. Adoption of VISION 2050 by the General Assembly is scheduled for spring 2020.

PSRC is evaluating three regional growth alternatives in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) that will be released in March. The DSEIS will provide an analysis of the alternatives to help inform the PSRC as it selects a preferred alternative for the draft plan, which is to be released in early summer. PSRC will accept comments on the DSEIS through March (*comment period to be finalized.*) This presents an opportunity for the GMPC to comment on what the DSEIS alternatives mean for King County and the region.

This would be the second comment letter that the GMPC has sent to PSRC regarding VISION 2050. The first letter was sent last year addressing scoping for VISION 2050, which is attached to this staff report.

Next Steps:

- At this meeting, the GMPC has the opportunity to give direction to the IJT to draft a letter for their consideration at the next GMPC meeting.
- At the March 27th meeting, the GMPC will consider approval of the letter to PSRC regarding VISION 2050 DSEIS.

King County Growth Management Planning Council

March 19, 2018

Puget Sound Regional Council
ATTN: VISION 2050 Comments
1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Puget Sound Regional Council:

The King County Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) submits the following comments on the VISION 2050 Plan and the SEPA Scoping Notice. The GMPC is chaired by the King County Executive and is a collaborative body with representatives from the four governance caucuses in King County: King County government, the City of Seattle, the City of Bellevue, and the Sound Cities Association representing the remaining cities in the County. Special purpose districts serving King County are also represented. The GMPC has been in existence since 1990 following the adoption of the State Growth Management Act to develop and then to oversee implementation of the King County Countywide Planning Policies.

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 provide efficient facilities and services. King County intends to stay on this pathway of creating a sustainable future for our residents. VISION 2050 should not veer from this successful foundation but rather focus on those issues that were not fully addressed in VISION 2040 to carry the region into the future.

Maintain the Integrity of the Urban Growth Boundary

- Even with unprecedented levels of growth, King County has directed the vast majority of growth into the urban area by allowing more intense development inside cities and the Urban Growth Area.
- In 1990, before growth management plans were adopted, 85 percent of growth occurred in the Urban Growth Area in King County; in 2017, the share increased to 96 percent.
- It is critical for the protection of forests, farms and air and water quality that VISION 2050 and jurisdictions throughout the region continue to steer growth into the current Urban Growth Area.

Emphasize Cities and Centers for Accommodating Growth

- VISION 2050 should retain the structure of the Regional Growth Strategy, which directs 90 percent of employment and 75 percent of population growth to cities.

Among the cities, continue to direct the majority of growth into cities with regional centers. *(Note that these are region-wide numbers)*

- PSRC's recent analysis of regional growth centers and regional manufacturing/industrial centers shows that these places all have the potential to continue accommodating growth into the future.
- Cities and centers make it possible for more people to live near or more easily commute to their jobs, shopping and recreation and to reduce their need to drive to these destinations.
- Concentrating growth in centers also makes delivery of public services and infrastructure more efficient.

Build on Transit

- Since adoption of Vision 2040, light rail service has opened and expanded, and other transit service has also expanded, with more investments already planned.
- To take advantage of these investments, VISION 2050 should encourage more residential and commercial development near places that are well-served by transit and planned for additional high-capacity transit service.

Make Race and Social Equity a Cornerstone of the Plan

- The region should recognize that historic development patterns and policies have made it harder for low-income people and people of color to participate in the region's prosperity.
- VISION 2050 should promote policies that reduce the risk of housing displacement and encourage access to opportunities for all residents.

Use Land Use and Transportation to Address Housing Affordability

- The region is in the middle of a housing affordability crisis that is likely to continue, unless governments act in partnership with for-profit and not-for-profit housing developers and others.
- VISION 2050 should identify strategies that can be used at regional and local scales to make it possible for households at all income levels to afford living here.

Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Address Resiliency

- Concentrating growth into areas designated and planned for transit-oriented development and investing in multimodal infrastructure are examples of growth policies that can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions generated in the region.
- VISION 2050 should identify strategies local governments can adopt to mitigate the effects of climate change in the region.
- VISION 2050 should include policies that help the region be more resilient to climate change impacts.

Include Performance Measures

- Use the update process to develop and adopt measures and benchmarks for VISION 2040's goal statements.

- VISION 2050 should commit to reporting on performance measures on a schedule that supports local jurisdiction's planning activities, especially in advance of statutory plan update deadlines.

VISION 2050 is scheduled to be adopted at the PSRC's General Assembly in the spring of 2020. Meeting this deadline is critical because following adoption of VISION, local governments will have three years to complete their Buildable Lands Reports, update Countywide Planning Policies, extend growth targets to the year 2043, and then complete the state-mandated updates of their Comprehensive Plans by June 2023. This is a very aggressive timeframe for local governments making it essential that PSRC define a scope of work for the VISION update that can be completed and adopted in the spring of 2020. We look forward to engaging in additional conversations with PSRC's boards and leadership to secure agreement on a scope of work that is robust and achievable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dow Constantine
King County Executive
Chair, Growth Management Planning Council



Jeanne Kohl-Welles
King County Council, District Four
Member, Growth Management Planning Council



Jennifer S. Robertson
Bellevue City Councilmember
Member, Growth Management Planning Council

cc: Members, Growth Management Planning Council