

# VISION 2040

people – prosperity – planet

## the Growth Management, Environmental, Economic and Transportation Strategy for the Central Puget Sound Region

How can the four counties of the central Puget Sound region grow to a forecasted 5 million people and over 3 million jobs by the year 2040 while enhancing the region's environment and overall quality of life? VISION 2040 answers that question with an integrated growth management, environmental, economic and transportation strategy.

### The Background

The Puget Sound Regional Council adopted VISION 2040 in April 2008. It is the result of a 3 1/2 year public process undertaken by the region's elected officials, public agencies, interest groups, and individuals to establish a common vision for the future. VISION 2040 consists of:

- An environmental framework
- A regional growth strategy
- Policies to guide growth and development
- Implementation actions
- Measures to track progress

### Toward a Sustainable Environment: A Framework for the Future

VISION 2040 contains a new feature for regional planning, an environmental framework that sets the stage for the document's growth strategy, policies, actions and measures to better assure that the region grows in ways that are consistent with an environment that supports a high quality of life well into the future. It recognizes that the needs of the region's people, its economic prosperity, and the planet are tied together in a mutually supportive and interdependent way.

### A Regional Growth Strategy

VISION 2040's regional growth strategy defines a preferred long-range growth pattern for the central Puget Sound metropolitan area. It looks at the growth forecasted for the region from the year 2000 through 2040, and provides guidance for how different parts of the region can accommodate population and employment growth and fit into an overall regional strategy. The growth strategy focuses the majority of the region's employment and housing growth into the largest cities, which contain more than two dozen designated regional growth centers. Designated centers in these cities are intended to attract residents and businesses because of their proximity to services and jobs, a variety of housing types, access to regional amenities, mass transit service, and other advantages. This focused strategy is designed to relieve growth pressure on sensitive environmental, rural and natural resource areas, as well as on smaller cities that will continue to offer a small-town lifestyle well into the future.

### Multicounty Planning Policies

VISION 2040 establishes the region's multicounty planning policies under the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A). The region's growth management policies are organized into six subjects: Environment, Development Patterns, Housing, Economy, Transportation, and Public Services. These policies play three key roles: (1) give official direction for implementing the regional growth strategy, (2) create a common framework for planning at various levels within the region, including countywide planning, local plans, transit agency plans, and others, and (3) provide the comprehensive policy structure for PSRC functional plans (the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Regional Economic Strategy).

### Actions and Measures

VISION 2040 includes actions and measures. Actions identify ways to implement the policies. Measures provide specific indicators and a monitoring and feedback program to inform decision-makers on the progress being made to implement VISION 2040.

### VISION 2040: Recommitment, New Features, and a Fresh Approach

VISION 2040 recommitments the region to:

- Focus growth in urban areas, concentrated in centers and compact communities.
- Strengthen linkages between land use and transportation planning.
- Preserve and protect rural and resource lands.
- Address the needs of a diverse population.

### New features of VISION 2040

- Moves from a conceptual plan to a clear and specific numeric regional growth strategy based on forecast population and employment.
- A revised structure for multicounty planning policies that includes goals, policies, actions, and measures.
- An environmental framework for decision making and integration of growth management, transportation, and economic development planning.
- An expanded environmental policy section that addresses habitat, water and air quality, and climate change.
- Transportation policies emphasizing increased safety, more choices and better mobility through improved transit, ferries and roads, transportation pricing, and mitigating environmental impacts, particularly greenhouse gas emissions.
- A strengthened economic section focused on business, people, and place based on the Regional Economic Strategy.
- A new emphasis on housing affordability, supply and jobs/housing balance.
- New policies that address the relationship between the built environment and health.
- Attention to regional design.

### For More Information

Please contact the PSRC Information Center at 206-464-7532 or [info@psrc.org](mailto:info@psrc.org), or visit the PSRC website at [psrc.org](http://psrc.org).

