



# VISION 2050 Multicounty Planning Policies

VISION 2050's multicounty planning policies are adopted under the state's Growth Management Act. Multicounty planning policies address regionwide issues within a collaborative planning framework. Counties and cities look to multicounty planning policies to inform updates to countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plan updates. This document compiles the goals and multicounty planning policies for each chapter for quick reference. More about VISION 2050 is available at <https://www.psrc.org/vision>.



Puget Sound Regional Council

## Regional Collaboration

**Goal:** The region plans collaboratively for a healthy environment, thriving communities, and opportunities for all.

### **MPP-RC-1**

Coordinate planning efforts among jurisdictions, agencies, federally recognized tribes, ports, and adjacent regions, where there are common borders or related regional issues, to facilitate a common vision.

### **MPP-RC-2**

Prioritize services and access to opportunity for people of color, people with low incomes, and historically underserved communities to ensure all people can attain the resources and opportunities to improve quality of life and address past inequities.

### **MPP-RC-3**

Make reduction of health disparities and improvement of health outcomes across the region a priority when developing and carrying out regional, countywide, and local plans.

### **MPP-RC-4**

Coordinate with tribes in regional and local planning, recognizing the mutual benefits and potential for impacts between growth occurring within and outside tribal boundaries.

### **MPP-RC-5**

Consult with military installations in regional and local planning, recognizing the mutual benefits and potential for impacts between growth occurring within and outside installation boundaries.

### **MPP-RC-6**

Recognize the beneficial impacts of military installations as well as the land use, housing, and transportation challenges for adjacent and nearby communities.

### **MPP-RC-7**

Give funding priority – both for transportation infrastructure and for economic development

– to support designated regional growth centers and manufacturing/industrial centers, consistent with the regional vision. Regional funds are prioritized to regional centers.

### **MPP-RC-8**

Direct subregional funding, especially county-level and local funds, to countywide centers, high-capacity transit areas with a station area plan, and other local centers. County-level and local funding are also appropriate to prioritize to regional centers.

### **MPP-RC-9**

Recognize and give regional funding priority to transportation facilities, infrastructure, and services that explicitly advance the development of housing in designated regional growth centers. Give additional priority to projects and services that advance and support new and existing affordable housing that includes low- and very low-income residents.

### **MPP-RC-10**

Identify and develop changes to regulatory, pricing, taxing, and expenditure practices, and other fiscal tools within the region to implement the vision.

### **MPP-RC-11**

Explore new and existing sources of funding for services and infrastructure, recognizing that such funding is vital if local governments are to achieve the regional vision.

### **MPP-RC-12**

Support local and regional efforts to develop state legislation to provide new fiscal tools to support local and regional planning and to support infrastructure improvements and services.

### **MPP-RC-13**

Update countywide planning policies, where necessary, prior to December 31, 2021, to address the multicounty planning policies in VISION 2050.

**MPP-RC-14**

Monitor implementation of VISION 2050 to evaluate progress in achieving the Regional Growth Strategy, as well as the regional collaboration, environment, climate change, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, and public services provisions.

**MPP-RC-15**

Promote regional and national efforts to restore Puget Sound and its watersheds, in coordination with cities, counties, federally recognized tribes, federal and state agencies, utilities, and other partners.

## Regional Growth Strategy

**Goal:** The region accommodates growth in urban areas, focused in designated centers and near transit stations, to create healthy, equitable, vibrant communities well-served by infrastructure and services. Rural and resource lands continue to be vital parts of the region that retain important cultural, economic, and rural lifestyle opportunities over the long term.

**MPP-RGS-1**

Implement the Regional Growth Strategy through regional policies and programs, countywide planning policies and growth targets, local plans, and development regulations.

**MPP-RGS-2**

Use consistent countywide targeting processes for allocating population and employment growth consistent with the regional vision, including establishing: (a) local employment targets, (b) local housing targets based on population projections, and (c) local growth targets for each designated regional growth center and manufacturing/industrial center.

**MPP-RGS-3**

Provide flexibility in establishing and modifying growth targets within countywide planning policies, provided growth targets support the Regional Growth Strategy.

**MPP-RGS-4**

Accommodate the region's growth first and foremost in the urban growth area. Ensure that development in rural areas is consistent with the regional vision and the goals of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.

**MPP-RGS-5**

Ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the urban growth area consistent with the regional vision.

**MPP-RGS-6**

Encourage efficient use of urban land by optimizing the development potential of existing urban lands and increasing density in the urban growth area in locations consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy.

**MPP-RGS-7**

Provide additional housing capacity in Metropolitan Cities in response to rapid employment growth, particularly through increased zoning for middle density housing. Metropolitan Cities must review housing needs and existing density in response to evidence of high displacement risk and/or rapid increase in employment.

**MPP-RGS-8**

Attract 65% of the region's residential growth and 75% of the region's employment growth to the regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas to realize the multiple public benefits of compact growth around high-capacity transit investments. As jurisdictions plan for growth targets, focus development near high-capacity transit to achieve the regional goal.

**MPP-RGS-9**

Focus a significant share of population and employment growth in designated regional growth centers.

**MPP-RGS-10**

Focus a significant share of employment growth in designated regional manufacturing/industrial centers.

**MPP-RGS-11**

Encourage growth in designated countywide centers.

**MPP-RGS-12**

Avoid increasing development capacity inconsistent with the Regional Growth Strategy in regional geographies not served by high-capacity transit.

**MPP-RGS-13**

Plan for commercial, retail, and community services that serve rural residents to locate in neighboring cities and existing activity areas to avoid the conversion of rural land into commercial uses.

**MPP-RGS-14**

Manage and reduce rural growth rates over time, consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy, to maintain rural landscapes and lifestyles and protect resource lands and the environment.

**MPP-RGS-15**

Support the establishment of regional funding sources to acquire conservation easements in rural areas.

**MPP-RGS-16**

Identify strategies, incentives, and approaches to facilitate the annexation or incorporation of unincorporated areas within urban growth areas into cities.

## Environment

**Goal:** The region cares for the natural environment by protecting and restoring natural systems, conserving habitat, improving water quality, and reducing air pollutants. The health of all residents and the economy is connected to the health of the environment. Planning at all levels considers the impacts of land use, development, and transportation on the ecosystem.

**MPP-En-1**

Develop and implement regionwide environmental strategies, coordinating among local jurisdictions, tribes, and countywide planning groups.

**MPP-En-2**

Use integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessment at regional, countywide, and local levels.

**MPP-En-3**

Maintain and, where possible, improve air and water quality, soils, and natural systems to ensure the health and well-being of people, animals, and plants. Reduce the impacts of transportation on air and water quality and climate change.

**MPP-En-4**

Ensure that all residents of the region, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment.

**MPP-En-5**

Locate development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features. Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices, including design, materials, construction, and on-going maintenance.

**MPP-En-6**

Use the best information available at all levels of planning, especially scientific information, when establishing and implementing environmental standards established by any level of government.

**MPP-En-7**

Reduce and mitigate noise and light pollution caused by transportation, industries, public facilities, and other sources.

**MPP-En-8**

Reduce impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by noise, air pollution, or other environmental impacts.

**MPP-En-9**

Enhance urban tree canopy to support community resilience, mitigate urban heat, manage stormwater, conserve energy, improve mental and physical health, and strengthen economic prosperity.

**MPP-En-10**

Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands to protect and enhance habitat, water quality, and other ecosystem services, including protection of watersheds and wellhead areas that are sources of the region's drinking water supplies.

**MPP-En-11**

Designate, protect, and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas through mechanisms, such as the review and comment of countywide planning policies and local plans and provisions.

**MPP-En-12**

Identify, preserve, and enhance significant regional open space networks and linkages across jurisdictional boundaries through implementation and update of the Regional Open Space Conservation Plan.

**MPP-En-13**

Preserve and restore native vegetation and tree canopy, especially where it protects habitat and contributes to overall ecological function.

**MPP-En-14**

Identify and protect wildlife corridors both inside and outside the urban growth area.

**MPP-En-15**

Provide parks, trails, and open space within walking distance of urban residents. Prioritize historically underserved communities for open space improvements and investments.

**MPP-En-16**

Preserve and enhance habitat to support healthy wildlife and accelerate the recovery of salmon, orca, and other threatened and endangered species and species of local importance.

**MPP-En-17**

Maintain and restore natural hydrological functions and water quality within the region's ecosystems and watersheds to recover the health of Puget Sound.

**MPP-En-18**

Reduce stormwater impacts from transportation and development through watershed planning, redevelopment and retrofit projects, and low-impact development.

**MPP-En-19**

Reduce the use of toxic pesticides, fertilizers, and other products to the extent feasible and identify alternatives that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

**MPP-En-20**

Restore – where appropriate and possible – the region's freshwater and marine shorelines, watersheds, and estuaries to a natural condition for ecological function and value.

**MPP-En-21**

Continue efforts to reduce pollutants from transportation activities, including through the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles and increasing alternatives to driving alone, as well as design and land use.

**MPP-En-22**

Meet all federal and state air quality standards and reduce emissions of air toxics and greenhouse gases.

**Climate Change**

**Goal:** The region substantially reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (50% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) and prepares for climate change impacts.

**MPP-CC-1**

Advance the adoption and implementation of actions that substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of state, regional, and local emissions reduction goals, including targets adopted by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

**MPP-CC-2**

Reduce building energy use through green building and retrofit of existing buildings.

**MPP-CC-3**

Reduce greenhouse gases by expanding the use of conservation and alternative energy sources, electrifying the transportation system, and reducing vehicle miles traveled by increasing alternatives to driving alone.

**MPP-CC-4**

Protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon such as forests, farmland, wetlands, estuaries, and urban tree canopy.

**MPP-CC-5**

Pursue the development of energy management technology as part of meeting the region's energy needs.

**MPP-CC-6**

Address impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been disproportionately affected by climate change.

**MPP-CC-7**

Advance state, regional, and local actions that support resilience and adaptation to climate change impacts.

**MPP-CC-8**

Increase resilience by identifying and addressing the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy. Prioritize actions to protect the most vulnerable populations.

**MPP-CC-9**

Identify and address the impacts of climate change on the region's hydrological systems.

**MPP-CC-10**

Address rising sea water by siting and planning for relocation of hazardous industries and essential public services away from the 500-year floodplain.

**MPP-CC-11**

Support achievement of regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals through countywide planning policies and local comprehensive plans.

**MPP-CC-12**

Prioritize transportation investments that support achievement of regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, such as by reducing vehicle miles traveled.

## Development Patterns

**Goal:** The region creates healthy, walkable, compact, and equitable transit-oriented communities that maintain unique character and local culture, while conserving rural areas and creating and preserving open space and natural areas.

### Building Urban Communities

**MPP-DP-1**

Develop high-quality, compact urban communities throughout the region's urban growth area that impart a sense of place, preserve local character, provide for mixed uses and choices in housing types, and encourage walking, bicycling, and transit use.

**MPP-DP-2**

Reduce disparities in access to opportunity for the region's residents through inclusive community planning and targeted public and private investments that meet the needs of current and future residents and businesses.

**MPP-DP-3**

Enhance existing neighborhoods to provide a high degree of connectivity in the street network to accommodate walking, bicycling, and transit use, and sufficient public spaces.

**MPP-DP-4**

Support the transformation of key underutilized lands, such as surplus public lands or environmentally contaminated lands, to higher-density, mixed-use areas to complement the development of centers and the enhancement of existing neighborhoods.

**MPP-DP-5**

Identify, protect and enhance those elements and characteristics that give the central Puget Sound region its identity, especially the natural visual resources and positive urban form elements.

**MPP-DP-6**

Preserve significant regional historic, visual, and cultural resources, including public views, landmarks, archaeological sites, historic and cultural landscapes, and areas of special character.

**MPP-DP-7**

Consider the potential impacts of development to culturally significant sites and tribal treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering grounds.

**MPP-DP-8**

Conduct inclusive engagement to identify and address the diverse needs of the region's residents.

**MPP-DP-9**

Support urban design, historic preservation, and arts to enhance quality of life, support local culture, improve the natural and human-made environments, promote health and well-being, contribute to a prosperous economy, and increase the region's resiliency in adapting to changes or adverse events.

**MPP-DP-10**

Design public buildings and spaces that contribute to a sense of community and a sense of place.

**MPP-DP-11**

Identify and create opportunities to develop parks, civic places (including schools) and

public spaces, especially in or adjacent to centers.

**MPP-DP-12**

Design transportation projects and other infrastructure to achieve community development objectives and improve communities.

**MPP-DP-13**

Allow natural boundaries to help determine the routes and placement of infrastructure connections and improvements.

**MPP-DP-14**

Recognize and work with linear systems that cross jurisdictional boundaries – including natural systems, continuous land use patterns, and transportation and infrastructure systems – in community planning, development, and design.

## Promoting Healthy Communities

**MPP-DP-15**

Design communities to provide safe and welcoming environments for walking and bicycling.

**MPP-DP-16**

Address and integrate health and well-being into appropriate regional, countywide, and local planning practices and decision-making processes.

**MPP-DP-17**

Promote cooperation and coordination among transportation providers, local government, and developers to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are designed to promote and improve physical, mental, and social health and reduce the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environments.

**MPP-DP-18**

Address existing health disparities and improve health outcomes in all communities.

**MPP-DP-19**

Develop and implement design guidelines to encourage construction of healthy buildings and facilities to promote healthy people.

**MPP-DP-20**

Support agricultural, farmland, and aquatic uses that enhance the food system in the central Puget Sound region and its capacity to produce fresh and minimally processed foods.

## Centers: Supporting Connections to Opportunity

**MPP-DP-21**

Provide a regional framework for designating and evaluating regional growth centers.

**MPP-DP-22**

Plan for densities that maximize benefits of transit investments in high-capacity transit station areas that are expected to attract significant new population or employment growth.

**MPP-DP-23**

Evaluate planning in regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas for their potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of marginalized residents and businesses. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts.

**MPP-DP-24**

Provide a regional framework for designating and evaluating regional manufacturing/industrial centers.

**MPP-DP-25**

Support the development of centers within all jurisdictions, including high-capacity transit station areas and countywide and local centers.

**MPP-DP-26**

Implement the adopted framework to designate countywide centers to ensure compatibility within the region.

## Annexation and Incorporation

**MPP-DP-27**

Affiliate all urban unincorporated lands appropriate for annexation with an adjacent city or identify those that may be feasible for incorporation. To fulfill the Regional Growth Strategy, while promoting economical administration and services, annexation is preferred over incorporation.

**MPP-DP-28**

Support joint planning between cities, counties, and service providers to work cooperatively in planning for urban unincorporated areas to ensure an orderly transition to city governance, including efforts such as: (a) establishing urban development standards, (b) addressing service and infrastructure financing, and (c) transferring permitting authority.

**MPP-DP-29**

Support annexation and incorporation in urban unincorporated areas by planning for phased growth of communities to be economically viable, supported by the urban infrastructure, and served by public transit.

**MPP-DP-30**

Support the provision and coordination of urban services to unincorporated urban areas by the adjacent city or, where appropriate, by the county or an existing utility district as an interim approach.

## Rural Areas and Natural Resource Lands

**MPP-DP-31**

Promote transit service to and from existing cities in rural areas.

**MPP-DP-32**

Contribute to improved ecological functions and more appropriate use of rural lands by minimizing impacts through innovative and environmentally sensitive land use management and development practices.



**MPP-DP-33**

Do not allow urban net densities in rural and resource areas.

**MPP-DP-34**

Avoid new fully contained communities outside of the designated urban growth area because of their potential to create sprawl and undermine state and regional growth management goals.

**MPP-DP-35**

In the event that a proposal is made for creating a new fully contained community, the county shall make the proposal available to other counties and to the Regional Council for advance review and comment on regional impacts.

**MPP-DP-36**

Use existing and new tools and strategies to address vested development to ensure that future growth meets existing permitting and development standards and prevents further fragmentation of rural lands.

**MPP-DP-37**

Ensure that development occurring in rural areas is rural in character and is focused into communities and activity areas.

**MPP-DP-38**

Maintain the long-term viability of permanent rural land by avoiding the construction of new highways and major roads in rural areas.

**MPP-DP-39**

Support long-term solutions for the environmental and economic sustainability of agriculture and forestry within rural areas.

**MPP-DP-40**

Protect and enhance significant open spaces, natural resources, and critical areas.

**MPP-DP-41**

Establish best management practices that protect the long-term integrity of the natural environment, adjacent land uses, and the long-term productivity of resource lands.

**MPP-DP-42**

Support the sustainability of designated resource lands. Do not convert these lands to other uses.

**MPP-DP-43**

Ensure that resource lands and their related economic activities are not adversely impacted by development on adjacent non-resource lands.

**MPP-DP-44**

Work to conserve valuable rural and resource lands through techniques, such as conservation programs, transfer of development rights, and the purchase of development rights. Focus growth within the urban growth area, especially cities, to lessen pressures to convert rural and resource areas to residential uses.

**MPP-DP-45**

Avoid growth in rural areas that cannot be sufficiently served by roads, utilities, and services at rural levels of service.

### Collaborating to Preserve and Enhance Important Uses

**MPP-DP-46**

Support and provide incentives to increase the percentage of new development and redevelopment—both public and private—to be built at higher-performing energy and environmental standards.

**MPP-DP-47**

Streamline development standards and regulations for residential and commercial development and public projects, especially in centers and high-capacity transit station areas, to provide flexibility and to accommodate a broader range of project types consistent with the regional vision.

**MPP-DP-48**

Protect the continued operation of general aviation airports from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

**MPP-DP-49**

Protect military lands from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

**MPP-DP-50**

Protect industrial zoning and manufacturing/ industrial centers from encroachment by incompatible uses and development on adjacent land.

**MPP-DP-51**

Protect tribal reservation lands from encroachment by incompatible land uses and development both within reservation boundaries and on adjacent land.

## Supporting Growth Through Concurrency

**MPP-DP-52**

Develop, implement, and evaluate concurrency programs and methods that fully consider growth targets, service needs, and level-of-service standards. Focus level-of-service standards for transportation on the movement of people and goods instead of only on the movement of vehicles.

**MPP-DP-53**

Address nonmotorized, pedestrian, and other multimodal types of transportation options in concurrency programs – both in assessment and mitigation.

**MPP-DP-54**

Tailor concurrency programs for centers and other subareas to encourage development that can be supported by transit.

## Housing

**Goal:** The region preserves, improves, and expands its housing stock to provide a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices to every resident. The region continues to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people.

**MPP-H-1**

Plan for housing supply, forms, and densities to meet the region’s current and projected needs consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy and to make significant progress towards jobs/housing balance.

**MPP-H-2**

Provide a range of housing types and choices to meet the housing needs of all income levels and demographic groups within the region.

**MPP-H-3**

Achieve and sustain – through preservation, rehabilitation, and new development – a sufficient supply of housing to meet the needs of low-income, moderate-income, middle-income, and special needs individuals and households that is equitably and rationally distributed throughout the region.

**MPP-H-4**

Address the need for housing affordable to low- and very low-income households, recognizing that these critical needs will require significant public intervention through funding, collaboration, and jurisdictional action.

**MPP-H-5**

Promote homeownership opportunities for low-income, moderate-income, and middle-income families and individuals while recognizing historic inequities in access to homeownership opportunities for communities of color.

**MPP-H-6**

Develop and provide a range of housing choices for workers at all income levels throughout the region that is accessible to job centers and attainable to workers at anticipated wages.

**MPP-H-7**

Expand the supply and range of housing at densities to maximize the benefits of transit investments, including affordable units, in growth centers and station areas throughout the region.

### **MPP-H-8**

Promote the development and preservation of long-term affordable housing options in walking distance to transit by implementing zoning, regulations, and incentives.

### **MPP-H-9**

Expand housing capacity for moderate density housing to bridge the gap between single-family and more intensive multifamily development and provide opportunities for more affordable ownership and rental housing that allows more people to live in neighborhoods across the region.

### **MPP-H-10**

Encourage jurisdictions to review and streamline development standards and regulations to advance their public benefit, provide flexibility, and minimize additional costs to housing.

### **MPP-H-11**

Encourage interjurisdictional cooperative efforts and public-private partnerships to advance the provision of affordable and special needs housing.

### **MPP-H-12**

Identify potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of low-income households and marginalized populations that may result from planning, public investments, private redevelopment, and market pressure. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts to the extent feasible.

## **Economy**

**Goal:** The region has a prospering and sustainable regional economy by supporting businesses and job creation, investing in all people and their health, sustaining environmental quality, and creating great central places, diverse communities, and high quality of life.

### **MPP-Ec-1**

Support economic development activities that help to recruit, retain, expand, or diversify

the region's businesses, targeted towards businesses that provide living-wage jobs.

### **MPP-Ec-2**

Foster a positive business climate by encouraging regionwide and statewide collaboration among business, government, utilities, education, labor, military, workforce development, and other nonprofit organizations.

### **MPP-Ec-3**

Support efforts to retain and expand industry clusters that manufacture goods and provide services for export, increasing capital in the region.

### **MPP-Ec-4**

Leverage the region's position as an international gateway by supporting businesses, airports, seaports, and agencies involved in trade related activities.

### **MPP-Ec-5**

Recognize the region's airports as critical economic assets that support the region's businesses, commercial aviation activities, aerospace manufacturing, general aviation, and military missions.

### **MPP-Ec-6**

Ensure the efficient flow of people, goods, services, and information in and through the region with infrastructure investments, particularly in and connecting designated centers, to meet the needs of the regional economy.

### **MPP-Ec-7**

Foster a supportive environment for business startups, small businesses, locally owned and women- and minority-owned businesses to help them continue to prosper.

### **MPP-Ec-8**

Encourage the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to incorporate environmental and social responsibility into their practices.

**MPP-Ec-9**

Promote economic activity and employment growth that creates widely shared prosperity and sustains a diversity of living wage jobs for the region's residents.

**MPP-Ec-10**

Ensure that the region has a high-quality education system that is accessible to all of the region's residents.

**MPP-Ec-11**

Ensure that the region has high-quality and accessible training programs that give people opportunities to learn, maintain, and upgrade skills necessary to meet the current and forecast needs of the regional and global economy.

**MPP-Ec-12**

Identify potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of existing businesses that may result from redevelopment and market pressure. Use a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts to the extent feasible.

**MPP-Ec-13**

Promote equity and access to opportunity in economic development policies and programs. Expand employment opportunity to improve the region's shared economic future.

**MPP-Ec-14**

Foster appropriate and targeted economic growth in areas with low and very low access to opportunity to improve access to opportunity for current and future residents of these areas.

**MPP-Ec-15**

Support and recognize the contributions of the region's culturally and ethnically diverse communities and Native Tribes, including helping the region continue to expand its international economy.

**MPP-Ec-16**

Ensure that economic development sustains and respects the region's environment and encourages development of established and emerging industries, technologies, and services that promote environmental sustainability, especially those addressing climate change and resilience.

**MPP-Ec-17**

Preserve and enhance the region's unique attributes and each community's distinctive identity and design as economic assets as the region grows.

**MPP-Ec-18**

Develop and provide a range of job opportunities throughout the region to create a much closer balance and match between jobs and housing.

**MPP-Ec-19**

Support economic activity and job creation in cities in the rural areas at a size, scale, and type compatible with these communities.

**MPP-Ec-20**

Sustain and enhance arts and cultural institutions to foster an active and vibrant community life in every part of the region.

**MPP-Ec-21**

Concentrate a significant amount of economic growth in designated centers and connect them to each other in order to strengthen the region's economy and communities and to promote economic opportunity.

**MPP-Ec-22**

Maximize the use of existing designated manufacturing/industrial centers by focusing appropriate types and amounts of employment growth in these areas and by protecting them from incompatible adjacent uses.

### **MPP-Ec-23**

Support economic activity in rural and natural resource areas at a size and scale that is compatible with the long term integrity and productivity of these lands.

## **Transportation**

**Goal:** The region has a sustainable, equitable, affordable, safe, and efficient multimodal transportation system, with specific emphasis on an integrated regional transit network that supports the Regional Growth Strategy and promotes vitality of the economy, environment, and health.

### **The Regional Transportation Plan**

#### **MPP-T-1**

Maintain and operate transportation systems to provide safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people, goods, and services.

#### **MPP-T-2**

Protect the investment in the existing system and lower overall life-cycle costs through effective maintenance and preservation programs.

#### **MPP-T-3**

Reduce the need for new capital improvements through investments in operations, pricing programs, demand management strategies, and system management activities that improve the efficiency of the current system.

#### **MPP-T-4**

Improve the safety of the transportation system and, in the long term, achieve the state's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries.

#### **MPP-T-5**

Develop a transportation system that minimizes negative impacts to, and promotes, human health.

#### **MPP-T-6**

Pursue alternative transportation financing methods, such as user fees, tolls, and other

pricing mechanisms to manage and fund the maintenance, improvement, preservation, and operation of the transportation system.

#### **MPP-T-7**

Fund, complete, and operate the highly efficient, multimodal system in the Regional Transportation Plan to support the Regional Growth Strategy. Coordinate WSDOT, regional, and local transportation agencies, in collaboration with the state legislature, to build the multimodal system.

#### **MPP-T-8**

Strategically expand capacity and increase efficiency of the transportation system to move goods, services, and people consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy. Focus on investments that produce the greatest net benefits to people and minimize the environmental impacts of transportation.

#### **MPP-T-9**

Implement transportation programs and projects that provide access to opportunities while preventing or mitigating negative impacts to people of color, people with low incomes, and people with special transportation needs.

#### **MPP-T-10**

Ensure mobility choices for people with special transportation needs, including persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, and people with low incomes.

#### **MPP-T-11**

Design, construct, and operate a safe and convenient transportation system for all users while accommodating the movement of freight and goods, using best practices and context sensitive design strategies.

#### **MPP-T-12**

Emphasize transportation investments that provide and encourage alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle travel and increase travel options, especially to and within centers and along corridors connecting centers.

**MPP-T-13**

Increase the proportion of trips made by transportation modes that are alternatives to driving alone, especially to and within centers and along corridors connecting centers, by ensuring availability of reliable and competitive transit options.

**MPP-T-14**

Integrate transportation systems to make it easy for people and freight to move from one mode or technology to another.

**MPP-T-15**

Prioritize investments in transportation facilities and services in the urban growth area that support compact, pedestrian- and transit-oriented densities and development.

**MPP-T-16**

Improve local street patterns – including their design and how they are used – for walking, bicycling, and transit use to enhance communities, connectivity, and physical activity.

**MPP-T-17**

Promote and incorporate bicycle and pedestrian travel as important modes of transportation by providing facilities and navigable connections.

**MPP-T-18**

Promote coordination among transportation providers and local governments to ensure that joint- and mixed-use developments are designed in a way that improves overall mobility and accessibility to and within such development.

**MPP-T-19**

Design transportation programs and projects to support local and regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas.

**MPP-T-20**

Promote the preservation of existing rights-of-way for future high-capacity transit.

**MPP-T-21**

Design transportation facilities to fit within the context of the built or natural environments in which they are located.

**MPP-T-22**

Avoid construction of major roads and capacity expansion on existing roads in rural and resource areas. Where increased roadway capacity is warranted to support safe and efficient travel through rural areas, appropriate rural development regulations and strong commitments to access management should be in place prior to authorizing such capacity expansion in order to prevent unplanned growth in rural areas.

## Supporting the Economy

**MPP-T-23**

Make transportation investments that improve economic and living conditions so that industries and skilled workers continue to be retained and attracted to the region.

**MPP-T-24**

Improve key facilities connecting the region to national and world markets to support the economic vitality of the region.

**MPP-T-25**

Ensure the freight system supports the growing needs of global trade and state, regional and local distribution of goods and services.

**MPP-T-26**

Maintain and improve the existing multimodal freight transportation system in the region to increase reliability, efficiency, and mobility, and prepare for continuing growth in freight and goods movement.

**MPP-T-27**

Coordinate regional planning with rail line capacity expansion plans and support capacity expansion that is compatible with state, regional, and local plans.

### **MPP-T-28**

Promote coordinated planning and effective management to optimize the region's aviation system in a manner that minimizes health, air quality, and noise impacts to communities, including historically marginalized communities. Consider demand management alternatives as future growth needs are analyzed, recognizing capacity constraints at existing facilities and the time and resources necessary to build new ones. Support the ongoing process of development of a new commercial aviation facility in Washington State.

## **Protecting the Environment**

### **MPP-T-29**

Support the transition to a cleaner transportation system through investments in zero emission vehicles, low carbon fuels and other clean energy options.

### **MPP-T-30**

Provide infrastructure sufficient to support widespread electrification of the transportation system.

### **MPP-T-31**

Advance the resilience of the transportation system by incorporating redundancies, preparing for disasters and other impacts, and coordinated planning for system recovery.

### **MPP-T-32**

Reduce stormwater pollution from transportation facilities and improve fish passage, through retrofits and updated design standards. Where feasible, integrate with other improvements to achieve multiple benefits and cost efficiencies.

## **Innovation**

### **MPP-T-33**

Prepare for changes in transportation technologies and mobility patterns, to support communities with a sustainable and efficient transportation system.

### **MPP-T-34**

Be responsive to changes in mobility patterns and needs for both people and goods, and encourage partnerships with the private sector, where applicable.

## **Public Services**

**Goal:** The region supports development with adequate public facilities and services in a timely, coordinated, efficient, and cost-effective manner that supports local and regional growth planning objectives.

### **MPP-PS-1**

Protect and enhance the environment and public health and safety when providing services and facilities.

### **MPP-PS-2**

Promote affordability and equitable access of public services to all communities, especially the historically underserved. Prioritize investments to address disparities.

### **MPP-PS-3**

Time and phase services and facilities to guide growth and development in a manner that supports the Regional Growth Strategy.

### **MPP-PS-4**

Promote demand management and the conservation of services and facilities prior to developing new facilities.

### **MPP-PS-5**

Do not provide urban services in rural areas. Design services for limited access when they are needed to solve isolated health and sanitation problems, so as not to increase the development potential of the surrounding rural area.

### **MPP-PS-6**

Encourage the design of public facilities and utilities in rural areas to be at a size and scale appropriate to rural locations, so as not to increase development pressure.

**MPP-PS-7**

Obtain urban services from cities or appropriate regional service providers. Encourage cities, counties, and special purpose districts, including sewer, water, and fire districts, to coordinate planning efforts, agree on optimal ways to provide efficient service, and support consolidations that would improve service to the public.

**MPP-PS-8**

Develop conservation measures to reduce solid waste and increase recycling.

**MPP-PS-9**

Promote improved conservation and more efficient use of water, as well as the increased use of reclaimed water, to reduce wastewater generation and ensure water availability.

**MPP-PS-10**

Serve new development within the urban growth area with sanitary sewer systems or fit it with dry sewers in anticipation of connection to the sewer system. Alternative technology to sewers should be considered only when it can be shown to produce treatment at standards that are equal to or better than the sewer system and where a long-term maintenance plan is in place.

**MPP-PS-11**

Replace failing septic systems within the urban growth area with sanitary sewers or alternative technology that is comparable or better.

**MPP-PS-12**

Use innovative and state-of-the-art design and techniques when replacing septic tanks to restore and improve environmental quality.

**MPP-PS-13**

Promote the use of renewable energy resources to meet the region's energy needs.

**MPP-PS-14**

Reduce the rate of energy consumption through conservation and alternative energy forms to extend the life of existing facilities and infrastructure.

**MPP-PS-15**

Support the necessary investments in utility infrastructure to facilitate moving to low-carbon energy sources.

**MPP-PS-16**

Plan for the provision of telecommunication infrastructure to provide access to residents and businesses in all communities, especially underserved areas.

**MPP-PS-17**

Coordinate, design, and plan for public safety services and programs, including emergency management. These efforts may be interjurisdictional.

**MPP-PS-18**

Locate community facilities and health and human services in centers and near transit facilities for all to access services conveniently.

**MPP-PS-19**

Support efforts to increase the resilience of public services, utilities, and infrastructure by preparing for disasters and other impacts and coordinated planning for system recovery.

**MPP-PS-20**

Consider climate change, economic, and health impacts when siting and building essential public services and facilities.

**MPP-PS-21**

Consider the potential impacts of climate change and fisheries protection on the region's water supply.

**MPP-PS-22**

Provide residents of the region with access to high quality drinking water that meets or is better than federal and state requirements.

**MPP-PS-23**

Promote coordination among local and tribal governments and water providers and suppliers to meet long-term water needs in the region in a manner that supports the region's growth strategy.



**MPP-PS-24**

Reduce the per capita rate of water consumption through conservation, efficiency, reclamation, and reuse.

**MPP-PS-25**

Protect the source of the water supply to meet the needs for both human consumption and for environmental balance.

**MPP-PS-26**

Work cooperatively with school districts to plan for school facilities to meet the existing and future community needs consistent with adopted comprehensive plans and growth forecasts, including siting and designing schools to support safe, walkable access and best serve their communities.

**MPP-PS-27**

Site schools, institutions, and other community facilities that primarily serve urban populations within the urban growth area in locations where they will promote the local desired growth plans, except as provided for by RCW 36.70A.211.

**MPP-PS-28**

Locate schools, institutions, and other community facilities serving rural residents in neighboring cities and towns and design these facilities in keeping with the size and scale of the local community, except as provided for by RCW 36.70A.211.

**MPP-PS-29**

Site or expand regional capital facilities in a manner that (1) reduces adverse social, environmental, and economic impacts on the host community, especially on historically marginalized communities, (2) equitably balances the location of new facilities away from disproportionately burdened communities, and (3) addresses regional planning objectives.

**MPP-PS-30**

Do not locate regional capital facilities outside the urban growth area unless it is demonstrated that a non-urban site is the most appropriate location for such a facility.

