VISION Consistency Tool for Countywide Planning Policies

Note: The tool shown here is for illustrative purposes. To fill out the tool, visit www.psrc.org/our-work/plan-review.

This tool is intended to help countywide planning organizations integrate VISION 2050 into their countywide planning policies. Countywide planning policies, like multicounty planning policies, provide a framework for guiding local planning in each of the four counties in central Puget Sound. By design, the multicounty planning policies tend to be more general in their treatment of planning issues; countywide policies offer more detail and guidance appropriate for coordination at the county level. The tool can be used at various stages in the countywide process:

CPP Update Scoping: Use checklist items as guidance for scoping the extent of policy updates. New or expanded issue areas in VISION 2050 are identified to support this process.

Draft Review: Submit draft CPPs to PSRC prior to final review by the countywide planning council. Completing and submitting this tool and providing early drafts to PSRC helps identify potential consistency issues early in the process.

Certification Review: Along with the adopted CPPs, the tool will assist PSRC's review of the policies. Demonstrating inclusion of the necessary information in the checklist helps facilitate certification. *Note: The PSRC Executive Board is the final decision-making body for CPP certification.*

Regional Collaboration: The tool provides countywide planning organizations an opportunity to highlight innovative policies and public engagement and supports sharing best practices across the region. Effective and consistent CPPs provide a strong foundation for successful comprehensive plan updates.

Resources

- Regional Plans: VISION 2050, Regional Transportation Plan, and Regional Economic Strategy
- VISION 2040 to VISION 2050 – summary of what changed in VISION 2050
- VISION 2050 Policy Matrix – a comparison of multicounty planning policies and actions from VISION 2040 to VISION 2050
- Plan Review webpage – access more information about the review and certification process and find PSRC guidance and other resources by policy area. See previous certification reports for areas for future work.

Discussion Questions │ Innovation, Engagement, and Racial Equity

Questions provide an opportunity to highlight the most noteworthy aspects of the plan and the planning process. Responses help tell PSRC boards how the policies are working to implement VISION 2050 and how the policies meet certification requirements.

- What aspects of the updated CPPs would you like to highlight? What was especially innovative, challenging, or noteworthy?
- What innovative public engagement strategies were used in the update process? Did you use strategies to reach communities that have not typically been engaged in planning? How were other agencies and governments, such as tribes, ports, and special purpose districts, engaged through this process? (MPP-RC-1, DP-8)
- How was racial equity considered in the planning process and addressed in the plan? Do you have examples of innovative policies that work to advance racial equity?

Checklist at a Glance

Policy Area	Policy/Page Reference
Implement the adopted Framework to provide a process to designate new regional centers, designate ~~Indicates new or expanded emphasis in VISION 2050~~ local centers, including high-capacity transit station areas (MPP-DP-25 and MPP-DP-26)	
Provide guidance for allowing densities that maximize transit investments in high-capacity transit station areas that are expected to attract significant new population or employment growth (MPP-DP-22)	Please indicate where to find the best or most complete example. It is not necessary to list all relevant policies
Provide guidance for center and station ~~Provides relevant VISION 2050 policies or actions~~ jointly plan for stations in close proximity (DP-Action-8)	

Indicates new or expanded emphasis in VISION 2050

Provides relevant VISION 2050 policies or actions

Regional Collaboration

The policies support **collaboration for a healthy environment, thriving communities, and opportunities for all**, including coordination with other jurisdictions and agencies, tribes, ports, military installations, and adjacent regions.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Support regional collaboration	Page/Policy Reference
⬡ Address joint planning & coordination among jurisdictions, agencies, tribes, ports, military installations, special purpose districts, and adjacent regions (MPP-RC-1, RC-4-5)	
⬡ 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-2)	
⬡ Recognize the beneficial impacts of military installations as well as the land use, housing, and transportation challenges for adjacent and nearby communities (MPP-RC-5-6)	
✓ Provide guidance for prioritizing transportation investments at the countywide and local level on 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-8)	
✓ Promote existing and new funding sources and tools for implementing the regional vision (MPP-RC-10-11, RC-Action-7, RC-Action-9)	

Additional comments on Regional Collaboration policies [optional]: _____

Regional Growth Strategy

The policies support the **Regional Growth Strategy**, including **focusing growth in designated centers and near transit stations**, to create healthy, equitable, vibrant communities well-served by infrastructure and services. The policies **support rural areas and natural resource lands** continuing to be vital parts of the region that retain important cultural, economic, environmental, and rural lifestyle opportunities over the long term.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Implement the Regional Growth Strategy	Page/Policy Reference

✓ Provide direction for setting local residential and employment targets to implement the Regional Growth Strategy, including:
    ○ Accommodating growth in centers and near high-capacity transit station areas,
    ○ Addressing jobs-housing balance,
    ○ Reducing the rate of rural growth, and
    ○ Supporting infill within the urban growth area and increased densities in locations consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy (MPP-RGS-2, RGS-4, RGS-6, RGS-9-12, RGS-14, RGS-Action-8).	

✓ Ensure long-term stability and sustainability of the urban growth area (MPP-RGS-5)	
✿ Support attracting 65% of the region's residential growth and 75% of the region's employment growth to regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas (MPP-RGS-8)	
✿ Include a process to reconcile any discrepancies between countywide growth targets and land use assumptions contained in local comprehensive plans (RGS-Action-9)	

Note: see Growth Target Guidance for additional information.

Additional comments on Regional Growth Strategy policies [optional]: _____

Environment

The policies support 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 should consider the impacts of land use, development, and transportation on the ecosystem and use the best environmental information available.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Use best practices in planning for protection of the natural environment	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Encourage coordinating environmental strategies among local jurisdictions, tribes, countywide planning groups, and watershed groups (MPP-En-1)	

✓ Support integrated and interdisciplinary approaches for environmental planning and assessments (MPP-En-2)	
✓ Promote the use of innovative environmentally sensitive development practices and locating development in a manner that minimizes impacts to natural features (MPP-En-5)	
Coordinate jurisdictions' environmental work	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Direct the designation, protection, and restoration of critical areas and habitat (MPP-En-14, En-16)	
✓ Support and incentivize environmental stewardship on private and public lands (MPP-En-10)	
⚙ Address planning for open space, trails, parks, and greenbelts (MPP-En-12, En-15)	
✓ Encourage protection and restoration of native vegetation and tree canopy (MPP-En-9, En-13)	
✓ Promote the protection and restoration of hydrological function and water quality (MPP-RC-15, MPP-En-17-20)	
Ensure all residents have clean air, water, and other elements of a healthy environment	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Promote reducing pollution from transportation and land use, including air toxics, greenhouse gases, and stormwater (MPP-En-3, En-21-22)	
⚙ Support programs to ensure that all residents, regardless of race, social, or economic status, have clean air, clean water, and other elements of a healthy environment and prioritize the reduction of impacts to vulnerable populations that have been disproportionately affected (MPP-En-3-4, En-7-8, En-21)	
✓ Provide guidance to meet all federal and state air quality standards and reduce emissions of air toxics and greenhouse gases (WAC 173-420-080, MPP-En-22)	

Additional comments on Environment policies [optional]: _____

Climate Change

The policies support substantially **reducing emissions of greenhouse gases** that contribute to climate change in accordance with the goals of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and **preparing for climate change impacts**.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in support of state, regional, and local reduction goals	Page/Policy Reference
⚙ Support achieving regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by: 　⚙ Encouraging electrifying the transportation system, 　⚙ Prioritizing transportation investments that reduce emissions, 　• Promoting reducing vehicle miles traveled through increasing alternatives to driving alone and using land use strategies that reduce trips and trip length, and 　• Expanding the use of conservation, alternative energy sources, and energy management technology 　(MPP-CC-1, CC-3, CC-5, CC-11-12, CC-Action-3)	
✓ Support reducing building energy use through green building and retrofit of existing buildings (MPP-CC-2)	
⚙ Provide direction for coordinating jurisdictions' work to protect and restore natural resources that sequester and store carbon (MPP-CC-4)	
Identify and address the impacts of climate change and natural hazards on the region to increase resilience	**Page/Policy Reference**
⚙ Address impacts on water, land, infrastructure, health, and the economy (MPP-CC-8-9, PS-21)	
⚙ 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-10)	
⚙ Provide direction for addressing impacts to vulnerable populations and areas that have been or will be disproportionately affected by climate change (MPP-CC-6)	

Additional comments on Climate Change policies [optional]: _____

Land Use/Development Patterns

The policies promote **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**.

 Countywide Planning Policies should:

Reduce disparities in access to opportunity in support of equitable outcomes	Page/Policy Reference
⚙ Support inclusive community planning (MPP-DP-2, DP-8)	
⚙ Encourage targeted public and private investments to reduce disparities in access to opportunity and expand employment opportunities to improve the region's shared economic future (MPP-DP-2, Ec-8, Ec-13)	
⚙ Provide guidance for evaluating planning in regional growth centers and high-capacity transit station areas for the potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of marginalized residents and businesses. Promote a range of strategies to mitigate displacement impacts (MPP-DP-23, Ec-12)	
Further implement the Regional Centers Framework and Regional Growth Strategy	**Page/Policy Reference**
⚙ Implement the adopted Framework to provide a process to designate new candidate regional centers, designate countywide centers, and encourage designation of local centers, including high-capacity transit station areas (MPP-DP-25-26)	
⚙ Provide guidance for encouraging densities that maximize transit investments in high-capacity transit station areas that are expected to attract significant new population or employment growth (MPP-DP-22)	
✓ Provide guidance for center and station area planning (DP-Action-8)	
Continue to transition urban unincorporated areas	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Identify strategies, incentives, and approaches to facilitate the annexation or incorporation of unincorporated areas into cities. Provide direction for joint planning in unincorporated urban growth areas, including: o Coordinating the provision of services,	

o Establishing development standards for urban unincorporated areas that are consistent with those of adjacent cities, and o Affiliating unincorporated urban areas with cities with a view toward annexation (MPP-RGS-16, DP-27-30, DP-Action-6)	
Reduce rural growth over time and protect natural resource lands and the environment	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Provide direction for a full range of strategies, including zoning and development standards, incentives, infrastructure investments, funding for conservation easements, housing tools, and economic development to reduce rural area growth rates over time (MPP-RGS-4, RGS-14-15, RGS-Action-7, DP-32-39, DP-45)	
✓ Include provisions to ensure the long-term integrity and productivity of natural resource lands, including minimizing impacts from adjacent non-resource lands (MPP-DP-41, DP-43)	
✓ Monitor the sustainability of designated resource lands and work to prohibit conversion of these lands to other uses (MPP-DP-42)	
Promote healthy communities and reduce health disparities	**Page/Policy Reference**
✿ Make reduction of health disparities and improvement of health outcomes across the county a priority when developing and carrying out countywide and local plans (MPP-RC-3)	
Continue limiting incompatible uses	**Page/Policy Reference**
✿ Provide guidance on incompatible uses near airports, military installations, manufacturing/industrial centers, and tribal reservation lands (MPP-DP-48-51)	
✿ Address potential impacts of development on culturally significant sites and tribal treaty fishing, hunting, and gathering grounds (MPP-DP-7)	

Additional comments on Land Use/Development Patterns policies [optional]: _____

Housing

The policies provide direction for a coordinated approach to address housing as a regional issue. The policies guide the **preservation, improvement, and expansion of the housing stock** to provide a range of **affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices** to every resident. Policies continue to **promote fair and equal access to housing for all people**.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Promote fair and equal access to housing for all people	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Provide direction for increasing housing production opportunities to address near and long-term supply, including diverse types and styles to meet the needs of residents throughout all stages of life. (MPP-H-1, H-2, H-6)	
✓ Provide direction to address current and future housing affordability needs, with an emphasis on housing near transit and in centers. (MPP-H-2-5, H-7-8)	
෴ Promote jobs-housing balance by providing housing choices that are accessible and attainable to workers. (MPP-H-1, H-6)	
෴ Provide direction to expand housing capacity for moderate density housing, i.e., "missing middle" (MPP-H-9)	
෴ Provide direction to identify and mitigate displacement as part of the housing planning process (MPP-H-12)	

Additional comments on Housing policies [optional]: _____

Economy

The policies support a prospering and sustainable 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**.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Promote investments in communities and equitable economic prosperity for all people	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Support recruitment and retention efforts and other activities that work to foster a positive business climate and diversify employment opportunities with a focus on living wage jobs (MPP-Ec-1, Ec-2, Ec-7, Ec-9)	
✓ Focus employment growth into regional, countywide, and local centers (MPP-RGS-8-11, Ec-21-22)	
✓ Support the growth of industry clusters, including those recognized in the Regional Economic Strategy that provide goods and services for export (MPP-Ec-3)	
⬡ Promote environmental and socially responsible business practices, especially those addressing climate change, resilience, and improved health outcomes (MPP-Ec-8, Ec-16)	
⬡ Promote strategies and policies that expand access to opportunity and remove barriers for economically disconnected communities (MPP-Ec-13-14)	
⬡ Support, recognize, and empower the contributions of the region's culturally and ethnically diverse communities, institutions, and Native Tribes (MPP-Ec-15, Ec-17, Ec-20)	
⬡ Address and prevent potential physical, economic, and cultural displacement of existing businesses that may result from redevelopment and market pressure (MPP-Ec-12)	

Additional comments on Economy policies [optional]: _____

Transportation

The policies support 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**

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Implement the Regional Transportation Plan and the Regional Growth Strategy	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Focus system improvements to support existing and planned development as allocated by the Regional Growth Strategy (MPP-RC-7-9, T-7-8, T-15)	
⬡ Prioritize multimodal investments in centers and high-capacity transit station areas (MPP-RC-7-10, T-12-13, T-19)	
✓ Include provisions that recognize goal of developing an integrated, multimodal transportation system, considering mobility and access needs both within and beyond the borders of individual jurisdictions (MPP-T-7, T-11)	
✓ Provide guidance for maintenance and preservation of existing transportation assets and infrastructure to provide safe, efficient, and reliable movement of people and goods (MPP-T-1-2, T-4, T-26)	
✓ Provide direction for improved transportation system management, preservation, and demand management programs and strategies (MPP-T-2-3, T-12-13, T-15)	
✓ Provide direction for alternatives to driving alone through policies, programs, priorities, and investments (MPP-T-12-13)	
✓ Provide guidance for improving street patterns and facilities for walking, biking, and transit use (MPP-T-16-17)	
✓ Provide guidance for identifying stable and predictable funding sources for maintaining and preserving existing transportation facilities and services (MPP-RC-11-12, T-6)	
✓ Provide guidance for pursuit of alternative transportation financing methods, such as user fees, tools, and other pricing mechanisms (MPP-T-6)	
⬡ Support strategies and actions to prepare for changes in transportation technologies and mobility patterns (MPP-T-33-34)	

Support people and communities	Page/Policy Reference
☺ Identify racial and social equity as a core objective when planning and implementing transportation improvements, programs, and services (MPP-T-9)	
✓ Design transportation projects and other infrastructure to achieve community development objectives and improve communities (MPP-DP-12)	
✓ Ensure mobility choices for people with special needs (MPP-T-10)	
✓ Provide guidance to develop a transportation system that promotes human health and improves the safety of the transportation system to achieve the state's goal of zero deaths and serious injuries. (MPP-T-4-5)	
Support the economy and the movement of people and goods	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Provide guidance to identify and support key facilities and improvements that connect the region to major transportation hubs such as ports, airports, and designated freight routes (MPP-T-24-25)	
✓ Provide guidance to coordinate with providers of major regional infrastructure, such as freight, rail, and commercial aviation (MPP-Ec-4-5, T-27-28)	
Protect the environment and support a sustainable transportation system	**Page/Policy Reference**
☺ Provide guidance to develop clean transportation programs and facilities, including actions to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, expand electrification of the transportation network, and enhance environmental quality, including water quality, stormwater management, and fish passage (MPP-En-18, CC-3, CC-12, T-29-30, T-32)	
Advance intergovernmental coordination	**Page/Policy Reference**
✓ Provide guidance for addressing coordination and joint planning for transportation facilities and services, including changes in technology and mobility patterns. (RCW 36.70A.070(6)(a)(v); MPP-T-33-34)	
✓ Provide guidance for establishing comprehensive concurrency programs that address level-of-service standards for multimodal types of transportation and include implementation strategies (MPP-DP-52-54)	

Additional comments on Transportation policies [optional]: _____

Public Services

The policies **promote more efficient use of existing services**, such as waste management, energy, and water supply, through conservation – including demand management programs and strategies.

Countywide Planning Policies should:

Provide adequate public facilities and services to support growth	Page/Policy Reference
✓ Protect and enhance the environment and public health and safety when providing services and facilities (MPP-PS-1)	
✓ Coordinate the planning for services and facilities among counties, cities, tribes, and special purpose districts in a manner that supports the Regional Growth Strategy, including addressing long-term needs and the use of conservation and demand management (MPP-PS-3-4, PS-8-9, PS-13-14, PS-23-25)	
✓ Provide guidance to locate urban services and regional facilities in urban areas; facilities and utilities in rural areas should be at a size and scale appropriate for rural locations. (T-22, PS-5-7, PS-30)	
✓ Protect water quality by serving new development within urban areas with sanitary sewer systems and replacing failing septic systems (MPP-PS-10-12)	
❀ Consider the potential impacts of climate change on public facilities and support the necessary investments to move to low-carbon energy sources (MPP-PS-13-15, PS-20-21)	
❀ Plan for affordable and equitable access of public services, including drinking water and telecommunication infrastructure, to all communities, especially the underserved (MPP-PS-2, PS-16, PS-22)	
✓ Encourage interjurisdictional coordination of public safety and emergency management (MPP-PS-17, T-31)	
❀ Provide guidance to locate community facilities and services in centers and near transit, with consideration for climate change, economic, social and health impacts (MPP-PS-18, PS-20, PS-29)	

Provide guidance to work with school districts on school siting and design, including strategies to provide adequate urban capacity for new schools and to avoid serving urban students with schools in the rural area (MPP-PS-26-28)	

Additional comments on Public Services policies [optional]: _____