Snohomish County Partnership



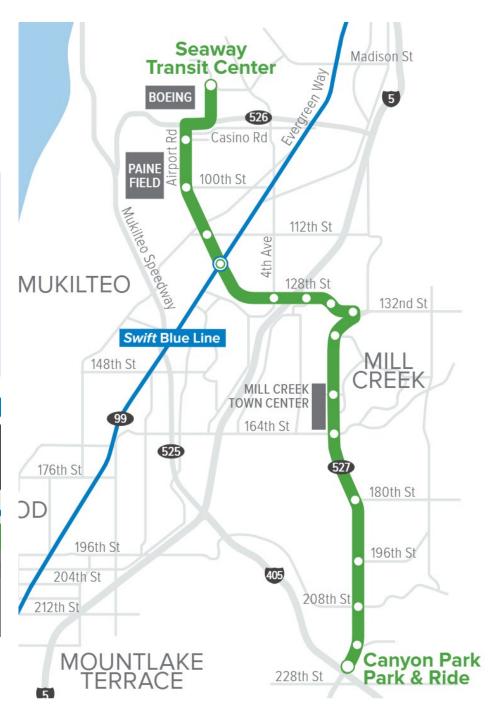




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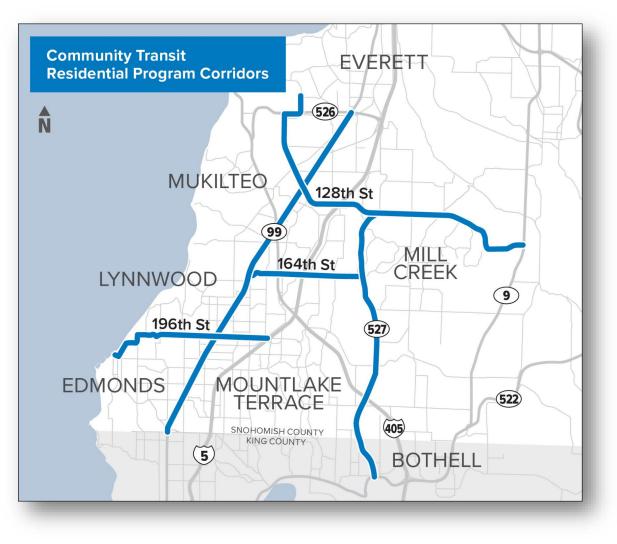


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2023

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By 2044, county population could be 1.1M

Snohomish County is planning how to accommodate newcomers. Here are 4 takeaways from newly adopted growth targets.

BY CLAUDIA YAW Herald Writer

EVERETT — The year 2044 is going to be crowded in Snohomish County.

By then, over 308,000 new people are projected to live here, pushing the total population past 1.1 million, according to growth targets adopted by the County

Council last week. That growth is expected to be paired with 171,800 new jobs, for a total of more than 467,000.

Years in the making, the growth targets will inform the county's 2024 comprehensive plan, last updated in 2015.

That may sound boring. But the plan will have far-ranging impacts on how the region will transform as it braces for more people than ever. Where officials expect those newcomers to live and work will determine how dollars are invested into roads, housing, schools and more.

A Daily Herald reporter took the time to learn all about it - tuning

into council meetings and reading 63 pages of related documents so you don't have to. Here are four takeaways:

1. Transit will guide 50% of the county's growth

The county's new growth targets solidify what officials realized around 2017: Newcomers aren't all funnelling to Everett, the county's core metro area and largest city by a longshot.

In the last round of growth targets, councilmembers prioritized Everett to absorb the bulk of the county's growth, citing better zoning and a hope that denser

neighborhoods would help guide light rail expansion. But newcomers have instead been filling in areas along a broader corridor in the southwest corner of Snohomish County, including Everett's fastgrowing suburbs. The trend called for the creation of a brand designation within the growth targets, called "high-capacity transit communities."

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The category includes the cities of Arlington, Edmonds, Marysville, Mill Creek, Mountlake Terrace and Mukilteo, as well as unincorporated parts of south county.

The county expects those areas to accomodate half of the county's total population growth.

"What we're seeing, then, is most cities will have significant efforts ahead of them," Stephen Toy, a county long range planner, told councilmembers earlier this vear.

Sound Transit Link light rail is creeping north into Snohomish County. By the 2040s, a string of stations should be in place from Lynnwood to Everett. And bus rapid transit will soon serve the I-405 corridor from Lynnwood to Bothell.

This year, lawmakers are mulling over other big transportation investments in buses, ferries and rail.

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Thank you





