RTPOs and the GMA Updates: Sharing PSRC’s Approach

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Department of Commerce

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Washington State Department of Transportation

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Puget Sound Regional Council

RTPOs and the GMA Updates: Sharing PSRC’s Approach
Webinar
July 8, 2014
Overview of the Update

What the GMA Requires

What Resources are Available from Commerce

July 8, 2014
What the GMA Requires

RCW 36.70A.130(1)(a)
Each comprehensive land use plan and development regulations shall be subject to continuing review and evaluation by the county or city that adopted them. Except as otherwise provided, a county or city shall take legislative action to review and, if needed, revise its comprehensive land use plan and development regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter according to the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

(b) Except as otherwise provided, a county or city not planning under RCW 36.70A.040 shall take action to review and, if needed, revise its policies and development regulations regarding critical areas and natural resource lands adopted according to this chapter to ensure these policies and regulations comply with the requirements of this chapter according to the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section. Legislative action means the adoption of a resolution or ordinance following notice and a public hearing indicating at a minimum, a finding that a review and evaluation has occurred and identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and the reasons therefor.

(c) The review and evaluation required by this subsection shall include, but is not limited to, consideration of critical area ordinances and, if planning under RCW 36.70A.040, an analysis of the population allocated to a city or county from the most recent ten-year population forecast by the office of financial management.

- Review
- Revise if Necessary
- Legislative Action
To Review:
What Must Be Reviewed

- **Comprehensive Plan**
- **Development Regulations**
- **Critical Areas Ordinance**
- **Resource Lands**
- **Urban Growth Areas**

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Revise if Necessary: What Triggers a Need for a Change

Major GMA Amendments 2009-2012

- **Statutory Changes**
  - **2012 5292** Exempts certain irrigation ditches from the definition of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
  - **2012 2ESSB 6406** Requires DOE to modify SEPA categorical exemptions and thresholds.
  - **2011 ESHB 1886** Creates a voluntary stewardship program as an alternative mechanism to protect critical areas from existing and ongoing agriculture.
  - **2010 EHB 1653** Clarifies when protection of critical areas within shorelines is transferred from the Critical Areas Ordinance to the Shoreline Master Program.
  - **2009 2SHB 1481** Requires certain local governments to allow electric vehicle infrastructure.
  - **2010 SHB 18525** Prohibits expansion of the urban growth area in some areas into the 100-year floodplain.

- **Population Data**

- **Changes in Relevant Facts**
  - Land Use Inventory
  - Housing Inventory
  - Transportation and Capital Facilities Elements
  - Housing Needs Assessment
  - Capital Facilities Reassessment
Practice Tips for Conducting the Scope

Do the Staff Work First
- Review the Checklist
- Look for New Statutory Requirements
- Have Clear Criteria to Apply
- Have a Peek at your Inventory Data
- Talk to Allied Departments and Get them involved, Especially Public Works

Conducting the Scoping Hearing
- Overview of the Update Process
- Present preliminary findings
Finishing Strong

Taking Action and Completing on Time
Take Legislative Action: What Must Be Adopted

- **By Ordinance or Resolution**
- **A Public Hearing is Required**
- **Must Specify and Document a Review and Evaluation**
- **Must Note Revisions the Were Made**
- **Must Note How all Required Review Items were Reviewed and Which Ones did NOT require revision.**
- **Must find that the plan and development regulations comply with the GMA and Declare the Required Update Complete.**

**RCW 36.70a.130(1)(b)**

Legislative action means the adoption of a resolution or ordinance following notice and a public hearing indicating at a minimum, a finding that a review and evaluation has occurred and identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and the reasons therefor.
The Magic Words: Where to Document the Update

The public should not be left to guess whether the County has undertaken its update or not. The statutory requirement for minimum legislative findings ensures that the public is on notice that the update is taking place. Therefore, the County cannot be found to have undertaken an update, even a partial update, of its comprehensive plan unless the challenged enactment unambiguously finds that a review and evaluation of the comprehensive plan and development regulations has occurred and identifies the revisions made; or if the County finds that a revision was not needed, the enactment must give the reasons for that. RCW 36.70A.130(1)(a).

1. The Public Participation Plan
2. The Public Hearing Announcement
3. Any legislative action that completes in part or narrows the scope of remaining update items, especially those that dispose of statutorily required update items
4. The findings of any action that adopts amendments that are part of the update
5. The final Action Declaring the Update Complete

04-2-0010 1000 Friends v. Whatcom County; Order on Motion to Dismiss; (August 2, 2004)
Grant and Loan Programs Requiring Update Completion:

- Public Works Trust Fund
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Centennial Clean Water Fund
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

The Update is Due June 30th of:

- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
Resources Available from Commerce

What You Will Find

WAC
Year-by-Year List of GMA Amendments
Update Checklist
• Dev Regs
• Comprehensive Plans
• Update-Specific Checklists
Updated Guidebooks for:
• UGA
• Housing
• Transportation
EZ View
Good Examples
Public Participation Plans
Scoping Documents
Update Resolutions

Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.

Growth Management Act Periodic Update

Every county and city in the state is required to conduct a periodic update of its comprehensive plan and development regulations, though the obligation varies depending on whether the jurisdiction is fully or partially planning (RCW 36.70A.130(1)). This webpage provides resources for completing the periodic update: the “Keeping Your Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations Current” guidebook and its appendices. Appendix D includes checklists that local governments can use to ensure their comprehensive plans and developments address the minimum requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA).

The guidebook explains when and how to go through the necessary steps in the periodic update process. The level of effort and timing of the update steps will vary depending on how recently your community has comprehensively updated its plan, the size of your community, and other factors.

WSDOT Resources For Local Planning

Karena Houser
Community Transportation Planning Office

Lynn Peterson
Secretary of Transportation

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Why Does WSDOT Participate in Local Planning?

**WSDOT’s Vision**
The Washington State Department of Transportation’s vision is to be the best in providing a sustainable and integrated multimodal transportation system.

**WSDOT’s Mission**
The Washington State Department of Transportation provides and supports safe, reliable and cost-effective transportation options to improve livable communities and economic vitality for people and businesses.

**Goal 1 - STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS**

**Goal 2 - MODAL INTEGRATION**

**Goal 3 - ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

**Goal 4 - ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTH**

**Goal 5 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**Goal 6 - SMART TECHNOLOGY**
What are WSDOT’s Objectives for Participating in Local Plans?
What Resources can WSDOT Provide for Local Planning?

WSDOT GMA Contacts

Statewide Contact:
Karena Houser
Community Transportation Planning Office

Map of regions with contacts:
- Northwest Region: Elizabeth Sjostrom - Mt. Baker
- North Central Region: Cynthia McGlothern
- Olympic Region: George Kovich
- Southwest Region: Ken Burgstahler
- Eastern Region: Charlene Kay & Greg Figg
- South Central Region: Rick Holmstrom

Northwest Region Contacts:
- Mt. Baker Office
- Olympic Region
- Urban Planning Office (UPO)
WSDOT’s GMA Plan Update Web Site:  
www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/community/GrowthManagementAct

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Growth Management Act (GMA) Plan Update Resources

Introduction
The WSDOT Community Planning Office developed this website to provide guidance, resources, contact information, and training opportunities to assist local jurisdictions with their Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan Update. For more information about when the GMA periodic updates are due for each city and county, see the Washington State Department of Commerce’s (Commerce) Comprehensive Plan Update Map. (pdf 1.0 mb)

A Great Place to Start your Comprehensive Plan Update

- Look here first: WSDOT Local Planning Resources (pdf 207 kb)
- Commerce’s Transportation Guidebook: Your Community’s Transportation System (pdf 18,630 kb)
- Commerce’s Growth Management Act Periodic Update Website

Data Sources

- WSDOT’s Community Transportation Planning Portal Website provides access to state transportation data. You can use the portal to create a map of relevant state transportation data to incorporate in your plan, link to a city or county Fact Sheet (a summary of state transportation data for your community), or download state transportation GIS layers.

- If you can’t find the data you’re looking for on the WSDOT Community Planning Portal, visit the WSDOT Online Map Center for additional WSDOT geographic data and map products.

- WSDOT’s Transportation Data and GIS Office provides summaries of collision, travel GIS, and roadway data as well as instructions for requesting custom reports.
What resources can WSDOT provide for local planning?
Questions?

Karena Houser
WSDOT Community Transportation Planning Office
karena.houser@wsdot.wa.gov
360.705.7876
PSRC’s Approach to the GMA Periodic Update

RTPO Webinar – July 8, 2014
Presentation overview

• PSRC Overview
• Plan Review Manual
• May 2013 Workshops
• May 2014 Survey
PSRC Roles

Central Puget Sound Region
- 4 Counties
- 82 Cities and Towns
- Special Districts

- Federal Role:
  Metropolitan Planning Organization

- State Role:
  Regional Transportation Planning Organization

- Membership Organization:
  Council of Governments
Regional Framework for Planning

REGIONAL POLICY DIRECTION

VISION 2040
— MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES —
— REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY —
— ENVIRONMENTAL FRAMEWORK —

DETAILED FUNCTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS

Transportation 2040
— METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN —

Regional Economic Strategy
— COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY —
What plans does PSRC review?

✓ Countywide planning policies
✓ Local comprehensive plans
✓ Regional center plans
✓ Transit agency plans
What’s Required for Certification?

- **Consistency with Multicounty Planning Policies**
  
  (= Regional Guidelines & Principles)

- **Consistency with Transportation 2040**

- **Conformity with transportation planning requirements in Growth Management Act**

Note: Requirements spelled out in RCW 47.80
PSRC’s Approach to the GMA Periodic Update

Plan Review Manual

- Plan review process
- Legal framework
- FAQ
- Checklists for each type of jurisdiction
- Appendices:
  - Adopted plan review process
  - Multicounty Planning Policies
  - GMA requirements
  - Examples
PSRC's Approach to the GMA Periodic Update

Reporting Tool (checklists)

Transportation

The transportation provisions in VISION 2040 are organized around three broad areas: (1) maintenance, management and safety; (2) supporting the Regional Growth Strategy; and (3) greater options and mobility. VISION 2040 addresses federal and state laws and directives designed to ensure mobility for people, goods, and services by focusing on maintenance, management, and safety. Protecting and enhancing the environment, promoting energy conservation, and improving the quality of life must be considered as part of meeting our current and future mobility needs.

VISION 2040 calls for better-integrated land use and transportation planning and provides guidance for the development of a transportation system that will support the Regional Growth Strategy. VISION 2040's emphasis on developing centers includes prioritizing transportation investments in regional growth centers and manufacturing industrial centers. VISION 2040 is committed to increasing transportation choices while improving the region's natural environment. There is an emphasis on transportation investments that offer greater mobility options, more alternatives to driving alone (and therefore reduced vehicle miles traveled), and lower transportation-related energy consumption, which in turn lowers particulate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

For Countywide Planning Policies

**Maintenance, Management and Safety**
- Address the development of a clean regional transportation system, including changes in fuel technologies (including renewable resources for energy), and how we travel.
- Provide direction for decision-making that promotes environmentally sensitive transportation activities that reduce water and air pollution — with attention to human health, low impact design, and environmentally friendly (i.e., green) streets.
- Provide direction for ensuring that strategies, programs and investment decisions making identify and prioritize resources for maintaining and preserving the existing system.
- Provide direction for reducing the need for new projects and facilities through improved operations, system management and demand management strategies.
- Identify cooperative strategies and programs to protect the transportation system against disasters, develop prevention and recovery strategies, and plans for coordinated response for transportation in an emergency.

**Green Streets**

A street that uses vegetated facilities to manage stormwater runoff at its source is often referred to as a “green street.” VISION 2040 advances sustainable stormwater strategies for streets and roadways, as well as other features to improve the environment of urban streets — including landscaping and pedestrian-friendly treatments.

Resources are available through the Environmental Protection Agency at: www.epa.gov/wow/podcasts/greenstreetsca.html

See also the Low Impact Development Center at: www.locus.spsd.tamu.edu/lowimpact

**Supporting the Growth Strategy**
- Prioritize transportation investments that serve centers, including key projects and programs in centers as well as connecting centers with a highly efficient multimodal network. Give additional priority to projects that advance housing development.

**Greater Options and Mobility**
- Invest in alternatives to driving alone (MPP-T-23, 24)
- Ensure mobility of people with special needs (MPP-T-29)
- Avoid new or expanded facilities in rural areas (MPP-T-28; MPP-DP-27)
- Include transportation financing methods that sustain maintenance, preservation, and operations of facilities (MPP-T-30)
PART II: QUESTIONS

Transportation Provisions

(MPP-G-4, 5, MPP-EN-7, 19, 25, MPP-DE-7, 10, 13, 17, 27, 40, 42, 43, 54 through 56, MPP-IF-6, MPP-Sc-6; MPP-T-1 through 88; RCW 46.70A.005)

Explain how the plan addresses the following provisions from VISION 2040 and Transportation 2040 - the region's long-range transportation plan:

- Clean transportation
- Maintenance and safety
- Demand management
- Serving centers and compact communities
- Transportation facilities that fit the community in which they are located ("Context-sensitive design")
- Greater options and mobility

EXPLAIN HERE:
The plan includes a detailed inventory of all motorized and nonmotorized transportation facilities, as well as state-owned facilities and facilities in its potential annexation areas (see pages referenced). It has adopted level-of-service standards for roads, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, and cites as the performance standards for transit established by our transit providers. The adopted levels of service standards for state facilities are consistent with the standards set by PSRC and WSDOT for highways of regional and statewide significance.

The city has adopted a reassessment strategy in the event of a funding shortfall. It includes: (1) seeking additional methods of funding, (2) exploiting alternatives, lower-cost methods to meet level-of-service standards (e.g., transportation demand management, public transit or another project) and (3) reevaluating the established level-of-service standards to determine how they might be achieved. In addition, transportation planning is coordinated with neighboring jurisdictions, including our level-of-service standards and concurrency provisions. Our concurrency program has been modified, so that we address expectations in our Regional Growth Center differently from elsewhere in our city.

The transportation element includes demand management programs and strategies that have been coordinated with investments to improve our roads and streets to make it easier to walk, bike, or ride the bus. The plan also encourages ride-sharing and the use of improved transportation technologies, such as light synchronization, to help maintain or enhance the function of the local transportation system.

The transportation element identifies the city's designated nonmotorized transportation facilities, prioritizes improvement based on connectivity and access for each facility, and calls for collaboration between jurisdictions to complete connections crossing boundaries.
Purpose

• Focus on comprehensive plan updates
• **Provide information** on regional goals and expectations to support implementation of VISION 2040
• **Increase local understanding** of PSRC’s plan review and certification program
• **Provide technical assistance**, tools, and other helpful resources
Target Audience

Folks with a direct role in comprehensive planning

- Planning staff
- Consultants
- Other staff (e.g. public works)
- Planning commissions
- Elected officials
Content Criteria

- New expectation in VISION 2040
- Other PSRC programs/products
- Topic causes difficulties for cities
- New GMA requirements
Workshop Structure

- Presentations
- Open House
- Resource List

More detail
Agenda

8:30-9:00 Welcome and Registration

9:00-11:00 Presentations

9:00-9:05 Opening Remarks (5 min)
9:05-9:30 Commerce – Periodic Update Process (25 min)
9:30-9:40 Overview – VISION 2040, Plan Review (10 min)
9:40-9:50 Numbers – RGS and Forecast Products (10 min)
9:50-10:00 Environment (10 min)
10:00-10:20 Development Patterns (20 min)
10:20-10:30 Housing (10 min)
10:30-10:35 Economy (5 min)
10:35-10:55 Transportation (20 min)
10:55-11:00 Public Services (5 min)

11:00-12:00 Open House
Lessons Learned: **what worked well**

**Early agreement on purpose of workshops helps limit mission creep**
Lessons Learned: *what worked well*

**Working with technical experts to develop content**

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PSRC's Approach to the GMA Periodic Update

Lessons Learned: what worked well

Resource Guide

http://www.psrc.org/growth/planreview/resources/

PSRC Overview
Plan Review Manual
Workshops
Survey

General Resources
PSRC — Growth Management
http://www.psrc.org/growth

Department of Commerce Growth Management Services

Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington

GMA Applications for the Central Puget Sound Region

Growth Management Act and Washington Administrative Code
Growth Management Act
http://apps.fwcf.wa.gov/york/36.75

Washington Administrative Code: GMA Criteria for Comprehensive Plans and Development Regulations
http://apps.fwcf.wa.gov/york/36.8

Regional Plans
VISION 2040 (2008)
http://www.psrc.org/growth/vision2040/pub/vision2040_document/

Transportation 2040 (2010)
http://www.psrc.org/transportation/2040

Regional Economic Strategy (2012)
http://www.psrc.org/economy/

PSRC Plan Review
PSRC Plan Review Website
http://www.psrc.org/growth/planreview

http://www.psrc.org/growth/planreview/planreviewmanual/


Countwide Planning Policies
King
http://www.kingcountywa.us/policies/county/codes/development/055/005.pdf

http://www.psrc.org/growth/planreview/resources/
Lessons Learned: *what worked well*

**Visual Cues**

**Airport-Compatible Land Use**

- Airport facility information (civil and military)
- Planned land uses
- Essential public facility
- Compatible land use
  - Policies
  - Strategies
  - Development regulations

*PSRC Airport Compatible Land Use Program Update*
Lessons Learned: *what worked well*

- Partnering with Commerce
- Popular topic
- Location close to target audience
Lessons Learned: *what didn’t work*

- Timing, but...
- Manage schedule
- Not many consultants attend
- FAQ page
- Not many questions for some technical experts
Purpose

• Another reminder
• Update contact list
• Determine workload for processing updates
## Contact list

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Anna</td>
<td>Contact Planner</td>
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**PSRC Overview**
- Plan Review Manual
- Workshops
- Survey
Subject: Comprehensive plan update inquiry

Dear [PPR Contact],

Happy New Year from the PSRC Plan Review Team! PSRC is conducting a four question survey regarding jurisdictions’ comprehensive plan update processes and schedules (*please reply with answers in-line below*). This will allow PSRC to provide the most useful and timely comments during its review and certification process (additional information on PSRC’s Plan Review and Certification Program shown below).

We would appreciate a response by **Friday, January 17**. For questions, contact me at [vstevens-wajda@psrc.org](mailto:vstevens-wajda@psrc.org) or 206.464.6179. Thank you!
**Survey Questions**

1. Who is the lead contact for [jurisdiction]’s comp plan update?

2. When does [jurisdiction] expect to adopt/complete the periodic update?

3. When will the draft plan be available for PSRC to review and comment (by element if applicable)?

4. Which elements will be updated?
Why Are the 2015 Updates Important?

In addition to the important role the comprehensive plan plays in your community, from a regional perspective, PSRC is paying special attention to this update cycle because of this is the first periodic update since VISION 2040’s adoption in 2008. Local plans play a key role in implementation of the regional VISION. The Plan Review Team is ready to provide resources and technical assistance, review and comment on draft plan updates, and work with local jurisdictions and PSRC’s boards to get each plan update certified.

Plan Review Team Contacts

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Links

Plan Review Manual
Details on the policy and plan review and certification process, background, and framework. The manual also provides guidance and checklists for aligning plans and policies with VISION 2040 and Growth Management Act requirements.

Plan Review Resources
This webpage includes a list of useful resources organized by topic.

VISION 2040 & Comprehensive Plan Update Overview
In Spring 2012, PSRC collaborated with the Department of Commerce to offer workshops in support of comprehensive plan updates. The main presentation from those workshops provides a good overview of the periodic update process, PSRC’s plan review program, and VISION 2040.

Department of Commerce Periodic Update Webpage
The Department of Commerce has developed a webpage, guidebook, and associated resources to help local jurisdictions navigate the periodic comprehensive plan update process, meet minimum requirements of the GMA, and develop effective plans.

PSRC Website
Including VISION 2040, Transportation 2040, and Data and Forecasts.
Results

Draft Updates for Review & Comment

Line illustrates extrapolation (proportional) from responses to total number of jurisdictions

Adopted Updates for Certification

Line illustrates extrapolation (proportional) from responses to total number of jurisdictions
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Materials:
https://file.ac/AYV-8zLpl-8/