

STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 2, 2021

TO: Pierce County Planning Commission

FROM: Dan Cardwell, Supervisor, Long Range Planning

BY: Jessica M. Nappi, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning

SUBJECT: **2021 Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment – Application No. 940158**

The Planning Commission will review and consider proposed amendments to include information on PSRC VISION 2050 and multicounty planning policies related to climate change that need to be addressed in the next GMA comprehensive plan periodic update.

Applicant: Pierce County Planning and Public Works

NOTICE: Notice of the Planning Commission public hearing was published in the News Tribune on January 15, 2021.

SEPA: SEPA will be conducted pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act, Pierce County Code Title 18D, and provisions of the Growth Management Act.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – Proposed Amendments
Attachment B – Proposal with Modification

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The proposal updates the background text to recognize the adoption of VISION 2050 as the Multicounty Planning Policies and incorporates new framework policies in which to address climate change and adaptation strategies to prepare for the next GMA periodic update.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Refer to **Attachment A**. Only those portions that are proposed to be amended or necessary for context are shown.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff supports the proposal (as shown in **Attachment A**) with modification to the background text (as shown in **Attachment B**) as it recognizes the ratification of VISION 2050 on October 29, 2020. The proposal sets a framework for future policy development consistent with the Multicounty Planning Policies.

IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Procedures for Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, [PCC 19C.10](#), require that the merits of all amendments to the Plan be evaluated based on the following ([PCC 19C.10.060 A](#)):

1. The effect upon the rate of growth, development, and conversion of land as envisioned in the Plan.
The proposal will not have an immediate effect on the growth, development, and conversion of land.
2. The effect upon the County's capacity to provide adequate public facilities.
Not applicable.
3. The effect upon the rate of population and employment growth.
The proposal would not have an effect on the rate of population and employment growth.
4. Whether Plan objectives are being met as specified or remain valid and desirable.
The proposal would incorporate a new plan objective that recognizes climate change and sets the framework for the development of future policies and adaptation strategies.
5. The effect upon general land values or housing costs.
Not applicable.
6. Whether capital improvements or expenditures, including transportation, are being made or completed as expected.
Not applicable.
7. Whether the initiated amendment conforms to the requirements of the GMA, is internally consistent with the Plan, and is consistent with the Countywide Planning Policies for Pierce County.
The proposal conforms to the requirements of the GMA, Pierce County Comprehensive Plan, and Countywide Planning Policies as it provides a strategy for consistency with the Multicounty Planning Policies.
8. The effect upon critical areas and natural resource lands.
The proposal would not have an immediate impact on critical areas or natural resource lands. The proposal incorporates new framework policies in which to address climate change and adaptation strategies to prepare for the next GMA periodic update.
9. Consistency with locational criteria in the Comprehensive Plan and application requirements established by this Chapter.

Not applicable.

10. The effect upon other considerations as deemed necessary by the Department.

VISION 2050, adopted by Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) on October 29, 2020, is the Puget Sound region's Multicounty Planning Policies document. This policy document is the planning framework for local comprehensive plans. Per GMA, the PSRC is required to review and certify Pierce County's transportation element and supporting policies in other elements of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan for consistency with the Multicounty Planning Policies. This certification is necessary for Pierce County to receive federal transportation dollars.

The amendment is consistent with VISION 2050 climate change policies. The updated VISION plan prioritizes addressing climate change and working towards climate adaptation. The proposal would also support the Department's proposed 2030 Sustainability Plan, which calls for coordination with land use planning to meet its goals. Specifically, Action Item T-3: Review Land Use plans to identify specific strategies for greenhouse gas reductions.

Applicable RCWs/Policies

GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT (GMA)

RCW 36.70A.070: The comprehensive plan of a county or city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall consist of a map or maps, and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140.

RCW 36.70A.100: Comprehensive plans—Must be coordinated.

The comprehensive plan of each county or city that is adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 shall be coordinated with, and consistent with, the comprehensive plans adopted pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040 of other counties or cities with which the county or city has, in part, common borders or related regional issues.

RCW 36.70A.210 (7): Multicounty planning policies shall be adopted by two or more counties, each with a population of four hundred fifty thousand or more, with contiguous urban areas and may be adopted by other counties, according to the process established under this section or other processes agreed to among the counties and cities within the affected counties throughout the multicounty region.

MULTICOUNTY PLANNING POLICIES (VISION 2050)

Climate Change Policies (page 73)

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-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-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.

PIERCE COUNTY COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES (CPPS)

Climate Change

- Env-31** The County, and each municipality in the County, shall strive to meet State mandates on climate change and the reduction of greenhouse gases.
 - 31.1** Jurisdictions should work to address climate change and greenhouse gases by undertaking such actions as:
 - 31.1.2** Creating and adopting a climate action plan;
 - 31.2** Jurisdictions should address adaptation and mitigation strategies from the effects of climate change in long range plans such as shoreline master programs and comprehensive plans.
 - 31.3** Jurisdictions should encourage the development community to reduce impacts of proposed projects on climate change.
 - 31.7** Jurisdictions should include climate change mitigation strategies in local transportation planning.

PIERCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Transportation Element / Coordination, Implementation, and Funding Goal (page 12-15)

- T-31** Coordinate the planning, design, and implementation of improvements with other agencies.
 - T-31.1** Coordinate with the Puget Sound Regional Council, Pierce County Regional Council, transportation agencies, other organizations, and other jurisdictions in developing and updating the regional plan and the programming efforts that cross jurisdictional lines.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Introduction / Growth Management Planning / MultiCounty Planning (page 1-8)

The Act also required the development of multicounty planning policies for the central Puget Sound region of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. The Multicounty Planning Policies (MPPs), developed as part of VISION 2040, describe regional objectives for issues that cross county boundaries and need to be met to achieve interjurisdictional consistency. The VISION 2040 Planning Policies were adopted in March of 1993 by the General Assembly of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) as an amendment to VISION 2040. In 2012, the PSRC adopted Transportation 2040, a transportation action plan update for the central Puget Sound region. Vision 2040 Planning Policies cover the same topics required of the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs). Open space linkages, resource protection, and critical areas, identified as important issues in the GMA, were also included because of their regional importance and the impossibility of achieving them without the inter-county collaboration. In 2008, the PSRC adopted VISION 2040, an update to the Multicounty Planning Policies. The current MPPs contained in VISION 2040 are in the process of being updated by PSRC as part of the VISION 2050 planning effort. The MPPs in VISION 2050 will address region wide issues in a collaborative framework with an increased focus on regional collaboration, regional growth strategy, environment, climate change, development patterns, housing, economy, transportation, public services. Pierce County will be working to implement PSRC's adopted VISION 2050 and associated MPPs. PSRC is scheduled to adopt VISION 2050 in 2020.

Land Use Element / Urban, Rural, and Resource (page 2-77)

ADD new subsection after General and before Airports

Climate Change

Pierce County's greatest impact on emissions reductions will likely be through promoting a dense, compact land use pattern with mixed-uses inside the urban growth area that support walking, bicycling, and transit use with open space conservation. Compact land use patterns have great potential to reduce GHG emissions related to vehicles and building energy use. The Land Use and Environment elements of the Comprehensive Plan set the stage for this vision by directing development to centers and arterial corridors served by transit, promoting a balanced multi-modal transportation system, and reducing the need to travel by car.

GOAL LU-100 Ensure compliance with the PSRC VISION 2050 climate change-related multicounty planning policies and for inclusion in the next GMA comprehensive plan periodic update by:

- identifying adaptation policies that address the effects of climate change by increasing resilience and/or decreasing vulnerability;
- establishing policy decisions and priorities, and design programs and facilities that consider long-term impacts on natural and human environments to address sustainability and climate change; and

- continuing planning efforts and regulations that encourage higher density transit-oriented mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhoods that are well designed and enable people to move without reliance on automobiles, and contain a variety of recreation, commercial and service opportunities.

Environment Element / Introduction (page 7-3)

ENV-1.9 Identify climate adaptation strategies to ensure compliance with the Multicounty Planning Policies requirements of the PSRC VISION 2050 to integrate into the Comprehensive Plan during the next GMA periodic update. These strategies should include:

- Promoting energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction strategies;
- Protecting and adapting public infrastructure, services, natural systems and resources from climate change impacts; and
- Continuing to coordinate and communicate locally and regionally to monitor and address the changing needs and conditions of the community.

PROPOSAL WITH MODIFICATIONS

Staff supports the proposal with modification to the Introduction narrative text on page 1-8. The underlined signifies the modified new text.

Proposal as Originally Submitted (only to Introduction page 1-8)

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