

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Resources to Serve Growth and Density

PRESENTED BY: Karen Wolf, King County

SUMMARY

The Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC) is considering the allocation of new growth targets to all jurisdictions within the county. The total amount of growth represented in these proposed targets is higher than the current targets, and the proposed distribution represents a departure from the previous method for growth allocation. The result is that some jurisdictions will need to accommodate much higher targets than their current comprehensive plans anticipate.

Following the receipt of several letters from jurisdictions regarding the connection between the allocation of growth and the resources for services to support that growth, GMPC postponed a vote on growth targets until a work plan for developing the policy basis for the prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities could be approved. The work plan has been prepared by the Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT) and is attached to this staff report. A motion approving the work program is presented for GMPC action.

BACKGROUND

One of the original intentions of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and the Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs) was to provide a linkage between locations of growth and infrastructure to serve that growth. Under the GMA, the transportation concurrency program was developed to facilitate this linkage. However, the GMA did not address the funding mechanisms to make the link directly, did not expand this concept to other areas of infrastructure, nor did it provide clear guidance to set priorities of service allocation among jurisdictions, given limited resources.

Policies in the CPPs also address issues of infrastructure and services coordination with land use plans. These include FW-12(b), FW-18, FW-19, FW-21, T-1, CC-4 and FW-29. These policies indicate that the original intention of the CPPs was for transportation, infrastructure, human services, and community services to be provided in ways that support the desired land use pattern and are consistent with growth targets. However, they too fail to prioritize those services.

In its past few meetings, GMPC has heard presentations about the development of new housing and job growth targets for all jurisdictions in the county. Two key factors in the development of those targets have altered the amount of growth certain jurisdictions are expected to accommodate: 1) the population forecast the state prepared for the county shows a much higher growth than the forecast provided five years earlier; and 2) Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040 introduces a different formula for distributing growth among the cities. As a result, the targets some cities will need to incorporate into their 2011 Comprehensive Plan updates will be considerably higher than the targets in their current plans.

Under Vision 2040 and the new State population forecast, some King County jurisdictions are required to accommodate more growth than they expected under the current growth targets. These jurisdictions

face potential shortfalls of infrastructure and services including transit service to meet the additional increment of growth. Potential shortfalls are particularly acute in cities with designated urban centers. Cities expecting to shoulder a large increase in residential growth, such as Metro Cities and Core Cities, are requesting a corresponding increase in services at a time that resources are especially limited. In consideration of these concerns, GMPC directed staff to pursue a work plan for phase I of an update of the Countywide Planning Policies.

PHASE I WORK PLAN

As directed by GMPC, staff established the following goal for the update of the CPPs:

The GMPC will update the Countywide Planning Policies to ensure consistency with the Multi-County Planning Policies contained within VISION 2040, to ensure consistency with the Washington State Growth Management Act, to reflect current terminology and relevant references, and to establish the policy framework for advancing the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities. Phase One of the work plan is focused on establishing one or more Framework policies that will advance the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities, while continuing to serve all communities in King County.

In preparing this work plan, staff recognize that King County is facing an increased amount of growth countywide and a pattern of growth that concentrates housing and employment in cities with Urban Centers. Communities throughout the county recognize that their ability to accommodate growth depends on adequate provision of services and facilities. Further, a number of cities are concerned that the existing provision of services and facilities are inadequate to meet current needs.

The phase I work plan is focused on the approval of the policy framework for advancing the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities. Staff will develop new policy options for regional service delivery to address the following issues:

- Define what constitutes the “regional services” affected by this policy;
- Identify the existing policy basis for delivering regional services;
- Draft new policy options that address regional service delivery for GMPC consideration by the end of the first quarter of 2010.

IJT staff will continue work on the broader scope of updating the CPPs once the Phase I work plan is completed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The IJT recommends approval of Motion 09-1 that outlines the work plan for establishing the policy framework for advancing the Regional Growth Strategy through prioritized allocation of regional services and facilities.