
Council Meeting Date: March 29, 2017

KING COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

AGENDA TITLE: Update on the PSRC Conditional Certification of Four Small Cities' Comprehensive Plans

PRESENTED BY: Interjurisdictional Staff Team (IJT)

The purpose of this report is to summarize the resolution reached at the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) regarding the conditional certifications of the comprehensive plans of four cities in King County. Since this issue has been resolved at the PSRC, it is no longer necessary for the GMPC to continue to discuss it.

Background

As of October 2016, as part of its legal role in reviewing comprehensive plans, PSRC had reviewed and certified 74 local plans, of which 19 were conditionally certified. Several of these cities were planning for growth substantially above their allocated growth target and were conditionally certified pending amendments to their plans or other actions that would better align with the VISION 2040 Regional Growth Strategy. In King County, these cities are Carnation, Covington, North Bend, and Snoqualmie.

In order to work toward a resolution of the issue, PSRC asked that King County engage further with its cities. On September 28, 2016, the GMPC and King County members of the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board participated in a workshop. The workshop's goals were to provide all members with a common understanding of:

- the inter-relationship among the GMA, *VISION 2040*, the PSRC's certification process, and the CPPs; and
- the roles and decisions that are within the purview of the State Legislature, the GMPB, the GMPC, and local jurisdictions.

On December 13, 2016, the GMPC met to consider two options for moving forward. At the meeting a third option was presented. The GMPC acknowledged that they could not adequately evaluate the third option since it was just received at the meeting. There was agreement to revisit this issue in the new year in order to have a more open and informed conversation.

Action at the PSRC

In the meantime, on January 5, 2017, the PSRC Growth Management Policy Board supported a new option to allow full certification of Small Cities that were planning substantially above adopted countywide growth targets for housing and jobs. The cities are required to make a commitment to support VISION 2040. Specifically, the cities would be asked to:

- Acknowledge targets
- Address impacts of growing faster than targets
- Continue strategies to manage growth
- Manage growth within current boundaries
- Make future planning decisions consistent with the Regional Growth Strategy

This path would not require cities to make plan amendments provided they adopt a council commitment.

On January 26, 2017, the PSRC Executive Board approved the alternative path to full certification for small cities as approved by the Growth Management Policy Board.

Conclusion

With the resolution of this issue at the PSRC, there is no further role for the GMPC. The GMPC played a significant role in identifying the issues and bringing all parties together, which facilitated a quick resolution at the PSRC. The GMPC is committed to ensuring that the next target setting process sets out clear expectations as to what targets mean and how they are to be implemented at the local level.