



Puget Sound Regional Council

DISCUSSION ITEM

January 31, 2019

To: Growth Management Policy Board
From: Paul Inghram, Director of Growth Management
Subject: **Equity in VISION 2050**

IN BRIEF

February's extended meeting provides for an in-depth board discussion about equity in VISION 2050. The [Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\)](#) will provide information to the board on equity, staff will brief the board on recent equity related work at PSRC, and break out discussions will allow the board to provide direction for centering equity throughout VISION 2050.

DISCUSSION

Background

Between now and 2050, the central Puget Sound region is expected to grow by an additional 1.8 million people. While current policy envisions this growth as benefitting all residents of the region, it could also exacerbate challenges currently facing historically marginalized communities. Some of these challenges include unmet housing demand and supply, access to employment opportunities, economic and cultural displacement, and equitable access to opportunity.

As the development of VISION 2050 has progressed, equity has been repeatedly noted as a critical regional issue. Equity has been identified in discussions with the Growth Management Policy Board, and was also strongly represented in the [comments received](#) during the VISION 2050 scoping process. VISION 2050 is an opportunity to consider how equity can be reflected in regional policy, how growth can benefit more of the region's residents, and how to mitigate displacement and improve access to opportunity.

Equity in VISION 2040

VISION 2040 contains several policies and provisions related to social equity. These appear in sections on the environment, housing, the economy, transportation, and development patterns. VISION 2040 calls for ensuring that all residents live in healthy and safe environments, preserving and expanding housing affordability, providing access to education and job opportunities, meeting diverse mobility needs, and building and maintaining a wide variety of community types to meet the needs of a diverse population. However, the language and phrasing in many of the policies could more clearly state intentions for equitable outcomes or actions that address equity.

Equity Briefing Paper & Peer Networking Event

Recognizing that equity is a complicated issue, PSRC started early work to prepare for a Growth Management Policy Board discussion. This has included updated data in the region's [Demographic Profile](#), a [draft Equity Briefing Paper](#), and new tools to assess displacement risk and access to opportunity in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In December 2018, community stakeholders reviewed these tools and data in an equity-themed [Peer Networking Event](#). Nearly 80 participants representing cities and counties, public health agencies, environmental groups, transit agencies, and non-profit organizations engaged in a robust three-hour work session focused on strengthening equity in the region and identifying a variety of ways in which VISION 2050 could support racial and social equity. Four themes were consistent throughout the small group discussions:

- 1) The need for data on displacement and other demographic changes to better inform more equitable planning
- 2) The need for resources and tools to support local equity work, especially for smaller cities and towns
- 3) The desire for VISION 2050 to be centered around advancing racial equity and recognition of the impacts the region's growth will have on communities
- 4) The importance of working with historically underrepresented communities to ensure community voices are represented in regional planning

Questions for the Board

- Is there any additional information needed to center racial equity in VISION 2050?
- How should equity be addressed in individual sections of VISION 2050?
- What do local jurisdictions need to better incorporate equity into local plans?

NEXT STEPS

Staff will work with stakeholders and the Regional Staff Committee to further assess and develop options for how equity is included in VISION 2050. Staff will draft policies that will be brought to the board during each chapter discussion.

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