



Puget Sound Regional Council

CONSENT AGENDA

February 7, 2019

To: Transportation Policy Board
From: Kelly McGourty, Director, Transportation Planning
Subject: **Recommend Certification of the Lakewood RGC Subarea Plan**

IN BRIEF

Consistent with PSRC's [adopted plan review process](#), PSRC staff reviewed and recommends certification of the Lakewood Downtown subarea plan. The [certification report](#) further describes how the plan meets applicable requirements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Growth Management Policy Board and Transportation Policy Board should:

Recommend that the Executive Board certify that the Lakewood Downtown subarea plan addresses planning expectations for regional growth centers.

DISCUSSION

A major emphasis of the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA) is the need to coordinate local, regional, and state planning efforts. Within the central Puget Sound region, local governments and the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) have worked together to develop an overall process for reviewing local, countywide, regional, and transit agency policies and plans for compatibility and consistency.

VISION 2040, the Regional Transportation Plan, and the Adopted Policy and Plan Review Process call for PSRC to review and certify subarea planning efforts of jurisdictions with designated regional centers. VISION 2040 includes an action (DP-Action-17, p. 98) for jurisdictions with regional growth centers and/or

manufacturing/industrial centers to develop subarea plans for those centers.¹ This expectation has been in place since the PSRC Executive Board adopted its Plan Review Process in 2003. Review of center subarea plans provides an opportunity to coordinate and share information related to local and regional planning.

Lakewood adopted the Lakewood Downtown Regional Growth Center (RGC) Subarea Plan in October 2018. Downtown Lakewood consists of 315 acres and is largely comprised of retail and limited residential uses. The city envisions the center transitioning to a vibrant pedestrian-oriented urban area with civic amenities, public gathering spaces, and mix of uses. Downtown Lakewood was designated as a regional growth center in 1995. The city completed the subarea plan to address regional growth center subarea plan requirements and submitted the plan to PSRC.

PSRC staff has reviewed the subarea plan and finds that it addresses the planning expectations for regional growth centers. PSRC staff coordinated with city staff in the review of the plan and drafting of the [certification report](#). The newly adopted Regional Centers Framework (2018) calls for review of centers and center planning again in 2025, and PSRC may provide additional comments or guidance for center planning as part of that work.

For more information, please contact Andrea Harris-Long at (206) 464-6179 or aharris-long@psrc.org or Liz Underwood-Bultmann at (206) 464-6174 or LUnderwood-Bultmann@psrc.org.

¹ The specific requirements for center planning are provided in PSRC's [Plan Review Manual](#), and the process is also described in VISION 2040, Part IV: Implementation. Certification of the jurisdiction's comprehensive plan for consistency with the regional transportation plan, regionally established guidelines and policies, and Growth Management Act requirements for transportation planning is completed through a separate board action.