



# Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference  
February 6, 2010

Puget Sound Regional Council  
**PSRC**

# Puget Sound Regional Council

## The Region:

- 4 counties
- 82 cities and towns
- Ports, tribes, transit agencies, state, etc.

## PSRC Responsibilities:

- Regional Growth, Economic and Transportation Planning
- Federal transportation funds to priority projects
- Regional data and forecasts
- Forum for regional issues
- Prosperity Partnership



Federal MPO



State RTPO



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# PSRC Planning



**VISION 2040 is the Region's long-range growth management, economic, and transportation strategy**

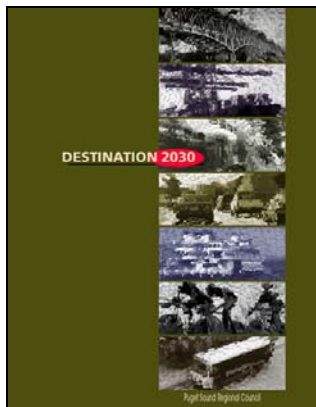
VISION 2040 (adopted 2008)

- People, prosperity, planet: environmental framework
- Regional growth strategy (population and jobs)
- Multi-county planning policies
- Implementation



Regional Economic Strategy (adopted 2005)

- Prosperity partnership
- Industry clusters



Transportation 2040 (underway – adoption: May 2010)

- Long-range multi-modal transportation plan
- Update of 2001 plan (*Destination 2030*)



# PSRC Funds

PSRC receives ~\$160 Million annually through SAFETEA-LU programs:

- *Surface Transportation Program (STP)*
- *Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)*
- *Federal Transit Administration (FTA)*

Plan review:

- Comprehensive plans reviewed, and transportation-related provisions certified, in order to be eligible to receive funds

Competitive grant process:

- Funds distributed every 2-3 years
- *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*, adopted prior to each funding cycle
  - Based on VISION 2040 policies: support for centers and the corridors that connect them
  - Criteria includes: mobility, safety, financial plan, project readiness, reduction of emissions (40% for CMAQ funds)
  - 10% of fund set aside for nonmotorized priorities
  - \$2.0 million set aside for Rural Town Centers and Corridors program



# Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program

- Began in 2002, as an outgrowth of the long-range transportation plan
- Recognized a need to support rural corridors and communities
  - State highways serving as “Main Streets”
- 2003 Recommendations:
  - Create a rurally focused program
    - including financial incentives and assistance
  - Coordinate corridor planning
    - Integrate state route development planning with local comprehensive plan updates
  - Conduct a case study
    - SR 203 Corridor, Monroe to Fall City
  - Research and develop context sensitive solutions
    - 2004 Options and Innovations Toolkit: Context Sensitive Solutions for Rural Town Centers and Corridors



# Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program

- \$2.0 million of PSRC's STP funds set aside in 2004 and in 2006 for a separate competition for the Rural Town Centers and Corridors Program
- First competition held in 2005, second in 2007
- Focus on both planning as well as capital project implementation
- Criteria:
  - Safety, traffic volumes, center benefits, corridor benefits
- 13 projects funded so far
- \$2.0 million also set aside in 2009; competition will be conducted this year



# Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program

## Project Examples:

SR 410 Corridor Study	\$65,000	Planning study to examine how to better link city's older and newer business centers that are divided by SR 410. The study explored safety and pedestrian access issues and made recommendations for further project development.
SR 203 Main Street Center Project	\$550,000	First phase design of several blocks of the city of Duvall's old town/Main Street corridor. This was a priority project recommended in the SR 203 Pilot Corridor Study.
SR 162 Rechannelization and Streetscape Improvements	\$785,000	Design and construction for channelization revisions to SR 162 in the city of Orting's central business district. The project includes sidewalks, ornamental street lights, landscaping, and rechannelization of SR 162 to separate left-turn movements from through-traffic.
US 2 Corridor Study	\$100,000	Planning grant added to larger major corridor study to examine potential US 2 highway and local access configuration options to deal with safety, centers access and congestion issues all along corridor.

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# Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program



*Before*



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# Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program





# Questions?

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**Transportation Improvement Program**  
<http://www.psrc.org/transportation/tip>