



Bellevue Planning Commission

January 11, 2023

PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT

Overview of the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Regional Housing Strategy and Implementation Efforts.

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POLICY ISSUES

PSRC staff will present an overview of the [Regional Housing Strategy](#) and associated implementation efforts. Housing access and affordability are key policy areas in [VISION 2050](#), the region's long-range plan for growth. VISION 2050 calls for the region to better assess and address housing needs through a coordinated regional housing strategy and a regional housing needs assessment.

Tonight's briefing is an opportunity for the Planning Commission to learn more about the Strategy and direction provided under the Strategy for the City's ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ACTION

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DIRECTION

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INFORMATION ONLY

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No direction is needed from the Commission at this time. PSRC staff will present background and information relating to the Regional Housing Strategy and Implementation Plan which informs the City's Periodic Comprehensive Plan Update.

BACKGROUND

PSRC's Executive Board adopted the Regional Housing Strategy in February 2022. The Regional Housing Strategy is a "playbook" of regional and local actions to preserve, improve, and expand housing stock in the region. The aim is to make a range of affordable, accessible, healthy, and safe housing choices available to every resident and to promote fair and equal access to housing for all people.

The strategy identifies roles for PSRC, cities, counties, and other stakeholders to implement the strategy, with a focus on providing resources and support for the 2024 local comprehensive plan update. By providing data, guidance, and technical assistance, PSRC supports jurisdictions in their efforts to adopt best housing practices and establish coordinated local housing and affordable housing targets.

The Regional Housing Strategy is an opportunity to develop overarching regional approaches that increase consistency and collaboration in housing work, and local and individual actions that can be tailored to communities based on needs and opportunities.

Annual Monitoring Report

The 2022 Regional Housing Strategy Monitoring Report provides a snapshot of key housing measures in the region, as well as longer-term trends and case studies. Data in the report shows the region's progress on the housing crisis since the Regional Housing Strategy was adopted earlier this year. The report's findings are centered around general affordability measures, supply, stability and subsidy. A key takeaway from the data is that, although more is being done to address housing access and affordability than in past decades, historic investments and changes are needed to see significant improvements in the housing crisis.

Regional Housing Strategy monitoring will help to shape and focus regional housing assistance and local work.

The 2022 monitoring report is available online at <https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/reg-housing-strategy-monitoring-rpt-2022.pdf>.

Public Opinion Survey

To learn more about public opinions on housing, PSRC and the state Department of Commerce collaborated and contracted with PRR to develop and conduct a statistically valid public opinion poll. PRR surveyed individuals from the four counties in the central Puget Sound region and eight additional counties in eastern and western Washington.

The survey collected responses from 4,329 people conducted October 15 to November 6, 2022. This collaborative effort allows for a better understanding of the public interest in housing strategies both within the PSRC region and statewide. The number of responses is sufficient to look at the region as a whole and major subareas, as well as to assess demographic differences, such as age, housing tenure, and income. Survey results will aid PSRC in the implementation of housing strategies and provide useful information for local governments as they update the housing elements of their comprehensive plans.

The survey report is posted online at <https://www.psrc.org/media/7324>.

Place Typology for Housing Strategies

During the development of the Regional Housing Strategy, PSRC board members and stakeholders underscored that “everyone has a role to play” and that “no two communities are alike.” At the local level, places vary in their needs for housing investments and interventions. A place typology is a way to identify actions based on local conditions such as size, housing needs, market conditions, demographics, growth expectations, and staff capacity.

The Regional Housing Strategy includes an implementation step for PSRC to develop a local housing typology to identify the strategies, tools, and actions that have the most potential to make an impact in different types of places.

The draft typology will identify potential tools and action from the Regional Housing Strategy and Housing Innovations Program (HIP) for each type of place. More information about the place typology will be available in early 2023.

Local Implementation Survey

PSRC fielded a survey of local jurisdictions in 2019 to better understand what housing tools were being developed and which were most effective in developing housing. Of the fifty jurisdictions that participated, over two-thirds had put in place at least one incentive to promote housing development and/or affordability and 30 had adopted density bonuses. Since 2019, many jurisdictions have completed Housing Actions Plans and are assessing their scope of housing work for their comprehensive plan updates. PSRC is fielding an update to the survey during summer 2022 that ask what additional housing work jurisdictions have completed since 2019 and what is planned for near-term implementation. The results from this survey will be available in February 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. PSRC Regional Housing Strategy